ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

England & Wales · Charity number 1053992

Details

Other names	SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL, SVDP, SVP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03174679
Registered	1996-03-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Vincent De Paul Society Allenby House Rees Way Bradford West Yorkshire BD3 0DZ
Phone	02077033030
Email	info@svp.org.uk
Website	www.svp.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND SICKNESS WITHOUT DIFFERENTIATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOUR, CREED, IDEOLOGY OR SEX AND IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT SO AS TO LIMIT THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, TO BRING SPIRTUAL AND/OR MATERIAL SOLACE TO THE SICK OR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED, HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS DUE TO THEIR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. 2. THE UNDERTAKING IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD OF SUCH OTHER OBJECT OR OBJECTS WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE SOCIETY IN ITS DISCRETION SHALL SEE FIT.

Activities: The objective of the Charity is the relief of poverty, both material and emotional in England & Wales and abroad through: the person to person involvement of its voluntary members engaged in befriending and through 'Special Works' , which are projects established to address specific needs in the

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local community

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE ENGLAND AND WALES
- Grenada
- Guernsey
- Guyana
- India
- Isle Of Man
- Jersey
- Romania
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£16,235,862	£18,195,589	£12,515,777	430
2024-03-31	£15,797,501	£17,588,493	£11,246,400	495
2023-03-31	£14,222,729	£15,281,199	£12,760,598	470
2022-03-31	£13,223,783	£12,598,558	£13,805,248	407
2021-03-31	£11,146,004	£10,292,900	£12,739,820	285

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Elaine Heyworth	Chair	2017-03-17
Anthony James McGuigan		2025-05-17
CLARE O'BRIEN		2022-12-02
Dr Stephen Gill		2022-12-02
ELIZABETH CREEVY		2022-12-02
Gustavo Vas Falcao		2022-12-02
MARK GRAHAM BRANCH		2022-08-16
MONICA CHIDGEY		2022-12-02
NASHA PIERRE		2022-12-02
Patricia Nobbs		2025-05-17
Peter McGauley		2025-05-17
Suzanne Anita Motha		2023-01-02
WINSTON WALLER		2022-12-02

Linked charities

- THE PEN-Y-POUND HOUSE FUND (1053992-1)

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

England & Wales - Charity number 1053992

Accounts

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Keeping the Doors of Hope Open



TRUSTEES REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Company No: 3174679 Charity No: 1053992

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

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Since the Charity's foundation in 1833 in Paris, the St Vincent de Paul Society has lived by the Christian principles of its founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, who said we should, "embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

In 1833 the work of the Charity was prompted by the abject poverty in the slums of Paris. The first SVP members reached out in person to help those in need. The first SVP Conference in England and Wales was established only eleven years later, in 1844. Sadly, though the world has changed in so may ways, poverty remains embedded across society. Today our members continue to reach out to those in need with kindness, compassion and a welcome that is non-judgmental. As a 19-year-old university student, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam had the vision to create that network of Charity. If he attended an SVP Conference meeting today, visited a St Vincent's shop, support centre or any other of our many projects, he would recognise the same ethos of Vincentian service and welcoming acceptance of others. The doors of hope are always open.

Today, the SVP numbers around 800,000 voluntary members in some 153 countries, with over 8,900 members in England and Wales. The work of the Society continues to evolve in response to present needs, while remaining person-centred, ensuring everyone has the right to be a valued member of the community in which they live.

OUR VISION

Our vision, inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is to give hope and restore the dignity of individuals and families, empowering them to live more fulfilling lives in a fairer world.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

OUR VALUES

Christ-centred - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.
Compassionate - We aim to show compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.
Respectful - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.
Generous - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.
Responsive - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work, and to respond accordingly, in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms.
Accountable - We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, while acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.
Confidential - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental well-being of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP THE DOORS OF HOPE OPEN

2024-25 was a significant year of change at the SVP, while at the same time many of the economic and social challenges the charity works to address, persisted – and in many cases, intensified. After 24 years leading the Society, we said goodbye to Elizabeth Palmer who decided to leave the role of CEO in November. During her time with us, Elizabeth worked tirelessly to help the Society deliver its mission and ensure it had an impactful presence in communities where people were in most need of help and support. We wish her every success in her next endeavours. Kate Nightingale, who had already been with the SVP for 13 years in a variety of roles – including deputy CEO - was appointed as the new CEO. We wish Kate every success as she leads us over the coming years in tackling those persisting challenges. The cost-of-living crisis shows no signs of abating. Many families and individuals are finding it tough to afford essentials. The plight of immigrants and asylum seekers continues to be framed through one lens, with much of the human story of hardship and suffering stripped away, along with any consideration of their right to human dignity. In such times the work of the SVP comes to the fore. Our members, volunteers, and staff, particularly in our 11 community support projects, offer hope. Our doors are always open.

Against this backdrop, the whole of the charity sector is under real strain. The SVP is not immune. Our costs have risen across all areas of our work whilst demand for our services remains at an historic high. This year we carried out a restructure of our central functions to maintain the long term viability of the SVP. We've taken other steps to strengthen our organisation for the future—seeking new partnerships, diversifying our funding base, and investing in the support structures that sustain our members and services. We have been working across England and Wales for 181 years and will ensure we remain at the forefront of the battle against poverty, social inequalities, injustice, and hardship, for many more years to come.

Our 8,900 members, supported by a dedicated network of staff and volunteers are the bedrock of the hope we offer—visiting individuals and families, offering not just assistance but companionship, and helping people regain stability and hope.

Just as requests for support remain at record levels, so too does our commitment. In 2024–25, we expanded our Cost-of-Living Fund, delivering vital grants to those facing financial crisis. Whether for food, energy, clothing, transport, or household items, each grant is a small act of hope in someone's darkest moment.

> ***"Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another."***
>
> St Vincent de Paul

Our housing work also took significant steps forward. Following the creation of our Emergency Housing Strategy and appointment of our first Head of Housing, we began to lay the foundations for new, affordable accommodation initiatives. This is a long term commitment to tackling one of the root causes of poverty: lack of secure housing. At a national level, we've continued to advocate for those we support. Through evidence-based research and the voices of our members and service users, we've spoken out on the injustices behind the statistics. Our work on housing, regional inequality, and migration reflects our belief that charity must be accompanied by a call for change.

Through every challenge, our mission remains unchanged: to offer person-to-person care with compassion and dignity, grounded in our Christian values and open to all without judgement.
None of this would be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our members, volunteers, and staff—and the generous support of individuals, trusts, parishes, and organisations who share our vision.

As we look to the future, we do so with gratitude, courage, and hope. Together, we remain committed to building a more compassionate and just society, one act of service at a time and by keeping the doors of hope open.

Thank you for walking with us.



Elaine Heyworth,
Chair of Trustees



Kate Nightingale,
CEO

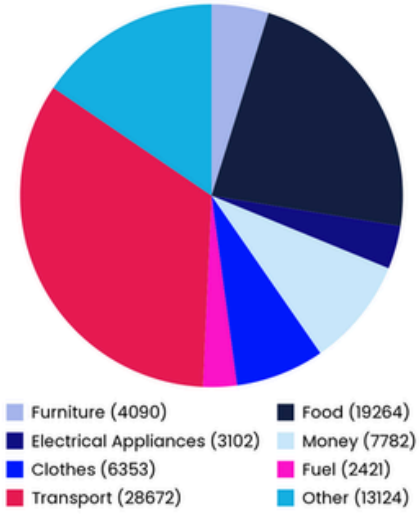
A YEAR OF OPENING DOORS, OFFERING HOPE

336,821 visits made to those in need

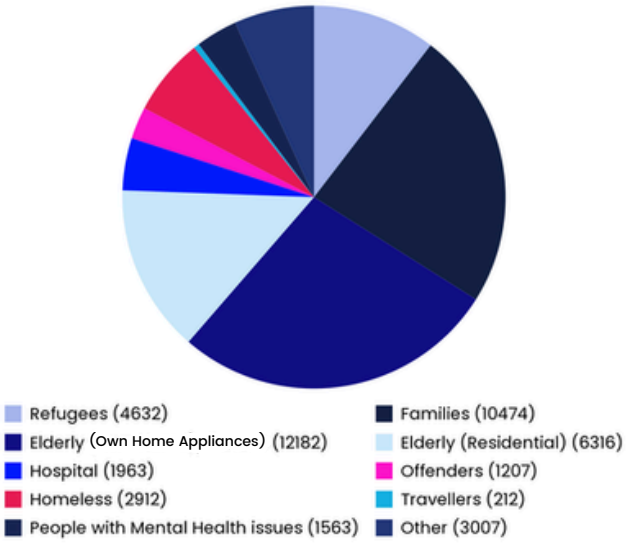
In 2024-25 there were 855 SVP Conferences in England and Wales with over 8,900 active volunteer members. These Conferences continued to reach out proactively to those in need within their communities.
The nature of support provided was shaped by local needs, circumstances and resources.

Our volunteer members' core focus is on visiting those facing loneliness or hardship - offering support and friendship for as long as needed. Last year in England and Wales, over 336,000 visits were made to more than 44,000 people, with over 84,000 instances of practical help provided, mainly food and transport. Soup runs also supported over 12,000 people.

Types of practical assistance given:



Types of beneficiaries:



SVP Canvey Island Food Hub

The SVP Canvey Island Food Hub is a vital support system for families across Canvey and the wider Castle Point Borough in Essex. Operating six days a week, the Hub redistributes free of charge over 300 trays of surplus food from 11 supermarkets, ensuring good food doesn't go to waste, and those in need don't go without.

Each morning, two vans set out at 7am and return by 9am with food supplies, which are then sorted and delivered by 10am. Every week, the Hub supports 3 food banks, 6 schools, 3 children's homes, 2 care homes, the Canvey Island Senior Citizens Association, and more.

Fridays are dedicated to supporting around 80 elderly or housebound people. On Saturdays, surplus food is shared with St Vincent's Southend. In the past year, over 51,000 food parcels and 5,500 doorstep deliveries were made.

The Hub also assists families in crisis by supplying essential household items, such as microwaves, cookers, and beds. Help with utility bills is also offered. At Christmas, a three-course meal was served for 95 parishioners and the community was supported with over 9 tonnes of food.

It is hoped Canvey Island Food Hub will launch a twice-weekly community café and offer cookery classes for parents to promote healthy, affordable meals.

The annual running cost of Canvey Island is £48,000. This covers van insurance, diesel, repairs, food top-ups, and direct beneficiary support. Despite the challenges, the reward is in the faces of those helped. The Mayor of Castle Point recognised the contribution of the Hub with a Community Award, celebrating the passion of the 35 volunteers. With continued support, the aim is to grow into a full Special Works, then progress to a Community Service Project, opening even more doors to hope.

St Blaise & St Mary's Conferences

Members received a request to support a couple who had recently moved into the area after several months of homelessness. They were placed in an unfurnished flat by the local housing association. The wife, an amputee with a mental health condition, had a specialised bed. Her husband, unable to work due to ADHD and acting as her full-time carer, was sleeping on the floor.

Within days of the request, the Conference provided essential furniture and emergency food parcels. They discovered the wife was distressed and housebound; her prosthetic leg was no longer suitable as she had lost so much weight from stress and lack of food. Her husband was also isolated, unable to leave her side.

Recognising the need for longer-term and emotional support, SVP members partnered with St Mary (SS Peter & Columba) Bradford Conference to offer regular befriending visits. Together, they created a visiting schedule and were able to signpost the couple to local services to enable them to start to rebuild their lives.

Thanks to this collaborative effort, the couple now live in a fully furnished flat and receive the ongoing support they so desperately needed.



St James', Twickenham

St James' SVP conference, based in Twickenham, started one year ago.

Their first fundraising events were Lenten lunches, held every Wednesday during Lent. Homemade soups, tea, coffee and cakes were enjoyed by parishioners and the local community. They were attended by sixth formers from St Catherine's School and residents from Brinsworth House, a care home for retired artists and those who have spent their lives working in the entertainment industry.

In total, some 160 lunches were served, and £980 was raised for the Conference.

The event was a real testament to the team's dedication and community spirit. The hard work done in preparation by the Lenten Lunch team shone through.





A DOORWAY THROUGH GRIEF, A PATH TO HOPE

The SVP supports 'Special Works' of charity. These offer focused support, offering either a particular type of help or supporting a defined group. They may arise in response to an identified local need which corresponds to criteria approved by the Trustees. Special Works usually develop when an activity grows to an extent where a Conference is taken away from delivering its usual core day to day services. Special Works are an integral part of the support provided by the Society to those in need.

One of the newest developing Special Works is the expansion of Bereavement Cafés in the Worcestershire area. They currently offer a light touch, social event for bereaved people and those who would benefit from meeting and chatting with others in a similar position, with support from volunteers. It is suitable for people at any stage of bereavement, but as Gina, one of the founding members in Droitwich explains, 'it is not bereavement counselling. The Café is a safe place for people to meet others going through a bereavement, to get or give support and meet trained volunteers willing to listen. The Cafés offer support, rather than a counselling service.'

Tea and coffee and refreshments are always on hand. They are open and accessible for all; at no cost, with easy access and away from a church or church hall, so as not to alienate people of a specific faith or no faith at all.



All volunteers at the Cafés have taken part in training to learn how to support bereaved people and the stories they have shared are truly inspiring. The Members and volunteers also run a 7-week Bereavement Journey course, originally set up by the Church of England over 25 years ago. As Gina outlines, "Our guests really like the opportunity to get to know the volunteers before they commit to the course. They then have the continuity of coming to the café at the end of the course. We make the café look welcoming with fresh flowers on the tables, free drinks and biscuits. And most of all, with volunteers who are supportive". These added touches really help make guests feel relaxed in comfortable surroundings.

The course is offered usually around 6 months after the bereavement has occurred. But it's not compulsory. Some people find just coming to the café is enough, whilst others need that extra help. Guests do not even have to talk to anyone if they don't want to - several guests have come to the course and not spoken for the first few weeks. Then it all comes spilling out. There is no pressure put on anyone at any time. It's made clear from the outset.

"Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart"

One man, who lost his wife, has a daughter who lives in France. She wrote to say thank you for the support given to her father. He has since made new friends. It gave his daughter comfort to know that he was among people who cared and supported him.

"My name is S*, I live in France. My dad, who lives near Droitwich, lost his wife last May to cancer. I ring him every day but living in another country, I feel bad that I cannot visit him in person more. He started attending your group this year. I cannot begin to express how much comfort it has brought him. He has met many new friends through your group and he is now on the bereavement course you offer. Many times, your group has picked him up when he felt down. I want to offer huge thanks to all your team for providing this kind and much needed service. Thanks again from the bottom of my heart."

*Name changed to protect privacy.

235 visits took place at Evesham & Droitwich Cafés

73 different people visited both Cafés

24 people completed the Bereavement Journey course



"This is a different approach to a difficult subject"

"I get huge satisfaction from seeing the improvement in people visiting the Café and attending the Bereavement Journey Course. It's not an easy subject. Personally I've been out of my comfort zone many times but it is all worthwhile when you see guests with a smile on their face and managing to move forward in their lives. We're not counsellors and would never pretend to be. But we can facilitate and make a safe place for bereaved people to come and share their experiences. The local GP practices in Droitwich and Evesham are referring people. We're supported by the local funeral directors in Droitwich. They hand out flyers to families whom they feel would benefit from coming to the Café. This is a different approach to a difficult subject. It's not for everyone, but for those who are comfortable with this approach it has changed their lives. It is an alternative to one-to-one counselling or medication, both of which have their place for some people. It is a classic SVP project - satisfying a need that is never going to go away."

OPENING DOORS OF HOPE TO THOSE SEEKING SAFETY







Many SVP members befriend and support asylum seekers and refugees. The support required may vary: befriending, emotional support, material support or indeed, all three. In 2024-25 SVP members supported 4,632 refugees - 10.4% of the total people helped by the SVP in the year.

Our St Vincent's Support Centres remain ideally placed in communities for us to welcome asylum seekers and refugees into England and Wales. Below are some stories from our front-line centres.

Supporting a family through the asylum journey

This year St Vincent's Chorley Buddies walked alongside a family, from their first steps in the asylum process to settling into a new home.

The family initially came to the centre for help with food and travel passes so their children could get to school. The centre supported them in completing their asylum application. Once their status was granted, the centre helped with housing paperwork and applications for furniture through the Under One Roof and Cash for Kids schemes.

On moving day, volunteers transported their belongings to their new home. Today, the father works part-time and gives back by volunteering at the centre each week. The family remains connected to the community, joining summer outings and school holiday activities. In his words:

> "We pray for Chorley Buddies every evening... looking back 1 year, the difference in our lives is huge."

35+ furniture deliveries were made to asylum seekers & refugees in Sheffield

Migrant support and immigration advice service supported 1,422 people in Leeds

195 students attended ESOL classes in Bradford



Finding safety & building a new life

Sara, now a valued volunteer at St Vincent's Newcastle, came to the UK after living through the unrest in Khartoum. Food and essentials were scarce, prices were rising sharply, and expressing opinions was dangerous. She witnessed the Khartoum massacre and lived under constant threat. Her children would hide under furniture as bombs drew closer.

A friend of her husband arranged for Sara to reach safety in the UK, but the journey meant leaving behind her three children (who would follow later), husband and mother. After arriving in Heathrow, she was moved from London to Leeds, and then to a hotel in Newcastle, enduring three years of painful separation before being reunited with family.

"Mum, this is safe – no bombs here," her son told her the day after they arrived.

Now reunited, Sara's sons are thriving, with St Vincent's arranging for them to attend a football training camp over the summer. Yet, Sara still worries for her mother in Sudan, who has diabetes and has faced severe health risks due to expired insulin and an overstretched healthcare system.

Sara's courage, resilience and generosity in volunteering with St Vincent's Newcastle embody the heart of our mission — to serve those in need with love, hope, and solidarity.

A day of connection and well-being

St Vincent's Leeds organised a day trip for nine asylum seekers from a local hotel, offering a rare escape to the peaceful Denton estate. For many, it was their first opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature, and take part in meaningful activities. Participants joined estate gardening work, harvesting vegetables for local use, contributing to conservation efforts and sharing their skills to make a tangible difference in the local community.

The journey began quietly, with some feeling nervous or unsure. To ease the mood, staff led light-hearted and educational games involving spelling, phrases, numbers and object identification. These activities not only broke the ice but also built confidence in English vocabulary ahead of the day's events.

ITV News accompanied the group, capturing personal stories, reflections on life in the UK, and hopes for the future. One participant shared the reasons he sought asylum, why he cannot return home, and details of a book he has written about his journey. The TV piece brought wider attention to the challenges asylum seekers face and the supportive role St Vincent's centres play.

The day was filled with shared meals in the sunshine, nature trails in search of deer and piglets, and the forging of new friendships. It was especially life-changing for one man from West Africa who, owing to limited English, a learning disability and epilepsy, rarely left the hotel. This trip not only boosted his confidence to explore new places but also helped him form connections and strengthened his sense of belonging in the community.

YOUNG HEARTS, OPEN DOORS, NEW HOPE

Aged just 19, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam founded the SVP in 1833. That same youthful energy thrives through our youth programmes: Mini Vinnies, Young Vincentians, and SVP1833.

Mini Vinnies are children aged 7–11 in schools and parishes who put their faith into action through prayer, reflection, and service. The programme is growing strongly, with 103 new schools and one parish expressing interest in 2024–25.
Our Jubilee resources were accessed over 14,800 times, the Time for Hope Lent campaign 2,790 times, and more than £12,000 worth of resources were purchased across Young Vincentians groups. Feedback from coordinators has been very positive, praising both the quality and variety of what's on offer.
Mini Vinnies show that even the youngest in our Church can lead with compassion and make a real difference in their communities.

Youth SVP unites young people aged 11–18 who live out their faith through service, friendship, and justice. This year, 88 groups were active across England and Wales, taking part in projects such as food collections, outreach to people who are homeless, and work alongside adult SVP members.

Growth continues, with 12 new parish-based groups giving Mini Vinnies and newcomers a way to stay involved. At St Bede's, Lanchester, pupils, staff, and parishioners raised £3,800 through fundraising events. Supported by SVP volunteers and the Youth Team, Youth SVP reached over 2,100 young people — building community and inspiring lasting compassion.









The mission of Vinnie Camps is to provide, within a Christian ethos, a safe enjoyable holiday experience for children. The SVP currently runs ten Vinnie Camps each summer; Brentwood, Holy Island, Leeds, Liverpool, Mablethorpe, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Stockport, Wirral and Wales. Vinnie Camps are staffed by dedicated, caring volunteers, offering a high ratio of adult-to-child supervision, meaning each and every child receives a great deal of time and positive attention, perhaps more than some have ever known before.

With Pope Francis, in the year of Jubilee, reminding us that merciful love is key to our faith by making one of the five holy doors, a prison door in Rome, our hope is to inspire more of our SVP1833 Conferences to reach out and support their neighbours who are in the prison community.

Jasmine and Tommy (SVP1833 members) and Nathan (from Ely Bridge CSP), took to the OVO Arena Wembley stage to share more about the work of the SVP. FLAME is the largest Catholic youth event across England and Wales.













In March, SVP1833 York, gathered in their Chaplaincy Garden to partake in an SVP sponsored sleep. It was a heartfelt solidarity action to connect with those who face the harsh realities of homelessness every day. They raised £1,010 for the SVP, with the money going to help the Middlesbrough Vinnie Camp and their fortnightly pizza run. It also went to national SVP1833 opportunities and funded 2 places on the SVP1833 Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Between December 2024 and January 2025, the SVP1833 (Young Adult Conferences) at Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy, supported the prison community in HMP Bullingdon. The two Catholic chaplains at HMP Bullingdon reached out to the SVP Working Prisons group as warm clothes and shoes were desperately needed for the community being released, with the likelihood of non-permanent shelter upon release. This is where the beauty of the SVP network really shone. The SVP Working Prisons group, contacted the Young Vincentian Team and together they were able to provide support through SVP1833. In total, sixty-six items were collected ranging from woolly jumpers to socks and shoes.

The SVP1833 Conference got to work straight away with organising the donation drop off point, advertising the clothing drive to the local Parish and listing the items that the community needed. In total, sixty-six items were collected ranging from woolly jumpers to socks and shoes. One of our SVP1833 members said " I thought about donating some of my pre-loved clothes, and then I thought, the power of clothes to make someone feel valued, worthy and loved can be enormous, so I popped out and went to my local supermarket to get brand new t-shirts and trousers."

Reflection from our Wirral Camp Leader

Each year, we strive to create a truly memorable experience for the children at our SVP camp—one that offers them an escape from their everyday challenges. Many of these kids face difficult circumstances, so it's crucial that we make a lasting impact and provide them with a genuine break.

This year, we drew inspiration from children's TV shows, crafting an ongoing narrative that unfolded throughout the week. Our goal was to immerse the kids in a story where they weren't just participants but became part of the adventure.

From the moment they arrived, they were introduced to Mr. Octopus Head, the quirky owner of the camp. As the week progressed, they met more characters, including Robo, a robot, and Nordic-Bone, a Viking—both of whom were vying to take over the camp. These characters were woven into many of the activities, creating a storyline that the children could engage with. Whether it was the characters birthday parties, water fights, or building dens, every event nudged the story forward. As the days went on, the kids worked to prevent various takeover attempts, ultimately saving the camp.

Beyond the storyline, our team was eager to refresh our activities this year. We wanted to avoid the sense of repetition that can come with running the same activities year after year and a fear we weren't always improving. As a result, every activity was either completely new or had undergone major changes to keep things fresh.







THROUGH EVERY DOOR A WELCOME, EVERY WELCOME A BLESSING

Over **216,000 interactions** took place in our centres

Our Community Support Projects (CSPs) are based in 11 locations across England and Wales. They are all located in identified areas of need and provide local people with support, advice and friendship. Each of the centres has its own unique character, reflecting the community it serves. All of the centres share the same characteristics - being inclusive, welcoming and accessible to all.

In 2024-2025, the centres experienced an intense increase in demand for their services with over 216,000 interactions. In many instances requests for help came from people who had not previously needed to seek support. One noticeable and shocking change was the significant increase in people who, despite being employed – often full time - found themselves needing to ask for help.

Although the centres deal with serious issues and help people in times of crisis, visitors are always surprised to find a happy and relaxed atmosphere.

Each team of dedicated staff and volunteers works tirelessly to ensure that everyone has a positive experience. You'll often hear the phrase, "bring yourself" which reflects the idea that everyone is welcome to come as they are and be accepted for who they are. The underlying principles are kindness and hope and dignity for all.

In St Vincent's Newcastle, kindness and hope are evident in many ways. Approximately 200 people visit the centre each Tuesday to be served a delicious, freshly cooked 3-course meal. The total number of meals provided in 24/25 was a staggering 10,746. Every meal is served to a neatly laid table by one of the many volunteers. This may be the only time of the week people attending get a hot meal and a chance to sit and chat with others. On Thursdays, the centre's Marketplace brings the community in to search for a bargain or two, to access advice, have a haircut or simply sit and enjoy a cup of tea. The centre is a bustling hub of activity and chatter and brings together diverse elements of the local community.

A few miles across the city, Newcastle Deaf Centre offers different services and activities. It also has a thriving youth group. In 2024/25, this group has grown from strength to strength and has participated in many exciting opportunities including developing a short film, taking part in university research and visiting places of interest and education.

Cara found her voice, her passion and her future

Cara* joined the Deaf Centre Youth Group feeling shy and unsure about what lay ahead. She had just spent her first two years out of school caring for her younger siblings. With encouragement and guidance, she uncovered a passion for hospitality and social care.

She went on to complete specialist training, volunteer in a care home, and secure a place on the Level 3 Social Care course at Newcastle College. While waiting to begin her studies, Cara built further skills through workshops run by the centre and gained valuable experience with a summer job at Newcastle United.

Her confidence has flourished, and she is now stepping forward with purpose, equipped for a promising future.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

At the other end of the country, St Vincent's Brighton (known locally as Tower House) has developed a range of excellent services tailored to the needs of older people.

Following a review and refresh of the centre in 2023, 2024-25 saw a real hub of activities and support come to life. With over 400 guests coming to the centre during the year, people were able to access a range of activities as diverse as wonderful lunch clubs, gentle exercise sessions, podiatry services and even an afternoon of armchair travel to Jamaica, complete with a mocktail.

Being seen as a safe, welcoming space is vital for all our CSPs. At St Vincent's Southend, they have developed a culture of belonging and hope for some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The centre offers a pathway from crisis, to engagement and connection. 2024-25 saw the Pioneer Project bloom. The project upskilled people to use a 3-D printer and also an embroidery machine. This built skills, knowledge and confidence and supports service users to become peer mentors, showing others that there is always hope.



Offering food is another important part of what we do in our centres. This could be a free meal for someone in need, an emergency food parcel for a family in crisis, or offering good quality, low-cost food at our marketplaces and pantries. Our Chorley centre, Chorley Buddies @SVP, operate 4 community marketplaces across the town. In 2024-25, there were 9,805 shopping experiences. It's about much more than food though- connections are made, people can ask for support if they need it and the team can be the vital conduit to accessing other services and organisations.

