

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School & Parish Church



Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Appeal

Operation Christmas Child is arranged by a non-profit organisation called Samaritans Purse, who provide emergency relief and development assistance to those suffering around the world. They are meeting the physical needs of victims of war, famine, natural disasters, poverty and disease and their aid and assistance are given without regard to the race, creed, gender, religion or ethnicity of the people that receive their help.

Over the years Samaritans Purse have assisted in many disasters, with recent efforts being centred around the Syrian refugee crisis, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, the outbreak of Ebola in Liberia and the earthquakes in Nepal and Ecuador.



In 2016 the St Augustine's community has again participated in the appeal and as always the generosity of the parishioners and the families of the school has been overwhelming. On Saturday 19th November we loaded 285 shoeboxes onto the Operation Christmas Child van and that has now been delivered to the central warehouse in Tonbridge, Kent.



In 1995 Operation Christmas Child merged with Samaritans Purse and from then on they have gone from strength to strength. In 2016 there will be over 10 million shoeboxes delivered globally and nearly 1 million of those will come from the UK alone, with over 10,000 churches and schools taking part.



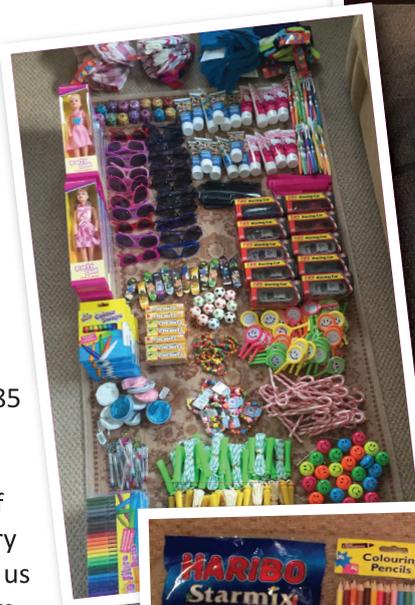
The boxes this year from the UK will be delivered to countries including Uganda, Kosovo, Liberia, and Zimbabwe to name but a few. Our own boxes will almost certainly be going to Central Asia and the Ukraine. →



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→ Not only will this be wonderful for the 285 children that receive these St Augustine's Christmas shoeboxes, but it has also been great for us as a community. The families of our school and parish have always been very generous and this has been a great way for us all to show how much we care. Our teachers will be using this opportunity to enhance the creative curriculum in school by showing in lessons where the countries are located for the children that receive the boxes, plus they will discuss some of the lifestyle and cultures of some of these countries.



I do hope that we can build upon this wonderful achievement and do it all again in 2017 and on behalf of the 285 children who will on Christmas Day have a big smile on their face, I say a massive thank you and I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As I mentioned earlier the generosity has been incredible and the parish also donated £650 which enabled us to build 48 shoeboxes, plus allow the money for the transportation costs for these 48 shoeboxes.

