

# The New Pipe Organ!

The vicar is very proud to be blessing the new pipe organ now it has been installed in St. Hilary's church. The children are very excited because they remember how hard it was for them to raise all of the money to buy it.

The vicar is to bless the new organ for use in St. Hilary's before it is played for the very first time by Phoebe in its very first service in St. Hilary's! Find out below how the service went and what went wrong too!

The vicar asks the congregation and children to gather around the new pipe organ as he blesses it for God's service in St. Hilary's.

Phoebe has offered to play the new organ for this very first service with the organ. She is very nervous but her dolly helps comfort her as she prepares to play a piece of music before the beginning of the service.

Can you see that she is not tall enough yet to



reach and play the foot pedals? However that does not matter because many composers have written music for the church organ that does not need the foot pedals to be played.

Have you noticed something strange? How is Phoebe keeping the music open at the right page? She has brought some wooden clothes pegs from home and they are just perfect for the job!

We hope she doesn't lose one if it falls off!

*The Rev Ken is carrying the cross today and he is almost ready for the opening processional hymn!*

Oh dear Phoebe - we hope she remembers to swap her music for the hymn book so she is ready to play the first hymn.

Oh dear! Everyone can hear one note sounding REALLY loud all of the time!

Everyone is wondering what is causing the problem with the new organ. Surely it was TOO new to go wrong so soon they all thought.

Priscilla Jane was not very far away. She noticed that something was not quite right with the music. Can you see what it is? Yes - one of the clothes pegs is missing!



Priscilla Jane climbs into the

space with the foot pedals and hunts for the missing clothes peg. As she picks it up the loud long note suddenly stops! How clever she was to work that one out wasn't she?

Phoebe has not been practising for very long on the new organ and she had accidentally pulled a foot pedal stop out. The organ stops make the pipes sound when the pedals or keyboard is played. The peg had fallen off the music stand and was stuck between two pedals making one pipe suddenly sound.

Well done Priscilla Jane for noticing the problem so quickly after the first hymn had been played. Poor Phoebe, however, looks pretty upset and has had to clutch her dolly for comfort. It is good that she remembered to bring her dolly to church isn't it?





# A Lenten Cleaning Day

St Hilary's vicar, the Reverend Gyles Ponsenby-Smyth, has decided that, as the church is entering the season of Lent, when Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights, he would arrange for the church to have a full Spring clean!

Have you noticed the special cleaning pinny that the vicar has got on? It has the same cross as the altar cloth because he always wears it when they clean the church.

Cleaning the church always reminds him of this time during Lent when everybody has a kind of "spiritual cleaning" when they remember the time Jesus fasted for forty days and nights in the wilderness!

The colour purple, in the church, is used to represent penitence. Lent is called a penitential season.



Ambrose agreed to help the vicar and bring some cleaning materials and implements for the church Spring clean.

Even Rita has decided to lend a hand - even though she is having to be careful NOT to damage her lovely nails that she has recently painted with red nail varnish!

Well done Rita!



Homer has offered to help out with some of the cleaning too!

Here he is lending a hand to Priscilla Jane as she cleans the entrance to St. Hilary's church. Homer has made sure that he has brought his fruit flavoured mineral water with him! He knows he will need a long drink after all of this work!



*Priscilla Jane and Adele were asked to give the new pipe organ a good dust and polish!*

The children had to move the heavy stool out of the way because Priscilla Jane noticed how dusty the foot pedals were.

She enjoys giving them a good dusting as Adele makes sure that the keyboards also get a good clean with a nice clean duster.



Oh dear! What have we here?

Emily has been caught red handed snacking in church again!

Can you see that she has managed to eat.....a chocolate bar.....orange AND apple! Priscilla Jane is quick to come along and scoop up Emily's rubbish.....

Who else is helping too? It is Esme and Ernest, the pair of ducks who live nearby in the local village pond.

Esme, like Priscilla Jane, was quite disgusted with Emily for eating an apple and then discarding the apple core on the floor.

Esme has picked the apple core up and is going to give it to Priscilla Jane to throw away in the church bin.





*Ben is VERY privileged because the vicar has agreed to allow him into the sanctuary in order to clean the silver candle sticks on the altar.*

Ben thinks he is doing really well.....but WHAT is on the floor Ben? It is the candle that belongs in the candlestick he is currently cleaning. We hope Ben notices soon and puts it back in the candlestick when he has finished cleaning it.