The CSP furniture referral projects also offer hope- turning empty houses into homes, with the offer of free furniture delivered to those in need. Sheffield furniture project and St Vincent's Leeds provided 1,790 deliveries in 2024-2025. This included beds for children who were sleeping on the floor and items equipping a patient's home to enable them to be discharged from hospital.

Tower House: breaking social isolation

> I'm pleased to say I love coming to Tower House. It has stopped me staying in my flat every day and I love going on the outings
>
> Club Member, April 2024

Helping people keep well, physically and mentally, is another offering found in our CSPs. In Ely Bridge, Cardiff, 2024-25 has seen the development and growth of the following range of programmes: 'Men Changing Lives', 'Beyond Fitness', 'Beyond Differences' and 'Women Changing Lives'. Each group focuses on different aspects of keeping well. Each provides an important focus on health and well-being, such as spending time working out in the gym, discussing lifestyle challenges and opportunities, or focusing on developing confidence and resilience.

In St Vincent's Brixton, the focus is very much on community togetherness. The centre has always been a creative space but 2024-25 has seen growth to broaden the scope and involve even more of the community. The place is filled with a sense of wellbeing, hope and opportunity. The 'You are You' project has seen many young people grow in confidence and learn about resilience and kindness. Many new activities have been introduced including drumming for wellbeing, a cookery class for women and girls living in a hostel, and a very competitive sewing bee.

In Wirral, the CSP team have established a community allotment. This is the perfect place for people to meet in the fresh air and bond over nurturing the plants. Many regular visitors reported a definite improvement in their wellbeing and mental health as a result.



Meet Declan

Here is the amazing Declan working out at the gym. He has been an inspiration to us here at St Vincent's Ely Bridge. He continues to manage his anxiety and increase his confidence, going from strength to strength.

Taylor-Mae's journey through arts & cooking

Taylor-Mae is aged 10. She joined Brixton's Arts and Cooking sessions for two full terms from September 2024 to March 2025. Taylor-Mae has a learning disability and hearing impairment. On her first session staff were told by her mother that she was a quiet and anxious individual who very rarely joined in other groups outside of school. Across both terms, she blossomed into a confident young girl who showed she was particularly fond of cooking .

In the communal dining sessions, staff observed her chatting with peers, laughing and smiling. Cooking and dining with other young people her age provided the space for her to form strong friendships. She went on a playdate with another member of the group. When she first joined, she would not engage in conversation. Now, as a result of her time at the centre, Taylor-Mae will now initiate them and is confident to voice her opinions.

DWELLING IN HOPE: HOMES BUILT ON FAITH







The SVP continues to respond to the ongoing need, and in 2024-25 year, our housing projects provided accommodation for 89 people facing homelessness.

Our Newcastle project provides twenty-three units of supported accommodation for single people.

Our project units are compromised of:

A twelve-bed hostel, with 24/7 staffing, for single men over 30 who move on from crisis accommodation.

Nine units of self-contained support accommodation for those who are ready to move on but require continued low-level support.

The demographic of our Newcastle hostel residents has changed over the past couple of years, with increased support provided to people from outside the UK who have been granted the right to remain in the country. 16 of the 36 residents supported this year came from outside the UK. In addition, our 2-bed flat in North Shields was occupied all year by residents referred by the SVP Approved Premises.

In North Norfolk the Society continued to operate 7 Temporary Emergency Accommodation units, which in 2024-25 housed 16 family units, including 37 children, 1 pregnant lady and 19 family/medical support pets. Over 50% of our families were victims of domestic abuse, and 93% were originally homeless through no fault of their own. Around 50% were struggling with mental health conditions and approximately 25% were living with physical health conditions. Around a quarter of our families have a child with a learning disability.

Our staff team work very closely with the local SVP Conference. 10 of our tenants over the last year have been supported by the Conference, either financially or with practical support and gifts.
In 2024 we grew our housing provision locally, adding a 3 bed semi-detached family property for Supported living. We were delighted to move a family from our Temporary Emergency Accommodation into this house, where they received support to settle and make it a home, setting them on their way to housing stability and breaking the cycle of homelessness.

HOPE TRAVELS FAR: OPENING DOORS OVERSEAS

The SVP Twinning programme is embedded in the founding values of mutual assistance; building a worldwide network of charity, love, and solidarity. Annual grants from Conferences in England & Wales support an estimated 1,300 twins overseas, helping to provide essentials, education, healthcare, and the hope of a better, more self-sufficient future.

Each Conference in India commits their twinning grant towards supporting locally "adopted families". Members support these families through provision of food parcels, household essentials, clothes, and monthly visits.

Parth* is the sole provider for his family, including his two sick, bedridden parents. Despite working hard, he often struggles to make ends meets. Thanks to the adopted families scheme, hope was restored – his family have enough to eat, stay healthy, and Parth can work consistently. Every contribution through this scheme can help break the cycle of poverty for families like Parth's.

In Grenada and South Sudan, persistent inflation impacting the cost of food, medication, and other basic needs is affecting those already struggling to meet daily demands. The SVP helps the most vulnerable and marginalised individuals and families to meet these costs, especially where there is no social security system in place. Hampers of essentials like salt, oil, maize, flour, beans, and sugar are gifted. Conferences may also cook and welcome those in need within the community to join for a full meal.



SVP Conferences in Guyana and Romania often allocate twinning grants for Easter and Christmas, recognising how meaningful these moments can be for those facing hardship. By providing thoughtful support - such as gifts or sweets for children, fresh fruit for the elderly, or food hampers for families - they help bring a sense of joy, dignity, and togetherness to what might otherwise be a difficult time. These gestures not only make the holidays feel special and festive, but also offer a much-needed emotional lift and a reminder that they are not forgotten.

Many of our overseas twin conferences also run local projects, for which they can apply to SVP England & Wales for funding. A Conference in Romania organised a cultural day trip for children living in poverty. The children explored their local town, learned its history, shared a hot meal with friends, and enjoyed a day of joy and discovery. For many of these children, this was their first opportunity to venture beyond their home or school, even though the trip only involved a few miles of travel. Afterwards, one child excitedly shared his adventure with his mum, saying that he realised the world was full of amazing experiences and he couldn't wait for more.

name changed for anonymity

SVP India Conference

> The need in our community is great, and your contributions can help us reach more individuals in need.

SVP South Sudan

> The lives of many beneficiaries has been prolonged by the generous contribution and support from SVP England & Wales.

SVP India Member

> When we [SVP members] eat a good meal, our adopted families eat a good meal. This is our Conference pledge.

SVP India Conference

> We sincerely thank you for your invaluable contributions, which have made a significant difference in the lives of many people in our community.







Alongside Conference Twinning, our Overseas programme includes student support via the India Fund, conference-run projects, national projects, and responses to global emergencies.

It is the SVP's mission to seek out and support those in need. Emergencies - such as Hurricane Beryl's devastating impact on the island of Carriacou in Grenada in July 2024 - can cause a dramatic surge in that need, often at short notice. With thanks to our generous donors, SVP England & Wales was able to grant £25,000 over a 9-month period. This enabled SVP Grenada to quickly mobilise with urgently needed water, food, medicine, bedding, flashlights, bug spray, sanitiser, toiletries, and other basic essentials - alongside developing a plan for long-term recovery.

SVP Grenada bought hope and reassurance to hundreds of people who had endured an incredibly traumatic experience - losing homes, possessions, and witnessing harm to loved ones. The local SVP recognised that children needed space to process their experiences and express their emotions. They arranged two trauma workshops for over 100 children; there was singing, crying, laughter, arts and crafts and, most importantly, the chance for children to simply be children again, playing freely in the safety and comfort of one another's company.

The SVP Vocational Training Centre in South Sudan offers high-quality and affordable qualifications in building and construction, welding, first aid and nursing, mechanics, tailoring, refrigeration and cooling, engineering and more.

At the end of the school year, SVP South Sudan celebrated a graduation ceremony for 526 students, honouring their dedication and achievements. The event was filled with joy, pride, and hope for the future, for both the graduates and their families. This year marked the highest number of graduates ever, with the largest proportion of females to date. Committed to fighting poverty and expanding opportunities for all, a focus is placed on gender equality too. The Project leader described the graduation as, "a colourful event which softened our hearts".

Over 100 top-performing students in relevant courses were gifted with toolboxes, to enable them to successfully start their own businesses. SVP South Sudan hopes to soon expand this support by opening a job centre, offering graduates additional guidance as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

In 2024/25, we had 1,300 active twinning relationships & granted £188,755 to twinned conferences across 5 countries





We also granted £172,860.65 in projects, £25,000 through the disaster fund, £4300 in National Council/Misc grants & supported Small Projects in India with £37,524.65



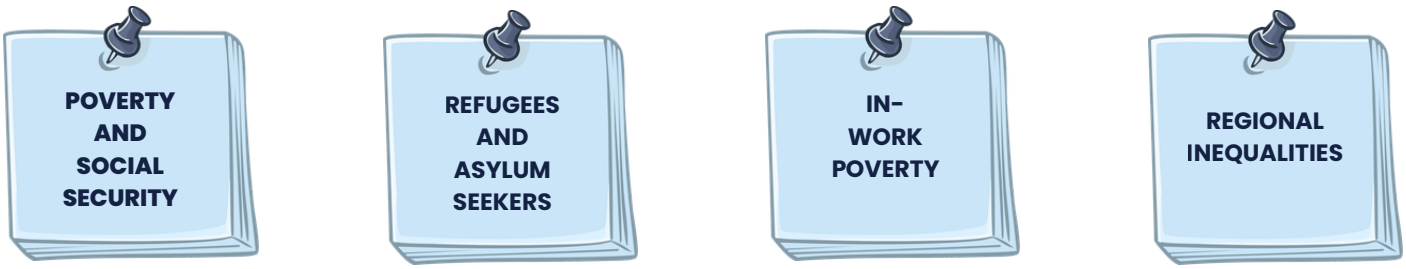


FROM BARRIERS TO DOORWAYS: HOPE THROUGH JUSTICE

"Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. It is justice's role to prevent the attacks."

The words of our founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. Our social justice work reflects this; we campaign to address the root causes of poverty and hardship witnessed by Members, volunteers and staff.

We maintain primary focus on four policy areas:



This year, we responded to the changing political landscape and deep social needs. We used our voice to champion dignity, fairness, and the protection of those on the margins.

In collaboration with CAFOD, our 'Year of Encounter' campaign mobilised thousands ahead of the General Election to engage with parliamentary candidates, using our digital tools and question guides. Many attended local hustings or wrote directly to candidates. The campaign attracted Catholic media coverage, raising SVP's profile and strengthening our ability to build relationships with new MPs.

With the establishment of the Government's Child Poverty Unit, we contributed insight from our grassroots networks:

- Met with senior civil servants at the Department for Work and Pensions
- Co-signed a joint letter to the Chancellor and Work and Pensions Secretary with leading anti-poverty charities
- Submitted policy evidence to ChurchWorks, shared with the Chancellor
- Published a food provision briefing to support parliamentary advocacy
- We signed a joint sector letter to the Government on extending the move-on period for refugees

We helped draft recommendations in advance of the Government's Budget and advocated to remove the two-child cap in Universal Credit.

We were recognised in Parliament by MP David Burton-Sampson, who praised our work in Southend. We met other MPs from all parties over the year.

ITV News featured two segments on our social justice work - one highlighting support for asylum seekers, another on proposed deportation policies.

Our in-work poverty research entered its final stages, with a stakeholder workshop held ahead of the planned report publication later in 2025. We published our 'Keep the Doors of Hope Open' report which highlighted our activities, initiatives, & projects across the country.

We engaged with key government departments, presenting our findings and priorities on asylum seekers - a particular focus in the last quarter - directly to the Home Office.

We deepened partnerships across faith and other groups:

- Attended the Labour Party Conference to meet newly appointed ministers
- Took part in cross-sector roundtables on poverty issues
- Coordinated with Caritas, CSAN and Good Faith Partnership on shared advocacy
- Issued public responses to major political moments including the King's Speech

At every stage, our work has reflected the witness of our members — who work daily alongside people affected by poverty, isolation and displacement.

HOPE IN EVERY AISLE: OPENING DOORS THROUGH RETAIL

Our network of St Vincent's shops allows us to further our mission by raising vital funds for the Society to help those in need. However, they are more than just retail outlets; they provide employment and volunteering opportunities, affordable goods and have significant impact diverting goods from landfill and recycling to reuse.

They are vibrant 'community' shops where staff, volunteers, customers, and donors come together. They create supportive networks that enrich lives and strengthen community. Our inclusive and welcoming environments ensure that everyone feels valued and connected and helps to create lasting relationships within the communities where they are based. In the 2024/25, we had:

An income of £4.558m

More than 800,000 transactions/ purchases

Average transaction value of £5.80

Total of 97,363 volunteer hours

Through our eCommerce and eBay platforms, we sold 2,558 preloved items with an average basket size of £25.60. Women's fashion remained our top-selling department, supported by a 6.3% increase in repeat customers.

The commitment of our staff, volunteers, and the continued support of our loyal customers have been instrumental to our development over the last 12-months with 3 new shops opening.

- York: Opened in April 2024
- Leigh on Sea: Opened in June 2024
- Wetherby: Opened in September 2024

Owing to financial constraints in the second half of the year, new shop development ceased as we underwent a staffing restructure and significantly reduced our staff management resource.

Shop staff were largely unaffected; however sadly the Wrexham, Erdington and Halifax shops had to be closed during the year, as a result of untenable cost increases or lease ends.

As we look ahead, whilst we remain focused on raising funds and continuing to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve, we will not look for growth with new shops but for growth of income within our current shops, as costs continue to rise.







OUR FUNDRAISING YEAR IN NUMBERS

17
Summer Raffle Winners

333
Friends of the SVP

£59,897
in match funding for our appeals

45
Gifts in Wills

591
New Supporters

£70,159
Raised in Awards for All

46
Free Will Writing Requests

£4,285
Raised in requests to Acts 435 for grants

79,610
Summer Raffle tickets sold

153
Lottery Players

5,472
Donations for where most needed

£163,320
Raised from Doors of Hope appeal

331
In-memory donations

£12,995
Raised from weekly lottery

£848,990
Raised in legacy gifts

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND & WALES)

Allenby House,
Rees Way,
Bradford,
BD3 0DZ

Company No: 3174679 Charity No: 1053992

SVP.ORG.UK

0207 703 3030

READ OUR FULL REPORT WITH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

DONATE BY SCANNING BELOW:

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

As part of an international lay Christian organisation, Catholic in origin, character, and traditions, which respects religious liberty and the value of all God's people, the objects of the Charity are:

- The relief of poverty and sickness without differentiation on the ground of race, colour, creed, ideology or sex and in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing, to bring spiritual and/or material solace to the sick or individuals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress due to their social, economic or other circumstances.
- The undertaking, in any part of the world, of such other object or objects which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Charity in its discretion shall see fit.

The overall objective of the Charity is the relief of poverty, both material and emotional in England & Wales and abroad through: the person to person involvement of its voluntary members engaged in befriending and through 'Special Works', which are projects established to address specific needs in the local community, such as food banks or advice and support centres. The Society is constituted under the laws of England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 3174679). The Society is also a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number: 1053992).

The overarching governing document of the Society is the Articles of Association and is to be read in conjunction with the International Rule and the National Statutes. Where there is a conflict between the Articles of Association and the National Statutes of the Society, the Articles will take precedence. However, there are periodic reviews that take place to ensure alignment where practicable to do so.

The Articles of Association describe the Society's objects, guarantees, powers and their limitation. They define 'Membership' of the Company (i.e. the National Council) and describe the governance processes, including how changes and decisions are made. The National Statutes provide the framework for the governance and operation of the Society. Detailed management of the Society's affairs are covered in relevant Policies and Procedures, which should be treated as a part of the Rule.
The first International Rule was introduced in 1835 and is periodically reviewed and updated by International Council General of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Society adopts this corporate governance framework to deliver its strategic priorities and objectives and to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's legal and regulatory requirements (The Charities Act 2022) and adheres to the legislative requirements outlined in the Companies Act 2006. The Society believes that effective governance is based on ensuring there is a culture of compliance across its works and practices. This is implemented through policies and procedures, external and internal audit plans, robust and resilient risk assessments, and a culture of continuous learning.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of nine and a maximum of thirteen people, including the Chair (also known as the National President). The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society (England &Wales). On the election of a new National President by the National Council, the President shall nominate up to five Trustees, at least three of whom will be Central Council Presidents, and shall also nominate a Vice President and a National Treasurer.

Each Trustee must be formally confirmed by the National Council to serve for a period of five years. Up to five new Trustees are selected halfway through the President's five-year term to act as continuation Trustees and serve for a term of five years. Up to four non-members of the Society may be appointed as Trustees provided that they commit to the values of the Society and have skills which are required by the Society. All Trustees are subject to a formal recruitment process based on their skills and experience to ultimately support the deliverables against the charity's objects. The table below shows the current Board members who were all appointed in previous years and new continuation Trustees appointed in May 2025.

Trustee Name	Status	Responsibility
Elaine Heyworth	Trustee	National President
Steve Gill	Trustee	Senior Vice President
Mark Branch	Trustee	National Treasurer
Winston Waller	Trustee	Membership Strategic
Liz Creevy	Trustee	Membership Spirituality
Clare O'Brien	Trustee	Property Portfolio
Gustavo Vas Falcao	Trustee	Social Justice
Monica Chidgey	Trustee	Safeguarding
Nasha Pierre	Trustee	General Portfolio
Anita Motha	Trustee	Overseas Aid (Non-Member)
Peter McGauley	Incoming Continuation Trustee	Retail Portfolio
Pat Nobbs	Incoming Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio
Tony McGuigan	Incoming Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio

In addition, Fr Paul Roche attends Board meetings as a National Spiritual Advisor. The selection of Trustees seeks to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities, as well as bringing increased diversity and inclusion.
An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the Charity's objectives, strategy and activities, as well as understanding Charity Commission guidance on the role of a Trustee and good governance. The Board meets at least four times a year to review the performance of the Charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives. All meeting discussions are recorded in the minutes taken and stored electronically as part of the normal governance process.

The Society has established clear levels of delegated authority within which:

- some decisions are reserved to the Board alone. Some decisions are made by the Executive Trustees, who are the National President, the Senior Vice President and the Treasurer.
- responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who may in turn delegate authority to the Senior Management team. The Chief Executive attends all Board meetings; other senior managers attend as required.
- the Chief Executive is required to escalate high risk and/or high impact issues for the timely attention and consideration of the Board and produces a CEO report for each meeting.
- the Board sets the strategic direction for the efficient and effective management of the Society's funds and strategic roadmap. In late 2024 the Board set a revised strategy for the Society for the next 3 years.
- the Board will establish committees, sub committees or working groups to fulfil ongoing or time-limited governance functions (usually at the start of office of the new National President elect), formed of Trustees, other members, external experts, and operational staff.
- the Board regularly evaluates its own performance through the 'annual Board review', examining its impact and effectiveness and any improvements required in its organisation or operation. This is done in line with the Charity Commission Governance Code guidance.

The Society's members are organised in local Conferences to carry out the work of the Charity. Conferences are grouped together in geographical areas and are overseen by District Councils which in turn report to Central Councils which are structured, as far as possible, to reflect the 23 Roman Catholic Dioceses across England & Wales. The President of each Central Council sits on the National Council. No Central Council, District Council or Conference may be established as a separate charity and all constitute parts of the Charity operating under the delegated authority of the Trustees.

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

These committees are given delegated powers by the main Board of Trustees where each is chaired by a Board member. They are responsible for supporting a specific area of operational oversight and their activities are reported to the Board. As the number and structure of the committees reflect prevailing priorities, they are reviewed and updated periodically. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference, which are reviewed annually.

The role of each of the committees during 2024-25 was as follows:

- Finance: reviews and recommends for approval to the board, budgets and other financial governance matters in addition to fundraising.
- Community Support Projects: supports and develops sustainable community projects in appropriate areas.
- Membership & Youth: reviews membership issues, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels. In late 2024 it incorporated all youth related programmes across schools, colleges, youth hubs, universities, and parishes, as well as oversight of the Vinnie camps through its management team. Vinnie Camps provide a safe and enjoyable experience for young people in accordance with defined Safeguarding and Health & Safety procedures.
- Audit & Compliance: oversees Society wide risks and reviews control systems (Safeguarding, Human Resources, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment, Data Protection, IT support and Insurance arrangements) as well as overseeing all internal audit activity.
- Safeguarding: oversees systems to ensure that the controls in place are effective and review ongoing case management, deliver training for Conference members, staff and volunteers to ensure general awareness and that procedures are followed.
- Twinning: reviews overseas aid activities from local funding to international grant applications and where appropriate emergency aid funding on an ad hoc basis.
- Social Justice: explores opportunities for SVP contributions to the poverty agenda, both within and outside the Society and supports campaigning activity.
- Prisons: ensures that the Society is fully compliant in all matters relating to working in and outside of prisons with offenders, ex-offenders and families, providing both spiritual and practical support.
- Property: reviews and oversees issues and risks relating to SVP property portfolio and maintains statutory requirements where the Society has residential or social housing obligations.
- Retail & Social Enterprise: reviews and oversees all activity associated with the national SVP portfolio of Community shops and other income generating projects that sit in either the Charity or the Trading company.

KEY RISKS IDENTIFIED DURING 2024-25

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the Charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- Delivery of safe, effective, and personalised poverty relief, especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial sustainability, especially in the context of the current economic situation.
- Strategic and Operational, ensuring that our strategy is proportionate and does not lose sight of our overall charitable objects.

Key themes that develop through the Society's focus on risk management are fed into the annual strategic review. Primarily considering that the Society saw a triple threat to its operations in 2024, as the demand on services continued to grow in the sector, the cost of living continued to rise and the decline in grant funding and legacies contributed in adding extra burden to the already stretched resources across the Charity sector in general. The key risk areas were:

Financial risks
Like many charities, the Society has been impacted by rising costs in building maintenance and infrastructure costs and utility charges by suppliers as a result of the cost of living crisis. We continue to see unprecedented demand for funding and for services from beneficiaries, at a time when some public services have declined and charities have either merged or had to close down. We remain committed to being a real living wage employer and have seen significant staff cost increases in the last year due to this. Like many charities in the sector in order to control increasing costs we had to reduce our operational cost base in late 2024 which led to a number of staff redundancies and a strategic reset on some planned expansion of services.

Fundraising and Grant making bodies
The fundraising landscape continues to impact on us post pandemic, due to the lack of availability of appropriate trusts and grants in the sector, opportunities are reducing as more charities apply for the same funds. To mitigate this, we have invested in further trust fund resources, taken a more targeted approach to certain applications and invested in a legacy management database and a case management system providing more qualitative data on beneficiary outcomes that can be shared with potential funders.

Operational risks
One of the key operational risks we addressed in 2024 was the ongoing management of the Approved Premises (APs) service in Newcastle.

With the approach of the impending contract renewal for the AP service with the MoJ, the staff and Trustees reassessed the risks associated with the service in line with the annual strategic review. With increased pressures from the early release scheme, increased costs and the operational challenges of offering a service that was not SVP core expertise, the Trustees took the difficult decision to novate the contract to another more experienced provider in the field. The SVP, in conjunction with the MoJ, undertook a rigorous novation and transfer exercise over a 12 month period to ensure the service users were not adversely impacted by this change which was concluded in March 25.

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2024-25

As stated earlier a revised strategy was developed towards the end of 2024 as a result of the operational cost challenges. The Trustees and the SMT looked at ways to slow the rate of expansion or halt in some cases. For example, plans to expand our emergency housing provision were put on hold to avoid further financial burden to the property portfolio. The Trustees also agreed to liquidate some assets and two properties were put on the market in line with Charity Commission guidance on the disposal of charity properties. Staffing and expansion objectives were reduced and departments were streamlined to offer continued services but, in a cost effective and manageable way, as well focusing on our members and how we can continue to deliver our mission. This also provided the Society with the opportunity to reevaluate what is our core work and to focus all remaining resources and efforts in these areas.

The revised priorities are:

1. Put our faith and values at the heart of everything we do - the Society is Catholic and Vincentian, and the Board is keen to ensure that the organisation keeps true to these aspects of our identity which underpin our culture and ethos. Our work is informed both by Catholic Social Teaching and by our Vincentian heritage, and while we continue to manage our works in response to need, these are the foundations upon which we build. This foundation informs our ethos but our work is inclusive and supports all those in need, regardless of faith or belief. Our staff and many of our volunteers are of all faiths and none but they share the commitment to Vincentian service and compassion for those in need of help.
2. To reach out to and welcome those on the peripheries who need our help - the Catholic Church has recently undertaken a synodal process of listening and discernment. The initial published documents emphasise the need to reach out and journey with those on the peripheries. This objective is also a restatement of the words of the Vincentian prayer on the theme of our vocation, "to seek and find those who are forgotten and to bring your love to the suffering or deprived."
3. Be a cohesive Society where members and staff work together - we are first and foremost a membership organisation and so we reinforced our priorities on being "member led". Therefore, enabling and supporting our members and staff in order to deliver against our objects, through effective training and shared values and reaffirmation of Catholic Social teaching.
4. To campaign for social justice in order to effect change for those we serve - in our Vincentian prayer on the theme of social justice we are called "to be a voice for the voiceless." While we have long been a society of practical action, we have not always been as proactive on social justice and addressing the systemic causes of poverty, be that government policy or regional and national structures which contribute to disadvantages. So, this is an area of focus for us going forward.
5. To achieve financial sustainability – sustained growth only if it is underpinned by sustainable income. The Society continues to develop a portfolio of funding streams to provide resilient funding. Fundraising, retail, investments and our trading operations are all key to those plans.
6. Deliver a coherent and consistent brand – in order to respond to demand, to deliver our services and develop our income streams, it is important that people know who we are and what we do. We want to develop a strong and well-known identity in all areas of our work that is consistent, easily recognisable and speaks of who we are, what we do and what we stand for.

OTHER UNDERTAKINGS

The SVP is the custodian trustee for the following three undertakings:

- The Pen-y-Pound House Fund was formed in 1973 to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. It comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.
- The TB Hunt Fund is a permanent endowment fund established with monies left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need in these areas. In April 2025 the charity put in a request to the Charity Commission to change its objects to expand the scope to include the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham, which includes Leicester and Market Harborough and this was approved.
- The Francis Thompson Fund is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy whose terms are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool.

In addition, the Society has oversight of: The David Young Charity (charity number: 238877)

FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

The difficulties facing the whole voluntary sector in recent years show no signs of easing as we move through 2025. Many charities continue to grapple with a tough mix of falling income, rising operational costs, and growing demand for services. At the same time, as households across the country feel the pinch, competition for charitable support has become even more fierce. Investment in a case management database is coming to fruition with meaningful and qualitative data on beneficiary outcomes which can be shared with potential funders.

At the heart of what we do is our Vincentian mission to turn concern into action. We would not be able to do this without the kindness and generosity of our donors and supporters who have helped us reach the peripheries to ensure we can respond and restore dignity to all who are facing a crisis.

