

ANNUAL REPORT June 2026



The SVP is an international lay organisation in the church which turns concern into action. It operates in parish 'conferences', and deanery and diocesan 'councils'. Here at St Margaret Clitherow we have an active parish 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, talents and love to those in need in whatever ways we can. Our conference meets regularly to

develop our Vincentian spirituality through praying together and sharing spiritual readings and reflections, as well as to discuss and organise our work.

Befriending people in need is at the heart of the SVP in England and Wales. We visit people in their own homes, care homes, hospitals and prisons on a regular basis. The SVP provides practical support, friendship and material needs when necessary. Alongside visiting and befriending, we offer a variety of specialised services including community shops, support centres, debt counselling, furniture and holiday camps for children as well as overseas aid. There is an SVP shop on Melrosegate we encourage you to visit.

As the SVP is known to serve the neediest, often in desperate circumstances, and to work with complete confidentiality, we do get requests for practical and financial support from time to time, and consequently we have the need to maintain a small budget, and on occasions to make appeals. Additionally, we make a contribution to the international dimension of the organisation and particularly to supporting a parish conference in India. Our income comes solely from donations (including the annual envelope collection held in September) and from our own members. SVP has been added to the card machine at the back of church should you wish to give at any time. 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. We have been constantly overwhelmed by the support we receive when we make specific appeals, for example clothing for refugees and white goods. With your generous donations last Christmas, we were able to send £800 to needy families whose children attend our parish school St Wilfrid's, and to ensure that children there were able to attend trips which their families could not afford.

We have seven active conference members, plus a further two members who are not able to work currently, and an auxiliary member who looks after our finances. If you interested in joining our parish conference, please contact a conference member:

Ros McMullen (President) on 07834620011; Kath Campbell (Secretary) on 07769861741;

Karina Smith; Janina Pearson; Maureen Earl; Annette Woolley; Susan Conkleton.

Please pray for us as we strive to carry out charitable work under the guidance of St. Vincent de Paul

Please let any of us know if you are aware of anyone in the parish who would benefit from a visit.

Over the last 18 months we have undertaken the following service:

- Visiting 19 sick, elderly and bereaved parishioners in their own homes and in care homes;
- Visiting a prisoner at Full Sutton HMP;
- Supporting the work of the St Vincent's Centre in Leeds by serving on their management committee, assisting by training their managers, delivering hot meals to the vulnerable and needy on Christmas Day, helping with the delivery of furniture and English lessons to asylum seekers;
- Supporting families in need who attend St Wilfrid's School;
- Co-ordinating a Mini Vinnies group in St Wilfrid's School;
- Providing funds for needy families supported by other York SVP conferences;
- Collecting items from parishioners and delivering them to the local food bank;
- Providing household goods to asylum seekers in the area.

"Charity should never look behind but always in front, because the number of good deeds that we have done in the past is always very small, while the present needs and future needs, which must be relieved, are always endless." Blessed Frederic Ozanam