Haven't the children done well?! The bin is now overflowing with all the rubbish that the children and the vicar have found as they cleaned the church. Would you believe that the bin has got:



**A fish skin left over from some fish the children have fed the cat. The cat is VERY fussy and hates fish skin!**

- An old broken boot that even Homer could no longer wear!
- Some broken mineral water bottles that Homer had forgotten to throw away after one of his church snacks.
- Some sandwich crusts
- Old stained newspaper.
- Old bit of lace and some stained knitting
- Apple core and orange rind
- Some dying daffodils left over from one of the church flower arrangements. They had slid under a pew and were forgotten until they were found on this cleaning day!

# Operation Christmas Child - Part 1!

The vicar always likes to involve the children of St. Hilary's in projects that help those children in this country and around the world who are not as fortunate as they are. He therefore decided this year that the church would take part in the Samaritan's Purse's annual project called "Operation Christmas Child". This project involves people filling a shoe box with Christmas gifts for children who do not have very much of their own.

Ambrose has asked for Tom's help to carry these shoe boxes. The vicar asked a local shoe shop if they would let him have any spare shoe boxes that customers didn't want to use to take their new shoes home.

Ambrose agreed to go to the shop and pick them up!

Poor Tom can hardly see over the top of HIS box can he? Ambrose is VERY pleased to be relieved of his shoe boxes!



Who have we here? It is Priscilla Jane. She knows that she and all the other children are going to be taking part in a project which involves the use of shoe boxes.

So she decides to have a rummage through the shoe boxes that Ambrose and Tom had brought from



the local shoe shop. She has just spied THE very shoe box for her! And it has a beautiful picture of a pair of pretty pink high heeled shoes.

She decides that this box with pink shoes on the lid is to be HER very special shoe box!

She has a special reason WHY she wants this box too.....find out very shortly what it is....

Oh dear...Tinker seems to be wanting attention from Priscilla Jane.....perhaps SHE wants to take part in this new exciting

project and be given his own special shoe box too.



*The vicar has brought along some leaflets to give out to the children to explain to them and their parents what the "Operation Christmas Child" project is all about!*

Poor vicar! He has to tell the children that he has developed arthritis in his arms and cannot hold the leaflet up for them all to see properly because it is too painful.

So he has asked Ambrose to hold it up for them to see instead.

Can you see a pair of mice somewhere? Ah.....there is one mouse, namely the church mouse, Nunc Dimittis and his pal, Snowy mouse, each having a little sniff and chew of each of Ambrose's shoes! Naughty mice! Don't they realise that Ambrose' father is not very well off and can't afford to buy him a new pair of shoes very soon! We hope they don't chew a hole in them!

The children are now gathered around the vicar to see the leaflet Ambrose is holding better. The vicar explains that they can all take a shoe box home. They must choose whether to make it a gift box for a girl or a boy. They must also decide what age range they will buy gifts for. There are three different ranges, 2 - 4 years, 5 -9 years and 10 - 14 years old. The vicar suggests that they pick the range 5 - 9 years because they are all in that age range themselves and will be able to think of the right kind of gifts to put in their shoe box.



The vicar further explains that there are strict rules as to the nature of the gifts. He says that there must be one hygiene item like, for example, a toothbrush, comb etc, something to love like a toy, ball, truck, doll or car, something educational like a colouring book or crayons/pencils and lastly an item that can be anything else like sweets, gloves and scarves. He also tells them that there is a list of things NOT to put in the

box like, for example, chocolate, as it would soon melt if the child lives in a very hot country!

The children are really excited and are dying to take the boxes home and buy gifts to put in them.