The year saw a record breaking and successful summer raffle with 79,610 tickets sold. Our annual Christmas Appeal also raised an incredible £163,321, and a big thank you to the major donors, whose support created a match-funding pot of £59,897 to incentivise pound for pound match giving during the appeal.

We continue to benefit from grants, in-memoriam donations, gifts in wills, and donations made through the purchase of alternative gifts in our Christmas catalogue. The continuation of our weekly lottery, running with 153 players provided another source of income.

Donors to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) can be confident that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice which covers the requirements charities must follow as set out in the Charities Act 2016.

All our staff in the national fundraising team are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, and we join online fundraising networks, attend webinars and online fundraising Conferences to keep up to date with regulations, the latest research and reports, trends and developments in fundraising and the future funding landscape.

The Board of Trustees is kept informed of fundraising practice through regular reports from the Director of Fundraising. Several board members are personally involved in supporting and promoting fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas and Rise to the Challenge appeals.

No commercial participators were engaged to carry out fundraising on behalf of the Charity. However, due to fundraising staff shortages and a challenging recruitment market, professional fundraisers were engaged on a freelance basis to submit applications on behalf of the Charity during the year. During the year, no failure to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice was reported and no fundraising complaints were received.

SVP

St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2024-25 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on DATE NEEDED at the annual AGM and signed on their behalf by Elaine Heyworth, National President and Chair of Trustees.



Elaine Heyworth,
Chair of Trustees

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GOING CONCERN
The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. The Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS
The overall net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2025 was a surplus of £1,269,378 compared to a deficit of £1,514,198 in the year ended 31 March 2024. This is largely of a result of pension gain.

INCOME
Total income for the year increased by £438,361 to £16,235,862 compared to £15,797,501 in 2024. In 2024/25 we have followed discontinued operations accounting as a result of novating the Approved Premises.

EXPENDITURE
The total expenditure in 2025 amounted to £18,195,589 compared to £17,588,493 in 2024 representing an increase of £607,096. This was largely due to increased expenditure across some services and especially on retail shops expansion £4,948,038 in 2025 compared to £4,458,313 in 2024 and spend at our Residential Provision (£2,620,461 in 2025 compared to £2,154,015 in 2024).

GAINS AND LOSSES
The net loss on investments for 2025 amounted to £21,440 compared to a gain of £214,332 in 2024.

PENSION FUND
The actuarial loss recognised on the pension fund in 2025 amounted to (£47,000) compared to a loss of £42,000 in 2024. However, the Tyne & Wear Pension fund was exited and crystallised on 30th March 2025 resulting in a pension gain of £3,199,800.

CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND
The group cash at bank and in hand amounted to £4,795,200 in 2025 compared to £5,066,102 in 2024, representing a decrease of £270,902.

TOTAL FUNDS
The total group funds at 31 March 2025 amounted to £12,515,777 compared to £11,246,400 at 31 March 2024 representing an increase of £1,269,377. A comparative summary of each category of fund is included in the balance sheet, and there is a detailed breakdown in note 24 of the accounts.

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St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

AUDITOR'S REPORT

OPINION
We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and charity sheets and the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
• give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2025 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
• have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
• have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:
• the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
• the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

AUDITOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 26, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed in the following.

IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISKS RELATED TO IRREGULARITIES

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sectors in which the group and parent charitable company operate. Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

AUDITOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

AUDIT RESPONSE TO RISKS IDENTIFIED

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items, including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance. During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non compliance with laws and regulations and fraud. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sally Appleton
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Saffery LLP
Statutory Auditors
10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP
Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND & WALES)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2025

(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	**6,210,701**	**845,561**	**-**	**7,056,262**	**6,960,010**
Other trading activities	3	**148,271**	**-**	**-**	**148,271**	**473,724**
Income from investments		**249,377**	**33,671**	**-**	**283,048**	**242,386**
Income from charitable activities:			**-**			
Retail Income		**4,558,127**	**-**	**-**	**4,558,127**	**4,079,979**
Holidays and camps		**197,521**	**-**	**-**	**197,521**	**177,452**
Residential provision		**2,678,343**	**-**	**-**	**2,678,343**	**2,550,492**
Community Support Projects		**193,047**	**271,038**	**-**	**464,085**	**422,116**
Social Enterprise Activities		**603,465**	**-**	**-**	**603,465**	**638,951**
Youth development		**23,687**	**-**	**-**	**23,687**	**22,281**
Other income		**223,053**	**-**	**-**	**223,053**	**230,110**
Total income	4	**15,085,592**	**1,150,270**	**-**	**16,235,862**	**15,797,501**
Continuing Operations		**13,001,078**	**1,150,270**	**-**	**14,151,348**	**13,779,679**
Discontinued Operations	30	**2,084,514**	**-**	**-**	**2,084,514**	**2,017,822**
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	**1,105,252**	**-**	**-**	**1,105,252**	**1,074,221**
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		**3,235,440**	**564,451**	**-**	**3,799,891**	**3,879,361**
Retail		**4,948,038**	**-**	**-**	**4,948,038**	**4,458,313**
Holidays and camps		**305,621**	**-**	**-**	**305,621**	**521,118**
Residential provision		**2,620,461**	**-**	**-**	**2,620,461**	**2,154,015**
Community Support Projects		**3,105,241**	**271,038**	**-**	**3,376,279**	**3,381,886**
Social Enterprise Activities		**971,299**	**-**	**-**	**971,299**	**1,039,620**
Youth Development Programme		**404,467**	**37,182**	**-**	**441,649**	**423,319**
Twinning		**379,860**	**247,239**	**-**	**627,099**	**656,640**
Total expenditure	6	**17,075,679**	**1,119,910**	**-**	**18,195,589**	**17,588,493**
Continuing Operations		**14,943,280**	**1,119,910**	**-**	**16,063,190**	**15,772,128**
Discontinued Operations	30	**2,132,399**	**-**	**-**	**2,132,399**	**1,816,365**
Net (losses) / gains on investments	14	**30,868**	**539**	**(52,847)**	**(21,440)**	**214,332**
Share of (loss) / profit in jointly controlled entities	18	**-**	**97,744**	**-**	**97,744**	**104,462**
Net (expenditure) income	7	**(1,959,219)**	**128,643**	**(52,847)**	**(1,883,423)**	**(1,472,198)**
Continuing Operations		**(1,911,334)**	**128,643**	**(52,847)**	**(1,835,538)**	**(1,673,655)**
Discontinued Operations	30	**(47,885)**	**-**	**-**	**(47,885)**	**201,457**
Transfers between funds	24	**323,632**	**(332,019)**	**8,387**		**-**
Pension exit gain	19	**3,199,800**	**-**	**-**	**3,199,800**	**-**
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	**-**	**(47,000)**	**-**	**(47,000)**	**(42,000)**
Net movement in funds		**1,564,213**	**(250,376)**	**(44,460)**	**1,269,377**	**(1,269,377)**
Funds at the start of the year	23	**8,486,132**	**1,609,728**	**1,150,540**	**11,246,400**	**12,760,598**
Funds at the end of the year	23	**10,050,345**	**1,359,352**	**1,106,080**	**12,515,777**	**11,246,400**

GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31 March 2025

	Note	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	**2,419,373**	**2,299,759**	2,795,598	2,695,612
Mixed motive Investment Freehold Property	12 & 13	**1,413,129**	**1,413,129**	1,171,007	1,171,007
Investments	14	**1,479,417**	**441,794**	2,671,018	1,592,981
Investments in subsidiaries	16	**-**	**1**	-	1
Investments in joint ventures	18	**154,639**	**-**	119,470	-
		5,466,558	**4,154,683**	6,757,093	5,459,601
Current assets					
Stock		**12,267**	**3,013**	29,397	11,597
Debtors	19	**3,973,580**	**4,217,036**	842,463	1,152,623
Cash at bank and in hand		**4,795,200**	**4,760,879**	5,066,102	4,799,086
		8,781,047	**8,980,928**		5,963,306
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	20	**1,109,546**	**1,202,785**	1,010,875	1,038,715
Net current assets		**7,671,501**	**7,778,143**	7,778,143	4,924,591
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	21	**622,282**	**622,282**	437,780	437,780
Total assets less current liabilities		**12,515,777**	**11,310,545**	11,246,400	9,946,412
Defined benefit scheme pension asset / (liability)	22	**-**	**-**	-	-
Net assets		**12,515,777**	**11,310,545**	11,246,400	9,946,412
Funds					
Endowment funds		**1,106,080**	**189,386**	1,150,540	201,279
Restricted funds		**1,359,352**	**1,089,453**	1,609,728	1,339,126
Unrestricted funds					
Revaluation reserve		**625,477**	**625,477**	625,477	625,477
Designated funds		**3,566,195**	**3,566,195**	5,780,958	5,663,996
General funds		**5,858,673**	**5,840,034**	2,079,697	2,116,534
Total funds	24	**12,515,777**	**11,310,545**	11,246,400	9,946,412

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Elaine Heyworth, National President

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales). Company Number: 3174679

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash (used in) operating activities	a	**(1,608,941)**	**(1,546,585)**
Net cash used in by investing activities	b	**1,153,538**	**(354,821)**
Net cash provided by financing activities		**184,502**	**153,421**
(Decrease) in cash in the year		**(270,901)**	**(1,747,985)**
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
(Decrease) in cash for the year		**(270,901)**	**(1,747,985)**
Net funds at beginning of year		**5,066,101**	**6,814,086**
Net funds at end of year	c	**4,795,200**	**5,066,101**

	2025 £	2024 £
a. Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities		
Net (expenditure) / income & pension gain before revaluations	**1,240,075**	**(1,790,992)**
Investment income	**(283,048)**	**(242,386)**
Depreciation	**200,327**	**226,668**
Loss / (Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	**296,021**	**-**
Defined benefit scheme net interest expense	**(5,000)**	**(5,000)**
Current service cost in excess of employer contributions	**(42,000)**	**(37,000)**
Increase in creditors	**98,671**	**315,670**
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	**(3,131,117)**	**272**
Decrease / (Increase) in stocks	**17,130**	**(13,817)**
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	**(1,608,941)**	(1,546,585)
b. Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		
Investment income	**283,048**	**242,386**
Proceeds from sale of listed investments	**1,224,592**	**140,289**
Purchase of investments	**(80,997)**	**(143,673)**
Unrealised Gains eliminated on disposal	**-**	**(1,945)**
Decrease in Revive investment	**62,575**	**108,421**
(Increase) in cash held within investment portfolio	**26,565**	**5,328**
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(362,245)**	**(705,627)**
	1,153,538	**(354,821)**

c. Analysis of Net Funds

	As at 01 Apr 2024 £	Cash flows £	**As at 31-Mar-25 £**
Cash at bank and in hand	**5,066,101**	(270,901)	**4,795,200**
	5,066,101	(270,901)	**4,795,200**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Charitable company information

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) ("the Society" or "the Charity") is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Allenby House, Rees Way, Bradford BD3 ODZ.

b) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.
The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified by the recognition of investment properties, and financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

c) Consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (England and Wales) Trading Limited, on a line by line basis. The Society also holds a controlling interest in the Pen Y Pound House Fund, the David Young's Charity and the TB Hunt Trust. These are included within the group accounts. The results of the charity comprise the results of the National Office, Conferences and Special Works of the Society. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented because it has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Society is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee and exercises joint control over the entity via a membership agreement. Revive Leeds CIC is accounted for in the Society's consolidated accounts using the equity method. The Society's share of the profit or loss as well as the Society's share of any reserve movements of Revive Leeds CIC are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they occur.

d) Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. Individual projects within the Society are largely expected to be self-funding and shop income has continued to perform well during the year ended 31st March 2025. In September 2025 the pension exit value of £3,199,800 was received in the bank to support ongoing cash flow. This, combined with the reserves the charity holds, has enabled the Trustees to conclude that the charity will be able to meet its liablilities as they fall due for at least 12 months following approval of these financial statements. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern and so the financial statements continue to be prepared on this basis.

e) Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pound sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the period end date. Gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

f) Income

Voluntary income received by way of donations to the Society is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the accounts in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which entitlement is notified, where there is probability of receipt and where the amount can be measured reliably.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are recognised when authorised for payment.

Governance costs relate to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Expenditure on raising funds relates to the costs incurred by the group and Society in raising funds for the charitable work.

Allocation of support costs incurred at the Society's administrative centres

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where relevant, the salary, office and premises costs of the administrative centres which represent the charity's support costs are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Visits & assistance to individuals and families	27%
Shops and furniture stores	26%
Holidays and camps	4%
Residential provision	8%
Twinning	5%
Youth development programme	5%
Support centres	18%
Expenditure on raising funds	4%
	100%

h) Fixed assets

Assets are capitalised at cost, as detailed in note 12.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line
Leasehold property	over the period of the lease
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and equipment	20% straight line
Motor vehicles and caravans	20% straight line

Land is not depreciated.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Mixed motive investments are held at cost as this is deemed to be not materially different to fair value. The value is reviewed annually by management for impairment and provision made if appropriate.

i) Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gains or losses for the period on revaluation or disposal are taken to the statement of financial activities. The Trustees consider short term deposits to be liquid resources.

j) Assets held for sale

The charity's mixed movement investments are measured at cost and represent properties held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects.

k) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is measured on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

l) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less.

m) Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund.

Designated funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the Trustees of the Society.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Endowment funds are funds for which the assets must be held permanently by the Society. Further details of these funds are shown in note 24.

n) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

o) Pensions

Defined contribution scheme

The Society operates a stakeholder group personal pension plan. In addition, the Society contributes to the personal pension schemes of a number of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the schemes by the Society to the funds. The Society has no liability under the schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Defined benefit scheme

Some of the Society's employees are members of the Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Society in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting asset or liability is recognised in the balance sheet. In the case of an asset this is recognised to the extent it is considered recoverable through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the Scheme. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. The pension exit value of £3,199,800 is shown as a gain on the SOFA in the year ended 31st March 2025 and in Other Debtors as the amount was received in September 2025 (prior to the financial statements being signed).

p) Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.
Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Other financial assets

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.
Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

p) Financial instruments (cont)

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

q) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

Critical judgements

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and note 1. h) for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	389,894	-	-	389,894	369,409
Church collections	313,715	42,430	-	356,145	498,213
Legacies	848,755	235	-	848,990	813,757
Other fundraising activities	329,573	274,756	-	604,329	451,362
Other donations and voluntary grants	4,328,764	528,140	-	4,856,904	4,827,269
	6,210,701	845,561	-	7,056,262	6,960,010

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	369,409	-	-	369,409
Church collections	459,219	38,994	-	498,213
Legacies	811,445	2,312	-	813,757
Other fundraising activities	254,765	196,597	-	451,362
Other donations and voluntary grants	4,238,513	588,756	-	4,827,269
	6,133,351	826,659	-	6,960,010

Donations and legacies received covers a number of different charitable activities.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading activities	67,735	-	-	67,735	409,524
Income from national raffle	80,536	-	-	80,536	64,200
	148,271	-	-	148,271	473,724

All the above trading activities comprise unrestricted funds in both periods.

4. TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after including the following main grants:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Visits & assistance to individuals & families		
Porta Pia	**35,000**	35,000
Household Support Fund Grant	**130,084**	125,000
Shops & furniture stores		
Sheffield City Council – Voluntary Sector Grants Fund	**61,299**	53,283
Support centres		
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**285,479**	386,184
National Lottery (various programmes)	**183,470**	135,640
National Citizens Advice	**140,954**	111,720
Wirral Borough Council	**89,224**	194,147
Social Investment Business (SIB)	**57,000**	-
Allied Irish Bank (AIB) Grant Funding	**50,000**	-
Leeds Community Foundation	**46,652**	25,000
Streetgames	**43,761**	-
Ministry of Justice - Grand Avenues	**34,019**	102,057
Knott J TST	**30,000**	-
Marist Fathers Grant	**30,000**	-
Assumption Legacy Grant	**25,000**	-
Barbour Foundation	**25,000**	-
Waterloo Foundation	**25,000**	-
Newcastle Community Foundation	**24,800**	11,200
Chorley BC	**23,750**	-
Alive in Faith (East Anglia Diocese)	**20,000**	10,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross Grant	**20,000**	-
Community Investment Board - Southend	**18,000**	22,422
Groundwork UK	**17,600**	-
Hopestead Grant	**15,000**	-
Albert Hunt SP	**14,000**	-
Seeking Asylum Fund	**12,331**	12,331
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Chorley	**11,000**	-
B&Q Foundation	**10,000**	-
Garfield Weston	**-**	75,000
Charities Trust Grant	**-**	73,500
Hollyhock Charity	**-**	65,000
Digital Stations Grant	**-**	40,000
London North Eastern Railway	**-**	33,334
Charities Aid Foundation	**-**	33,200
Advice UK	**-**	23,175
Veolia Enviromental Trust	**-**	20,400
Morrisons Foundation	**-**	10,000
Mercy Project (Sothccio)	**-**	10,000
Innovation Fund	**-**	10,000
Primary Health	**-**	10,000

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total

	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	**668,839**	**-**	**-**	**668,839**	**598,419**
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**18,870**	**-**	**-**	**18,870**	**40,516**
Fundraising expenses	**69,786**	**-**	**-**	**69,786**	**38,594**
Trading activities	**20,682**	**-**	**-**	**20,682**	**30,361**
Investment managers' fees	**6,850**	**-**	**-**	**6,850**	**13,374**
Property expenses	**70,348**	**-**	**-**	**70,348**	**109,346**
Office expenses	**62,789**	**-**	**-**	**62,789**	**38,736**
Other costs	**59,337**	**-**	**-**	**59,337**	**72,247**
Support costs (note 6)	**127,751**	**-**	**-**	**127,751**	**132,628**
	1,105,252	**-**	**-**	**1,105,252**	**1,074,221**

All the above expenditure was from unrestricted funds in both periods.

6. EXPENDITURE

	Year ended 31 March 2025				
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	668,839	-	308,662	127,751	1,105,252
Charitable activities					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	357,866	-	2,586,013	856,012	3,799,891
Retail	2,648,414	-	1,469,639	829,985	4,948,038
Holidays and camps	-	-	166,613	139,008	305,621
Residential provision	1,605,214	-	765,769	249,478	2,620,461
Community Support Projects	1,927,727	-	879,114	569,438	3,376,279
Social Enterprise Activities	507,183	-	329,885	134,231	971,299
Twinning	66,772	408,084	3,150	149,093	627,099
Youth Development Programme	232,003	-	57,573	152,073	441,649
Total charitable activities	7,345,179	408,084	6,257,756	3,079,318	17,090,336
Support costs	2,042,479	24,461	1,140,128	(3,207,068)	-
	10,056,497	432,545	7,706,546	-	18,195,588

	Year ended 31 March 2024				
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	598,420	-	343,173	132,628	1,074,221
Charitable activities					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	325,920	-	2,670,510	882,931	3,879,361
Retail	2,165,158	-	1,499,193	793,962	4,458,313
Holidays and camps	-	-	380,797	140,321	521,118
Residential provision	1,537,583	-	374,987	241,445	2,154,015
Community Support Projects	1,624,784	-	1,150,378	606,724	3,381,886
Social Enterprise Activities	585,004	-	311,405	143,211	1,039,620
Twinning	44,823	422,243	34,446	155,128	656,640
Youth Programme Development	202,962	-	64,588	155,769	423,319
Total charitable activities	6,486,234	422,243	6,486,304	3,119,493	16,514,272
Support costs	1,998,700	29,415	1,224,004	(3,252,119)	-
	9,083,354	451,658	8,053,481	-	17,588,493

7. NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	200,327	226,668
Trustees' indemnity insurance	3,470	3,470
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	1,957	3,920
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Statutory audit	39,500	37,900
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	990,652	933,510

During the year 6 (2024: 8) trustees were reimbursed expenses. This totalled £1,957 (2024: £3,920). In addition £Nil (2024: £Nil) was paid on behalf of Trustees directly to third parties. Expenses related to reimbursement for travel and accommodation, subsistence, telephone, postage and stationery and are in relation to their roles as trustees.

In accordance with the articles of association, the Society paid a premium of £3,470 (2024: £3,470) for trustee indemnity insurance to the value of £6 million (2024: £6 million).

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**8,774,515**	**7,902,633**
Social security costs	**756,042**	**655,035**
Pension contributions	**525,940**	**525,686**
	10,056,497	**9,083,354**

Included in staff costs and paid in the year were redundancy and termination payments totalling £100,207 -25 employees (2024 : £24,030- 4 employees),

The earnings, including pension contribution and employer's National Insurance contributions, of key management personnel (including the CEO) in 2025 were £216,744 (2024: £213,149). This related to two roles (2024: two).

During the year there were 12 employees who received employment benefits (excluding employer's pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

£60,000 - £70,000 - 9 (2024: 5).
£70,000 - £80,000 - 1 (2024: 3).
£90,000 - £100,000 - 1 (2024: 0).
£100,000 - £110,000 - 1 (2024: 2).

The average number of employees (on a full time equivalent basis) during the year was as follows:

	Actual		FTE	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
	No.	No.	**No.**	No.
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**26**	**35**	**10**	**17**
Retail	**133**	**128**	**77**	**73**
Residential provision	**51**	**50**	**36**	**35**
Youth development	**8**	**6**	**7**	**6**
Community Support Projects	**108**	**105**	**63**	**62**
Social Enterprise Activities	**26**	**32**	**16**	**21**
Twinning	**5**	**3**	**3**	**1**
Fundraising	**26**	**25**	**20**	**18**
Support staff	**34**	**26**	**24**	**21**
Governance	**13**	**13**	**10**	**9**
	430	**423**	**266**	**263**

9. GRANTS PROGRAMME

During the year, the Society paid out grants to a number of organisations through the Twinning Programme and directly from the National Society. The majority of the grants were paid to SVP societies in other countries.

	2025	2024
	£	£
SVP India	193,172	204,742
Indian student scholarships programme	25,546	39,670
SVP Sudan	-	20,109
SVP South Sudan	116,908	84,122
SVP Romania	7,245	14,350
SVP Grenada	14,050	25,691
SVP Guyana	3,350	6,634
Payments from disaster fund:		
India	-	3,000
Lebanon	3,000	2,000
Grenada	29,102	-
Romania	5,118	-
Ukraine - refugee assistance	10,593	21,925
Twinning projects	-	-
Vincentian Volunteers	-	-
Council General International	24,461	29,415
	432,545	451,658

10. SUPPORT COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	1,632,593	1,594,274
Other staff and volunteer expenses	120,609	146,711
Office costs	199,551	288,199
Premises costs	216,859	212,808
Bank charges	46,731	48,382
Depreciation	5,900	17,261
Legal and professional fees	59,328	110,220
Other costs	288,703	260,203
Governance costs	636,794	574,061
	3,207,068	3,252,119

Support costs included the following expenditure on governance:	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	409,886	404,426
Other staff and volunteer expenses	19,549	14,027
Auditors fees and expenses:		
Net audit fee (note 7)	39,500	37,900
Disbursements & Other Services	5,765	3,984
Irrecoverable VAT	5,964	7,267
Over / under accruals	-	-
Other professional fees	40,870	44,007
Board expenses	76,242	43,650
Other costs	39,018	18,800
	636,794	574,061

11. TAXATION

The Society is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. Available taxable profits are Gift Aided to the Society by The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - The group and the charity

	Freehold property	Leasehold property and improvements	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles and caravans	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At the start of the year	**3,144,739**	**1,488,900**	**1,345,091**	**273,186**	**6,251,916**
Additions in year	248,932	29,998	83,315	-	**362,245**
Disposals in year	(200,000)	(128,808)	(294,216)	(4,649)	**(627,673)**
At the end of the year	3,193,671	1,390,090	1,134,190	268,537	**5,986,488**
DEPRECIATION					
At the start of the year	**352,111**	**714,704**	**1,000,297**	**218,199**	**2,285,311**
Charge for the year	27,581	74,337	85,788	12,621	**200,327**
Disposals in year	(47,996)	(50,680)	(228,327)	(4,649)	**(331,652)**
At the end of the year	331,696	738,361	857,758	226,171	**2,153,986**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 March 2025	**2,861,975**	**651,729**	**276,432**	**42,366**	**3,832,502**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2024	**2,792,628**	**774,196**	**344,794**	**54,987**	**3,966,605**

The above Fixed Assets include a net valueof £119,616 relating to the subsidiary, SVP Trading Limited (2024:£99,988).

13. MIXED MOTIVE INVESTMENTS

The charity holds £1,413,129 (2024: £1,171,007) as mixed motive investments, which represent Four freehold properties (2024: Three) held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects. These are included in the Freehold Property shown in note 12.

14. INVESTMENTS

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Market value at the start of the year	2,671,018	1,592,981	2,456,686	1,460,270
Opening Cash Account adjustment	(26,565)	(26,565)	(31,893)	(31,893)
Other Movements	-	-	-	-
Additions at cost	80,997	80,997	143,673	143,673
Disposal at market value	(1,224,592)	(1,224,592)	(140,289)	(140,980)
Realised (losses) / gains	38,785	38,785	27,906	27,951
Unrealised (losses) / gains	(60,226)	(19,811)	188,370	107,395
	1,479,417	441,795	2,644,453	1,566,416
Cash held with investment managers	-	-	26,565	26,565
Total investment portfolio market value	1,479,417	441,795	2,671,018	1,592,981
Historic cost at the year end	-	-	231,115	232,879

All the investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and are intended to provide an investment return.

Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio, as above, comprise:

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Catholic Fund at CCLA	1,230,404	441,795	1,324,775	491,606

15. RESULTS OF PARENT CHARITY

These accounts do not include a Statement of Financial Activities for the parent charity, as permitted under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The relevant figures for the year ended 31 March for the parent charity were:

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross income	15,901,753	15,228,406
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	1,364,133	(1,696,758)

16. INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES - CHARITY

The charity has an unlisted investment with a historical cost of £1 representing its 100% shareholding in The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited, which is a company registered in England that operates accommodation and sells Christmas cards and other goods. A summary of that company's financial position
is set out in note 17.

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

The charitable company held a controlling interest in following entities during the year:

- The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (a subsidiary charity, number 1053992-1)
- David Young's Charity (a registered charity, number 238877)
- The T B Hunt Trust Fund (a registered charity, number 216406)
- The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited (company registration number 04373817)

All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the Statement of Financial Activities. A summary of the results of the subsidiaries is shown below:

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS (Continued)

The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (Capital and Income)	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Incoming resources	**14,443**	**14,159**
Charitable expenditure	**-**	**-**
Net outgoing resources for the year	**14,443**	**14,159**
Unrealised (losses) / gains	**(27,529)**	**46,575**
Net movement in funds	**(13,086)**	**60,734**
Funds brought forward	**458,918**	**398,184**
Funds carried forward	**445,832**	**458,918**

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Investments	**487,199**	**514,728**
Net current assets	**(41,367)**	**(55,810)**
	445,832	**458,918**
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**407,193**	**434,722**
Income fund	**38,639**	**24,196**
	445,832	**458,918**

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the Pen-Y-Pound Fund. The trust's main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff.

David Young's Charity	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Incoming resources	**10,293**	**11,262**
Charitable expenditure	**(7,686)**	**(15,091)**
Net outgoing resources for the year	**2,607**	**(3,829)**
Unrealised (losses) / gains	**4,145**	**8,065**
Realised (losses) / gains	**-**	**(44)**
Net movement in funds	**6,752**	**4,192**
Funds brought forward	**246,596**	**242,404**
Funds carried forward	**253,348**	**246,596**

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Investments	**249,013**	**244,868**
Net current assets	**4,335**	**1,728**
	253,348	**246,596**
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**208,102**	**196,109**
Restricted fund	**45,246**	**50,487**
	253,348	**246,596**

David Young's Charity is controlled by the Society as the Society appoints the Trustees of the charity. The figures included in these consolidated accounts are for the year ended 31 March 2025 as this is the date to which the subsidiary prepares their accounts; there have been no material changes in the three months to 31 March 2025. The Trust's main objective is the relief of hardship or distress by making grants of money.

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS (Continued)

T B Hunt Trust Fund	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Incoming resources	**8,935**	**8,759**
Charitable expenditure	**(8,205)**	**(7,220)**
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources for the year	**730**	**1,539**
Unrealised gains	**(17,031)**	**28,814**
Net movement in funds	**(16,301)**	**30,353**
Funds brought forward	**350,012**	**319,659**
Funds carried forward	**333,711**	**350,012**
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**301,410**	**318,441**
Current assets	**32,301**	**31,571**
	333,711	**350,012**
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**301,399**	**318,430**
Income fund	**32,312**	**31,582**
	333,711	**350,012**

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the T B Hunt Trust Fund. The trust's main objective is the relief of poverty amongst Roman Catholics in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas.

The St Vincent De Paul Society (England & Wales) Trading Limited	**2025**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Turnover	**300,438**	**543,476**
Cost of sales	**(34,940)**	**(45,731)**
Gross profit	**265,498**	**497,745**
Administrative expenses	**(264,118)**	**(370,253)**
Operating profit for the financial year	**1,380**	**127,492**
Interest payable	**-**	**(1,753)**
	1,380	**125,739**
Gift aid to parent undertaking	**(108,671)**	**(34,500)**
Net (loss) / profit	**(107,291)**	**91,239**
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Fixed Assets	**119,616**	**99,988**
Current assets	**50,334**	**157,204**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(152,250)**	**(132,201)**
	17,700	**124,991**

The trading company began in July 2003 and is based at the Society's National Office. The principal activity during the year was the management of accommodation for temporarily homeless families, sales of Christmas cards, Fairtrade items, retail sale of electrical household appliances and similar items.

18. INVESTMENTS IN JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITIES

The charity is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee, and jointly controls the entity via a Members' agreement with the other members of the company. This agreement stipulates that profits made are distributed to split evenly. The SVP's share of the assets and liabilities of the jointly controlled entity is 50% during the year.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Value of share in Jointly Controlled Entity - brought forward	119,470	123,429
Share of profit for the year	97,744	104,462
Share of Profit distributed	(62,575)	(108,421)
Valuation carried forward	154,639	119,470

Related party transactions are shown in note 26.

19. DEBTORS

	Group 2025	Charity 2025	Group 2024	Charity 2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	191,253	131,422	141,589	133,083
Other debtors	3,233,158	3,233,158	35,445	35,445
Prepayments	459,419	466,951	552,633	544,459
Accrued income	17,688	17,688	50,710	67,744
Other taxation and social security	72,062	70,300	62,086	50,929
Amounts due from subsidiaries	-	297,517	-	320,963
	3,973,580	4,217,036	842,463	1,152,623

All debtors this year and in the prior year are due within one year from the Balance Sheet date.

Amounts due from subsidiaries include a loan of £7,189 (2024: £20,912) to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited. Loan repayments are made yearly and the subsidiary accrues interest at a rate of 1% over bank base rate. The subsidiary has given the Society a floating charge over its assets as security.

Other debtors include £3,199,800 pension exit gain from the Tyne & Wear Pension Fund.

20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Trade creditors	446,979	547,578	376,593	414,098
Other creditors	87,082	85,583	76,187	91,459
Other taxation and social security	140,836	140,836	158,591	158,591
Accruals	207,057	201,196	275,675	250,738
Deferred income	211,245	211,245	107,482	107,482
Mortgage on Freehold Property	16,347	16,347	16,347	16,347
	1,109,546	1,202,785	1,010,875	1,038,715

Included within other creditors are outstanding pension contributions of £83,990 (2024: £75,676).

21. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Mortgage on Freehold Property	622,282	622,282	437,780	437,780
	622,282	622,282	437,780	437,780

The mortgage on the Freehold Property at 12 Alfred Road Cromer is held with the NatWest Bank. The loan amount is £300,000 paid over a 20 year term. The first 10 years are on a Fixed rate at 5.24% and the remaining 10 years at 2.4% over the bank's base rate unless otherwise agreed. The mortgage on the Freehold Property at Newcastle Deaf Centre is held with the NatWest Bank. The loan amount is £270,000 (reduced by a early repayment of £95,000) paid over a 20 year term. The first 10 years are on a Fixed rate at 6.61% and the remaining 10 years at 2.5% over the bank's base rate unless otherwise agreed. The bank has a registered Charge at Companies House dated 5th July 2022 on the property by way of legal mortgage. During the year, an additional long term loan for £198,790 was aquired through Social Investment Business (SIB) and was used to purchase an additional property at Eckersley Road in Fakenham. The term of the loan is 72 months and the interest rate at 7.90% pa with a capital repayment holiday of 12 months from 01 November 2024.

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY

Some of the Society's employees belong to a Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS): the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund (TWPF)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014'.

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

Until the date of cessation on 30th March 2025 of being in the scheme, the assets and liabilities were valued on the following basis below, but the exit and post year end crystallization of the surplus has led to recognition within debtors due within one year. The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2022 and the contributions to be paid until 31 March 2025 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Fund Administering Authority responsible for the governance of the Fund is South Tyneside.

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Administering Authority) is shown in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Risks associated with the Fund in relation to accounting

Asset volatility

The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields. If assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which, while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term, creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY (CONTINUED)

Changes in Bond Yield

A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result.

Inflation Risk

The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are either unaffected or loosely correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit.

Life expectancy

The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

Exiting employers

Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further the assets at exit in respect of 'orphan liabilities' may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

	TWPF	
Principal actuarial assumptions	**2025**	2024
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**5.8%**	**4.8%**
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**2.5%**	**2.6%**
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.5%**	**2.6%**
Pension accounts revaluation rate	**2.5%**	**2.6%**
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.0%**	**4.1%**

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates.

The assumed remaining life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	TWPF	
	2025	2024
Retiring today:		
Males	**20.9**	**21.0**
Females	**24.1**	**24.2**
Retiring in 20 years:		
Males	**21.8**	**22.3**
Females	**25.2**	**25.6**

The Society's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	TWPF	
	2025	2024
	%	%
Equities	**48.1%**	**50.6%**
Properties	**11.1%**	**10.4%**
Government bonds	**1.1%**	**1.3%**
Corporate bonds	**18.1%**	**19.5%**
Multi Asset Credit	**4.5%**	**4.6%**
Cash	**1.8%**	**0.7%**
Other	**15.3%**	**12.9%**
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

The actual return on scheme assets is £294,000, (2024: (£427,000)).

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY (CONTINUED)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current service cost	(160,000)	(222,000)
Interest income	-	-
Interest expense	5,000	5,000
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	(155,000)	(217,000)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Brought forward	4,805,000	4,749,000
Funds brought in on transfer of employment	-	-
Current service cost	160,000	222,000
Interest expense	225,000	219,000
Employee contributions	41,000	53,000
Actuarial gain	(838,000)	(192,000)
Benefits paid	(267,000)	(246,000)
Carried forward	4,126,000	4,805,000

Changes in the fair value of Society's share of scheme assets:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Brought forward	7,702,000	7,209,000
Interest income	369,000	340,000
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	(75,000)	87,000
Employer contributions	202,000	259,000
Employee contributions	41,000	53,000
Benefits paid	(267,000)	(246,000)
Carried forward	7,972,000	7,702,000

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fair value of Scheme Assets	7,972,000	7,702,000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(4,126,000)	(4,805,000)
Restriction on recognition of scheme assets	(3,846,000)	(2,897,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability)/asset	-	-

23. ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Year Ended 31 March 2025			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**3,832,502**	**-**	**-**	**3,832,502**
Investments	**371,040**	**254,071**	**1,008,945**	**1,634,056**
Net current assets	**6,469,085**	**1,105,281**	**97,135**	**7,671,501**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	**(622,282)**	-	-	**(622,282)**
Pension liability	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net assets at end of the year	**10,050,345**	**1,359,352**	**1,106,080**	**12,515,777**

	Year Ended 31 March 2024			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**3,966,605**	**-**	**-**	**3,966,605**
Investments	**1,474,624**	**254,071**	**1,061,793**	**2,790,488**
Net current assets	**3,482,683**	**1,355,657**	**88,747**	**4,927,087**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	**(437,780)**	-	-	**(437,780)**
Pension liability	-	**-**	-	-
Net assets at end of the year	**8,486,132**	**1,609,728**	**1,150,540**	**11,246,400**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At the start of the year £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and (losses) £	At the end of the year £
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	**196,109**	-	-	8,387	3,606	**208,102**
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	**434,722**	-	-	-	(27,529)	**407,193**
TB Hunt Trust capital fund	**318,430**	-	-	-	(17,031)	**301,399**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	**201,279**	-	-	-	(11,893)	**189,386**
Total endowment funds	**1,150,540**	**-**	**-**	**8,387**	**(52,847)**	**1,106,080**
				-	-	
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	**49,550**	10,293	(7,686)	(8,387)	539	44,309
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	**24,196**	14,443	-	-	-	38,639
TB Hunt Trust income fund	**31,582**	8,935	(8,205)	-	-	32,312
Charity:	**-**					-
Approved premises, Newcastle Pension Fund	**316,000**	-	-	(269,000)	(47,000)	-
Community Grant	**-**	-	-	-	-	-
Revive Leeds	**110,929**	-	-	(54,034)	97,744	154,639
Twinning	**295,755**	330,897	(247,239)		-	379,413
Youth Hollyhock Fund	**54,345**	-	(37,182)	-	-	17,163
Special restricted funds	**495,898**	-	(171,284)	-	-	324,614
Other restricted funds	**231,473**	785,702	(648,314)	(598)	-	368,263
Total restricted funds	**1,609,728**	**1,150,270**	**(1,119,910)**	**(332,019)**	**51,283**	**1,359,352**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
AP Building Fund	**115,219**	-	-	(115,219)	-	-
Conference funds	**3,159,986**	2,724,349	(2,035,260)	(1,536,476)	(3,820)	2,308,779
CSP Project Fund	**88,692**	-	-	(88,692)	-	-
Fixed asset fund	**520,474**	-	(167,047)	-	-	353,427
National Shops Start up Funds	**74,220**	-	-	(74,220)	-	-
Revive Distribution	**116,962**	-	-	(116,962)		-
Shops Development Fund (Covid Grants)	**68,894**			(9,214)		59,680
Social Enterprise Retained Income Fund	**45,526**	-	-	(45,526)	-	-
St Jude's Sales Proceeds	**153,664**	-		(153,664)	-	-
Twinning	**363,374**	204,433	(230,767)		-	337,040
Special designated funds						
Central Council Projects Fund	**515,733**	-	-	(186,063)	-	329,670
Cost of Living Fund	**51,596**	11,171	-	(16,424)		46,343
Innovation Fund	**104,618**		(2,364)	(102,254)		-
Total Special designated funds	**671,947**	11,171	(2,364)	(304,741)	-	376,013
Other designated funds	**402,000**	350	-	(271,094)	-	131,256
Total designated funds	**5,780,958**	**2,940,303**	**(2,435,438)**	**(2,715,808)**	**(3,820)**	**3,566,195**
Revaluation reserve	**625,477**	-	-	-	-	625,477
General funds	**2,079,697**	12,145,289	(14,640,241)	3,039,440	3,234,488	5,858,673
Total unrestricted funds	**8,486,132**	15,085,592	(17,075,679)	323,632	3,230,668	10,050,345

11,246,400	**16,235,862**	**(18,195,589)**	**-**	**3,229,104**	**12,515,777**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

Prior year movement in funds	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	188,088	-	-	-	8,021	**196,109**
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	388,147	-	-	-	46,575	**434,722**
TB Hunt Trust capital fund	289,616	-	-	-	28,814	**318,430**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	181,158	-	-	-	20,121	**201,279**
Total endowment funds	**1,047,009**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**103,531**	**1,150,540**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	53,379	11,262	(15,091)	-		49,550
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	10,037	14,159	-	-	-	24,196
TB Hunt Trust income fund	30,043	8,759	(7,220)	-	-	31,582
Charity:						
Approved premises, Newcastle	358,000	-	-	-	(42,000)	316,000
Community Grant	25,000	-	-	(25,000)	-	-
Restricted legacies	1,679,266		-	(1,679,266)	-	-
Revive Leeds	110,929	-	-	-	-	110,929
Twinning	263,583	390,200	(358,028)	-	-	295,755
Youth Hollyhock fund	-	-	-	54,345	-	54,345
Special restricted funds	648,519	-	-	(152,621)	-	495,898
Other restricted funds	176,130	673,179	(617,836)		-	231,473
Total restricted funds	**3,354,886**	**1,097,559**	**(998,175)**	**(1,802,542)**	**(42,000)**	**1,609,728**
Unrestricted funds:		-	-			
Designated funds:						
AP Building Fund	174,356	-	-	(59,137)	-	115,219
Conference funds	2,914,184	2,409,972	(2,162,451)	-	(1,719)	3,159,986
CSP Project Fund	193,741	-	-	(105,049)	-	88,692
Fixed asset fund	597,439	-	(168,154)	-	91,189	520,474
National Shops Start up Funds	51,866	-	-	22,354	-	74,220
Revive Distribution	12,500	-	-	-	104,462	116,962
Shops Development Fund (Covid Grants)	97,938			(29,044)		68,894
Social Enterprise Retained Income Fund	149,757	-	-	(104,231)	-	45,526
St Jude's Sales Proceeds	327,908	-		(174,244)	-	153,664
Twinning	275,561	231,297	(143,484)	-	-	363,374
Special designated funds						
Central Council Projects Fund	706,579	-	-	(190,846)	-	515,733
Cost of Living Fund	282,117	23,598	(675)	(253,444)		51,596
Innovation Fund	117,215		(394)	(12,203)		104,618
Total Special designated funds	1,105,911	23,598	(1,069)	(456,493)	-	671,947
Other designated funds	480,272	1,300	-	(79,572)	-	402,000

Total designated funds	**6,381,433**	**2,666,167**	**(2,475,158)**	**(985,416)**	**193,932**	**5,780,958**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	625,477
General funds	1,351,793	12,033,775	(14,115,160)	2,787,958	21,331	2,079,697
Total unrestricted funds	**8,358,703**	**14,699,942**	**(16,590,318)**	**1,802,542**	**215,263**	**8,486,132**
	12,760,598	**15,797,501**	**(17,588,493)**	**-**	**276,794**	**11,246,400**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

Purposes of endowment funds

David Young's Charity

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective through this endowment fund is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members are eligible to apply to this fund.

Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. The fund comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.

T B Hunt Capital Fund

This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the T B Hunt Trust Fund.

The Estate of Francis Thompson

This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool. The Francis Thompson Income Fund is included in Other Restricted Funds.

Purposes of restricted funds

David Young's Charity

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members and staff are eligible to benefit from this fund.

Pen-Y-Pound House Income fund

This fund is to be spent in relieving the poor of Cardiff.

TB Hunt Trust

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to provide help to those in need in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. The TB Hunt Fund was established with funds left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need.

Approved premises, Newcastle

This represents Ozanam House, St Christopher's Hostel with the approved premises pension fund, which are approved premises funded with the help of Ministry of Justice grants. The fund is neutral as a result of the pension surplus of £Nil (2024:surplus of £Nil) on the Tyne and Wear pension fund as described in note 22. The Ministry of Justice contract ceased on 30th March 2025 and a pension crystalisation surplus amounted to £3,199,800 which was paid in September 2025 as the final settlement.

Furniture stores

This fund is represented by properties acquired with the assistance of Community Fund grants and donations to provide low cost furniture to those in need.

Restricted legacies

The fund transfers above reflect a reallocation of £Nil (2024: £1,679,266) which, upon review during the year, relate to unrestricted funds.

Revive Leeds

Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from household waste sites. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This restricted fund represents the Society's share of net assets.

Twinning

This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the Society's sister organisations overseas.

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

Special restricted funds

The balance at 31st March 2025 comprises:

Appleton Fund

This is mainly used for the development of South Lancashire Projects.

Other restricted funds

Other restricted funds cover various projects for people in need including local restricted funds held by Conferences and Councils.

Purposes of designated funds

Generally, designated funds are spent and replenished in a year. Members are encouraged to apply for use of these funds.

AP Building Fund

Fund for building improvement works at the Approved Premises projects in Newcastle.

Conference Funds

This fund represents the reserves of the Society that are delegated to the control of Conferences. Each Conference has a bank account and most will also have small petty cash balances. These funds belong to the Society as a whole, and can be called upon by the Trustees if required, but the Society prefers to manage this on a voluntary and consultative basis. Conferences manage their own fundraising and the distribution of the funds under their control within the rules and guidance set out by the Society. Conferences report back their financial activity on a quarterly basis. We encourage Conferences to put their funds to good use and discourage the holding of funds which are surplus to local requirements. We expect funds to be turned over and replenished within one year. Conferences with funds in excess of their requirements are urged to transfer any excess to another part of the Society where the need is greater.

In addition to the funds held directly by Conferences, there are also funds held nationally on behalf of Conferences. This is typically legacies left to the SVP that reference a particular Conference. We ask all Conferences that are mentioned in a legacy to suggest a plan for how they intend to spend the money. We expect that plan to involve spending the legacy in full within 5 years. The plans are subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee or the Board, depending on the size of the legacy. If a Conference does not come up with an acceptable plan then the legacy will be spent by the Society in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.

CSP Project Fund

This fund is primarily to seed-fund projects in existing Community Support Projects.

Fixed Asset Fund

This fund shows the amount of the Society's funds invested in its unrestricted fixed assets net of any property revaluations. Depreciation relating to fixed assets is charged to the fund on an annual basis.

National Shops Start up Funds

Funded from a legacy, this fund is used to pay for set up costs for new National SVP shops.

Revive Distribution

Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from household waste sites. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This designated fund represents the balance (after restricted) of the Society's share of net assets.

Shops Development Fund (Covid Grants)

Funded from grants, this funds is for building improvement works in SVP shops

Social Enterprise Retained Income Fund

This fund is for seed-funding for new Social Enterprise projects.

St Jude's Sales Proceeds

This fund is primarily being used for Membership Support Officers where the local central council does not have sufficient funds themselves.

Twinning

This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the twinning programme.

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

Special designated funds

These comprise a number of funds to which Conferences can contribute. Applications for grants can be made by Conferences to any of the funds with the exception of the Spiritual Formation fund. The Society expects to spend the current balances within five years. The funds are:

Central Council Projects Fund: Some central councils have access to this fund, to be spent on projects in their local area.

Cost of Living Fund: Members can apply to this fund for help with beneficiary support.

Innovation Fund: this fund is available for members who would like to start a new, innovative project in their local area.

Other designated funds

Other designated funds cover various projects for people in need. Members can apply to a special fund and guardians award grants according to the aims of the fund.

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The group had total commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2025 land and buildings £	2024 land and buildings £
Within 1 year	**926,648**	**687,925**
2-5 years	**2,205,140**	**2,046,456**
over 5 years	**1,853,920**	**1,701,170**
	4,985,708	**4,435,551**

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Helen O'Shea is a trustee of Porta Pia and David Young's Charity. The Charity received restricted grant income from Porta Pia of £35,000 (2024 - £35,000)

The total amount of donations from Trustees without any conditions attached amounted to £3,790 during the year (2024 - £3,640).

SVP Trading (note 17) - Income received by the Charity amounted to £174,648 (2024 - £116,952). Expenditure by the Charity amounted to £141,328 (2024 - £162,111). Internal recharges by the Charity amounted to £18,599 (2024 - £18,056). Amount due to group undertakings amounted to : £146,639 (2024 - £64,790)

Revive CIC is a related party as it is a Jointly Controlled Entity as detailed in note 18. During the year, the Society was entitled to a distribution from Revive CIC of £97,744 (2024: £62,575) as the agreement states all profits must be distributed evenly between the member charities. This amount was outstanding at the year end.

TB Hunt Trust Fund
The trust fund received dividends of £8,935 (2024 - £8,759) during the year.
There were no outstanding creditor or debtor balances at the year end.

27. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments at the year end.

28. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Group 2025 £	**Charity 2025 £**	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	**3,514,161**	**3,364,580**	**289,830**	**276,255**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	**741,118**	**834,357**	**728,455**	**756,295**

29. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 01 April 2025 the assets and liabilities of Hopeworx was transferred to the charity.

Hopeworx is a non for profit community enterprise and charity trading as a community furniture project in Rayleigh.

30. DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

On 30th March 2025 the contract with Minister of Justice (MOJ) ceased and was transferred to a new provider.

The discontinued operations relate to St Christopher's and Ozanam House in Newcastle.

31. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	**6,133,351**	**826,659**	**-**	**6,960,010**	6,138,642
Other trading activities	3	**473,724**	**-**	**-**	**473,724**	172,349
Income from investments		**208,206**	**34,180**	**-**	**242,386**	255,070
Income from charitable activities:			**-**		**-**	
Retail Income		**4,079,979**	**-**	**-**	**4,079,979**	3,921,447
Holidays and camps		**177,452**	**-**	**-**	**177,452**	155,865
Residential provision		**2,550,492**	**-**	**-**	**2,550,492**	2,341,979
Community Support Projects		**185,396**	**236,720**	**-**	**422,116**	349,434
Social Enterprise Activities		**638,951**	**-**	**-**	**638,951**	638,573
Youth development		**22,281**	**-**	**-**	**22,281**	22,412
Other income		**230,110**	**-**	**-**	**230,110**	226,958
Total income	4	**14,699,942**	**1,097,559**	**-**	**15,797,501**	14,222,729
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	**1,074,221**	**-**	**-**	**1,074,221**	766,054
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		**3,475,934**	**403,427**	**-**	**3,879,361**	3,585,304
Retail		**4,458,313**	**-**	**-**	**4,458,313**	3,819,343
Holidays and camps		**521,118**	**-**	**-**	**521,118**	446,156
Residential provision		**2,154,015**	**-**	**-**	**2,154,015**	2,362,569
Community Support Projects		**3,145,166**	**236,720**	**-**	**3,381,886**	2,285,906
Social Enterprise Activities		**1,039,620**	**-**	**-**	**1,039,620**	898,486
Youth Development Programme		**423,319**	**-**	**-**	**423,319**	347,100
Twinning		**298,612**	**358,028**	**-**	**656,640**	770,281
Total expenditure	6	**16,590,318**	**998,175**	**-**	**17,588,493**	15,281,199
Net (losses)/gains on investments	14	**110,801**	**-**	**103,531**	**214,332**	**(188,340)**
Share of (loss)/profit in jointly controlled entities	18	**104,462**	**-**	**-**	**104,462**	**(12,840)**
Net (expenditure) / income	7	**(1,675,113)**	**99,384**	**103,531**	**(1,472,198)**	(1,259,650)
INTERCOMPANY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			**-**	**-**	**-**	-
Transfers between funds	23	**13,276**	**(13,276)**	**-**	**-**	-
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	22	**-**	**(42,000)**	**-**	**(42,000)**	215,000
Net movement in funds		**(1,661,837)**	**44,108**	**103,531**	**(1,514,198)**	(1,044,650)
Funds at the start of the year	23	**8,358,703**	**3,354,886**	**1,047,009**	**12,760,598**	13,805,248
Funds at the end of the year	23	**6,696,866**	**3,398,994**	**1,150,540**	**11,246,400**	12,760,598

LEGAL ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Status
The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

Governing document
The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association revised and adopted by Special Resolution on 2 August 2019.
Company Number: 3174679
Charity Number: 1053992
Registered and Principal Office:
Allenby House, Rees Way, Bradford, BD3 0DZ

Senior Management Team
Chief Executive Officer: Kate Nightingale
Director of Finance: Chris Lucas
Director of Governance: Beverley Whittaker
Director of Membership Services Sarah Barber
Director of Retail, Trading and Social Enterprise: Helen Voyce
Director of Internal & External Affairs: Timothy O'Sullivan

Patrons
Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Sir John Battle
Auditors
Saffery LLP
10 Wellington Place
Leeds LS1 4AP

Bankers
National Westminster Bank plc
250 Bishopsgate
London EC2M 4AA

Solicitors
VWV
24 King William Street
London EC4R 9AT

Investment Advisers
Rathbones (Incorporating Investec Wealth & Investment (UK))
2 Castlefield Court
Church Street
Reigate Surrey RH2 0AH
CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria St
London EC4V 4ET

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

England & Wales - Charity number 1053992

Accounts

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Trustee Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The heartbeat of communities



St Vincent de Paul Society Company Number: 3174679. Charity Number: 1053992.

Mission, vision & values

Since the charity's foundation in 1833 in Paris, the St Vincent de Paul Society has lived by the Christian principles of its founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, who said we should "embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

In 1833 the work of the charity was prompted by the abject poverty in the slums of Paris and the first members of the Society reached out in person to help those in need. The world has changed since then, but poverty remains in many forms and our members today continue to reach out to those in need with kindness, compassion and a welcome that is non-judgmental.

As a 19-year-old university student, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam had the vision to create that network of charity, and today if he attended an SVP Conference meeting, visited a St Vincent's shop, support centre or any other of our many projects, he would recognise the same ethos of Vincentian service and welcoming acceptance of others.

Today, the SVP numbers around 800,000 voluntary members in some 153 countries, with over 8,600 members in England and Wales. The work of the Society continues to evolve but remains person-centred, where everyone has the right to be a valued member of the community in which they live.

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VISION

Our vision, inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is to give hope and restore the dignity of individuals and families, empowering them to live more fulfilling lives in a fairer world.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

OUR VALUES

Christ-centred - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.

Compassionate - We aim to show compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.

Respectful - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.

Generous - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.

Responsive - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work, and to respond accordingly, in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms.

Accountable - We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, while acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.

Confidential - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental well-being of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

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Images in this report are illustrative and may not depict real individuals. Any resemblance is coincidental. The names of people in our stories have been changed to protect their privacy.

The SVP, the beating heart of local communities

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP or Society) England and Wales was founded 180 years ago in 1844. Our founder, Frédéric Ozanam, sought to provide a practical response to the poverty of the time. His inspiration was St Vincent de Paul who had been a passionate advocate for service to those less fortunate.

This was not merely about acts of charity but about extending the hand of friendship and service with love and an open heart. Frédéric founded a lay organisation, through which he and his peers could reach out to others providing practical help and comfort and living their faith through their actions.

180 years on, that organisation now exists in over 153 countries and continues to thrive. True to our Christian foundations we are focused on service and friendship to those in need.

