

St Vincent de Paul Society

(Registered Charity Number 1053992)

180 Years and the SVP is still going strong!

On 12th February 2024 the SVP celebrated being present in England and Wales for 180 years. The Society has served the parish in Halesowen for many decades and continues to do so.

Our Lady and St Kenelm, Halesowen Conference

Annual Report 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024



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”

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.

We distributed £17,361 to around 300 families and individuals in need by helping with grocery bills, rehousing costs (“home starter kits”) and respite care. We support three poor conferences in India and donated £400.

We started the year with funds brought forward of £8,367. We are grateful to the National Lottery Awards for All programme, charitable trusts, neighbouring SVP conferences and parishioners for financial support. Income for the year amounted to £14,004. Without this generosity it would be impossible to reach out to those who need a helping hand during stressful and difficult financial times. We ended the year with funds carried forward amounting to £3,974.

Looking back to 2020 we have distributed just over £65,000 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
- The Charles Plater Trust
- 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.

Money Matters 2023-24		
	£	£
Funds in hand on 1st April 2023		8,367.13
Add Income		
Grants and specific donations received to help families and individuals in need meet the rising cost of living or help with rehousing or with respite care costs	13,300.00	
Conference members' and other donations	704.65	
Income for the year		14,004.65
Total available for use		22,371.78
Less Use of funds :		
Use of grants or specific donations to help families and individuals in need meet the rising cost of living or help with rehousing or respite care	17,631.98	
Support of three Conferences in India	400.00	
Mass Stipends	60.00	
Supporting SVP National Office costs	285.16	
Other Conference costs	19.90	
Total use of funds for the year		18,397.04
Funds retained on 31st March 2024		
Restricted Funds	2,534.00	
Unrestricted Conference funds	1,440.74	
Total funds retained on 31st March 2024		3,974.74

Join the Parish SVP Conference!

There are many ways to be involved with our work. Please consider joining the Society. We currently have 14 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



Abbi and Lucia, Joint Presidents of the School Mini Vinnies write.....

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Presidents of the Mini Vinnie's at OLSK! Our team had grown over the years from just six children to now over 150...Wow!!! What an achievement.

We are very proud that many children, including those from our Little Kenelm's Pre-School, want to join our Team, and Turn Concern into Action. Many children have written wonderful letters to us, stating the reasons why they want to become a Mini Vinnie, including...'We care about other people, especially those who have less than us so we want to help them!'

Through our many fundraising events, including Pyjamarama Day and our Lenten Actions of supporting others, we have been overwhelmed with the donations from all our wonderful families to help us with our Mission.

We thank Mr Weaver and all the members of the SVP for their continued support to our Mission...Turning Concern into Action

We look forward to this Summer Term ahead and planning even more fundraising activities to support those who need it.

