

# **St Vincent de Paul Society**

(Registered Charity Number 1053992)

**Our Lady and St Kenelm, Halesowen Conference**

**Annual Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**



**Statue of St Vincent de Paul**

**displayed at Our Lady and St Kenelm Catholic Primary School  
inspiring children of the Parish through the Mini Vinnies' Group**

## **The Parish Conference at work**

### ***“Turning Concern into Action during the cost-of-living crisis”***

The SVP is committed to combatting poverty, tackling isolation, providing support and offering sincere friendship to people in our local communities. We support the most vulnerable in society and give them a chance of a happier life. We may be able to help with:

- a friendly visit or telephone call
- food
- transport
- help to fill in forms
- clothing
- furniture/white goods

We take a person-to-person approach to supporting our neighbours, visiting individuals and families when asked, extending the hand of friendship and offering practical support. If we cannot help because specialist advice is required we will try our best to signpost those in need to other organisations that can help.

As the effects of rising prices, increasing inflation and in work poverty continue to bite we distributed £14,527 to around 300 families and individuals in need. We also helped families or individuals who were resettled by providing “home starter kits.” We supported 10 residents at Fatima House - the Birmingham Archdiocesan Refuge for Women with a donation of £300. We support two poor conferences in India and donated £450.

We started the year with funds brought forward of £13,017. We are grateful to charitable trusts, organisations and parishioners for financial support. Income for the year amounted to £10,715. Without this generosity it would be impossible to reach out to those who need a helping hand during these difficult financial times. We ended the year with funds carried forward amounting to £8,637.

Looking back to 2020 we have distributed just over £48,000 helping families and individuals through the hardships of COVID, family crisis, resettlement and economic downturn. During this time we have received support from:

- The Albert Gubay Foundation
- The National Lottery Awards for All programme
- The Arnold Clarke Community Foundation
- Heart of England Live
- The Mid-Counties Co OP Community Fund
- The Tesco Community Fund
- 1485 Charitable Trust

We will continue to fund raise where we can because the financial challenges show no signs of easing.

***Thank you for your prayers, donations and practical support.***

## Income and Expenditure in 2022-23

	£	£
<b>Funds in hand on 1st April 2022</b>		<b>13,017.81</b>
<b>Add Income</b>		
Grants from Charitable Trusts to help families and individuals in need to meet the rising cost of living (£7,200) or needing help with rehousing (£1,000)	8,200.00	
Parishioner legacy for Lourdes pilgrimage	820.00	
Donations from parishioners	<u>1695.76</u>	
<b>Total Income for the year</b>		<b><u>10,715.76</u></b>
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>23733.57</b>
<b>Less Use of funds :</b>		
Use of grants from Charitable Trusts to help families and individuals in need to meet the rising cost of living or needing help with rehousing	14,527.90	
Support of two Conferences in India	450.00	
SVP Sudan Appeal	100.00	
Mass Stipends	60.00	
Supporting SVP National Office costs	193.54	
Other Conference costs	<u>35.00</u>	
<b>Total use of funds for the year</b>		<b><u>15,366.44</u></b>
<b>Funds retained on 31st March 2023</b>		
Restricted Funds	6,823.10	
Unrestricted Conference funds	<u>1,544.03</u>	
<b>Total funds retained on 31st March 2023</b>		<b>8,367.13</b>

## Join the Parish SVP Conference!

There are many ways to be involved with our work. Please consider joining the Society. We currently have 12 members. New members are very welcome.

### Need help or want to join?

We are available after weekend Masses if you need to speak to us or telephone or text Mike Weaver 07423 54112

#### President

Mike Weaver

#### Vice President

Jane Clarke

#### Hon Secretary

Roy Williams

#### Hon Treasurer

Kevin Sables

## The SVP Mini Vinnies Group at Our Lady and St Kenelm Catholic Primary School

***"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things."***

***Pope Francis***



### ***Emmie and Ava, Joint Presidents of the School Mini Vinnies write.....***

Wow! What an amazing term we have had since Christmas 2022. We have been extremely busy recruiting new members to our wonderful team...we now have 97 Mini Vinnies ( we only started with 6) What an achievement!! We are so proud!

We have spent most of our time fulfilling our Mission "Turning Concern into Action!"

Through all our meetings in school, we have inspired others to act and think not only globally, but locally too; supporting our friends at the Halesowen Welcome Group. Parents have been very generous with their donations of clothing and other items, to support those less fortunate than ourselves and we are forever grateful. This work will continue into the Summer Term and staff will continue their valuable work, in volunteering at the Group.

We held a Special Mass in the Church, with the fantastic members of the SVP, led by Mike Weaver. We were extremely proud to share all our thoughts and plans for the future, with the whole congregation, including staff and Governors of our school. We thank the members of the SVP for their support at this Mass and especially for the yummy biscuits afterwards.

We also held an Inspire to Action Day in school to raise funds for the people of Syria and Turkey, who were affected by the earthquakes. Parents donated cakes for us to sell at breaktimes and all funds from this and from funds our non uniform day, were sent to support these families.

This term we are holding another pyjamarama day to raise funds for the SVP and we continue to drive forward our messages of hope to all those who need them.