In England and Wales there are now over 8,600 voluntary members of the SVP. Members join a local branch known as a Conference and visit those who need our support, meet together and express their work as an integral part of their faith. Over time, the work of the SVP has grown, and we now welcome staff and other volunteers of all faiths and none who are inspired to share in the Vincentian charism of service. These members, staff and volunteers are the beating heart of the SVP, providing relational, person to person support to those who are experiencing difficulties.

As well as the Conference, reaching out to the local community, the SVP also operates projects and bespoke services which places our services in the heart of communities where they are needed most.

2023-24 has seen the number of requests for help we receive increase by 143%. Our members and projects are busier than ever and this is set against a back drop of rising costs and increased competition within the sector for funds.

We have continued our investment into the SVP's Cost of Living (COL) fund to provide immediate financial assistance to those in crisis. During the financial year 2023-24, the COL fund provided small grants to a value of £254,000. Typically the fund was accessed for help with furniture and appliances, bill payments, clothing and food. Other applications included travel costs and funeral expenses.



> "We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God."
>
> **St Vincent de Paul**

The Trustees also took the decision to develop a housing strategy in response to the level of need being presented. 2023-24 saw the appointment of the Society's first Head of Housing and investment is now actively being sought to provide more forms of affordable accommodation for those who need it.

As well as addressing the immediate needs of those in poverty we continued to focus on the causes of poverty and to add our voice and the testimony of those we serve to the issues of the day. Last year saw the publication of our regional inequalities report, based on the first hand experience of our users, as well as a report on Afghan resettlement.

We continue to be true to our founding mission, serving those in poverty through the relational, hand to hand and heart to heart support. Faced with ever increasing need and the impact on the charity itself of increasing costs, we are truly grateful to those individuals and organisations who support our work, as well as the tireless efforts of our members, volunteers and staff who together are the beating heart of our Society.



Elaine, Chair of Trustees

The work of the Conference

In 2023-24 there were 803 active Conferences in England and Wales with 8,682 active volunteer members. These Conferences continue to reach out to those locally who seek their help. The people helped and the nature of the assistance given varies by area and resources available.

The core work of our volunteer members is the visit. Sometimes a single visit is required, often a succession of visits and sometimes the support provided through the visit extends over many months or even years, depending on the need. In short, our work is to befriend and support in whatever way we can.

Over 309,000 visits were made to 48,000 beneficiaries in the year across England and Wales. Practical assistance was given on over 86,000 occasions. Most typically food and transport.

Many Conferences were involved in soup runs and food banks, serving approximately 14,000 people in the year.

June's story

A Conference in North London received a referral from Age UK regarding June, an older lady living locally. June is isolated as her family do not live near her. She has lost a lot of her vision as a result of a cataract operation that went wrong.

Because of this she has lost confidence in going out on her own, using buses and doing what she used to do independently. SVP members have visited June and listened to her talk of her difficulties. They have also gone with her for walks and helped her onto buses, so she can get out and about more and not be stuck in her flat. This has helped to lift her spirits although life is still very difficult for her. She now has an arm to lean on and a shoulder to cry on.

John's story

At the age of 16 John moved out of care into semi-independent living. Two years later he moved into a permanent home with his partner. Following a relationship breakdown, he left this home and went to be with friends in Manchester.



After being diagnosed with depression and anxiety in 2020, he moved back to his home town. The SVP was contacted by his housing officer asking us if we could help. John had a bed, but little else. The local Conference successfully applied to the SVP Cost-of-Living fund and were able to provide him with a cooker, washing machine and a sofa. They were also able to phone and visit him and offer him their ongoing support.

"Treat every individual with gentleness and respect, always using kind words."

St Vincent de Paul

309,240

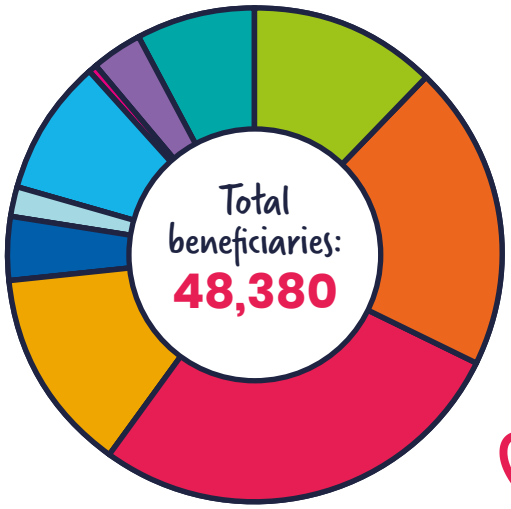
Visits made by members to those in need

Type of practical assistance given:



- Furniture: **4.2%**
- Food: **25.3%**
- Electrical Appliance: **2.9%**
- Money: **9.0%**
- Clothes: **7.4%**
- Fuel: **3.1%**
- Transport: **28.4%**
- Other: **19.7%**

Type of beneficiaries:



- Refugees and Asylum Seekers: **12.4%**
- Families: **20.0%**
- Older People (Own Home): **27.6%**
- Older People (Residential): **13.5%**
- Hospital: **4.2%**
- Offenders: **1.9%**
- Homeless: **9.0%**
- Travellers: **0.4%**
- People with Mental Health Issues: **3.5%**
- Other: **7.6%**

Maggie's story

Maggie had worked as a live in housekeeper for many years. When her employer died it quickly became clear that Maggie was unused to budgeting and coping with day-to-day transactions.

Local SVP members reached out and supported her with regular visits, friendship and community, giving her a new lease of life. Unfortunately, with the onset of dementia Maggie began to lose her memory, but the SVP continued to provide regular visits and facilitated contact with friends and loved ones. Eventually Maggie was unable to live alone, so the SVP found her a place in a good nursing home and negotiated with local authorities to arrange financial support.

This SVP Conference is at the heart of the local community and by caring for Maggie, she was also brought into that same loving community.

Support for families

An SVP Conference had been helping a family since they came to live in Holyhead and started attending the local church, St Mary's.

The family are on a very low income with no disposable cash after essentials. Their house had no washing machine and no space inside to fit one. Conference members had been taking the family's laundry to a local launderette but the cost became prohibitive, increasing to between £20 and £31 per 7-10 days.

The SVP looked for a more permanent solution. They emptied out the rubbish from the outhouse and discovered that it had plumbing. The SVP had a washing machine fitted and now the family can do their own laundry. The SVP Cost of Living Fund provided the £250 to buy and fit the washing machine.

SVP member work with prisoners



St Vincent de Paul himself worked with prisoners. In the 16th century, French criminals were put to work on galleys, long and narrow ships, propelled by oars. The men were used principally to power the ships until they could no longer do so due to illness or death. The convicts were held in terrible conditions in dungeons before their transfer to the galleys. St Vincent de Paul located a building for rent in Paris and asked that the prisoners be transferred there, where he visited them often.

Today the SVP in England and Wales continues this work. In 2023-24 the SVP Conference members have worked with prisoners either in the prison or on discharge in around half of the 122 prisons in England and Wales.

Over the last year the SVP has had regular contact with 23 prisons, an increase of 30% over the previous year. Some SVP members are committed volunteers supporting the Prison Chaplaincy Teams visiting regularly, building up relationships with prisoners, other members attend Mass or other religious liturgies regularly and, in some places, can stay afterwards to chat over coffee and biscuits. Other members send in items such as clothes, DVDs, bibles, and rosaries or knit woollies for prisoners as required. At HMP USK, SVP members, with others run CAMEO which stands for Come and Meet Each Other, while in HMP Berwyn, the largest prison in the UK, SVP members engage in "bad news" support for individual men, sometimes after a bereavement.

The SVP "zoo and aviary" in HMP Hindley is a proven great comfort to those men with acute personal anxieties. The SVP has provided funding for hens and beehives, rabbits, guinea pigs and birds (finches and budgies). There is also a polytunnel that grows turnips, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages. These are fed to animals so the project is virtually self sufficient. Last year there were even enough tomatoes to give to the prison kitchen. The prisoners look after the animals and tend the vegetable patches and garden.



HMP Hindley is home to the Vinnie Bunnies

Jim & Alan's story

Jim and Alan were both serving a prison sentence. Both men had children at home. In order to help them maintain the relationship with their children the SVP provided the men with books

The SVP spent £7 on two books of short stories that Alan could read to his daughter over the phone at bedtime. Jim received a 99p copy of Macbeth so that he could discuss the play with his daughter who was studying it for her GCSE.

In prison a little can go a long way and touch lives.



Resident feathered friends at HMP Hindley

The project teaches new skills and provides an experience of work, a sense of purpose and enhances self worth and mental health.

The SVP also has "one off" contact with many other prisons, for example, supplying Christmas cards, Christmas chocolates, confectionery at Easter. In December 2023, 6,500 SVP Christmas posters and 3,500 traditional Christmas posters were delivered to chaplains so those in prison can decorate their prison cells. To those in prison, regardless of their deeds, a small gesture of kindness means a lot.

Individual members of the SVP use their skills to engage in a wide variety of work - exemplified by one member who teaches high-quality embroidery within a prison for sex offenders as part of an initiative run by another charity.

Many prisoners are terrified of leaving prison - one in 15 have no family or accommodation this leads to reoffending and many end up back inside because they make a mistake or they are terrified outside. More than 30% of offenders on licence end up back inside, i.e. recalled, because of homelessness, a return to drug or alcohol misuse or a lack of continuity between pre- and post-release care. Available accommodation can house people using drugs or with a history of violent behaviour, so some prisoners choose to go on the streets rather than into that type of accommodation.

Chaplains try to identify some of these prisoners and ask the SVP for help at the time of release.

Because of the crisis of exceptionally serious overcrowding in prisons this year, many prisoners were released before they expected and some SVP members have helped those in need with footwear, clothing and toiletry packs.

Turning Concern into Action

St Werburgh's SVP member John O'Sullivan did a presentation to 120 Parish Priests and Chaplains, at their 2024 National Conference at St Mary's University in Twickenham.

The presentation updated the assembled audience on the activities of the Working with Prisons group and highlighted its wide-ranging activities. John said that, as an SVP member and a volunteer at a number of men's and women's prisons in the North West of England, he was pleased to be able to maintain the Society's 'Turning Concern into Action' motto, through the support of people both inside prisons and after release.

As a founder member of the Working with Prisons initiative John added that it is gratifying to see the group's growth and development throughout the whole of England and Wales, with volunteers now in many of the Ministry of Justice's 122 prisons and other institutions.

"I was in Prison and you came to me."

Matthew 25

In the year the SVP had regular contact with

23 prisons

Working with Prisons

SVP

Supporting men and women in prison, ex-offenders and families

SVP member work with asylum seekers

Many SVP members befriend and support asylum seekers and refugees. The support required may vary: befriending, emotional support, material support or indeed, all three. In 2023-24 the SVP supported 6,002 refugees/asylum seekers, an increase of more than 20% from the previous year.

An example is the SVP's work with resettled Afghans, which has been substantial. It has played an important role in supporting and helping with the integration and well-being of Afghan families resettled in the UK.

Volunteer members from the Telford area, for example, supported over 200 Afghans, including grandparents, parents and children, trapped in hotel rooms and hoping to be moved into permanent homes. As members from the Conference said: "When a relative of one of our Conference members mentioned that families evacuated from Afghanistan had arrived at a local hotel within our parish, we arrived to find exhausted and traumatised people who were thankful for arriving in a safe country. They had left everything behind, families, homes and most of their belongings... they could only bring a 10kg bag irrespective of the size of the family. For those with babies this meant they arrived only with a small supply of baby formula and nappies... in essence they had nothing but the clothes they travelled in."



English language lessons

Jamal's story



Jamal referred himself via SVP National Office. He is a refugee from Sudan, where he was in good employment before the latest coup, and he is now living in temporary accommodation.

Local SVP members visited him and helped with some provisions, however his main issue was that he was depressed in his accommodation and was suffering from loneliness and boredom. The members decided to take him out for coffee. He was far more relaxed in the cafe and enjoyed the company and chat. They discovered his love for art and music and so, as well as meeting for coffee, they now accompany him on trips to the free museums, concerts and galleries that London has to offer. His mental health has improved no end and he says he feels "human" again. Also, the Conference members are really enjoying his company and the culture!

The members visited and befriended them, and provided them with a range of practical items, such as mobile phones so that they could keep in touch with family still in Afghanistan, clothing, toiletries, pushchairs, suitcases, beard trimmers and shopping vouchers. Other initiatives included organising English language lessons, social events and trips, craft meetings, and the use of cricket, football and sport facilities, and providing them with sewing machines and bicycles.

They also helped with trying to find suitable housing for the Afghan families, and they worked to raise awareness about family members still in Afghanistan who remain in grave danger.

For more than 18 months SVP members from another Conference have been supporting the residents at a local hotel in Rotherham. Members from the Conference explained: "The biggest need we found was anything to relieve the boredom. So, we purchased many indoor games such as cards, dominoes, chess sets, Jenga and crafting items. Many of the residents had to be taught how to play. The hotel housed many Afghans who have a real passion for cricket. We purchased a supply of cricket equipment and topped up a supply of extra balls on our regular visits. It is worth mentioning that it was not only a pleasure but humbling to spend time with such grateful, gracious and cheerful people who were living in such a confined environment.

Last year we hired a full coach and arranged for some residents to have a day trip to the coast (Bridlington). We supplied drinks and ice creams. In the Winter we had a day out at York with the Dean of York Minster allowing free access and making everyone most welcome."



Sport can help in a time of need

"Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself."

Leviticus 19:33

Support for Ukrainians

A Ukrainian lady contacted the SVP via Homes for Ukraine, asking about the possibility of alternate housing as she had experienced an unsuitable initial placement where her and her son's privacy had not been respected.



Through advocacy the SVP were able to pressure the local authority to provide emergency and then permanent accommodation. The latter was unfurnished and so the SVP collected sufficient funds to furnish this home for her and her son. Not long after she was joined by her daughter who had originally stayed in Ukraine to care for the grandmother, who had since died.

The local SVP continue to be involved, offering regular befriending and assistance. In turn, this lady has been able to support other Ukrainians to access SVP support.

Young Vincentians

An organisation's future lies with its young members. Frédéric Ozanam was just 19 years of age and studying at the Sorbonne University when he founded the SVP. 180 years later, the SVP still seeks to capture the zeal of youth through its Young Vincentian volunteering programme, which encompasses our Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP and SVP1833 for young adults.

Across our three Young Vincentian Programmes we have in excess of 12,000 young people aged seven to 30 involved in putting their faith into action. They do this in age-appropriate activities, but always focused on service to those in need. This might involve raising awareness, campaigning, fundraising or direct social action.

In 2023-24 there were 500 Mini Vinnie groups, 77 school Youth SVP groups, 49 affiliated school groups and 15 parish groups, and 13 SVP1833 groups. As well as engaging with their local communities in Vincentian acts of service, school groups raised over £10,000 nationally in 2023-24 for the SVP. In addition, they have fundraised for local SVP groups and contributed food to local foodbanks.



SVP1833 World Youth Day

In 2023-24 we have focused particularly on the development of SVP1833 and established different streams of entry. Young adults may now join either through a group in a university or parish or as an individual SVP1833 member, joining other individuals whose lives are transient because of study or new work situations and who can't necessarily commit to regular in-person meetings, but can join monthly prayer sessions and service days or events across the country.

St Joseph's Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies from St Joseph's, Poole, have big hearts. They visited Bourne View, a local care home and took part in an Easter Egg Trail for the residents.



The children did all the running and then they played some floor games with the residents inside. The group has also been supporting the local Food Store at the Bourne Community Hub. The school community regularly donates items, and the children gather and deliver them to the store each Wednesday. For local residents, annual membership is £10 and each week on Wednesday afternoons, they are able to choose 10 items for £2.50. Items include staples like rice, pasta and tinned food. The Mini Vinnies have even created recipe cards and have designed a sandwich board to promote the Food store around school.

SVP1833

In August 2023 a group of 25 young adults attended an International Vincentian Conference followed by World Youth Day in Portugal.

This group of young adults signed up in August 2023 to be ambassadors in whichever way they could in their own life - the fruit that this has borne has been two young adults signing up to their local Conference as members, three young adults working on one of the SVP's Summer camps for children and three who work as teachers supporting their students to engage with SVP locally. Another has been working in a youth retreat centre where this year she has spoken to over 1,000 young people about the SVP.

For many, they have continued to journey with SVP1833 as part of service days and retreats and their outreach to others has meant that we have a steadily growing group of young adults who are part of the SVP1833 group.

A Vincentian Family

We have worked on creating opportunities for various parts of the SVP family to meet one another, whether that is local Conferences meeting their local school SVP groups or on a larger scale at one of our events.

At a Mass and activity morning in Middlesbrough in November 2023, our adult SVP members shared with children and young people from across the diocese some of the work they do. It was great to see Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP and adult Conference members joining together in activities that were both fun and meaningful.

In Northampton, we had adult SVP members and young people from the secondary schools looking at ways they can serve the community together, and at our annual National Meeting of 2023 we brought two primary schools and two secondary schools to be part of the celebrations.

"Children and young people are the future; they are our strength, they are what keep us moving forward. They are the ones in whom we put our hope."

Pope Francis

St Cuthbert's Youth SVP

St Cuthbert's Youth SVP - a very busy 2023-24



During Advent, the school made Christmas cards and held a toiletry and small gift collection, creating 22 hampers which were gratefully received at St Helens' refugee and asylum seeker charity, 'Our Warm Welcome'. Students spent the morning there, socialising with the service users, and helping and learning about the charity.

At Christmas they organised St Cuthbert's Community Christmas party, with 35 people from parishes, the local nursing home and a dementia support group attending and enjoying bingo and dancing. The Youth SVP group were instrumental in delivering the event.

During Lent, the group raised money for various causes. They held a Year 7 sponsored walk. They also sold handmade jewellery and crafts in school, raising over £250. St Cuthbert's school's values are courage, commitment, compassion and community (St Cuthbert's 4 C's). Members live those values through the Youth SVP Group. The motto of Youth SVP, 'See - Think - Do' is at the group's heart. The Group reviews weekly what they witness and how they can help. Unfortunately, St. Helens has a lot of deprivation; the students see the suffering in the community and feel moved to help.

SVP Community Projects

The SVP operates a number of Community Projects which are the beating heart of the communities they serve.

There are 11 St Vincent's Support Centres: community hubs, with an open-door policy, open to all who need company, support or practical assistance. St Vincent's Bradford Social Enterprise operates along similar lines, with an emphasis on recycling and enterprise and a plethora of non-staffed projects including food banks and pantries, soup runs, furniture projects, school uniform exchanges and bereavement and dementia support groups. These centres and activities provide an extended family, a safe place where basic needs can be addressed and individuals can flourish.

Centres and services are always based in the areas of need identified by our SVP members, offering a wide range of support and services, working with some of the most vulnerable members of the community and people who have been marginalised from society. Local knowledge shapes what services are on offer and how they are delivered. The one thing that underpins the work at every centre or local activity is kindness.

Steve's story

Steve was referred to St Vincent's Sheffield as he had recently moved home due to being a victim of domestic abuse from an ex-partner. He had moved with his son and had been living in temporary accommodation prior to the move and had nothing with which to set up a new home.

The SVP were able to deliver a variety of items for him to furnish his home including a double bed, mattress and bedding, a single bed, mattress and bedding, cooking and eating utensils, curtains and towels.



St Vincent's Ely Bridge

In SVP projects, people can expect to feel welcome when they walk through the doors, regardless of life experience or circumstance.

St Vincent's Social Enterprise in Bradford and the 11 Support Centres are the largest of these projects and have paid staff working alongside volunteers. These projects have always been busy, noisy hubs but the cost of living crisis and the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic has seen an overwhelming increase in need. In St Vincent's Newcastle alone, the number of people being supported across April to June has jumped from 4,968 in 2023 to 8,808 in 2024 - an increase of 3,840 people.

St Vincent's Brighton supports the isolated elderly, those with dementia and additional needs and their carers and partners. Services offered include exercise groups, massage therapy, hot meals, a men's wellbeing group, cognitive quizzes, creative activities, cooker and transportation is provided if needed.

St Vincent's Brixton supports young people, families and isolated adults in the local community. Brixton also supports refugees and those seeking asylum. Services offered include young people's drama, cooking, singing and creative writing classes for adults and children's holiday clubs. Once a month Brixton hosts a clothing bank and drop in service for the local refugee community.

St Vincent's Deaf Centre, Newcastle supports the local community and encourages shared activities for the deaf and hearing communities together. Services offered include a lunch club for the elderly deaf community, a weekly Saturday evening community bar and bingo night, sign-language teaching, university research into the latest video technology to inspire and support young deaf people, creative writing groups and children's holiday clubs.

St Vincent's Sheffield is a furniture project that delivers much needed household items to the local community who are in need of material help. It offers support services by building relationships with local people, as well as additional sign-posting. Services offered include delivery of furniture and household items, a support service out in the community and some group community-led activities in the centre. It also delivers an upcycling workshop for 16 to 25-year-olds.

St Vincent's Leeds offers a range of support services, counselling, debt advice, and community-led activities in the poorest part of Leeds in LS9. It also has a furniture referral project, a cafe and a shop that provides low-cost items for those who need them. Services offered include English speaking classes, counselling, debt, welfare benefit and immigration support and advice. It houses a food pantry and provides emergency food and household items. Leeds also runs children and family clubs in the holidays.

St Vincent's Ely Bridge, Cardiff offers support to the local community in particular to men who have struggled with addiction or their mental health and women who are lonely and isolated. Services offered include a men-changing-lives programme, a community food bank, many activities and social groups, hot meals from the kitchen, well-being mornings and men's walking group and gym programme. They also have a community garden.

St Vincent's Wirral supports men with drug and alcohol addiction problems, the local refugee community and local families with Christmas hampers and gifts. Services offered include befriending and warm space in their community café, a food and clothing bank, an offsite community garden and allotment for green space activities, community-led activities and advice from the Citizen's Advice Bureau who visit the centre several times a week.

In 2023-24, across all of the Community Project centres:

136,000
People used food services

43,120
People attended activity sessions

3,658+
Students attended ESOL classes

7,154
People given general advice
(including debt, fuel debt, housing and welfare benefits)

535+
Volunteers gave up their time to help at the centres

2,911
Furniture items provided

15,839
People were served by SVP shops

£590,000
Generated through our Support Centre shops in the year

"Love is inventive to infinity."
St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent's Newcastle supports the local community, families, asylum seekers and those who are isolated or lonely with fun activities, support and advice. They also offer clubs and programmes for children and families in the school holidays. Services offered include a weekly free drop-in three course lunch, a food and clothes bank, haircuts and a market place for anyone to access low cost food and a food pantry open daily. There are daily craft and other activities and community led events.

St Vincent's Chorley Buddies support the local community with food provision five days a week and offer a range of activities and a warm space to meet. Services offered include a network of Food Clubs across Chorley, help to support refugees and asylum seekers, families fleeing domestic violence and others who need a hand. They have a weekly community cafe and social activities for families.

St Vincent's Southend supports the street-homeless, those who suffer with drug and alcohol addiction and refugees and those seeking asylum. This community group is often in crisis. Services offered include a kindness kitchen offering hot meals twice a day, a food bank, furniture provision, advice support, haircuts, medical, veterinary and dental checks. Staff and volunteers also help with finding supported accommodation. There are daily activities and drop-in services to support this wide-ranging community and there are mentoring and pathway programmes to help stabilise this vulnerable group. There is also an allotment and gardening project nearby.



St Vincent's Southend

St Vincent's Druids Heath, Birmingham supports the local community with food, activities and some community-led support groups. Services Include food provision, a men's talking group and other community-led activities. Food vouchers are provided to families in crisis.

Jemma's story

When Jemma moved to Bradford over two years ago, she discovered St Vincent's Bradford Social Enterprise Centre and not just essentials for her home, like a fridge and freezer. She found a community, sense of purpose, and a path to personal growth.

Jemma first saw a Facebook post and volunteered her sewing skills at the centre. They needed volunteers to create pieces for Sustainable Fashion Week. Jemma eagerly responded. So began a fulfilling journey, as she transformed old, unused materials into new, upcycled items for the centre's shop.

"I've been volunteering at the centre for over a year, giving old clothes a new lease of life," Jemma shares. "My creations contribute to the Hand Made in Bradford project, focusing on reusing and renewing clothing and furniture donated to the SVP. I've learned to upcycle and restore furniture. Completed pieces are labelled, 'Hand Made in Bradford,' raising money for the charity through the shop."



The experience has been personally transformative. "Volunteering here is a big part of my life. It's rebuilt my confidence and well-being. I now teach sewing at Bradford Probation Service. SVP is my happy place."

Jemma's enthusiasm led her to volunteer additional time to upcycle furniture, increasing her value to the centre. She is a huge asset, running the sewing group and contributing hugely to the project. She's helped build a team of volunteers, teaching others sewing skills.

Jemma's story is testament to the power of community, creativity, and giving back. Her work at St Vincent's Social Enterprise Centre, not only keeps her busy but enables her to heal, grow, and transform the lives of others.

Jalal's story

Jalal came to St Vincent's Centre in Newcastle a year ago to learn English. He asked if he could volunteer at the centre as he was not allowed to seek paid employment and he has been working in our kitchen ever since. Jalal is an Iraqi - Kurd. He and his wife and children were forced to leave as Jalal was an active MP in the government opposition party, and this involvement, as well as being Jewish, meant they were deemed apostates by Islamic State (IS) and their home was set alight.

They are now settled in Newcastle. His family have come to our centre summer activities and especially loved the days out. Jalal has had his substantive interview with the Home Office and is waiting to hear the outcome. In the meantime Jalal was delighted to share with us that his wife is expecting a baby.

"I am happy to be volunteering at St Vincent's as everyone there is as equally kind and helping towards people. I hope I can continue working with such amazing and hard working people."

St Vincent's Social Enterprise Bradford's aims are to provide pathways out of poverty with dignity, kindness and creativity. Whilst at the same time placing an emphasis on self-sustaining income generating projects. The centre works closely with the long term economically insecure and those facing in work poverty.

Central to the project is the specialist team providing advice on welfare, housing, debt, or immigration. The centre also works closely with Bradford Metropolitan District Council and their assisted purchase scheme. This scheme allows families and individuals to purchase essential household items from Social Enterprise Bradford via an interest free loan. Last financial year 280 families and individuals where able to access this scheme allowing them to purchase £57,720 worth of essential household items.

Schemes like the one previously mentioned (Assisted Purchase Scheme) can only be accessed via an online application. With that in mind the centre offers free digital stations within the community café. Conference members are often on hand to assist people to complete online forms or simply keep in touch with loved ones.



As well as a community garden, a flourishing community café and food bank and mini market, St Vincent's Social Enterprise Bradford runs "Handmade in Bradford", an upcycling and well-being group. The group meets at least four times per week and have diverted 4.6 tonnes of furniture from landfill with their amazing upcycling skills, which has generated £8,208 of income.

The heart of the home

SVP Housing Support

In the 17th Century, St Vincent de Paul, realising that his work feeding children living on the street was not a long-term solution to homelessness, decided to build 13 houses to care for them. The 13 houses ensured that the children would never experience homelessness again.

