

Holy Trinity

(without the walls)

Parish News



Norris Road, Blacon, Chester. CH1 5DZ

October 2020 40p

Giving Thanks

For God's Gift's



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REACHING OUT WITH CHRIST TO ALL



Dear friends,

Welcome to the October 2020 Holy Trinity Parish News..

This month there are articles about Blacon Action Team, Blacon Beacon, how you can put together a shoebox for the Shoebox Appeal, a n article on Bishop Mark's Crozier Service, an article on the bible and thoughts from Louise , as well as the usual puzzles and features too. Keep your faith for God has and WILL see us though whatever happens.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ***Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)***

Jason Clarke (Magazine compiler)

UPCOMING SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

4th October	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
11th October	9.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving
18th October	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
25th October	9.30am	Morning Prayer
1st November	9.30am	Parish Eucharist for All Saints Day
	3.00pm	All Souls Memorial Service

WEDDING POSTPONED?

As I write this Covid restrictions are being increased. Weddings are reduced from 30 people to 15. Pubs and restaurants must close from 10pm. Greetings cards announce that the sender is 'thinking of you' on what 'would have been your wedding day.'

Our lives have been turned upside down. Terrifyingly there is no sign of life turning right-ways-up any time soon.

The psalms are great – they contain every emotion. Anger, fear, pain, grief, frustration, trust, hope, joy. Sometimes all in a few lines. Nothing is off limits. Nothing is beyond God's care. Nothing is unacceptable to say to God. There's nothing he won't listen to. Nothing that he is not prepared to hear. We do not have to pretend in front of him.

God already knows how we feel and he loves us completely.

I'm always struck by the image of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane. He knows what is



coming. His dozy disciples are less use than a chocolate teapot. Judas, one of his inner circle, is about to betray him and hand him over to the Roman authorities. And Jesus knows its going to hurt.

Over and over Jesus prays. Alone in the darkness. He begs his dad to find another way.

The future looks bleak. But Jesus does not give up. He doesn't run away. He doesn't reject God. He keeps praying until he finds the strength to carry on (Luke 22:43).

And this is where we find ourselves. The world is uncertain and frightening. The virus is not under control. The economy is failing. We have the same choice. Will we take our fears and our anxieties, our hurt and our anger to God in prayer? Or will pile them into a wall of hate or hurt that separates us from his love?

Because God already knows.

He knows something that we may think in our minds but which is very difficult to feel in our hearts. He knows how the story ends. With a glorious wedding feast. An endless celebration of love. When God returns live with his bride, the church, for all eternity (Rev 22). We may not have a date, but we know that day is coming.

God is in control. He is good. And he is kind. He is working to restore his world and his people.

Already the air is cleaner. We are finding new ways to work. Everyday people reach out in tiny acts of kindness to support one another. A smile, a call, a 'would have been your wedding day' card. My favourite one reminds me 'its not the when, where, or how' that matter. It's the 'who'.

How true!

Louise Annison



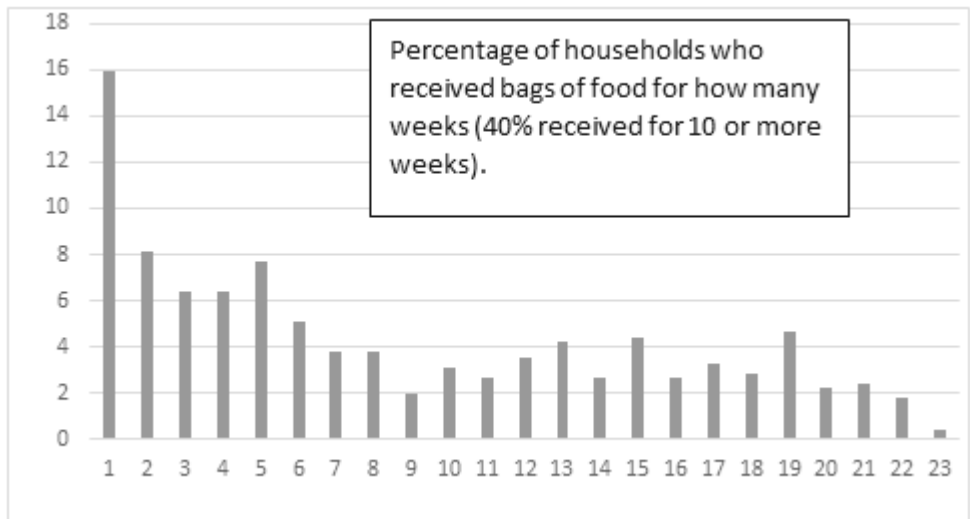
BLACON ACTION TEAM – A STORY OF COLLABORATION