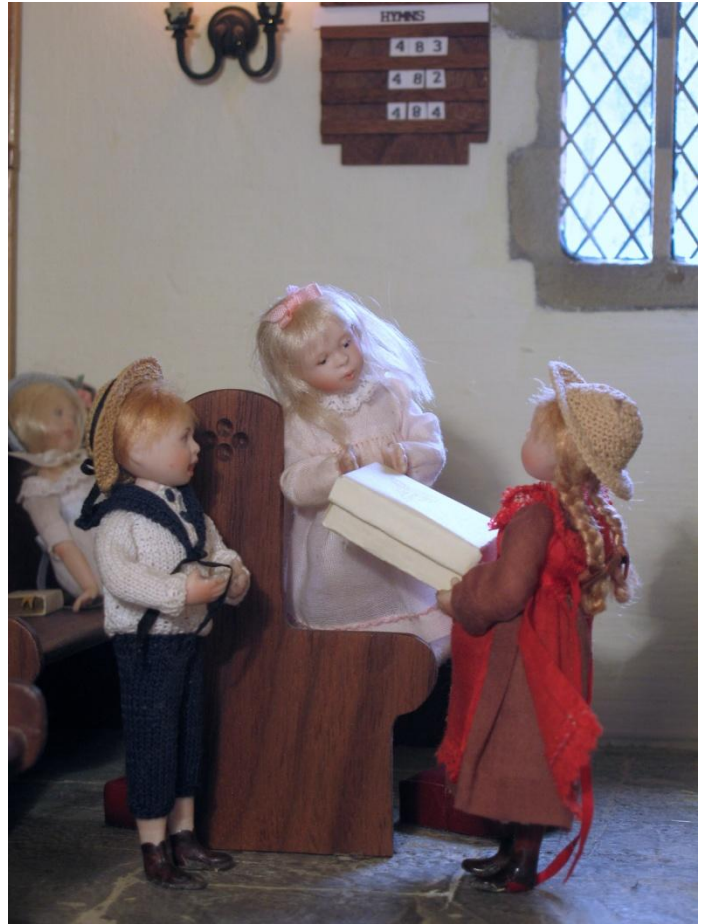
*Oh dear.....poor Priscilla Jane is just showing off her VERY special shoe box with the pretty pink shoes on the lid to Tom when who comes along but Adele!*

Adele decides to interrupt Tom and Priscilla Jane as they are chatting and demands, "I WANT that box - why should YOU have it?" Priscilla Jane is immediately very upset and tells Adele that SHE saw the box first and she likes it because the pink shoes match the pink of her dress!

Tom is extremely upset to see his two friends squabbling and tells them off. He tells them that it is ONLY a shoe box and he is sure that they can find another box that is just as nice for Adele.

Almost immediately Adele realises how silly she has been because the shoe box is not even going to be HER box anyway because another child less fortunate than herself will have it to play with.

Good boy Tom for helping his friends make up and be friends again.



Good boy Ben! He decides to help the vicar give out the shoe boxes and leaflets to the other children. Robert Alexander looks pleased to have his shoe box. Good to see that he is not at all worried which shoe box he is given. But Robert Alexander is a very relaxed boy and takes things in his stride.

Georgie, his ever faithful pet dog, is by his side today and that is all that matters to Robert Alexander!

Oh dear though.....WHO has been drinking a can of Pepsi?



# Operation Christmas Child - Part 2!

The children have all enjoyed shopping for gifts to fill their shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child" project. They have brought them to church today so that Miss Esther and Alice can check what they have bought to make sure that they have bought the right kind of gifts. When they are both happy with the children's gifts the children can then pack them and wrap the boxes up in Christmas paper. See how they do here.....

Priscilla Jane and Adele are the first girls to arrive. They have brought their shoe boxes in these really pretty carrier bags as you can see.

Adele is really struggling here because she has brought TWO bags to church. One has her shoe box and the other has a big roll of Christmas paper to wrap the boxes up.

Tom and Ben have already arrived and they have decided to desert their shoe boxes and leave them on



the table here.

We wonder WHAT the boys are up to.....find out very soon.....

Adele has insisted on seeing what is in the shoe box that Priscilla Jane chose. She has not forgotten how much she fell in love with this box and so wanted it for herself just because she loved the picture of the pretty pink shoes on the lid.

Miss Esther is keeping a beady eye on the pair of them knowing

that they had a little argument about this box and who should have it. She does not want another argument and fall out between these girls.

Oh dear! Adele has spotted that Priscilla Jane has bought a skipping rope for her shoe box. As you can see she simply cannot resist having a play with it!



*Tom has decided to show off the aeroplane he has bought to go in his shoe box to Ben. He is pretending to fly it around church.....naughty Tom!*

Belle and Bardsley are very interested in the toy plane and stay around to see if Tom lets them play with it too.