The houses were not just four walls: they were a place where the children received medical care, education and training, a place where they could play and simply just be children. This work continues today as the SVP responds to ongoing need.

In 2023-24 our housing provision took a step forwards, with the appointment of a Head of Housing, to develop a Society wide housing strategy. This will encompass existing provision and promote further growth in this area.

In 2023-24 SVP housing projects provided accommodation for 91 people facing homeless.

Our Newcastle project is SVP's largest and longest standing housing service. The project provides twenty-three units of supported accommodation for single people. The project units are comprised of:

- A twelve-bed hostel, with 24/7 staffing, for single men aged over 30 who are moved on from crisis accommodation. Residents can stay for up to two years.
- Nine units of self-contained support accommodation for those who are ready to move on but require continued low-level support.



Family temporary accommodation, Norfolk



Len Woodley Apartments, New Bridges

In addition, in 2023-24 the Society further extended its provision in this location by opening a new flat offering two move-on placements for individuals transitioning from approved premises, further expanding our support for those in need.

In North Norfolk the Society operates a Temporary Emergency Accommodation project, which in 2023-24 housed 11 families with a total of 34 children.

78% of the households accommodated had support-needs in addition to housing needs. 46% had more than one additional support need.

The most common additional support-need was mental health. Other prevalent needs include physical health need and disability or being subject to abuse and exploitation. Substance misuse issues were also common as was contact with the criminal justice system.

In 2023-24 the Society invested a further £110,000 to provide three additional temporary homes for families. Additionally, properties in the project have undergone extensive redecoration.



Bill's story

Bill moved into the project in April 2018 at the request of his social worker. He was 71 years old when he moved in. He had been living on the streets, on and off, since 1988.

Over time we began to get to know him. He did not want his family to know where he was. He had no friends in the hostel, and we believed that he did not interact with people elsewhere. We found out that he was diagnosed with schizophrenia, but that he was not on medication for it. However, as we got to know him better, we started to think he was autistic rather than schizophrenic. His social worker shared this view. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia in roughly 1964, when mental health services did not even know about autism.

His social worker stated that the SVP hostel was the best thing that had happened to him for a long time and informed us that this had been his most stable accommodation for over 30 years. He was by then 73 and together with his social worker we agreed that the best option was for him to stay with us, until we could not see to any medical needs or until he passed away.

He continued to live with us, attending activities run by the local SVP centre, such as poetry and pie, and going on the trips arranged by the hostel.

Unfortunately, we heard that Bill's brother had died so we arranged to take him to the funeral. His sister, his only surviving sibling, came up from the Midlands and we facilitated their reconciliation, which resulted in visits during Christmas and Easter Holidays in subsequent years.

Bill became seriously asthmatic, needing injections every two months to help combat his condition. He was not good at managing his medication and despite our efforts to support him, he was admitted to hospital quite a few times with breathing difficulties. It was no longer possible for us to support his needs in the hostel. We worked closely with his social worker to find the right place for him. It took over 12 months but eventually we found a lovely, supported accommodation project that also had care assistants who could support Bill with his health needs.

In July 2024, after staying with us for 6 years, we moved Bill into his new flat. He still returns to the local SVP centre twice a week for his favourite poetry and pie session! He may have stayed for longer than he should, but people don't fit in boxes, everyone has different needs and we ensured that Bill's needs were met when he stayed with us and continue to be met even though he has left.

"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest."

Isaiah 32:18



SVP Overseas Aid

The SVP embodies the vision shared by founder, Frédéric Ozanam, of "embracing the world in a network of charity" through its work overseas. Conferences in England & Wales (E&W) work to support our fellow members in their SVP work across the world in a number of ways.

Building friendships Twin-to-Twin

At the heart of Twinning is the connection and friendship formed between SVP members in England & Wales (E&W) and members in our twinned countries. Our Conferences are twinned with nearly 1,500 other Conferences; 12 in Guyana, 29 in Grenada, 30 in Romania, 34 in South Sudan and 1,250 in India. We are also twinned with 120 Conferences in Sudan; members still continue their prayerful twinning but the war has sadly put a pause to financial twinning. Through Twinning, our Conferences and donors within E&W offer regular prayers for twins and an annual financial commitment which allows the twin to carry out their local work. Each Conference's work is tailored to the need in their local community.

Due to the lack of social security or food banks within Guyana, the work of the SVP focuses on food, and providing a lifeline to those in need. SVP E&W funding, alongside internal fundraising in the Parish, fund the provision of food hampers to care homes, homeless individuals, and families with young children.

In Grenada, the issue of sanitation is critical in the fight against poverty.



Garment making microenterprise

Francis's story

Francis had been living without indoor water for many years, nor did he own a toilet or bathroom.

This hindered his personal health and affected his neighbours. Thanks to the local SVP and funding from SVP E&W, Francis now has indoor pipe-borne water. This has enabled him to prepare meals, maintain a cleaner lifestyle and consequently obtain a job.

Extending community reach through projects

In India, Conferences are proactive in setting up small projects which support their beneficiaries. A total of 45 small projects, ranging from £600 - £1,000, were submitted to E&W last year for funding and these are being supported by our Conferences and individual donors. These projects include setting up of small shops, purchasing milking buffaloes which families can use to generate income, provision of nets for fishing, house maintenance, and the purchasing of sewing machines for garment production. All projects support very poor families and are monitored by the local SVP members.

In South Sudan a vocational training programme is funded by SVP E&W. In 2023-24 this allowed over 350 students to complete vocational training in tailoring, computer skills, mechanical engineering, and more.



"So, our vocation is to go, not just to one parish, not just to one diocese, but all over the world..."

St Vincent de Paul



Coir making from coconut fibre

Responding to global crisis

As well as providing long term support through twinning and development projects, SVP E&W also provides crisis relief. Last year SVP Romania continued to provide critical support to Ukrainian refugees as well as those still in Ukraine thanks to our funding. A parish building was set up to house 11 refugees, including children, throughout the winter. They were provided with food, hygiene products, and language lessons.

In England and Wales, SVP Conferences are also continuing to provide support to Ukrainian refugees who have come to the UK, through specific SVP grants. £9,925 was issued to 24 individuals and families who have been displaced by the Ukraine war.

In South Sudan, 80% of the population live below the absolute poverty line and 8.9 million people require humanitarian aid (source: IFRC). The SVP baby feeding programme provides over 800 children with nutritious meals 3 times a week. Again, funding for this is provided by SVP E&W.

Looking to the future

Our overseas programme has seen great successes over the year 2023-24 and it could not be achieved without thanks to our members and donors. However, the need within each country continues to grow and evolve, as do the financial costs. The focus of Twinning for the future is to develop our relationship with our twinned countries as partners and ensure our twins feel empowered to form strategic plans in line with their own ever-changing and developing needs.

Twinning projects

Quillon livelihood project and empowering women

The coastal areas of Kerala in India have traditionally relied on fishing, are now facing a livelihoods crisis. Several factors are impacting the situation including fluctuating costs of fuel, advancement of machinery, overfishing and growing regulation in the sector.

Access to livelihoods for women in the area is generally limited to fish trading. This is linked to a range of factors including relatively low educational attainment and skills amongst the women. The SVP in India has identified a need to target and diversify women's opportunities to strengthen sustainable income-generation opportunities.

This project was implemented in 20 villages in Allapuzha and Kollam districts. Over the year, 15 local SVP Conferences formed groups of women to set up a micro-enterprise. Each Conference identified women in the community who would benefit from being involved. Within each group, two women are given the responsibility of opening a bank account to support the group. Awareness classes were initially conducted in the groups, teaching the women how self-help, how to identify a skill in which they can engage, and determining the feasibility of its success.

Each member of the group of women contributed to 1000 INR (£9) to the project as seed capita, and SSVP India transferred 60,000 INR (£540) to the joint account. The 60,000 INR was paid back as the businesses grew and the funds are then used to finance a new group of women. Examples of microenterprises set up include: garment making, farming and fish vending.

SVP Social Policy

Frédéric Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society in 1833 was a passionate advocate for social justice and our advocacy work continues today, seeking to address the root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms. The Society is concerned not only in relieving need but also in redressing the situations that cause it.

Over the past three years our social justice work in England and Wales has grown from strength to strength and over the past year we have had more success in challenging unjust policy and legislation.

Our four policy areas of focus remain the same as in previous years:

- Cost of living crisis and social security reform
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- In-work poverty
- Regional inequalities



In 2023-24 we published a major advocacy report on tackling regional inequalities. The report showcased the work of some of our SVP projects and made policy recommendations for tackling regional inequalities across England and Wales. **Scan to read the report >**

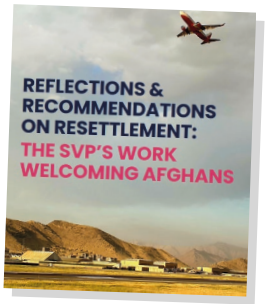
Meeting MPs

Members and staff continue to meet with MPs from both sides of the house. Providing first hand evidence on issues of justice and also inviting MPs to visit our projects and see first hand the needs in local communities as well as how they might be addressed.



Chi Onwurah at St Vincent's Deaf Centre, Newcastle

Reflections and recommendations on resettlement: The SVP's work welcoming Afghans



The Society also published a report which documents the experience and expertise of the SVP's frontline volunteers and members who stepped up to welcome, help and support Afghan citizens resettled in the UK. Working with Afghan families and various partners, they gained an informed understanding of the key difficulties, challenges and barriers to integration the Afghans encountered. The report provides insights and recommendations that are a direct result of their commitment and determination.

Scan to read the report >



Imran Hussain, MP for Bradford East

Imran Hussain, MP for Bradford East visited the Bradford Social Enterprise and was impressed by the work of the centre supporting the local community.

Influencing Policy

The SVP joined the Poverty Strategy Commission and contributed evidence from our services to their work. The Poverty Strategy Commission is an independent Commission formed to develop consensus around a strategy for tackling poverty in the UK. The Commission's work builds on the poverty measure developed by the Social Metrics Commission. Doing so means that it will consider how to reduce the incidence of poverty, tackle poverty depth and the length of time families spend in poverty and improve a wide range of outcomes for those experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty.

We worked in collaboration with other faith groups and charity leaders calling political leaders to urgently act on poverty. **Scan to read more >**

We submitted written evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Poverty and the APPG on Migration joint inquiry on 'The Effects of UK Immigration, Asylum and Refugee Policy on Poverty'. Submitting evidence to these Parliamentary inquiries is a key part of our influencing work, allowing us to use our experience on the ground to shape Government policy and legislation.

> "I ask you: let us occupy ourselves with people who have too many needs and not enough rights, who call out rightly for a greater involvement in public affairs, for guarantees of work – and who cry out against misery."
>
> **Frédéric Ozanam**



The SVP at Party Conferences

In October 2023 the SVP attended for the first time the Autumn Party Conferences. We joined both the Conservative and the Labour Conference.

SVP Retail

The SVP continues to seek to develop its unrestricted income streams in order to sustain operations in the long term. Our network of shops has expanded into new communities, allowing us to further our mission of raising vital funds for the Society to help those in need.

St Vincent's shops are more than retail outlets; they are vibrant community hubs where staff, volunteers, customers, and donors come together. These interactions cultivate strong social bonds and a sense of belonging, creating supportive networks that enrich lives and strengthen community resilience. Our inclusive and welcoming environments ensure that everyone feels valued and connected and helps to create lasting relationships that transcend our shop walls.

Retail Growth

The commitment of our staff, volunteers, and the continued support of our loyal customers have been instrumental to our continued development over the last 12 months. In addition, we've been committed to enhancing the shopping experience to ensure it is enjoyable and convenient, offering a positive atmosphere that leaves our customers feeling valued and satisfied with every visit.



St Vincent's Shop, Willesden

Gill's story...

"I had been made redundant by a company I worked over 30 years for. This and the passing of a close relative gave me more time on my hands. I visited the shop and immediately clicked with the manager, Jane, who suggested volunteering. I've been at the shop 18 months now, and thoroughly enjoy every shift knowing our efforts make a difference. The staff and atmosphere are second to none. It is nice that we are all pulling in the same direction to improve the lives of people who need a little extra help in our community."

In 2023-24 five new shops opened:

- **St Helens:** Opened in May 2023
- **Crwys Road:** Launched in June 2023
- **Willesden:** Opened in September 2023
- **Sidcup:** Opened in November 2023
- **Enfield:** Our most recent addition in February 2024

These new openings are a testament to our ongoing commitment to expanding our reach and enhancing our ability to support those in need. Each new shop not only contributes to our financial sustainability but also serves as a vital link between our mission and the communities we serve.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building on this momentum, exploring new opportunities for growth, and continuing to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our customers, volunteers, and donors, whose contributions make our work possible. Together, we are making a difference - one shop, one sale, one person at a time.



St Vincent's Shop, Crwys Road

Maxine's story...

"It was the help the charity gives to the homeless that prompted me to join. Since working there, I have come to realise the shop is a well needed and well used community asset. I also feel that I have done something useful at the end of each shift. The camaraderie amongst the staff and volunteers is great."



St Vincent's Shop Brighouse

During 2023-24:

Retail

£4,079,979
Retail income

813,144
Transactions / purchases

£5.02
Average transaction value

88,892
Volunteer hours in shops

18.7%
Gift Aid

450
Tonnes saved from landfill
through recycling in our shops

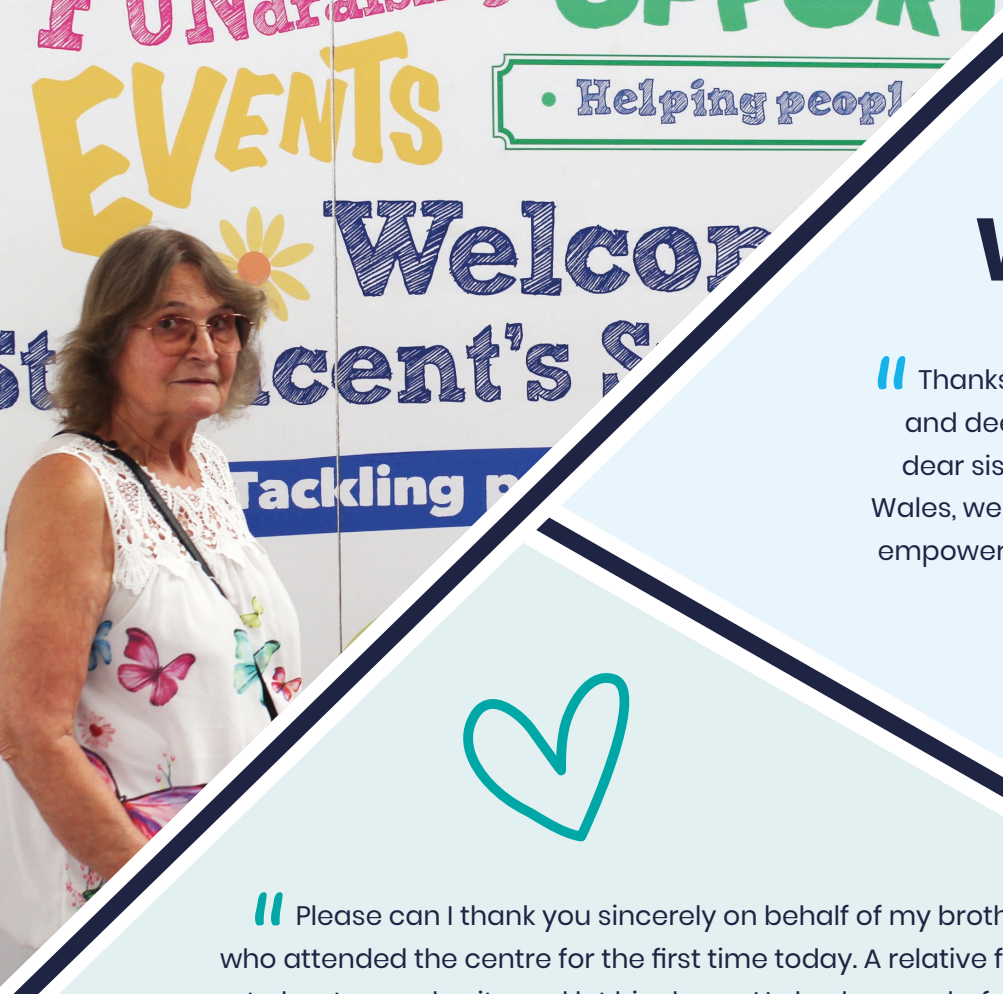
E-commerce - eBay

2,591
Preloved items sold

£27.39
Average basket size

Fashion
Top selling department

31.7%
Increase in repeat customers



Words from

"Thanks to the generosity, benevolence and deep rooted Christian love to our dear sisters and brothers in England & Wales, we have been able to unite women, empowering them to earn a livelihood for their families."

SVP India

"Please can I thank you sincerely on behalf of my brother who attended the centre for the first time today. A relative found out about your charity and let him know. He had a wonderful time and was truly overawed by the kindness, generosity and genuine compassion he encountered today. He said the meal was the best meal he has ever eaten and the people were so kind, he was crying on the phone when telling me about it. He said the children singing was just beautiful. We live hundreds of miles from him and he has fallen on very hard times in recent years but he won't apply for any benefits and exists on a very small railway pension. He lives alone and is very isolated."

St Vincent's Newcastle



"My son has been getting on a little better at school recently. The camp was amazing for him. It gave him some independence as well. He now walks home from school a couple of days a week alone. He's popped to the shop alone with his own money and done his own shopping. He's like a different boy. He wants to come again next year if that's possible?"

Mother of child who attended Camp Vincent

the heart...



"I wanted to say thank you so much for your care and help with our flooring issue. The new carpet has made a huge difference - it's very comfortable and really brightens up the children's rooms."

Matilda, supported Ukrainian refugee

"It was the first time I had seen another man cry and it let me know that I was allowed to as well."

The SVP Grief Café in Droitwich

"I am not perfect, you know that... But I am not worthless! We are not worthless, thank you for reminding us of that."

St Vincent's Centre Birmingham

"Your kindness, patience and unwavering support have been a source of strength for me in times of difficulty and joy. Your wisdom and advice has guided me through challenging situations, and your presence in my life has brought me comfort and joy."

St Vincent's Deaf Centre, Newcastle






Prisons & Probation
SVP
St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action
Tom Horton
HM Prison & Probation
Service
Raihan Miah
Community Peer Mentor,
Vincent's Ely
Nicholas Bo
nity Peer Mentor,
nt's Ely

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

As part of an international lay Christian organisation, Catholic in origin, character, and traditions, which respects religious liberty and the value of all God's people, the objects of the Charity are:

- The relief of poverty and sickness without differentiation on the ground of race, colour, creed, ideology or sex and in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing, to bring spiritual and/or material solace to the sick or individuals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress due to their social, economic or other circumstances.
- The undertaking, in any part of the world, of such other object or objects which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Charity in its discretion shall see fit.

The overall objective of the Charity is the relief of poverty, both material and emotional in England & Wales and abroad through: the person to person involvement of its voluntary members engaged in befriending and through 'Special Works', which are projects established to address specific needs in the local community, such as food banks or advice and support centres.

The Society is constituted under the laws of England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 3174679). The Society is also a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number: 1053992).

The overarching governing document of the Society is the Articles of Association and is to be read in conjunction with the International Rule and the National Statutes. Where there is a conflict between the Articles of Association and the National Statutes of the Society, the Articles will take precedence. However, there are periodic reviews that take place to ensure alignment where practicable to do so.

The Articles of Association describe the Society's objects, guarantees, powers and their limitation. They define 'Membership' of the Company (i.e., the National Council) and describe the governance processes, including how changes and decisions are made. The National Statutes provide the framework for the governance and operation of the Society. Detailed management of the Society's affairs are covered in relevant Policies and Procedures, which should be treated as a part of the Rule.

The first International Rule was introduced in 1835 and is periodically reviewed and updated by International Council General of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Society adopts this corporate governance framework to deliver its strategic priorities and objectives and to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's legal and regulatory requirements (The Charities Act 2022) and adheres to the legislative requirements outlined in the Companies Act 2006. The Society believes that effective governance is based on ensuring there is a culture of compliance across its works and practices. This is implemented by policies and procedures, clear accountabilities, external and internal audit plans, robust and resilient risk assessments, and a culture of continuous learning.



Pictured: CSP Showcase event at Westminster

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of nine and a maximum of thirteen people, including the Chair (also known as the National President). The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society (E&W). On the election of a new National President by the National Council, the President shall nominate up to five Trustees, at least three of whom will be Central Council Presidents, and shall also nominate a Vice President and a National Treasurer. Each Trustee must be formally confirmed by the National Council to serve for a period of five years. Up to five new Trustees are selected halfway through the President's five-year term to act as continuation Trustees and serve for a term of five years. Up to four non-members of the Society may be appointed as Trustees provided that they commit to the values of the Society and have skills which are required by the Society. All Trustees are subject to a formal recruitment process based on their skills and experience to ultimately support the deliverables against the charity's objects.

The table below shows the current Board members who were all appointed in previous years.

Name	Status	Responsibility
Elaine Heyworth	Incoming Trustee	National President
Steve Gill	Incoming Trustee	Senior Vice President
Mark Branch	Incoming Trustee	National Treasurer
Winston Waller	Incoming Trustee	Membership Strategic
Liz Creevy	Incoming Trustee	Membership Spirituality
Clare O'Brien	Incoming Trustee	Property Portfolio
Gustavo Vas Falcao	Incoming Trustee	Social Justice
Monica Chidgey	Incoming Trustee	Safeguarding
Nasha Pierre	Incoming Trustee	General Portfolio
Anita Motha	Incoming Trustee	General Portfolio (Non-Member)
Mark Thompson	Continuation Trustee	Community Support Projects
Susan Roberts	Continuation Trustee	Safeguarding
Dermot McGilloway	Continuation Trustee	Overseas Aid

In addition, Fr Paul Roche attends Board meetings as a National Spiritual Advisor. The selection of Trustees seeks to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities, as well as bringing increased diversity and inclusion.

An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the charity's objectives, strategy and activities, as well as understanding Charity Commission guidance on the role of a Trustee and good governance. The Board meets at least four times a year to review the performance of the charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives. On occasion the Board may meet remotely to keep expense costs down or for logistical reasons, but the majority of meetings are in person.

All meeting discussions are recorded in the minutes taken and stored electronically as part of the normal governance process.

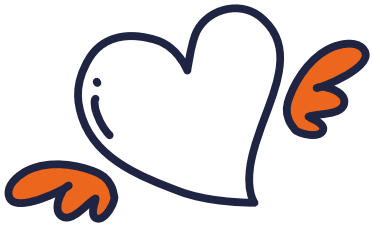


St Vincent's Leeds

The Society has established clear levels of delegated authority within which:

- some decisions are reserved to the Board alone.
- some decisions are made by the Executive Trustees, who are the National President, the Senior Vice President and the Treasurer.
- responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who may in turn delegate authority to the Deputy CEO and Senior Management. The Chief Executive attends all Board meetings; other senior managers attend as required.
- the Chief Executive is required to escalate high risk and/or high impact issues for the timely attention and consideration of the Board and produces a CEO report for each meeting.
- the Board sets the strategic direction for the efficient and effective management of the Society's funds and strategic roadmap. In early 2023 the new Board set the new strategy for the Society over the next 5 years.
- the Board will establish committees, sub committees or working groups to fulfil ongoing or time-limited governance functions (usually at the start of office of the new National President elect), formed of Trustees, other members, external experts, and operational staff.
- the Board regularly evaluates its own performance through the 'annual Board review', examining its impact and effectiveness and any improvements required in its organisation or operation. This is done in line with the Charity Commission Governance Code guidance.

The Society's members are organised in local Conferences to carry out the work of the charity. Conferences are grouped together in geographical areas and are overseen by District Councils which in turn report to Central Councils which are structured, as far as possible, to reflect the 23 Roman Catholic Dioceses across England & Wales. The President of each Central Council sits on the National Council. No Central Council, District Council or Conference may be established as a separate charity and all constitute parts of the Charity operating under the delegated authority of the Trustees.



SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

These committees are given delegated powers by the main Board of Trustees where each is chaired by a Board member. They are responsible for supporting a specific area of operational oversight and their activities are reported to the Board. As the number and structure of the committees reflect prevailing priorities, they are reviewed and updated periodically. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference, which are reviewed annually.

The role of each of the committees during 2023-24 was as follows:

- **Finance:** reviews and recommends for approval to the board, budgets and other financial governance matters in addition to fundraising.
- **Community Support Projects:** supports and develops sustainable community projects in appropriate areas.
- **Membership:** reviews membership issues, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels. In early 2023 this was split into 2 main areas covering the Strategic and Spiritual aspects of Membership.
- **Audit & Compliance:** oversees Society wide risks and reviews control systems (Safeguarding, Human Resources, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment, Data Protection, and Insurance arrangements) as well as overseeing all internal audit activity.
- **Safeguarding:** oversees systems to ensure that controls in place are effective and review ongoing case management and deliver training for Conference members, staff and volunteers to ensure general awareness and that procedures are followed.
- **Twinning:** views overseas aid activities from local funding to international grant applications and where appropriate emergency aid funding on an ad hoc basis.
- **Social Justice:** explores opportunities for SVP contributions to the poverty agenda, both within and outside the Society and supports campaigning activity.
- **Prisons:** ensures that the Society is fully compliant in all matters relating to working in and outside of prisons with offenders, ex-offenders and families, providing both spiritual and practical support.
- **Property:** reviews and oversees issues and risks relating to SVP property portfolio and maintains statutory requirements where the Society has residential or social housing obligations.

- **Retail & Social Enterprise:** reviews and oversees all activity associated with the national SVP portfolio of Community shops and other income generating projects that sit in either the Charity or the Trading company.
- **Vinnie Camps:** ensures that SVP (Vinnie Camps) camps provide a safe and enjoyable experience for young people in accordance with defined Safeguarding and Health & Safety procedures. In early 2023 Camps was brought under the Young Vincentians directorship but remains as a separate committee.
- **Youth:** reviews and oversee all youth related programmes across schools, colleges, youth hubs, universities, and parishes, as well as oversight of the Vinnie camps through its management team.

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- **Delivery of safe**, effective, and personalised poverty relief, especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- **Financial sustainability**, especially in the context of the current economic situation.

KEY RISKS IDENTIFIED DURING 2023-24

Key themes that develop through the Society's focus on risk management are fed into the annual strategic review (taking place each September). Primarily taking into account that the demand on services will continue to grow in the sector with an increase of over 140% on 2022-23 requests for help into National Office during the year. The cost of living issues continue to be a major concern for our beneficiaries and continues to add extra burden to the stretched resources across the Charity sector in general. Key risk areas:

Financial risks

Like many charities, the Society has been impacted by rising costs in maintenance, infrastructure, and fuel charges by suppliers as a result of the cost of living crisis. We continue to see unprecedented demand for funds and services from beneficiaries, at a time when some public services have declined. Additionally, we carried out an insurance review with an external insurance consultant to ensure the scale and complexity of services provided was fully indemnified; because of this we anticipate seeing increased costs in the premium at renewal. We remain committed to being a real living wage employer and have seen significant staff cost increases in the last year due to this. To mitigate the increasing cost base we have a number of new trading and social enterprise ventures in plan as well as continued expansion of our retail division.

