



Dear all,

It might seem a little early to be asking the following question, but please bear with me: How do you like to celebrate Christmas? For many, it's a time of enjoying annual traditions – traditions that are shaped by each person contributing to them ranging from making the Christmas Cake/Pudding, to decorating the house in a particular way, to celebrating the Christian meaning of Christmas found in the birth of a special baby.

The reason for asking this question is that this Sunday we welcome Nick Cole from Samaritan's Purse to our service. One of Samaritan's Purse initiatives is Operation Christmas Child. Since 1990, more than 178 million children in over 160 countries have received a Christmas Shoebox filled with items like Toys, Stationery, small clothing items etc.

For many children, this is their encounter with Christmas and when partnered with local churches, is an amazing way they hear of the good news found in Jesus Christ.

St Mary's is proud to support this initiative and we encourage everyone to help fill a shoebox that can change lives. Watch out for more information coming soon.

Church News:

- **Creation Care – A chance to go deeper**
This Sunday 11th October, 6pm-7pm, there is an opportunity to explore Creation Care in more depth. This will take place on Zoom and will be led by John Wood & Jenny Barrett – to learn more and to book your place, [please click here.](#)
- **Families Event - Save the date!**
To all families - please keep **Sunday 15 Nov at 3.30pm** free in your diaries. We are planning the first of a series of special socially distanced Family Events in Church (Messy Church style). Each family will be in a bubble

around the church - tickets will be limited. Watch out for more information coming soon.

- **Weekday Ministry Developments**

Do join us for our midweek Communion Service on Wednesdays at 9am. This service lasts for around 45 minutes and is held in the Church. To book your tickets, [please click here.](#)

- **Groundforce**

Following on from our series on Creation Care, there is an opportunity to help prepare the churchyard for Winter on Saturday 17th October 9.30am-12noon. Do join us. Click here to [book your place.](#)

- **Sunday 11th October Service**

To book your place at this Sunday's service, [please click here.](#)

Under Aslan's Paw,

Tim

Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon