

Report from St Vincent de Paul 11 October 2017.

A big thank you from the SVP.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our annual appeal on the 2nd July 2017, which raised £700. 00, those individuals who donate privately, and also the Confirmation group and the choir.

We would also like to thank Fr Deo for allowing us to have a second collection.

The society (known as the SVP for short) has been described by the catholic Herald as the Catholic Church's best kept secret. We're not deliberately secretive but we don't tend to shout about our work. People are often surprised at what a large and long-established charity we are.

The SVP was founded in 1833 and we've spread all around the world with 800.000 volunteer members based in parish groups worldwide. In England & Wales we have 10,000 members who help anyone in need in their local area – for example people who are lonely and isolated, homeless or without enough food to eat. Some of the people we help may be parishioners but we will assist anyone, irrespective of their beliefs or background. The only basis for helping someone is that they are in need.

Often we just visit and befriend people but sometimes more practical assistance is required – such as driving them to or from Mass, buying food for them and practical help at home.

We've already started using the funds that the parishioners here at St Bartholomew's so generously donated, So far we've paid for a replacement washing machine for a mother of 3 young children, one with special needs, given money to an individual who had been homeless and to another who was expecting to be homeless who at the time was ill and had no resource to public funds, we have paid for 3 children to go to St John Bosco holiday camp for a week the only holiday they would get this year.

If you would like assistance from the SVP do contact us through the parish office or a note marked for our attention.

We have 6 members the more people we have in the parish SVP group, the more people in need that we can help. Even if you are only able to give an hour

or two a week it would be enough to make a difference to someone else's life so please do consider joining us and turning your faith into action.

Finally, what everyone can do is remember us in their prayers. Pray that we can help relieve the suffering and hardship of more people

Tim O'Donoghue

Conference President