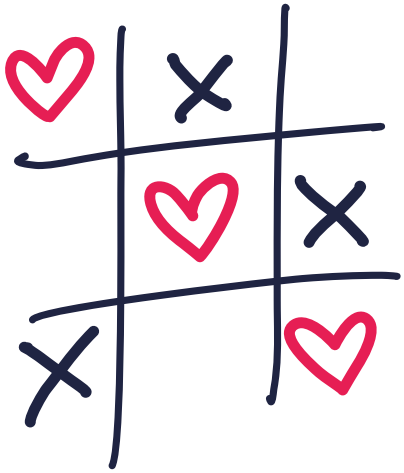
Fundraising

The fundraising landscape has also changed post pandemic due to the lack of availability of appropriate trusts and grants in the sector, opportunities are reducing as more charities apply for the same funds. To mitigate this, we have invested in further trust fund resources, taken a more targeted approach to certain applications and invested in a case management database to provide more meaningful and qualitative data on beneficiary outcomes that can be shared with potential funders.

Membership and Volunteers

The risk around a decline in active Membership post pandemic has slowed down somewhat, but we are conscious that this is still an area of risk that should continue to be monitored. As many local parishes continue to amalgamate across the country, we aim to mitigate this by welcoming new types of auxiliary members and volunteers to work with us. We aim to do this proactively by:

- Supporting "at risk" Conferences while also working with existing members to identify what form of support they may need
- Developing more hybrid Conference models than the traditional approach, welcoming others with like-minded ethos and values
- Increase flexibility for bringing in seasonal temporary auxiliary members who can only commit to volunteering on a less regular basis



KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

As we moved into a new five-year strategy early in 2023 the focus was very much about the planning and mobilisation of the strategic priorities. We also carried out a risk analysis of the objectives and saw no significant high risks associated with the plan, although the annual review process will focus on this in more detail each year. The six strategic priorities are summarised below:

1. **To put our faith and values at the heart of what we do** - the Society is Catholic and Vincentian, and the Board is keen to ensure that the organisation keeps true to these aspects of our identity which underpin our culture and ethos. Our work is informed both by Catholic Social Teaching and by our Vincentian heritage, and while we may grow and diversify our works in response to need, these are the foundations upon which we build. This foundation informs our ethos but our work is inclusive and supports all those in need, regardless of faith or belief. Our staff and many of our volunteers are of all faiths and none but they share the commitment to Vincentian service and compassion for those in need of help.

2. **To reach out and welcome those on the peripheries who need our help** - latterly the Catholic Church has undertaken a synodal process of listening and discernment. The initial published documents emphasise the need to reach out and journey with those on the peripheries. This objective is also a restatement of the words of the Vincentian prayer on the theme of our vocation, "to seek and find those who are forgotten and to bring your love to the suffering or deprived."

3. **Expand our capacity for service** - the demand for help is increasing exponentially and we know that the current economic crisis is increasing poverty in real terms across England and Wales. It is vital that our capacity increases to meet this need. The focus areas are:
   - growing the membership,
   - expanding our network of projects and services,
   - developing an infrastructure to sustain growth and,
   - forging new collaborative partnerships which enhance our service.

4. **To campaign for social justice in order to effect change for those we serve** - in our Vincentian prayer on the theme of social justice we are called "to be a voice for the voiceless." While we have long been a Society of practical action, we have not always been as strong on social justice and addressing the systemic causes of poverty, be that government policy or regional and national structures which contribute to disadvantage.

5. **To achieve financial sustainability** - sustained growth and expansion is only possible if it is underpinned by sustainable income. The Society continues to develop a portfolio of funding streams to provide resilient funding. Fundraising, retail, and our trading operations are all key to those plans.

6. **To build a brand within and beyond the Catholic Church** - in order to reach more people, to grow our services and develop our income streams, it is important that people know who we are and what we do. We want to develop a strong and well-known identity in all areas of our work that is consistent, easily recognisable and speaks of who we are, what we do and what we stand for.



OTHER UNDERTAKINGS

The SVP is the custodian trustee for the following three undertakings:

- **The Pen-y-Pound House Fund** was formed in 1973 to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. It comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.
- **The TB Hunt Fund** is a permanent endowment fund established with monies left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need in these areas.
- **The Francis Thompson Fund** is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy whose terms are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool.

In addition, the Society has oversight of:

- **The David Young Charity** (charity number: 238877) was originally set up in 1860 to aid poor relatives of the Young family. Under a scheme established in 1978 the charity aims to assist, in addition to Young family relatives, those who are in financial difficulties and who, because they are members of the Society, are not eligible to seek support from the Society itself.

INVESTMENTS

The Board of Trustees sets the overall performance and ethical parameters within which our investment managers operate. The investment managers report quarterly and meet annually with the Finance Committee to review performance and outlook. Performance is measured against the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers balance index. The primary objectives of our investment policy are to:

- Generate income to fund operational costs;
- Provide capital growth to fund new activities; and
- Offer diversity across asset classes, including fixed interest investments and medium risk equities.

The Trustees have adopted an ethical investment policy in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church. During the year the investments achieved a return of +9.34% against an index of +10.95%.

RESERVES

The Trustees annual review the level of reserves to be held by the charity to ensure they are adequate. Free reserves of the charity are considered to be its unrestricted funds not designated for specific spending. Our reserves target is to hold a minimum of three months' spending in free reserves. Free reserves of the charity were £4.8m at 31 March 2024 (2023: £3.5 million) which represents 4.5 months (2023: 3.6 months) of unrestricted general fund expenditure. This balance does not include £4.0 million of fixed assets (2023: 3.7 million). The level of reserves is above the target of three months. The Trustees are reviewing this closely with a view to increasing reserves slightly in the next 12 months.

MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES

Grant making

The St Vincent de Paul Society makes grants to individuals in need and to organisations delivering similar objectives to the Society and where members are directly involved in volunteering. This includes grants to overseas SVP Conferences (Twinning). All major grants are approved in advance by the Trustees, who ensure that appropriate controls and reporting frameworks are in place.

Statement of fundraising practice 2023-24

It was another busy year for fundraising and our donors and supporters continued to humble us with their kindness and generosity. We deeply appreciate their ongoing financial support without which we would not be able to deliver and grow our services and support our beneficiaries and service users across our membership, support services and dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

The new financial year began with the launch of our first ever legacy giving campaign which included a direct mail and email campaign as well as new legacy promotional materials. The year saw a continuation of our weekly lottery, running with 163 players, and another successful summer raffle with 64,702 tickets sold. Our annual Christmas appeal raised £117,806. Our generous major donors supported us with gifts enabling a match-funding pot of £42,500 to incentivise pound for pound match giving during the appeal. Throughout the year, we continued to benefit from grants, in-memoriam donations, gifts in wills, and donations made through the purchase of alternative gifts in our Christmas catalogue.

Donors to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) can be confident that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice which covers the requirements charities must follow as set out in the Charities Act 2016. All our staff in the national fundraising team are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, and we join online fundraising networks, attend webinars and online fundraising Conferences to keep up to date with regulations, the latest research and reports, trends and developments in fundraising and the future funding landscape.

The Board of Trustees is kept informed of fundraising practice through regular reports from the Director of Fundraising. Several board members are personally involved in supporting and promoting fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas and Rise to the Challenge appeals.

No commercial participators were engaged to carry out fundraising on behalf of the charity. However, due to fundraising staff shortages and a challenging recruitment market, professional fundraisers were engaged on a freelance basis to submit applications on behalf of the charity during quarter four. During the year, no failure to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice was reported and no fundraising complaints were received.



St Vincent's Leeds

Our fundraising year in numbers 2023-24:

1
'Let your kindness live on' legacy campaign

17
Delighted summer raffle winners

46
Gifts in wills received

130
Free will writing requests

238
Donations made in memory of loved ones

163
SVP lottery players

318
Friends of the SVP

791
New online donors

5,096
Donations for where they are needed most

£12,841
Raised from the SVP weekly lottery

£42,500
In match funding for our appeals

£60,200
Raised in requests to Acts 435 for grants

64,702
SVP Summer Raffle tickets sold

£136,822
Raised by our Christmas Kindness appeal

£813,757
Raised in legacy gifts

**Received up to 31 March 2024*

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Saffery LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the charitable company was passed at the Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities - charitable company

The Trustees (who are also directors of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

  and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

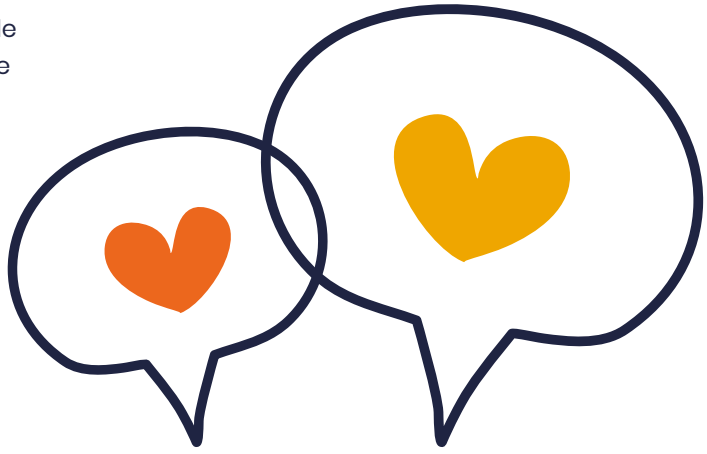
Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2023-24 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on 22 November 2024 at the annual AGM and signed on their behalf by



Elaine Heyworth
National President and Chair of Trustees




FIRE
Health and Safety Law
What you need to know

AUDITOR'S REPORT

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and charity sheets and the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 34, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed in the following.

IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISKS RELATED TO IRREGULARITIES

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sectors in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

AUDIT RESPONSE TO RISKS IDENTIFIED

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items, including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities**. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Saffery LLP

18 December 2024

Sally Appleton
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Saffery LLP
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors
10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. The Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

The overall net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2024 was a deficit of (£1,514,198) compared to a deficit of £1,044,650 in the year ended 31 March 2023.

INCOME

Total income for the year increased by £1,574,772 to £15,797,501 compared to £14,222,729 in 2023.

EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure in 2024 amounted to £17,588,493 compared to £15,281,199 in 2023 representing an increase of £2,307,294. This was largely due to increased expenditure across all services and especially on visits and assistance to individuals and families compared to the previous year (£3,879,361 in 2024 compared to £3,585,304 in 2023), retail shops expansion (£4,458,313 in 2024 compared to £3,819,343 in 2023) and spend at our Support Centres (£3,381,886 in 2024 compared to £2,285,906 in 2023).

GAINS AND LOSSES

The gain on investments for 2024 amounted to £214,332 compared to a loss of (£188,340) in 2023.

PENSION FUND

The actuarial loss recognised on the pension fund in 2024 amounted to (£42,000) compared to a gain of £215,000 in 2023.

CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

The group cash at bank and in hand amounted to £5,066,102 in 2024 compared to £6,814,086 in 2023, representing a decrease of £1,747,984.

TOTAL FUNDS

The total group funds at 31 March 2024 amounted to £11,246,400 compared to £12,760,598 at 31 March 2023 representing a decrease of (£1,514,198). A comparative summary of each category of fund is included in the balance sheet, and there is a detailed breakdown in note 24 of the accounts.



SVP Brentwood Vinnie Camp

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	**6,133,351**	**826,659**	-	**6,960,010**	6,138,642
Other trading activities	3	**473,724**	-	-	**473,724**	172,349
Income from investments		**208,206**	**34,180**	-	**242,386**	255,070
Income from charitable activities:						
Retail Income		**4,079,979**	-	-	**4,079,979**	3,921,447
Holidays and camps		**177,452**	-	-	**177,452**	155,865
Residential provision		**2,550,492**	-	-	**2,550,492**	2,341,979
Community Support Projects		**185,396**	**236,720**	-	**422,116**	349,434
Social Enterprise Activities		**638,951**	-	-	**638,951**	638,573
Youth Development		**22,281**	-	-	**22,281**	22,412
Other income		**230,110**	-	-	**230,110**	226,958
Total income	4	**14,699,942**	**1,097,559**	-	**15,797,501**	14,222,729
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	**1,074,221**	-	-	**1,074,221**	766,054
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		**3,475,934**	**403,427**	-	**3,879,361**	3,585,304
Retail		**4,458,313**	-	-	**4,458,313**	3,819,343
Holidays and camps		**521,118**	-	-	**521,118**	446,156
Residential provision		**2,154,015**	-	-	**2,154,015**	2,362,569
Community Support Projects		**3,145,166**	**236,720**	-	**3,381,886**	2,285,906
Social Enterprise Activities		**1,039,620**	-	-	**1,039,620**	898,486
Youth Development Programme		**423,319**	-	-	**423,319**	347,100
Twinning		**298,612**	**358,028**	-	**656,640**	770,281
Total expenditure	6	**16,590,318**	**998,175**	-	**17,588,493**	15,281,199
Net gains / (losses) on investments	14	**110,801**	-	**103,531**	**214,332**	(188,340)
Share of profit / (loss) in jointly controlled entities	18	**104,462**	-	-	**104,462**	(12,840)
Net (expenditure) / income	7	**(1,675,113)**	**99,384**	**103,531**	**(1,472,198)**	(1,259,650)
Transfers between funds	24	**1,802,542**	**(1,802,542)**	-	-	-
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	-	**(42,000)**	-	**(42,000)**	215,000
Net movement in funds		**127,429**	**(1,745,158)**	**103,531**	**(1,514,198)**	(1,044,650)
Funds at the start of the year	23	**8,358,703**	**3,354,886**	**1,047,009**	**12,760,598**	13,805,248
Funds at the end of the year	23	**8,486,132**	**1,609,728**	**1,150,540**	**11,246,400**	12,760,598

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 24 to the financial statements. The comparative consolidated statement of financial activities is disclosed in note 30 to the financial statements.

GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS

as at 31 March 2024

	Note	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	**2,795,598**	**2,695,612**	2,406,020	2,369,225
Mixed motive Investment freehold property	12 & 13	**1,171,007**	**1,171,007**	1,081,626	1,081,626
Investments	14	**2,671,018**	**1,592,981**	2,456,686	1,460,270
Investments in subsidiaries	16	-	**1**	-	1
Investments in joint ventures	18	**119,470**	**-**	123,429	-
		6,757,093	**5,459,601**	6,067,761	4,911,122
Current assets					
Stock		**29,397**	**11,597**	15,580	5,541
Debtors	19	**842,463**	**1,152,623**	842,735	1,146,185
Cash at bank and in hand		**5,066,102**	**4,799,086**	6,814,086	6,609,284
		5,937,962	**5,963,306**	7,672,401	7,761,010
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	20	**1,010,875**	**1,038,715**	695,205	744,603
Net current assets		**4,927,087**	**4,924,591**	6,977,196	7,016,407
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	21	**437,780**	**437,780**	284,359	284,359
Total assets less current liabilities		**11,246,400**	**9,946,412**	12,760,598	11,643,170
Defined benefit scheme pension asset	22	-	-	-	-
Net assets		**11,246,400**	**9,946,412**	12,760,598	11,643,170
Funds					
Endowment funds		**1,150,540**	**201,279**	1,047,009	181,158
Restricted funds		**1,609,728**	**1,339,126**	3,354,886	3,150,498
Unrestricted funds:					
Revaluation reserve		**625,477**	**625,477**	625,477	625,477
Designated funds		**5,780,958**	**5,663,996**	6,381,433	6,368,933
General funds		**2,079,697**	**2,116,534**	1,351,793	1,317,104
Total funds	24	**11,246,400**	**9,946,412**	12,760,598	11,643,170

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 22nd November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Elaine Heyworth, National President

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales). Company Number: 3174679.

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	*a*	**(1,546,585)**	(564,365)
Net cash used in by investing activities	*b*	**(354,821)**	(350,530)
Net cash provided by financing activities		**153,421**	293,280
(Decrease) in cash in the year		**(1,747,985)**	(621,615)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
(Decrease) in cash for the year		**(1,747,985)**	(621,615)
Net funds at beginning of year		**6,814,086**	7,435,701
Net funds at end of year	*c*	**5,066,101**	6,814,086

a. Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities

Net (expenditure) before revaluations	**(1,790,992)**	(1,058,470)
Investment income	**(242,386)**	(255,070)
Depreciation	**226,668**	200,072
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	8,322
Defined benefit scheme net interest expense	**(5,000)**	(1,000)
Current service cost (lower than) / in excess of employer contributions	**(37,000)**	216,000
Increase in creditors	**315,670**	142,547
Decrease in debtors	**272**	186,914
Increase in stocks	**(13,817)**	(3,680)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	**(1,546,585)**	(564,365)

b. Net cash (used in) investing activities

Investment income	**242,386**	255,070
Proceeds from sale of listed investments	**140,289**	170,820
Purchase of investments	**(143,673)**	(167,580)
Unrealised Gains eliminated on disposal	**(1,945)**	-
Decrease in Revive investment	**108,421**	-
Decrease / (Increase) in cash held within investment portfolio	**5,328**	(8,817)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(705,627)**	(600,023)
	(354,821)	(350,530)

c. Analysis of Net Funds

	As at 01 Apr 2023	Cash flows	As at 31 Mar 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	6,814,086	(1,747,985)	**5,066,101**
	6,814,086	(1,747,985)	**5,066,101**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Charitable company information

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) ("the Society" or "the Charity") is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

b) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified by the recognition of investment properties, and financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out in the following pages.

c) Consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (England and Wales) Trading Limited, on a line by line basis. The Society also holds a controlling interest in the Pen Y Pound House Fund, the David Young's Charity and the TB Hunt Trust. These are included within the group accounts. The results of the charity comprise the results of the National Office, Conferences and Special Works of the Society. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented because it has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Society is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee and exercises joint control over the entity via a membership agreement. Revive Leeds CIC is accounted for in the Society's consolidated accounts using the equity method. The Society's share of the profit or loss as well as the Society's share of any reserve movements of Revive Leeds CIC are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they occur.



d) Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. Individual projects within the Society are largely expected to be self-funding and shop income has continued to perform well during the year ended 31st March 2024. This, combined with the reserves the charity holds, has enabled the Trustees to conclude that the charity will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months following approval of these financial statements. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern and so the financial statements continue to be prepared on this basis.

e) Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pound sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the period end date. Gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

f) Income

Voluntary income received by way of donations to the Society is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the accounts in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which entitlement is notified, where there is probability of receipt and where the amount can be measured reliably.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are recognised when authorised for payment.

Governance costs relate to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Expenditure on raising funds relates to the costs incurred by the group and Society in raising funds for the charitable work.

Allocation of support costs incurred at the Society's administrative centres

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where relevant, the salary, office and premises costs of the administrative centres which represent the charity's support costs are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**27%**
Shops and furniture stores	**24%**
Holidays and camps	**4%**
Residential provision	**7%**
Twinning	**5%**
Youth development programme	**5%**
Support centres	**19%**
Expenditure on raising funds	**4%**
	100%

h) Fixed assets

Assets are capitalised at cost, as detailed in note 12.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	**2% straight line**
Leasehold property	**over the period of the lease**
Computer equipment	**33% straight line**
Furniture and equipment	**20% straight line**
Motor vehicles and caravans	**20% straight line**

Land is not depreciated.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Mixed motive investments are held at cost as this is deemed to be not materially different to fair value. The value is reviewed annually by management for impairment and provision made if appropriate.

i) Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gains or losses for the period on revaluation or disposal are taken to the statement of financial activities. The Trustees consider short term deposits to be liquid resources.

j) Assets held for sale

The charity's mixed movement investments are measured at cost and represent properties held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects.

k) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is measured on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

l) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less.

m) Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund.

Designated funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the Trustees of the Society.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Endowment funds are funds for which the assets must be held permanently by the Society. Further details of these funds are shown in note 24.

n) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

o) Pensions

Defined contribution scheme: The Society operates a stakeholder group personal pension plan. In addition, the Society contributes to the personal pension schemes of a number of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the schemes by the Society to the funds. The Society has no liability under the schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Defined benefit scheme: Some of the Society's employees are members of the Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Society in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting asset or liability is recognised in the balance sheet. In the case of an asset this is recognised to the extent it is considered recoverable through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the Scheme. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

p) Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets: Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Other financial assets: Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets: Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets: Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Classification of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities: Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

q) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

Critical judgements: The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and note 1. h) for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.



St Vincent's Bradford Community Garden

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	**369,409**	-	-	**369,409**	307,247
Church collections	**459,219**	**38,994**	-	**498,213**	651,238
Legacies	**811,445**	**2,312**	-	**813,757**	947,669
Other fundraising activities	**254,765**	**196,597**	-	**451,362**	488,920
Other donations and voluntary grants	**4,238,513**	**588,756**	-	**4,827,269**	3,743,568
	6,133,351	**826,659**	-	**6,960,010**	6,138,642

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	307,247	-	-	307,247
Church collections	605,020	46,218	-	651,238
Legacies	937,519	10,150	-	947,669
Other fundraising activities	195,798	293,122	-	488,920
Other donations and voluntary grants	3,185,101	558,467	-	3,743,568
	5,230,685	907,957	-	6,138,642

Donations and legacies received cover a number of different charitable activities.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading activities	**409,524**	-	-	**409,524**	115,040
Income from national raffle	**64,200**	-	-	**64,200**	57,309
	473,724	-	-	**473,724**	172,349

All the above trading activities comprise unrestricted funds in both periods.

4. TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after including the following main grants:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Visits & assistance to individuals & families		
Porta Pia	**35,000**	35,000
Porticus	-	12,165
Household Support Fund Grant	**125,000**	-
Shops & furniture stores		
Sheffield City Council - Voluntary Sector Grants Fund	**53,283**	53,283
Leeds City Council	-	35,780
Support centres		
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**386,184**	272,969
Wirral Borough Council	**194,147**	81,147
National Lottery (various programmes)	**135,640**	-
National Citizens Advice	**111,720**	110,191
Ministry of Justice - Grand Avenues	**102,057**	-
Garfield Weston	**75,000**	-
Charities Trust Grant	**73,500**	25,000
Hollyhock Charity	**65,000**	-
Digital Stations Grant	**40,000**	-
London North Eastern Railway	**33,334**	75,000
Charities Aid Foundation	**33,200**	-
Leeds Community Foundation	**25,000**	27,000
Advice UK	**23,175**	-
Community Investment Board - Southend	**22,422**	22,422
Veolia Enviromental Trust	**20,400**	-
Seeking Asylum Fund	**12,331**	
Newcastle Community Foundation	**11,200**	15,450
Alive in Faith (East Anglia Diocese)	**10,000**	20,000
Morrisons Foundation	**10,000**	-
Mercy Project (Sothccio)	**10,000**	-
Innovation Fund	**10,000**	-
Primary Health	**10,000**	-
EU Settlement Scheme	-	43,650
Material Focus for Social Enterprise	-	39,824
St Mary's University Sunderland	-	30,350
Barbour Foundation	-	15,000
Newcastle City Council	-	10,000
Land Securities	-	10,000
NHS Mid & South	-	10,000

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	**598,419**	-	-	**598,419**	352,896
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**40,516**	-	-	**40,516**	14,163
Fundraising expenses	**38,594**	-	-	**38,594**	30,761
Trading activities	**30,361**	-	-	**30,361**	22,836
Investment managers' fees	**13,374**	-	-	**13,374**	9,658
Property expenses	**109,346**	-	-	**109,346**	73,309
Office expenses	**38,736**	-	-	**38,736**	57,343
Other costs	**72,247**	-	-	**72,247**	106,563
Support costs (note 6)	**132,628**	-	-	**132,628**	98,525
	1,074,221	-	-	**1,074,221**	766,054

All the above expenditure was from unrestricted funds in both periods.

6. EXPENDITURE

	Year ended 31 March 2024				
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	**598,420**	-	**343,173**	**132,628**	**1,074,221**
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**325,920**	-	**2,670,510**	**882,931**	**3,879,361**
Retail	**2,165,158**	-	**1,499,193**	**793,962**	**4,458,313**
Holidays and camps	-	-	**380,797**	**140,321**	**521,118**
Residential provision	**1,537,583**	-	**374,987**	**241,445**	**2,154,015**
Community Support Projects	**1,624,784**	-	**1,150,378**	**606,724**	**3,381,886**
Social Enterprise Activities	**585,004**	-	**311,405**	**143,211**	**1,039,620**
Twinning	**44,823**	**422,243**	**34,446**	**155,128**	**656,640**
Youth Development Programme	**202,962**	-	**64,588**	**155,769**	**423,319**
Total charitable activities	**6,486,234**	**422,243**	**6,486,304**	**3,119,491**	**16,514,272**
Support costs	**1,998,700**	**29,415**	**1,224,004**	**(3,252,119)**	-
	9,083,354	**451,658**	**8,053,481**	-	**17,588,493**

	Year ended 31 March 2023				
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	352,895	-	314,634	98,525	766,054
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	243,511	-	2,365,532	976,261	3,585,304
Retail	1,947,861	-	1,197,470	674,012	3,819,343
Holidays and camps	-	-	278,567	167,589	446,156
Residential provision	1,778,337	-	372,502	211,730	2,362,569
Community Support Projects	1,296,630	-	702,886	286,390	2,285,906
Social Enterprise Activities	525,425	-	213,913	159,148	898,486
Twinning	53,499	644,586	2,820	69,376	770,281
Youth Development Programme	174,468	-	61,626	111,006	347,100
Total charitable activities	6,019,731	644,586	5,195,316	2,655,512	14,515,145
Support costs	1,684,023	58,806	1,011,207	(2,754,036)	-
	8,056,649	703,392	6,521,157	1	15,281,199

7. NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Depreciation	**226,668**	200,072
Trustees' indemnity insurance	**3,470**	3,900
Trustees' remuneration	-	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**3,920**	2,976
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Statutory audit	**35,000**	35,000
Prior year audit fees	-	2,000
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	**933,510**	808,448

During the year 8 (2023: 8) trustees were reimbursed expenses. This totalled £3,920 (2023: £2,976). In addition £Nil (2023: £Nil) was paid on behalf of Trustees directly to third parties. Expenses related to reimbursement for travel and accommodation, subsistence, telephone, postage and stationery and are in relation to their roles as trustees.

In accordance with the articles of association, the Society paid a premium of £3,470 (2023: £3,900) for trustee indemnity insurance to the value of £6 million (2023: £6 million).

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**7,902,633**	6,726,971
Social security costs	**655,035**	569,262
Pension contributions	**525,686**	760,416
	9,083,354	8,056,649

Included in staff costs and paid in the year were redundancy and termination payments totalling £24,030 - 4 employees (2023 : £17,504 - 8 employees),

The earnings, including pension contribution and employer's National Insurance contributions, of key management personnel (including the CEO) in 2023-24 were £213,149 (2023: £204,376). This related to two roles (2023: two).

During the year there were six employees who received employment benefits (excluding employer's pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

£60,000 - £70,000 - 5 (2023: 4).

£70,000 - £80,000 - 3 (2023: 0).