. Blacon Action Team did not exist before March 2020. Then, when lockdown happened, from the third week of March, a collaborative effort started between Holy Trinity Church, The Community Store on Western Avenue, and Blacon Beacon (a new charity, more of which is on pages ... of this Parish News), to provide emergency food for those in need in the community. Other organisations also became involved in the collaborative effort, including: the local schools, Cheshire West Communities Together, Avenue Services, CWAC, Here and Now, Welcome Network.

As many will know, the church hall became a major hub for the distribution of food to people in the community – there were two collection times from the hall and two from the Community Store, and also deliveries were made to those unable to get out and who had nobody to collect for them. This turned the hall into

something like a food warehouse for several weeks. Anyone coming to the hall now will see – a hall. The food is being stored in two rooms – the previous room that Blacon Beacon had built (which in former years had been the stage) and the new room at the side of the building (where the foyer used to be). In the summer, BAT decided the level of work that was going into providing food for so many in the community was not sustainable long term, and the funding which had been generously provided especially by Westminster Foundation, would not last forever either. So, we made a decision that the food bag distribution would not be continued by BAT beyond September, and those activities were handed over to Blacon Beacon and the Community Store. Our hope is that BAT will nevertheless continue to provide various services within the community in the months and years going forward.

To mark the ‘end’ of the food distribution that BAT provided, we decided to have a look at the overall amount of work that the team had been able to do for the community across 24 weeks. Our thanks go to Rob Campbell and Georgia Gough who did some work on this for us. The total number of people (of any age) fed in those weeks (through food bags, not including the cooked meals) was 10,832.



These people came from altogether 3910 households. 52% of those were households including children or teenagers. 27% were adults living alone, and 13% were homes where only elderly people lived. Some households those received several times, so that represents altogether 453 different homes. Producing this amount of food (we estimate that 7820 bags were packed) took a great deal of people-power – about 26 volunteers gave us 1882 hours across the weeks.

An extraordinary effort – thank you so much to everybody who contributed in any way!

BLACON BEACON



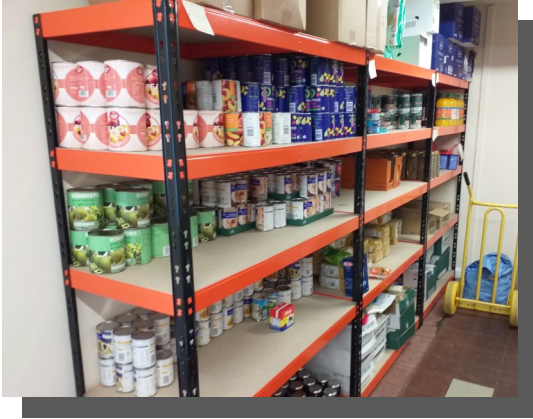
Meet Kerry Cook the new manager for Blacon Beacon. She has a background working in the travel industry, and then when she found herself furloughed at the start of lockdown, she decided to use her spare time by volunteering. As a

Blacon resident, she was directly to Holy Trinity Church Hall, and the work of Blacon Action Team providing food parcels for those in need.

Within a few weeks, she found herself at the centre of the team, and enjoying being able to help the community. So, when it became clear her job for the travel agency was not going to be as it had been for the foreseeable future, it seemed the natural thing for her to apply for the post of Manager.

Blacon Beacon is a charity based at Holy Trinity Church hall, which provides weekly food bags for its members. Members need to be Blacon residents who have some need, and who commit to paying a weekly membership (£3 for single people; £5 for families) as part contribution toward the cost of the bag. The food bags include fresh fruit and veg as well as non-perishable packaged and tinned produce.

