



Newsletter - November 2023

So what have we been up to!

Parish Pig Roast

Father John asked us to join him in organising a pig roast to celebrate his 30th anniversary of ordination and this was a great success enjoyed by 200 parishioners in the church paddock. The weather was very kind to us. We were entertained by Who Let the Ukes Out and had delicious pork baps cooked by Eric Lyons. A very enjoyable day and hopefully we can make this an annual event!



Bethany Foodbank Collections and Sainsburys

We continue to be very grateful for all in the parish who continue to support our foodbank collections via various collection points and the narthex. Also to Daphne and Ian Morgan for giving up their garage as a store pending Pastor Kevin coming from Bethany each month to collect. The people of Dorridge have also been very generous with their donated food at Sainsburys and we collect 3-4 trolley loads every couple of weeks. Most of that goes to Bethany, who currently feed over 1000 customers a month, but we have also started supplying St Chads Sanctuary who have seen a significant increase and are seeing up to 100 asylum seekers a day, 3 days a week. Additional thanks this month also go to the school parents for their food donations at their harvest festival and Kevin was delighted to come over with his van to collect that.

Afternoon teas and social

To finish off our year prior to the summer August break we had a very interesting and informative talk from Emma at Age UK. We started back in September with a TV themes quiz, which took us all back a bit, and in October we were very pleased to welcome back Who Let the Ukes Out with a very enjoyable rendition of some 50s, 60s and 70s numbers and a great time was had by a virtually capacity crowd.

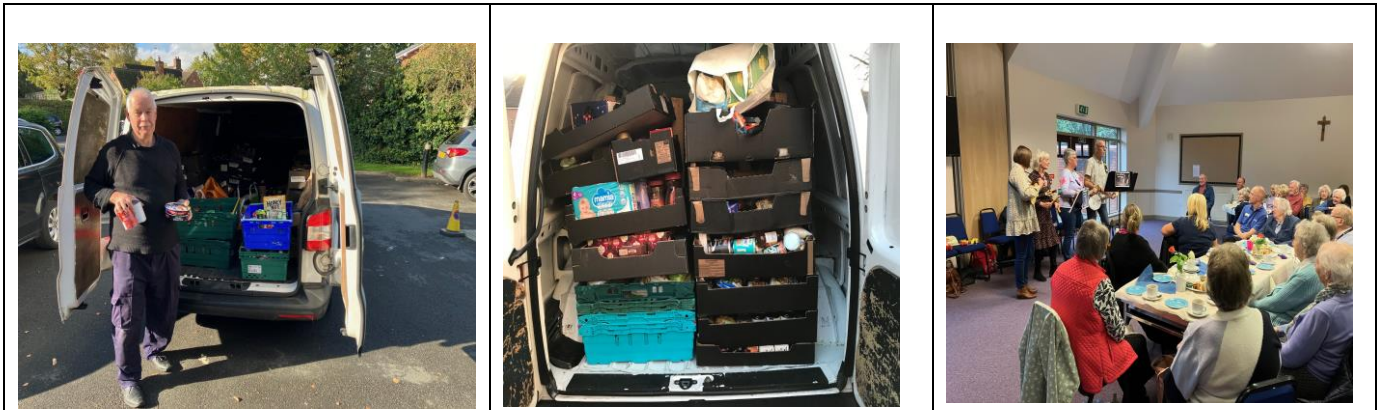
Woolly Hats



Many thanks to Pat Cheriton who has knitted 100 hats, from her surplus wool, which she has donated to the SVP. They have gone to St Chads Sanctuary as Christmas presents for the asylum seekers that they look after, and very gratefully received.

So, suitably fired up we go into the final quarter of this year and our plans are:

1. Continue with our support to the above, with the very generous food donations from the parish and develop our relationship with Sainsburys



2. Continue to support the needs of the parish in visiting and helping the sick, elderly and lonely. Also our monthly afternoon teas, occasional lunches, and annual Blessing of the Sick service will be an ongoing feature.
NB Christmas Lunch 29th November and Christmas Afternoon Tea 13th December.
3. Continue to financially support the Father Hudson's Fatima House, womens' refuge, project in Birmingham and our twinned SVP conferences in India, Sudan and Romania.
4. Continue to look at ways that we can support our adopted parish in Nechells, primarily through the school and their parish priest, Father Solomon.
We will certainly be looking to have our Christmas Giving tree in the narthex again in December.
5. Continue to support and develop the Mini Vinnies through our primary school. This was a great success last year and we are currently looking for someone to continue to lead the group of Year 5 & 6s during the coming year.
6. Following the success of the above we are working at setting up a youth SVP group, perhaps initially for years 7-9. Father John has agreed to be involved, and with the help of two or more adults, hopefully we can get this up and running before the end of this school term. We can get plenty of support from SVP head office and from others who have done this successfully. Any volunteers to help with this very worthwhile and rewarding project please contact us by email svpstgt@btinternet.com or speak to any SVP member or the parish office.
7. Over the last few months we have also been instrumental in helping 3 families who are setting up home, or in need, by providing microwaves, fridge freezers and a washing machine. If you know, or hear of anyone in need, either for general help or possibly material help in some way, then please contact us via our email address above or speak to any SVP member or the parish office.
8. A couple of months ago we met with Sian Bishop from the SMBC Community Development Team who provided us with ex library books for the asylum seekers and also a link to the SMBC website, which will provide us with additional information as regards available services etc.

Thank you for your continued support and please remember that we are here to help anyone in need within the parish. Please see our notice board in the narthex or our SVP page on the parish web site, which also includes a link to our Just Giving page. Our email address is svpstgt@btinternet.com or speak to any SVP member or the parish office.

The SVP Christmas shop is officially open for 2023! So for Christmas cards and gifts please go to <https://svp.org.uk/shop>

Also look out for the Round Table Father Christmas collecting for Bethany Foodbank again this year

