



Prisoners · Families · Communities
A Fresh Start Together

Hello, and Merry Christmas (I know, it's a little premature!)

This has been an extremely difficult year for many, and prisoners' children and families have faced many months without any visits and little contact with their loved one in prison. In any given year, Christmas can be a particularly painful time for children with a parent in prison, but never more than this year.

It will come as no surprise that we cannot run Operation Christmas Elf 2020 in the same way as we have done before, but that doesn't mean we're not doing anything to support the children of prisoners this Christmas. Instead of the toys we would usually ask for, this year we're asking you to buy a book token to the value of £10 that can be sent in a Christmas card to a prisoner's child.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of so many parishes and individuals, Pact distributed 3,000 toys and books, which were gifted to prisoners' children by their parents, at special Family Days run by Pact in the run-up to Christmas. This year it is not possible to run those Family Days so we needed to find a gift that could be posted to a child from their parent in prison and book tokens seemed like a really great idea.

You can buy book tokens online from www.nationalbooktokens.com (using a credit/debit card or PayPal) or from all local bookshops. If you buy your book token online, you can even choose for it to be delivered straight to our Santa's Grotto! (Which is really our office: **Pact - Operation Elf 29 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UA**)

If you are going to be supporting Operation Elf and donating a book token for a prisoner's child, let us know on our website and you can also leave a Christmas message for a prisoner's child. There's also lots more information about Operation Elf on the website too, you'll find it all at www.prisonadvice.org.uk

With your help, Pact is working to ensure that these children still get to experience the magic of Christmas. Operation Elf gives you the chance show a little love and care for children with a parent in prison, especially in this most difficult of years.

Please note: We need book tokens to arrive with us no later than **23rd November** to allow us time to distribute them.

If you need any more information, please refer to the website or drop me an email lisa.lewis@prisonadvice.org.uk

With every good blessing,

Lisa Lewis
Parish Relations Manager & Chief Elf!

