

# ST JOSEPH'S SVP CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2018



The Parish **Saint Vincent de Paul Society** has 14 members, four of whom are auxiliaries who don't attend meetings but visit and/or assist the Society in various ways. One member is a past President of Leeds Rotary and she has been very successful in raising the profile of St Vincent's Support Centre, with fellow Rotarians. Their financial and practical assistance has been much appreciated.

During 2018 SVP members regularly visited 17 clients in their own homes, care homes or in hospital. Members also support clients who are wheelchair users, on shopping and social outings.

Our Conference meets on the  
**first Monday of each month, at 7pm in the Undercroft.**

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS MOST WELCOME** (after DBS clearance).

Members attend the St Vincent's AGM, and other fundraising ventures. Two parishioners work at St Vincent's – perhaps others with an hour or two to spare each week could visit St Vincent's on York Rd, and see how they could assist this very worthwhile charity? All are encouraged to donate clothes, books, bric a brac, food, white goods and furniture. The latter two categories can be collected via the phone number on the SVP notice board.

On the weekend of **February 10/11th** a most successful appeal was given on behalf of St Vincent's Support Centre, raising over £1200. Amazing!

On **February 23rd** Conference members arranged the funeral of the much loved Terry Harton. Terry had been profoundly deaf since an early age. His Concelebrated Requiem in St Joseph's attended by friends from around the UK was videoed, and can be seen on the parish website. It is believed that this is the first time a signed and subtitled Requiem has been made available to the UK Catholic Deaf Community.

On **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** a Coffee Morning in support of the works of the national SVP raised £150.

On Tuesday **May 29<sup>th</sup>** it was Pudsey's turn to host the SVP District Council meeting, attended by members of Conferences from 10 neighbouring parishes, including the cathedral. The meeting which started with a Sung Mass, had contributions from the YSVP and the Mini Vinnies. The evening was generally agreed by all, to have been most successful, and a 'feather in the cap' for the parish.

On Sunday **July 1<sup>st</sup>** all three branches of the SVP – seniors, youth, and minis attended a most enjoyable bring and share barbeque in the parish grounds.

At the beginning of **September**, a large number of food items and bottles of cordial were given to the SVP. These were donated to St Vincent's who were very grateful as they had run short of soft drinks due to the heatwave.

Sunday **September 16<sup>th</sup>** saw a record 23 parishioners take part in the Annual Sponsored Walk, around the delights of Wetherby, for St Vincent's Support Centre. **Photo :** Some of our walkers on the day.



The YSVP and Mini Vinnies including the Head and staff from the school, were all well represented. A fantastic £1054 was raised – well done to walkers and donors.

On Friday **September 21st** the annual lunch with the housebound, their friends and those who have had a challenging year, was held for the first time at the Cornmill Hotel. This was a great success, and hugely enjoyed by all. It should be noted that the accompanying friends offered to pay for themselves. Parishioners and SVP members provided transport. The Manor Golf Club had been the previous choice but rising costs there, resulted in the fortuitous change of venue.

On Friday **7<sup>th</sup> December** a Conference member sang for one hour in the Trinity Centre Leeds as part of St Vincent's Support Centre, fundraising 'Singathon.'

The Christmas Party was held on Sunday **December 9<sup>th</sup>** in the Parish Hall. Once again we were very fortunate to have the services of a professional entertainer, who is also a parishioner, and who kindly donated his services free of charge. The two branches of the YSVP attended and assisted, and their presence was rightly applauded by the guests.

A very busy year I'm sure you'll agree. There have also been many calls upon our financial resources, and a full breakdown of how your money was spent will appear at the end of this Report.

**NONE** of this practical help would have been possible without the consistent and fantastic support of **YOU**, the Mass attenders of St Joseph's Pudsey, and for that I can only offer **sincere and heartfelt thanks!**

God bless us all,

**Peter Siney**

**President, St Joseph's SVP, January 2019**

The Parish is very fortunate in having 3 branches of the

## Youth SVP (ages 14 - 18)



Weekly volunteering which includes:

Altar Serving, Netball Coaching, Football Coaching, Maths Mentoring,  
Helping at Brownies, Litter Picking at Rodley Nature Reserve,  
Assistance at post 9.30 Mass - Coffee and Refreshments.

- Raised money in Lent through **Soup and Roll lunch** for the Mary's Meals charity, which supports deprived and impoverished children in 18 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe & the Caribbean.
- Assisted at the **Annual SVP Christmas Party** for Senior Citizens.
- Led activities at the very popular **Annual Childrens' Advent Workshop**.
- Organised the **Annual Christmas Toy Collection** for St Vincent's. Donations to this from the parish seem to be more generous with every passing year!
- Organised the **Annual Easter Egg Collection** for deprived children, supported by St Vincent's.
- The older members are involved in preparations for **World Challenge**, whereby they finance themselves to spend time helping in poor areas of the world.

## Younger Youth SVP (ages 11 to 13)

Individual volunteering, and assisted with all the above, plus this year they aim to raise funds for items to fill childrens' backpacks in association with the Charity, **Mary's Meals**. Items needed include stationery, toiletries, and clothing.

## Mini Vinnies (Year 4 & above)



**Motto** 'See, Think, Do'

- **Good Works** in School and Community.
- Planned and set up **School Prayer Garden**.
- Assist with **Annual Good Shepherd Collection**.
- **Organised foodbank collections** for West Leeds foodbank and St Vincent's.
- **Harvest Festival food** donated to foodbanks. Some food was sold after weekend Masses, and the proceeds went to CAFOD.
- **Reverse Advent Calendar** – children promised items of food or treats each day in Advent which were then made up into gift boxes for the West Leeds Foodbank.
- Served Coffee and Cake at the **School Christingle Service**.

The School Motto – **Facta Non Verba** – Deeds Not Words  
- perfectly sums up the Mini Vinnie ideal!

All branches of the YSVP are providing money for socks for Bambisanami in South Africa, 2019.

**WELL DONE TO ALL OUR YSVP!**

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**Income: £3069.26** which includes:

- Church collections: £2221.83
- SVP Members contributions: £222.40
- Non members donations: £550.00
- Gift Aid refund: £75.03

**Expenditure: £2897.38**

- Families £1326.50 – this includes help for families on low income, eg utility payments, or unforeseen extra expenditure, or those who have experienced problems/delays with tax credit, universal credit, or had difficulties with delayed child maintenance. Foodbank vouchers are also regularly distributed, as are ASDA vouchers at Christmas
- A grant of £200 for white goods, was given to an elderly lady, who had moved into Sheltered Accommodation.
- Homeless people known to Fr Richard were given a total of £130 during the year.
- Twinnage £375. This is a compulsory national SVP scheme whereby support is given for the works of SVP Conferences in India.
- Lunch at the Cornmill £278.50 (Much cheaper due to change of venue.)
- Christmas Party £140
- Compulsory support for the many works of the national SVP £447.38

**Additional monies raised:**

- SVP Founder's Day Coffee Morning in April raised £150 towards National SVP Youth Work. The SVP was founded in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Frederic Ozanam
- Leeds Central Council of the SVP runs a week long summer holiday camp in North Yorkshire. Pudsey SVP sent a donation of £65 through the sale of raffle tickets