

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH, PUDSEY

Once again, throughout 2016, the Parish SVP has been able to reach out to those in material and emotional need. Such financial expense has only been possible through the continued and fantastic generosity of the people of St Joseph's Parish. At the outset can I offer my heartfelt thanks to you all, both on behalf of the SVP, and more importantly on behalf of those that we/YOU have been able to help.

2016 INCOME

SVP Members contributions	£159.50
Non Members contributions	£517.00
Church Collections	£3071.37

2016 EXPENSES

ASDA Vouchers	£700
Homeless people - known to Conference and Fr Richard	£100
Aid to the Church in Need – persecuted and displaced Christians	£475
Material goods –	£950
SVP support to National SVP (obligatory) and St Vincent's Centre Leeds (voluntary)	£678.72
Twinnage (obligatory) – support for an SVP Conference in India	- £120
Education of 3 Indian Children	- £60
Annual Subscription for YSVP (Youth SVP)	- £40
Dinner for Housebound and Carers	- £300
Christmas Party – Housebound, Senior Citizens and Carers	- £155.77

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE MATERIAL HELP GIVEN BY THE SVP

Two Syrian refugees, referred to us by SVP Central Council, and now living in Gildersome received a microwave, TV. (donated), services of a TV. and satellite engineer, food mincer and vouchers.

A single person, having to move house to a smaller flat, was given a cooker, carpets and the services of a Gas Engineer.

ASDA Vouchers have been given to a variety of families, who for a variety of reasons found the last 12 months especially challenging.

Foodbank vouchers, although not strictly part of the SVP, have been distributed in confidence by a member of the SVP.

In addition to financial outlay, various donated white goods have been given either to families or to St Vincent's Centre.

Food parcels are regularly given by parishioners, and either distributed to the needy in Pudsey or taken to St Vincent's Centre.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Visits are made to people in hospital, Care Homes and in their own homes. Such people do not need to be Catholics and new recommendations are always welcome.

Recently a very vulnerable and poorly parishioner was moved to the Little Sisters in Headingley. Members spent much time in packing, and sorting for the lady. A friend of the SVP donated his services and van freely on the day, and the house was cleared by St Vincent's Support Centre.

SVP members and non members took part in the Annual Sponsored walk which raised over £700 for St Vincent's Support Centre. One member also sang in the Trinity Centre Leeds at Christmas - for two hours(!) to raise funds for St Vincent's. Two parishioners also work as volunteers at St Vincent's.

A Dementia friendly parish awareness talk was facilitated by the SVP

A Coffee Morning was arranged by the SVP to raise funds for displaced Christians in Iraq.

Raffles and other financial help in aid of St Vincent's and the work of the National SVP have been generously supported by members, and Parishioners.

2016 REPORT OF THE PARISH YOUTH SVP (YSVP)

The Parish is extremely proud of our most vibrant and successful YSVP

Each member does at least one hour's voluntary work in the community each week, including: Altar Serving, visiting a residential home, mentoring younger children, shopping for the elderly, gardening and Scouts and Brownies. New members, especially from the recently Confirmed are always welcome.

In 2016 the group organised the annual parish Christmas toy and Easter egg appeal for St Vincent's. The response from the parish was, as always, overwhelming. The YSVP also helped at the parish Summer and Christmas fairs, and at the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

Many of the group also helped with the temporary move to the Hall while the church was decorated. One member was even spotted shovelling snow, and spreading grit outside church during a recent downfall.

An interesting idea from the Group is to help in creating a contemplative garden within the grounds of the church. More anon!

During Lent the group organised and ran a 'Soup and Roll Lunch' for the Parish, with the proceeds going to the 'Mary's Meals' Charity.

Eight of the YSVP are involved in the World Challenge Project, which involves young people in charitable work with the underprivileged around the world. This year, the destinations are Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Two YSVP members received Young Citizen Awards from the Lord Mayor.

In 2017 it is hoped to start a branch of the junior SVP – Minnie Vinnies, in St Joseph's School.

SUMMARY

I'm sure you'll agree that we are very blessed and fortunate to be part of such a wonderfully vibrant Parish, and the SVP is doubly blessed to have the support and encouragement of YOU, our generous and loyal parishioners!

God bless us all,

Peter Siney, President, St Joseph's SVP

Freda Mortimer, David Farmer, Justine Massie, YSVP