



**St. Vincent de Paul Society
Conference of St. Francis
& St. Augustine, Kenilworth**

Annual report to the parish February 2023

Recently, Fr. Kevin kindly allowed members of SVP (Kenilworth) to make our annual presentation to the parish, updating you on our work and asking for your prayers.

A year ago, our regular visits to parishioners were hampered by the presence of COVID, but importantly the number of visits we now undertake has increased. We also distribute a monthly contact sheet, to help keep in touch.

Throughout the year, we have been assisting many local families in need, with items including shoes, food vouchers and white goods. During the summer holidays, when school meals were not available, we gave one bag of food per week to each family, to provide lunches for the children. At Christmas we distributed 33 food hampers, and through the winter months we have spent £2,800 helping to top up fuel cards for the families. Every two months we have held collections of food and household items for local foodbanks, and the response of parishioners has been magnificent. We have also purchased produce to take to Carriers of Hope in Coventry.

In November 2022, we began our weekly, well-attended Warm Hub gatherings. There, a wide variety of people come together as a community to enjoy, not only a warm hall, but a warm welcome, with conversation, activities and refreshments.

The Minivinnies (our junior branches) have been very active. Amongst other activities, pupils at St. Augustine's held regular money raising events, donating the proceeds to the SVP and to people in Ukraine, and pupils at Crackley Hall donated gifts and Christmas cards to older parishioners.

Again this year, we have donated to the SVP Summer Camp scheme, which enables children, who would otherwise not be able to go away, to enjoy a holiday. We continue to support Fatima House in Birmingham, which helps women seeking asylum, and we support the work of the three SVP conferences in India and Sudan, with which we are twinned.

We wish to offer our grateful thanks to the parish for selecting SVP as one of the nominated charities this year, and in view of that we shall not be asking for a retiring collection today. Our thanks also go to members of the Catenians, the CWL and SALVE, all of whom have generously supported our work throughout the year. We also offer sincere thanks to all parishioners who donated so well to our annual Christmas appeal for hungry babies in South Sudan. In whatever way you have supported us – Thank You.

The work of SVP is on-going, and we welcome parishioners who would like to work with us (perhaps volunteering at the Warm Hub), and those interested in becoming members. Once again, we thank Fr. Kevin for his help and support.

For more information please e-mail: svp@kenilworthcatholic.org.uk