

Operation Christmas Child – Can you help? Last year Samaritan's Purse delivered over 900,000 shoeboxes packed with gifts from the UK to children in need around the globe. However, with the refugee crisis continuing to escalate and wars, famines, floods, earthquakes and other disasters affecting more people every day, the need for shoeboxes is greater than ever. This year we are asking the communities of Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street to work together and support children in need throughout the world by contributing to the shoebox appeal. Everyone can get involved in making, collecting, buying items to be added to our shoeboxes. At the back of Cobham Church you will find a pile of shoeboxes. Please take one (or more), together with a leaflet telling you how to pack your box. If you can't get to the church or can't carry a box then please contact me and I'll arrange for one to be delivered to you. Then spend October filling the box. You could add in:

- Toys – such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc. Homemade toys are great if you can knit, crochet, weave etc. but please no homemade stuffed toys.
- School Stuff – such as pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.
- Wash kit – such as toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel ; Other things such as a hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March 2017). A Christmas card and/or child's drawing.

Then fill in the label to let us know who your box is for – a Boy or Girl, ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. You can fill in the label in your leaflet or pick up a spare label from the church. Don't seal the box. Don't have enough stuff to fill a box? No problem, you could either spread the word and ask family, neighbours and friends to help out or simply leave your items in Cobham Church and we will add them to a spare box. Please return all boxes to Cobham Church (or phone me /I'll pick them up from you) by **Sunday 6th November**. Following the Cobham family service on this day we will pack them off to Samaritan's Purse for distribution to children around the world. If you'd like to make a donation towards the cost of sending the boxes around the world (it costs £3 to distribute each box) then please place it in a marked envelope in the wall safe in Cobham Church (or pop your marked envelope into the weekly offering bag). For more details, including information on the impact of shoeboxes, resources, videos and knitting patterns visit <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> Thank you for your help and support. Dave Bubb. 01634 252099