



SVP Annual report

September is SVP Awareness Month

At St Margaret Clitherow we have an active St Vincent de Paul group (known as an ‘SVP conference’)

The driving force for the SVP is carrying out Christ’s instruction to love God and love your neighbour. The SVP model for carrying out this instruction is offering time, skills and talents and love to those in need in whatever ways we can. In conferences SVP members develop their Vincentian spirituality through praying together and sharing spiritual readings and reflections, as well as discussing and organising their work.

In our parish SVP members are involved in:

- Visiting sick, elderly and bereaved parishioners in their own homes and in care homes
- Visiting prisoners
- Supporting the work of the St Vincent’s Centre in Leeds
- Supporting families in need who attend St Wilfrid’s School and All Saint’s School
- Ensuring lifts to mass for those who require transport (although this has had to cease during the pandemic). If this is needed in the future, please let any member know.

We are only able to carry out much of our work through the constant generosity of our parishioners and we wish to thank you all for your donations, your support and your prayers in the past

From the start of the pandemic much of our work has had to change.

Conference members quickly took to ‘zoom meetings’ which became very important to us; ‘garden visits’ and ‘telephone visits’ became our way of supporting those we had previously been visiting in care homes and their own homes; sadly throughout this period, we have lost two of our very special members and many parishioners, may they Rest in Peace. Prison-visits were replaced with cards and letters, and members were involved in supporting the work of St Vincent’s, Leeds in providing food parcels and hot meals daily for struggling families and the homeless, including on Christmas Day. <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/st-vincents-leeds> We would encourage you to look at this website for further information.

We are now beginning to be able to visit in person once again and are enjoying having our own conference meetings face-to-face.

If anyone is interested in joining our parish conference, please contact a conference member – via the ‘Contact’ page of this website.

From Mid-March 2020 (start of the pandemic) to August 2021 here is a brief overview of our work

Finance

During the period we have received donations of **£650**

Expenditure has been £830 supporting families in need; £300 supporting the Indian conferences we are twinned with, and £160 on Masses for the deceased. **Total - £1,290**

As you will see our expenditure has far exceeded our income during this period because we have not been able to have the normal collection after church services. We are hoping to recommence our SVP Charity box at the back of church in the coming weeks.

Activities

Telephone Calls to individual clients and Residential homes: **505**

Cards/Letters to prisoner: **15**

Volunteering and meetings at St Vincent's, Leeds: **37**

The SVP is a large international organisation within the church.

Our own parish conference is twinned with two in India and while we usually hear from them a few times a year exchanging cards and news, we have not had any communication from either St. Bamala Mary Women's conference nor St Theresa's, Malapperoor since February 2020 due the pandemic which has devastated India.

We continue to support them through the National Office to the tune of £300 annually.

The quarterly magazine 'Vincentian Concern' is a good read and reports from across the UK on the work of conferences. As soon as COVID restrictions allow us to do so we intend to leave copies at the back of church for parishioners to pick up, take home and read. If you do this, please then return them for others.

As inequality and poverty in our country are increasing the need is now greater than ever and the SVP national organisation has recently appointed a Social Justice Coordinator in order to develop this aspect of our work campaigning on issues of poverty, refugees, debt, homelessness and support for the elderly and the young.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and as members we appreciate the support you give by your prayers and financial support. Hopefully our lives will return to some form of normality in the months to come.

Ros McMullen

President