Esme and Ernest the local pair of ducks are rather less than impressed.....because they know that they can REALLY fly unlike this toy plane!

Meanwhile Adele has just had an accident.....



Adele was so excited as she became carried away skipping with the skipping rope that she has knocked Priscilla Jane's shoe box on the floor and scattered ALL of the gifts on the floor.

Priscilla Jane will NOT be happy will she when she sees what Adele has done?



The children have decided to help Adele out and pick up the gifts that have fallen on the floor.



Tom is showing off HIS gifts now. He has bought a toothbrush and toothpaste because one gift has to be a hygiene item. Adele is checking out the packet of jelly babies. Sweets count as a gift that has to be something the receiving child can eat or wear.

Priscilla Jane is holding some crayons. Crayons are allowed as they are accepted as the educational gift. Tom has bought a jigsaw for his shoe box. He thinks that this will be fine as it counts as the gift that is "something to love".

Sepp has decided to perch on the pretty lid with the pink shoes on and check out Priscilla Jane's box to see what gifts are in it!

We hope that Sepp doesn't decide to have a nibble at any of them!



*Phoebe has now arrived and has decided to show Miss Esther the gifts she has chosen for her shoe box.*

Phoebe LOVES to wear jewellery! So Miss Esther is not at all surprised to see that she has bought a pretty piece of jewellery. Miss Esther is very happy with this as it is allowed.

Phoebe has also bought a little doll. Phoebe loves to have HER doll keep her company when she is at church so she thought that EVERY girl would also love to have a doll too!

Phoebe has chosen a hair brush as her hygiene item because it will enable the child who receives her box to keep her hair tidy.



Alice is here checking Ben's shoe box now. He is showing off the comb he has bought for the boy who will receive his box.

He has also bought some sweets and a stick of rock for his box.

Have you noticed how Belle is just happy



to stay by Ben's side today?

Miss Esther has told the children that it would be really nice if they could write a little letter to the child who will receive their shoe box. "The Samaritan's Purse" organisation which organises this project, encourages the children to write letters to the children who receive the boxes. Sometimes the children who will receive these boxes may even decide to write back!

Alice is giving the letter paper out to the children.



Oh dear.....those pretty bags with the Christmas paper in keep falling over - and who has left those shoe boxes on the floor?

*Phoebe and Emily are the first to finish their letters. Sepp looks as if SHE would like to write a letter too doesn't she?*

Phoebe has written a really nice letter and it says. "**I chose the hair brush all on my own and I hope you like it. love from Phoebe**". Well done Phoebe! You have even spelt all the words correctly too!

Emily, on the other hand couldn't think of much to write at all and wrote "**My name is Emily I hope yoo like yor shoo boc**s"

Miss Esther is very happy with the letters all the children wrote even if they could not spelt every word correctly. She told the children it is the thought that they had put into their letters that counted!

Now the children know that they had bought the right kind of gifts for their boxes the time has come to wrap the boxes up. Guess who is the expert in present wrapping..?



It is our Amelia!  
Amelia is showing the children how to wrap their shoe box. Tom has decided to come around and take a closer look so that he makes sure he watches her every move closely.



*Amelia has now wrapped her box whilst taking care to wrap the lid and box separately because the Samaritans' Purse people have to be able to open the boxes and check what people have put in them.*

If they find something they are not happy with they can then easily take it out and put something else in its place which is more suitable.

Amelia has chosen a girl between the ages of 5 - 9 as the vicar suggested and is just going to tick that box on the label she has stuck on the top of the lid.



Emily has chosen to be a bit different here! Can you see that she has stuck a blue label for a boy on HER box. Emily loves to be a tomboy when away from church and thinks she knows what boys would like!



Tom has now watched all the girls wrap their boxes and thinks he now knows how to do it properly. He has now borrowed the scissors and is just about to cut the Christmas paper in order to wrap his box.

*Well done Tom. He has done a splendid job of wrapping his box.*

He only has to stick his label on the box and it is finished and ready to go!



Ben has also now wrapped his box too and is showing it off to Tom.

Can you see what is wrong with Ben's box? He did not watch Amelia when she was wrapping her box because he thought he knew how to do it already. But he has not done so well as he and the label is all wonky too!

The children have really enjoyed taking part in the Operation Christmas Child project this year.

Already they are begging the vicar to take part next year too!