Holy Trinity PCC have decided that this year the harvest donations will be collected for Blacon Beacon. *If you want to make a donation of non-perishable foods, please bring it to the church in time for our Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 11th October.*



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**For more information contact Kerry on
07545216925 or**

managerblaconbeacon@gmail.com

or go to www.blaconbeacon.org

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Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation:** **FIVE TOP TIPS**

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-get-help/dedicated-helpline.aspx>

Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation:** **FIVE TOP TIPS**



- 1. Pray – light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.**



- 2. Talk about how you feel.**

This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but use the phone, internet and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor, this can be arranged by your GP, local agencies or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.



- 3. Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.**



- 4. Look after yourself – physically, emotionally, spiritually.**

Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.



- 5. Look after others – even if only in small ways, but do what you can:**
a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

CONTINUING OUR MISSION IN BLACON

Holy Trinity Church relies on donations to provide care and support to everyone in this community. Now more than ever, please consider [giving generously](#) to support our mission and ministry. You may wish to take the opportunity to set up a Standing Order with your bank to ensure we continue to receive regular donations at this time.

Thank you for your support.



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Account number..... Sort code

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Praying for Blacon



"When right-living people bless the city, it flourishes"

*Prov 11:11
The Message*

As part of an inter-church prayer focus for Blacon, please could you pray, commencing on these Sundays, for the residents living in these roads:

4 October	Boleyn Close, Tudor Green, Saxon Way & Patatine Close
11 October	Cleves Close, Roman Drive, Cavalier Drive & Hadrian Drive
18 October	Owen Close, Shelley Road, Alderley Place, Chaucer Close & Browning Close
25 October	Milton Road, Mostyn Place, Crabwell Place, Byron Close & Thomas Close



The **November issue** of the Parish News will be available on or about Sunday, 25th October 2020. All contributions should be submitted to the Parish Office by **Thursday, 15th October 2020**. Thank you. If you would like to subscribe to our magazine please contact the Church Office on 01244 376085 - annual cost is £4.00.

Easy

		9		6	5			
6			3		4		5	
5	7					1		3
		3			6		1	7
		6	9		7	3		
1	2		5			9		
9		8					2	5
	4		6		3			8
			8	9		4		

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Sudoku

Medium

			5					
		8	7	4			5	
	4	9				6	1	
		1					8	
			4		5			
	7					3		
	1	3				8	6	
	6			7	8	4		
					6			

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Crossword

1		2			3		4		5		6	
7					8							
	9			10		11		12		13		14
15												
16												
17	18			19	20		21					
			22								23	
24								25				
26							27					

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across

Crossword Clues

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)

19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)

24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)

25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)

26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to

Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

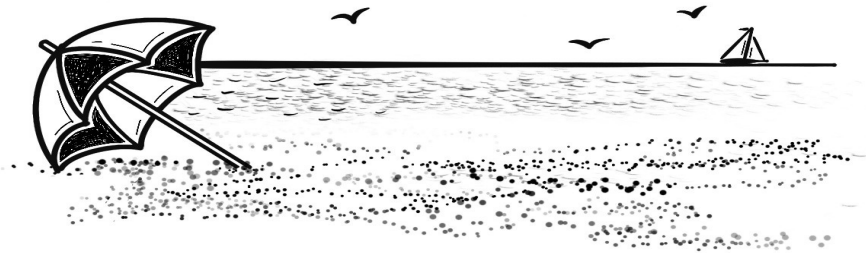
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but



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Crozier Service, 20 September 2020

Bishop Mark Tanner began his public ministry as the Bishop of Chester on Sunday 20 September.

The service of welcome for the new bishop had to be altered to conform with the coronavirus restrictions. This meant just 30 people were able to attend and witness the beginning of Bishop Mark's ministry.





Thank you ALICE



FAREWELL ALICE

At the start of September, Alice W left us as she moved location, after over 6 years of faithfully serving as one of our Kidz Club leaders. Several of us, including Kidz Club families gathered (socially distanced) outside the church on 30th August to give her a Holy Trinity send-off. Photos of the event are on the page opposite.

