



Christmas Shoebox Support for 2021

This year will be our 28th year for St Mary's assisting with the OCC. In 2021 we again see news reports of thousands of people who have lost their homes and members of their family to wars or natural disasters. Thank God there are many organisations who seek to help those in need. At St Mary's we support several Christian organisations plus a few humanitarian organisations. To name a few: Open Doors, CMS, TEAR Fund, The Children's Society, Compassion, Food Bank, Life Share and OCC. Samaritans OCC UK delivers many thousands of gift boxes to needy children in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Last year St Mary's Church members made up a smaller number of boxes due to the covid restrictions. It should be noted that Jill has provided many fillers and built so many boxes over previous years and again in 2020. Due to covid John received 22 boxes and box fillers which were collected by Blythswood on 11 November 2020. The boxes were taken to Hungary on a lorry containing about 8,000 boxes. A further 54 boxes were taken to the Samaritan's OCC warehouses in Warrington and Leigh.

The St Mary's donations to OCC in church reached £ 65, unfortunately due to the covid lockdown it had to be closed early.

Some online boxes and donations were done by members of our congregation who saw the internet contact details in the Oct / Nov Diary.

Covid-19 has affected many operations since 2020 and at St Mary's, we will continue to change the way we contribute this year. St Mary's will prepare to collect a smaller number of shoe boxes physically this year.

We are intending to support the Samaritan's Purse OCC charity this year in Church, or you can build a shoe box choosing items on the Samaritan's OCC website for a set donation.

As we are in the age of smart phones and computers, some people may prefer to make donations online, or send a cheque to the Samaritans address below.

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We would recommend this, if you are able, in case there is a further covid lockdown in the autumn.

However, if you want to build a shoe box then you can bring in your own shoe boxes filled with gifts and covered with wrapping paper as in previous years. Leaflets are available in church with labels to stick on your box for age/category of child. We will have the option of a small number of flat packed pre-printed Samaritan's boxes you can purchase from Church for 50p each.

There will be fillers you can also purchase to assist to make up your boxes. A supply of leaflets and flat packed pre-printed boxes (50p) will be around the entrance in the coffee room; and a sheet list to enter how many boxes you have purchased with your name, and the amount paid.

A video for OCC will be shown in the Church service on 3rd October 2021.

Shoe Box Sunday will be on 7th November for your children to help take boxes to the alter.

We advise you to bring filled shoe boxes, make donations in Church / online or by building a box online **during October and before Sunday 7th November**; see the following useful info, web links and postal address:

For donations given in Church; on cheques write your name & address and write for OCC

A box will be placed in the coffee room marked for OCC donations and if you purchase a pre printed shoe box. Next to this box will be a box with extra fillers you can use, and a small donation would be appreciated.

Online donations; How you can create and pay for a box online which will be packed by the Samaritans.

OCC build a box <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

All ways to donate and support the Samaritans OCC

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ways-to-give/>

Donations by Post; if you do not have internet access, please send a cheque to:

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Samaritans Purse, Victoria House, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5EX
(Cheques payable to 'Samaritans Purse'. Include on back of your cheque –
write your name & address and write for OCC)"

Keith Morgan on behalf of St Mary's Team



Deadline for contributions, bringing packed shoe boxes

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and donations before the 7th November 2021.