

St George & St Teresa



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action
020 7703 3140 info@svp.org.uk

Newsletter – March 2020

Welcome to the latest addition of the parish SVP newsletter. You will find below a brief summary of who we are and what we have been doing over the past few months...

Who we are:

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another”

St Vincent de Paul. Founded in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, the St Vincent de Paul Society is a Christ-centred organisation made up of almost 10,000 volunteers across England and Wales. While every Conference is unique, our mission is the same; **to seek and find those in need, to help them in the spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.**

The focus of our work at the St Vincent de Paul Society is visiting and befriending people living in isolation and or poverty. Membership is open to men and women of all ages and denominations.

Should you wish to know more about the work of the SVP in our parish or wish to help in some way then please contact us on 07375 137518 or email svpstgt@BTInternet.com

What we do:

Listed below are some examples of how the funds generously donated by the parish to the SVP are used:

1. **Fatima House:** Located close to the centre of Birmingham, Fatima House is a partnership project that offers safe shelter to female asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and homeless. Up to eleven women can be housed at Fatima House at any one time. Over £400 has been donated to help these women purchase essential day to day items.
2. **St Vincent’s School (Nechells) Farm Visit:** Each year we fund and support children to visit a local farm. Last year’s visit was to Ash End House Children’s Farm. Including transport and admission over £500 was spent on this activity.
3. **Twinnage:** An SVP initiative that ‘twins’ conferences in the UK with those in other countries that face various challenges including poverty and deprivation. St George & Teresa’s SVP is twinned with the conference of St Ignatius in Tamil Nadu, Krishnagiri, southern India. Below is an extract from a recent letter....
‘We the conference of St Ignatius (are) getting grants from you regularly. Thank you for your kindness. With this help we have given new dresses and other assistance to adopted families to help celebrate Christmas. At the time of our anniversary celebration we select poor children from the neighbourhood and give them school bags, pens & pencils etc. We also (think) about poor women who trained in tailoring but can’t buy a sewing machine’

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Note: Funds sent to India have to follow a specific process and your parish SVP has been attempting for some time to send £200 for the purchase of sewing machines to enable the women (mentioned above) to earn a living.

Another twinnage related initiative focuses on student sponsorship. Your SVP contributions have paid for an Indian student to undertake a nursing qualification.

Annual twinnage contributions are also made to conferences in Rumania & Sudan and in any one year total approximately £1,000.

4. **Christmas Lunch:** As a result of a generous parish donation of £200 a Christmas lunch was provided for those in need in the parish of St Vincent's in Nechells
5. **Christmas Giving Tree:** Every year gift tag suggestions are attached to the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Parishioners take the tags and place the relevant presents under the tree. Due to the generosity of the parish, in excess of 100 gifts were collected and taken to the parish of St Vincent's for distribution in time for Christmas 2019.
6. **Christmas Afternoon Tea:** Was held in the parish centre and was well attended and enjoyed by all. The MiniVinnies from St George & St Teresa came along to add to the festive spirit and entertainment was provided by the talented 'musical duo' of Father Rob & Father Paul (tour dates to be released in due course!)



7. **On-Going Support and Visits:** The core activity of the parish SVP is visiting the sick, elderly, and housebound of the parish. In a typical year we undertake approximately:
400 visits
250 provisions of transport e.g. to mass or social events
40 deliveries of furniture and clothing etc.

In addition to the above we organize the monthly afternoon tea (often with additional entertainment arranged) in the parish centre. We also collect and distribute groceries weekly to those in need and support ecumenical initiatives in the Dorridge / Knowle / Bentley Heath area.

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