HARVEST COLLECTION

On Sunday 11th October at 9.30am we will be holding a service to give thanks for all God's provision for us, and we will also be making a collection of food for Blacon Beacon to give to those in need in the community. We are collecting food at the church all through October for this good cause—*please put in the box at the back of church.*



Sudoku Solutions

Easy

3	8	9	1	6	5	2	7	4
6	1	2	3	7	4	8	5	9
5	7	4	2	8	9	1	6	3
8	9	3	4	2	6	5	1	7
4	5	6	9	1	7	3	8	2
1	2	7	5	3	8	9	4	6
9	3	8	7	4	1	6	2	5
2	4	1	6	5	3	7	9	8
7	6	5	8	9	2	4	3	1

Medium

1	3	7	5	6	9	2	4	8
6	2	8	7	4	1	9	5	3
5	4	9	2	8	3	6	1	7
2	9	1	6	3	7	5	8	4
3	8	6	4	9	5	7	2	1
4	7	5	8	1	2	3	9	6
7	1	3	9	5	4	8	6	2
9	6	2	1	7	8	4	3	5
8	5	4	3	2	6	1	7	9

D	E	A	C	O	N		A	P	P	E	A	R
A		F			E		G		R		L	
W	I	T	S				H	E	A	V	E	N
N		E					U		I		Y	
	A	R	G	U	M	E	N	T		M	O	B
E		N		S		P		R		E		O
B	R	O	K	E	N	H	E	A	R	T	E	D
E		O		R		O		C		A		Y
R	A	N		S	U	D	D	E	N	L	Y	
	L		S		N		R			W		G
O	B	S	T	A	C	L	E		J	O	H	N
	A		A		L		A			R		A
E	N	A	B	L	E		M	A	R	K	E	T



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September 16th

Speaking out for Justice:
how the church in
Melanesia is making a
difference.

**The Venerable Dr Michael
Gilbertson**
Archdeacon of Chester

A series of
talks on
Social
Justice:

September 23rd

Black Lives Matter

The Rt Revd Mark Tanner
The Bishop of Chester and
The Revd Dr Calvin Samuel

Meet on
Zoom or
gather
together at
Chester
Cathedral
in the Song
School.

September 30th

Invisible Women

The Revd Liz Shercliff
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Sharon Amesu
Leadership Facilitator at St George's House,
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Training

October 7th

**Christianity,
Animals and the
Climate Crisis**

Professor David Clough
Professor of Theological Ethics university of
Chester

October 14th

**Slavery and
Salvation**

The Rt Revd Alistair Redfern
Former Bishop of Derby

October 21st

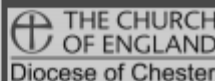
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Who Authorised The Bible, Anyway?

Question: If it was the Church that finally decided which books should be included in the Bible, then isn't the Church the top authority?

Answer: No; the Bible produced the Church, not the Church the Bible. This is the real issue: what caused a book to be accepted within the 'Canon' of Scripture? (Greek: kanon, 'standard' or 'rule').

As far as the Old Testament was concerned:

1. Books that were recognised by Jesus Christ as infallible 'Scripture' could not be broken (Matthew 5:18). In John 10:35 Jesus didn't have to explain what He meant by 'Scripture', though elsewhere He did refer to its different categories (law, prophets, psalms) as pointing to Himself (Luke 24:44; Matthew 24:37). All was to be believed and obeyed.
2. Books that were recognised by God's people because of their impact. God's people will always recognise His voice (John 10:27). Jesus clashed with the Pharisees for adding their traditions to the Scripture; yet all were agreed that the Old Testament Scriptures were God's word.
3. Books that were recognised by the New Testament. It is significant that the New Testament features hundreds of Old Testament allusions. Only two are from the body of books known as the Apocrypha (Jude 9, 14) – seemingly in similar style to Paul's quotation from a Greek poet (Acts 17:28). The Apocryphal books were perceived to be on a lower level.

Next, what determined inclusion in the New Testament Canon?

1. Books that are Christ-centred in their emphasis. It was inconceivable to the early Church that the Gospels, for example,

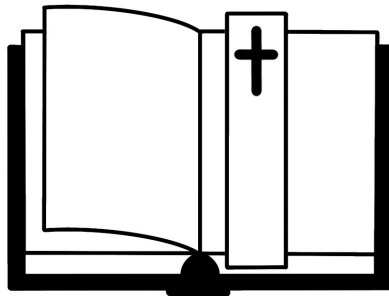
which focused so much upon the life and death of Jesus, could have any lower place than that given to the Old Testament Scriptures.

