

SVP Report to Parish Council 04/10/22

The SVP continues to visit and support our beneficiaries within the Parish with visits taking place in client's homes as well as telephone calls to check if assistance is needed. We are providing support and financial help through the schools, guided by our head teachers and pastoral staff and have recently made a grant available to All Saints School of £350 to help families with the purchase of school uniform.

We are offering assistance to a support hub which has been set up at the Daten Sports and Social Club in Culcheth to help families from the North Warrington area who are hosting guests arriving from Ukraine. The hub was started by a family from Croft and provides advice and entertainment as well as organising outings and help with legal, visa, travel and work opportunities for refugees and their host families. Nationally, the SVP has set up a fund which can be accessed by local groups, specifically to help this kind of work and we have offered a grant to the Culcheth hub using National funds. In addition to this, one of our members has donated £150 through the SVP which will be used to purchase welcome packs for families arriving from Ukraine in the near future.

Our meeting on 11th of May was attended by the new Diocesan Membership Support Officer and the District Council President. They were visiting local groups and were especially keen to meet members of our group as it is the newest conference in the North West. They sat in on the meeting and made suggestions as to how we could proceed with certain issues and the feedback we received from them was extremely positive. They were particularly struck with the enthusiasm of the conference.

We held a bric-a-brac sale after the Jubilee lunch at All Saints Church on 4th June and although attendance at the stall was quite low, we did raise £70 for our funds. One of our clients requested transport to and from the lunch which we were happy to provide.

Our next meeting was to be held on 3rd August 2022 but as several of our members were away on holiday it was decided that meetings be suspended until September.

It is a requirement of SVP membership that all full members are to take an SVP Safeguarding course every three years. Some of us have already fulfilled this requirement online but other members could not access the course so we have received hard copies of the training workbooks which we will complete as a conference in the parish rooms at a mutually convenient time.

At our September meeting we discussed the idea of leaving SVP leaflets at the food bank at All Saints Church and perhaps asking the food bank volunteers to include one in each food parcel so that people would be more aware of how we can help.

On 27th September, the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, two of our members, along with Father Gordon attended a Festival mass at Liverpool Cathedral, celebrated by the Archbishop, for SVP members and guests.

At our next meeting we will begin planning this year's Christmas hampers and we hope to involve Tesco again as they were extremely helpful last year.

The possibility of running a Christmas cake and coffee morning at St. Lewis' was suggested but this will be discussed again at our next meeting.

We would be interested in running an SVP stall at the Christmas Fair at All Saints if this is possible and having a second collection after mass sometime in October/November, to be agreed with Father Gordon.

Our next meeting will be on the 5th October.