2. Books that are apostolic in their teaching. It was to the apostles exclusively that Jesus promised guidance 'into all truth' through the Holy Spirit's inspiration (John 16:13). The result of this was the New Testament (1 Corinthians 2:12,13). Significantly, Peter brackets Paul's writings with what he calls 'the other scriptures' (2 Peter 3:15,16).

3. Books that are faith-building in their effect, and thus, to be read in the congregations (John 20:30,31; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16; 1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 1:3). When the Christian scriptures take hold of the thinking of masses of people, they have the effect of 'stabilising society, without sterilising it' (historian T. R. Glover).

The books of the Old Testament were becoming largely accepted by AD 70; those of the New Testament by the end of the second century. The drawing of a line around them discouraged forgers and religious peddlers.

So no one really 'put' the books into the Bible; they put themselves in, because of their innate quality. No council by itself could have conferred authority upon the books; this, they possessed already. It is an authority that is inherent, not imposed. If art lovers say of a Renoir painting, 'This is a genuine Renoir', their acclaim in the painting with already the same with the can only as such.... and



no way invests authority; it was authentic. It is Scriptures; we recognise them live by them.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



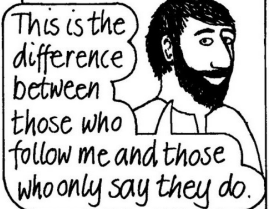
He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said



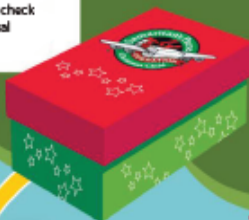


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Our supporters pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches, schools and groups collect these boxes from 9-16 November. Then, thousands of volunteers check and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the good news of Jesus and bless children.



DISCOVER, FOLLOW, SHARE

Churches also invite the boys and girls (with parents' consent) to take part in a Bible discovery course, The Greatest Journey. In 12 fun, interactive sessions, they can explore how to follow Jesus and share Him with others. Through this, families are reached, churches grow and communities are transformed.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Our ministry partners around the world hand out shoebox gifts in their local communities at festive outreach events. Along with the shoebox gifts children are also offered a Bible story booklet called The Greatest Gift, which tells them the story of God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus.



NEED IDEAS FOR YOUR SHOEBOX GIFT?

Before you start packing, review this checklist:

- ☐ Find a medium sized shoebox and wrap the box and lid separately.
- ☐ Select a special item that a child will love!
- ☐ Fill it with a selection of other new items (see below).
- ☐ Add a personal note and photo, and pray for the child that receives your box.
- ☐ Include a £5 project donation or give online through Follow Your Box.
- ☐ Take your shoebox gift to a drop-off location from 9-16 November.



Now, prepare your shopping list from the following suggestions!

Select some special toys

Doll / Cuddly Toy
Football with Pump
Skipping Rope
Musical Instrument
Sticker Book with pictures

Yoyo
Toy Cars
Tennis Ball
Small Puzzles

Accessories

Hat, Scarf & Gloves
Sunglasses
Hair Clips
Wind Up Torch
Jewellery & Watches

School Supplies

Pens, Pencils, Crayons
Solar Calculator
Notepad & Colouring Book
Geometry Set

Hygiene Items

Toothbrush
Soap
Washcloth
Hairbrush/Comb

Personal Note

A personal note to the child
A picture of you, your family or group



Do Not Include : used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; sweets, chocolate, or food; toothpaste, liquids or lotions including bubbles; medicines; hand made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, religious or racial nature; cards of the 4-suit variety; books with mainly words; breakable or glass items.

For more gift suggestions,
visit samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ


Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®, Franklin Graham, President. Samaritan's Purse International is a registered charity within England and Wales (1001349), and in Scotland (SC039231), and an incorporated company registered by guarantee in England and Wales (2462257).

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Pack a shoebox and send a child a message of God's love.

In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, the needs are greater than ever before. Children are scared and need a message of hope. In poverty-stricken countries, many have been left destitute by the economic shutdown and can't afford to celebrate Christmas without our help.

SAMARITANS-PURSE.ORG.UK/OCC

Bring your completed shoebox to Holy Trinity Church
by 9th November



Victoria House, Victoria Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG2 5EX
Telephone: 020 8250 1180 E-mail: info@samaritans-purse.org.uk

Helping in Jesus' Name®

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