£90,000 - £100,000 - 0 (2023: 1).

£100,000 - £110,000 - 2 (2023: 1).

The average number of employees (on a full time equivalent basis) during the year was as follows:

	Actual		FTE	
	2024	**2023**	**2024**	**2023**
	No.	**No.**	**No.**	**No.**
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**35**	38	**17**	17
Retail	**166**	183	**73**	79
Residential provision	**77**	64	**35**	35
Youth Development	**6**	6	**6**	5
Community Support Projects	**111**	77	**62**	46
Social Enterprise Activities	**33**	35	**21**	21
Twinning	**3**	3	**1**	2
Fundraising	**25**	26	**18**	16
Support staff	**26**	24	**21**	17
Governance	**13**	14	**9**	11
	495	470	**263**	249

The Society relies substantially on voluntary services provided by its members across the country. It is not possible to quantify the value of these services to the Society.

9. GRANTS PROGRAMME

During the year, the Society paid out grants to a number of organisations through the Twinning Programme and directly from the National Society. The majority of the grants were paid to SVP societies in other countries.

	2024 Total	**2023 Total**
	£	**£**
SVP India	**204,742**	222,016
Indian student scholarships programme	**39,670**	49,814
SVP Sudan	**20,109**	68,622
SVP South Sudan	**84,122**	136,173
SVP Romania	**14,350**	7,750
SVP Grenada	**25,691**	15,620
SVP Guyana	**6,634**	11,036
Payments from disaster fund:		
India	**3,000**	-
Lebanon	**2,000**	2,000
Ukraine - refugee assistance	**21,925**	-
Twinning projects	-	20,281
Ukraine	-	134,049
South Africa	-	6,843
Vincentian Volunteers	-	6,000
Council General International	**29,415**	23,188
	451,658	703,392

10. SUPPORT COSTS

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Staff costs	**1,594,274**	1,268,158
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**146,711**	105,786
Office costs	**288,199**	245,517
Premises costs	**212,808**	167,882
Bank charges	**48,382**	57,524
Depreciation	**17,261**	28,964
Legal and professional fees	**110,220**	104,237
Other costs	**260,203**	209,736
Governance costs	**574,061**	566,232
	3,252,119	2,754,036

Support costs included the following expenditure on governance:

Staff costs	**404,426**	415,865
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**14,027**	16,822
Auditors fees and expenses:		
Net audit fee (note 7)	**35,000**	35,000
Disbursements & Other Services	**6,884**	3,000
Irrecoverable VAT	**7,267**	7,267
Other professional fees	**44,007**	54,153
Board expenses	**43,650**	25,718
Other costs	**18,800**	8,407
	574,061	566,232

11. TAXATION

The Society is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. Available taxable profits are Gift Aided to the Society by The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - THE GROUP AND THE CHARITY

	Freehold property	Leasehold property and improvements	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles and caravans	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At the start of the year	2,807,586	1,408,374	1,100,050	230,279	**5,546,289**
Additions in year	337,153	80,526	245,041	42,907	**705,627**
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-
At the end of the year	3,144,739	1,488,900	1,345,091	273,186	**6,251,916**
DEPRECIATION					
At the start of the year	313,483	639,899	901,132	204,129	**2,058,643**
Charge for the year	38,628	74,805	99,165	14,070	**226,668**
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-
At the end of the year	352,111	714,704	1,000,297	218,199	**2,285,311**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2024	**2,792,628**	**774,196**	**344,794**	**54,987**	**3,966,605**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2023	**2,494,103**	**768,475**	**198,918**	**26,150**	**3,487,646**

The above Fixed Assets include a net value of £99,988 relating to the subsidiary, SVP Trading Limited (2023: £36,795).

13. MIXED MOTIVE INVESTMENTS

The charity holds £1,171,007 (2023: £1,081,626) as mixed motive investments, which represent three freehold properties (2023: three) held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects. These are included in the Freehold Property shown in note 12.

14. INVESTMENTS

	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
	£	£	£	£
Market value at the start of the year	**2,456,686**	**1,460,270**	2,639,449	1,520,936
Opening Cash Account adjustment	**(31,893)**	**(31,893)**	(23,076)	(23,076)
Other Movements	-	-	(1)	42,727
Additions at cost	**143,673**	**143,673**	167,580	167,580
Disposal at market value	**(140,289)**	**(140,980)**	(170,820)	(170,820)
Realised gains / (losses)	**27,906**	**27,951**	(6,521)	(6,521)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**188,370**	**107,395**	(181,818)	(102,449)
	2,644,453	**1,566,416**	2,424,793	1,428,377
Cash held with investment managers	**26,565**	**26,565**	31,893	31,893
Total investment portfolio market value	**2,671,018**	**1,592,981**	2,456,686	1,460,270
Historic cost at the year end	**231,115**	**232,879**	199,825	202,235

All the investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and are intended to provide an investment return. Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio, as above, comprise:

	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
	£	£	£	£
Catholic Fund at CCLA	**1,324,775**	**491,606**	1,207,864	450,084

15. RESULTS OF PARENT CHARITY

These accounts do not include a Statement of Financial Activities for the parent charity, as permitted under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The relevant figures for the year ended 31 March for the parent charity were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	**15,228,406**	13,902,623
Deficit for the year	**(1,696,758)**	(891,257)

16. INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES - CHARITY

The charity has an unlisted investment with a historical cost of £1 representing its 100% shareholding in The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited, which is a company registered in England that operates accommodation and sells Christmas cards and other goods. A summary of that company's financial position is set out in note 17.

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

The charitable company held a controlling interest in following entities during the year:

- The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (a subsidiary charity, number 1053992-1)
- David Young's Charity (a registered charity, number 238877)
- The T B Hunt Trust Fund (a registered charity, number 216406)
- The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited (company registration number 04373817)

All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the Statement of Financial Activities.

A summary of the results of the subsidiaries is shown below:

The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (Capital and Income)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources	**14,159**	14,143
Charitable expenditure	-	(42,803)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**14,159**	(28,660)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**46,575**	(35,875)
Net movement in funds	**60,734**	(64,535)
Funds brought forward	**398,184**	462,719
Funds carried forward	**458,918**	398,184
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**514,728**	468,153
Net current liabilities	**(55,810)**	(69,969)
	458,918	398,184
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**434,722**	388,147
Income fund	**24,196**	10,037
	458,918	398,184

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the Pen-Y-Pound Fund. The trust's main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff.

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS (CONTINUED)

David Young's Charity

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources	**11,262**	9,937
Charitable expenditure	**(15,091)**	(11,315)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**(3,829)**	(1,378)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**8,065**	(21,299)
Realised losses	**(44)**	-
Net movement in funds	**4,192**	(22,677)
Funds brought forward	**242,404**	265,081
Funds carried forward	**246,596**	242,404
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**244,868**	238,636
Net current assets	**1,728**	3,768
	246,596	242,404
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**196,109**	188,088
Restricted fund	**50,487**	54,316
	246,596	242,404

David Young's Charity is controlled by the Society as the Society appoints the Trustees of the charity. The figures included in these consolidated accounts are for the year ended 31 March 2023 as this is the date to which the subsidiary prepares their accounts; there have been no material changes in the three months to 31 March 2024. The Trust's main objective is the relief of hardship or distress by making grants of money.

T B Hunt Trust Fund

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources	**8,759**	8,749
Charitable expenditure	**(7,220)**	(4,741)
Net incoming resources for the year	**1,539**	4,008
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**28,814**	(22,195)
Net movement in funds	**30,353**	(18,187)
Funds brought forward	**319,659**	337,846
Funds carried forward	**350,012**	319,659
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**318,441**	289,627
Current assets	**31,571**	30,032
	350,012	319,659
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**318,430**	289,616
Income fund	**31,582**	30,043
	350,012	319,659

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the T B Hunt Trust Fund. The trust's main objective is the relief of poverty amongst Roman Catholics in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	**543,476**	287,277
Cost of sales	**(45,731)**	(23,551)
Gross profit	**497,745**	263,726
Administrative expenses	**(370,253)**	(230,625)
Operating profit for the financial year	**127,492**	33,101
Interest payable	**(1,753)**	(740)
	125,739	32,361
Gift aid to parent undertaking	**(34,500)**	(15,395)
Net profit	**91,239**	16,966
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Fixed Assets	**99,988**	36,796
Current assets	**157,204**	150,696
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(132,201)**	(153,740)
	124,991	33,752

The trading company began in July 2003 and is based at the Society's National Office. The principal activity during the year was the management of accommodation for temporarily homeless families, sales of Christmas cards, Fairtrade items, retail sale of electrical household appliances and similar items.

18. INVESTMENTS IN JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITIES

The charity is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee, and jointly controls the entity via a members' agreement with the other members of the company. This agreement stipulates that profits made are distributed to split evenly. The SVP's share of the assets and liabilities of the jointly controlled entity is 50% during the year.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Value of share in Jointly Controlled Entity - brought forward	**123,429**	136,269
Share of profit for the year	**104,462**	108,421
Share of profit distributed	**(108,421)**	(121,261)
Valuation carried forward	**119,470**	123,429

Related party transactions are shown in note 26.

19. DEBTORS

	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	**141,589**	**133,083**	177,475	169,086
Other debtors	**35,445**	**143,172**	2,082	123,780
Prepayments	**552,633**	**544,459**	451,245	455,113
Accrued income	**50,710**	**67,744**	137,245	137,245
Other taxation and social security	**62,086**	**50,929**	74,688	82,763
Amounts due from subsidiaries	-	**213,236**	-	178,198
	842,463	**1,152,623**	842,735	1,146,185

All debtors this year and in the prior year are due within one year from the Balance Sheet date. Amounts due from subsidiaries include a loan of £20,912 (2023: £22,500) to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited. Loan repayments are made yearly and the subsidiary accrues interest at a rate of 1% over bank base rate. The subsidiary has given the Society a floating charge over its assets as security.

20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	**376,593**	**414,098**	272,420	328,251
Other creditors	**76,187**	**91,459**	38,265	61,565
Other taxation and social security	**158,591**	**158,591**	136,355	136,355
Accruals	**275,675**	**250,738**	157,684	127,951
Deferred income	**107,482**	**107,482**	81,560	81,560
Mortgage on freehold property	**16,347**	**16,347**	8,921	8,921
	1,010,875	**1,038,715**	695,205	744,603

Included within other creditors are outstanding pension contributions of £75,676 (2023: £65,171).

21. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
	£	£	£	£
Mortgage on freehold property	**437,780**	**437,780**	293,280	293,280
	437,780	**437,780**	293,280	293,280

The mortgage on the freehold property, Amelie House, in Cromer is held with the NatWest Bank. The loan amount is £300,000 paid over a 20 year term. The first 10 years are on a Fixed rate at 5.24% and the remaining 10 years at 2.4% over the bank's base rate unless otherwise agreed. The mortgage on the Freehold Property at Newcastle Deaf Centre is held with the NatWest Bank. The loan amount is £270,000 (reduced by a early repayment of £95,000) paid over a 20 year term. The first 10 years are on a Fixed rate at 6.61% and the remaining 10 years at 2.5% over the bank's base rate unless otherwise agreed. The bank has a registered Charge at Companies House dated 5th July 2022 on the property by way of legal mortgage.



St Vincent's Bradford

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY

Some of the Society's employees belong to a Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS): the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund (TWPF).

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014'.

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2022 and the contributions to be paid until 31 March 2024 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Fund Administering Authority responsible for the governance of the Fund is South Tyneside.

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Administering Authority) is shown in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Risks associated with the Fund in relation to accounting

Asset volatility: The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields. If assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which, while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term, creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

Changes in Bond Yield: A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result.

Inflation Risk: The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are either unaffected or loosely correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit.

Life expectancy: The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

Exiting employers: Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further the assets at exit in respect of 'orphan liabilities' may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY (CONTINUED)

	TWPF	
	2024	**2023**
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**4.8%**	4.7%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**2.6%**	2.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.6%**	2.7%
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.1%**	4.2%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed remaining life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	TWPF	
	2024	**2023**
Retiring today:		
Males	**21.0**	21.6
Females	**24.2**	24.6
Retiring in 20 years:		
Males	**22.3**	22.9
Females	**25.6**	26.1

The Society's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	TWPF	
	2024	**2023**
	%	**%**
Equities	**50.6%**	51.2%
Properties	**10.4%**	10.5%
Government bonds	**1.3%**	1.3%
Corporate bonds	**19.5%**	19.5%
Multi Asset Credit	**4.6%**	4.5%
Cash	**0.7%**	1.8%
Other	**12.9%**	11.2%
Total	**100.0%**	100.0%

The actual return on scheme assets is (£348,000) (2023: (£450,000)).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities:	2024	2023
	£	£
Current service cost	**(222,000)**	(518,000)
Interest income	-	-
Interest expense	**5,000**	1,000
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	**(217,000)**	(517,000)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Brought forward	**4,749,000**	6,013,000
Funds brought in on transfer of employment	-	-
Current service cost	**222,000**	518,000
Interest expense	**219,000**	162,000
Employee contributions	**53,000**	56,000
Actuarial gain	**(192,000)**	(1,893,000)
Benefits paid	**(246,000)**	(107,000)
Carried forward	**4,805,000**	4,749,000

Changes in the fair value of Society's share of scheme assets:	2024	2023
	£	£
Brought forward	**7,209,000**	6,610,000
Interest income	**340,000**	182,000
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	**87,000**	166,000
Employer contributions	**259,000**	302,000
Employee contributions	**53,000**	56,000
Benefits paid	**(246,000)**	(107,000)
Carried forward	**7,702,000**	7,209,000
Fair value of Scheme Assets	**7,702,000**	7,209,000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	**(4,805,000)**	(4,749,000)
Restriction on recognition of scheme assets	**(2,897,000)**	(2,460,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability) / asset	-	-

23. ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Year Ended 31 March 2024			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**3,966,605**	-	-	**3,966,605**
Investments	**1,474,624**	**254,071**	**1,061,793**	**2,790,488**
Net current assets	**3,482,683**	**1,355,657**	**88,747**	**4,927,087**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	**(437,780)**	-	-	**(437,780)**
Pension liability	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of the year	**8,486,132**	**1,609,728**	**1,150,540**	**11,246,400**

	Year Ended 31 March 2023			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,487,646	-	-	3,487,646
Investments	1,367,782	254,071	958,262	2,580,115
Net current assets	3,796,555	3,100,815	88,747	6,986,117
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	(293,280)	-	-	(293,280)
Pension liability	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of the year	8,358,703	3,354,886	1,047,009	12,760,598



SVP Revive, Sunderland

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At the start of the year	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At the end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	188,088	-	-	-	8,021	**196,109**
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	388,147	-	-	-	46,575	**434,722**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	289,616	-	-	-	28,814	**318,430**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	181,158	-	-	-	20,121	**201,279**
Total endowment funds	**1,047,009**	-	-	-	**103,531**	**1,150,540**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	53,379	11,262	(15,091)	-		**49,550**
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	10,037	14,159	-	-	-	**24,196**
T B Hunt Trust income fund	30,043	8,759	(7,220)	-	-	**31,582**
Charity:						
Approved premises, Newcastle	358,000	-	-	-	(42,000)	**316,000**
Community Grant	25,000	-	-	(25,000)	-	-
Restricted legacies	1,679,266		-	(1,679,266)	-	-
Revive Leeds	110,929	-	-	-	-	**110,929**
Twinning	263,583	390,200	(358,028)	-	-	**295,755**
Youth Hollyhock fund	-	-	-	54,345	-	**54,345**
Special restricted funds	648,519	-	-	(152,621)	-	**495,898**
Other restricted funds	176,130	673,179	(617,836)	-	-	**231,473**
Total restricted funds	**3,354,886**	**1,097,559**	**(998,175)**	**(1,802,542)**	**(42,000)**	**1,609,728**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
AP Building fund	174,356	-	-	(59,137)	-	**115,219**
Conference funds	2,914,184	2,409,972	(2,162,451)	-	(1,719)	**3,159,986**
CSP Project fund	193,741	-	-	(105,049)	-	**88,692**
Fixed asset fund	597,439	-	(168,154)	-	91,189	**520,474**
National Shops Start up funds	51,866	-	-	22,354	-	**74,220**
Revive Distribution	12,500	-	-	-	104,462	**116,962**
Shops Development fund (Covid Grants)	97,938		-	(29,044)	-	**68,894**
Social Enterprise Retained Income fund	149,757	-	-	(104,231)	-	**45,526**
St Jude's Sales Proceeds	327,908	-	-	(174,244)	-	**153,664**
Twinning	275,561	231,297	(143,484)	-	-	**363,374**
Special designated funds:						
Central Council Projects Fund	706,579	-	-	(190,846)	-	**515,733**
Cost of Living Fund	282,117	23,598	(675)	(253,444)	-	**51,596**
Innovation Fund	117,215	-	(394)	(12,203)	-	**104,618**
Total Special designated funds	1,105,911	23,598	(1,069)	(456,493)	-	**671,947**
Other designated funds	480,272	1,300	-	(79,572)	-	**402,000**
Total designated funds	**6,381,433**	**2,666,167**	**(2,475,158)**	**(985,416)**	**193,932**	**5,780,958**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	625,477
General funds	1,351,793	12,033,775	(14,115,160)	2,787,958	21,331	2,079,697
Total unrestricted funds	**8,358,703**	**14,699,942**	**(16,590,318)**	**1,802,542**	**215,263**	**8,486,132**
	12,760,598	**15,797,501**	**(17,588,493)**	-	**276,794**	**11,246,400**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Prior year movement in funds	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	209,387	-	-	-	(21,299)	**188,088**
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	424,022	-	-	-	(35,875)	**388,147**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	311,811	-	-	-	(22,195)	**289,616**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	196,658	-	-	-	(15,500)	**181,158**
Total endowment funds	**1,141,878**	-	-	-	**(94,869)**	**1,047,009**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	54,757	9,937	(11,315)	-	-	**53,379**
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	38,697	14,143	(42,803)	-	-	**10,037**
T B Hunt Trust income fund	26,035	8,749	(4,741)	-	-	**30,043**
Charity:						
Approved Premises Pension Provision	320,000	-	-	(320,000)	-	**-**
Approved premises, Newcastle	143,000	-	-	-	215,000	**358,000**
B-Attitude	172	-	57	(229)	-	**-**
Community Grant	-	25,000	-	-	-	**25,000**
Furniture stores	142,875	-	-	(142,875)	-	**-**
Restricted legacies	1,679,266	-	-	-	-	**1,679,266**
Revive Leeds	-	-	-	110,929	-	**110,929**
Twinning	458,878	256,911	(354,937)	(97,269)	-	**263,583**
Special restricted funds	724,062	-	-	(75,543)	-	**648,519**
Other restricted funds	598	626,046	(450,514)	-	-	**176,130**
Total restricted funds	**3,588,340**	**940,786**	**(864,253)**	**(524,987)**	**215,000**	**3,354,886**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
AP Building fund	-	-	-	174,356	-	**174,356**
Conference funds	2,484,259	2,337,956	(1,902,155)	-	(5,876)	**2,914,184**
CSP Project fund	-	-	-	193,741	-	**193,741**
Fixed asset fund	811,534	17,734	(156,229)	-	(75,600)	**597,439**
National Shops Start up funds	-	-	-	51,866	-	**51,866**
Revive Distribution	136,269	-	-	(110,929)	(12,840)	**12,500**
Shops Development fund (Covid Grants)	118,677	-	-	(20,739)	-	**97,938**
Social Enterprise Retained Income fund	-	-	-	149,757	-	**149,757**
St Jude's Sales Proceeds	461,996	-	-	(134,088)	-	**327,908**
Twinning	116,368	334,132	(405,202)	230,263	-	**275,561**
Special designated funds:						
Central Council Projects Fund	-	-	-	706,579	-	**706,579**
Cost of Living Fund	107,025	184,066	(5,015)	(3,959)	-	**282,117**
Innovation Fund	180,341	-	-	(63,126)	-	**117,215**
Total Special designated funds	287,366	184,066	(5,015)	639,494	-	**1,105,911**
Other designated funds	121,254	3,600	-	355,418	-	**480,272**
Total designated funds	**4,537,723**	**2,877,488**	**(2,468,601)**	**1,529,139**	**(94,316)**	**6,381,433**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	625,477
General funds	3,911,830	10,404,455	(11,948,345)	(1,004,152)	(11,995)	1,351,793
Total unrestricted funds	**9,075,030**	**13,281,943**	**(14,416,946)**	**524,987**	**(106,311)**	**8,358,703**
	13,805,248	**14,222,729**	**(15,281,199)**	-	**13,820**	**12,760,598**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

Purposes of endowment funds

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective through this endowment fund is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members are eligible to apply to this fund.

Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. The fund comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.

T B Hunt Capital Fund: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the T B Hunt Trust Fund.

The Estate of Francis Thompson: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool. The Francis Thompson Income Fund is included in Other Restricted Funds.

Purposes of restricted funds

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members and staff are eligible to benefit from this fund.

Pen-Y-Pound House Income fund: This fund is to be spent in relieving the poor of Cardiff.

T B Hunt Trust: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to provide help to those in need in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. The TB Hunt Fund was established with funds left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need.

Approved premises, Newcastle: This represents Ozanam House, St Christopher's Hostel with the approved premises pension fund, which are approved premises funded with the help of Ministry of Justice grants. The fund is neutral as a result of the pension surplus of £Nil (2023:surplus of £Nil) on the Tyne and Wear pension fund as described in note 22. Any future deficit will be repaid over the period agreed with the pension scheme; this is approximately 20 years.

Furniture stores: This fund is represented by properties acquired with the assistance of Community Fund grants and donations to provide low cost furniture to those in need.

Restricted legacies: The fund transfers above reflect a reallocation of £1,679,266 which, upon review during the year, relate to unrestricted funds.

Revive Leeds: Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from household waste sites. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This restricted fund represents the Society's share of net assets.

Twinning: This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the Society's sister organisations overseas.

B-Attitude: This fund has been spent on the content and technical development of the online spiritual resources which form part of the package for the Young Vincentians' B-Attitude apostolate, helping our 14-18 year olds better connect their charitable works with transferrable life skills and an active faith.

Special restricted funds: The balance at 31 March 2024 comprises:

- **Appleton Fund:** This is mainly used for the development of South Lancashire Projects.

Other restricted funds: Other restricted funds cover various projects for people in need including local restricted funds held by Conferences and Councils.

Purposes of designated funds

Generally, designated funds are spent and replenished in a year. Members are encouraged to apply for use of these funds.

AP Building Fund: Fund for building improvement works at the Approved Premises projects in Newcastle.

Conference Funds: This fund represents the reserves of the Society that are delegated to the control of Conferences. Each Conference has a bank account and most will also have small petty cash balances. These funds belong to the Society as a whole, and can be called upon by the Trustees if required, but the Society prefers to manage this on a voluntary and consultative basis. Conferences manage their own fundraising and the distribution of the funds under their control within the rules and guidance set out by the Society. Conferences report back their financial activity on a quarterly basis. We encourage Conferences to put their funds to good use and discourage the holding of funds which are surplus to local requirements. We expect funds to be turned over and replenished within one year. Conferences with funds in excess of their requirements are urged to transfer any excess to another part of the Society where the need is greater.

In addition to the funds held directly by Conferences, there are also funds held nationally on behalf of Conferences. This is typically legacies left to the SVP that reference a particular Conference. We ask all Conferences that are mentioned in a legacy to suggest a plan for how they intend to spend the money. We expect that plan to involve spending the legacy in full within 5 years. The plans are subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee or the Board, depending on the size of the legacy. If a Conference does not come up with an acceptable plan then the legacy will be spent by the Society in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.

CSP Project Fund: This fund is primarily to seed-fund projects in existing Community Support Projects.

Fixed Asset Fund: This fund shows the amount of the Society's funds invested in its unrestricted fixed assets net of any property revaluations. Depreciation relating to fixed assets is charged to the fund on an annual basis.

Weidner Holiday fund: This Fund was to be spent on the poor and needy both in Newcastle and the other areas covered by Tyne Central Council.

National Shops Start up Funds: Funded from a legacy, this fund is used to pay for set up costs for new National SVP shops.

Revive Distribution: Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from household waste sites. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This designated fund represents the balance (after restricted) of the Society's share of net assets.

Shops Development Fund (Covid Grants): Funded from grants, this funds is for building improvement works in SVP shops

Social Enterprise Retained Income Fund: This fund is for seed-funding for new Social Enterprise projects.

St Jude's Sales Proceeds: This fund is primarily being used for Membership Support Officers where the local central council does not have sufficient funds themselves.

Twinning: This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the twinning programme.

Special designated funds: These comprise a number of funds to which Conferences can contribute. Applications for grants can be made by Conferences to any of the funds with the exception of the Spiritual Formation fund. The Society expects to spend the current balances within five years. The funds are:

- **Central Council Projects Fund:** Some central councils have access to this fund, to be spent on projects in their local area.
- **Cost of Living Fund:** Members can apply to this fund for help with beneficiary support.
- **Innovation Fund:** This fund is available for members who would like to start a new, innovative project in their local area.
- **Debt Counselling:** Used to help support and develop debt counselling provision at the Society's Support Centres.

Other designated funds: Other designated funds cover various projects for people in need. Members can apply to a special fund and guardians award grants according to the aims of the fund.

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The group had total commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2024 Land and buildings	2023 Land and buildings
	£	£
Within 1 year	**687,925**	586,236
2-5 years	**2,046,456**	1,909,215
Over 5 years	**1,701,170**	1,214,210
	4,435,551	3,709,661

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Helen O'Shea is a trustee of Porta Pia and David Young's Charity. The Charity received restricted grant income from Porta Pia of £35,000 (2023 - £35,000).

The total amount of donations from Trustees without any conditions attached amounted to £3,640 during the year (2023 - £47,175).

SVP Trading (note 17) - Income received by the Charity amounted to £116,952 (2023 - £36,701). Expenditure by the Charity amounted to £162,111 (2023 - £37,005). Internal recharges by the Charity amounted to £18,056 (2023 - £10,473). Amount due to group undertakings amounted to: £64,790 (2023 - £82,453).

Revive CIC is a related party as it is a Jointly Controlled Entity as detailed in note 18. During the year, the Society was entitled to a distribution from Revive CIC of £62,575 (2023: £108,421) as the agreement states all profits must be distributed evenly between the member charities. This amount was outstanding at the year end.

T B Hunt Trust Fund: The trust fund received dividends of £8,759 (2023 - £8,749) during the year. There were no outstanding creditor or debtor balances at the year end.

27. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments at the year end.

28. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

In June 2024 the Trustees took the decision not to retender for the Ministry of Justice contracts for the two Approved Premises in Newcastle. Work is ongoing to transfer the projects to a new provider as a going concern.

29. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	**289,830**	**276,255**	391,490	292,866
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	**728,455**	**756,295**	549,929	599,327

30. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	5,230,685	907,957	-	**6,138,642**	**5,942,974**
Other trading activities	3	172,349	-	-	**172,349**	**38,722**
Income from investments		222,241	32,829	-	**255,070**	**204,113**
Income from charitable activities:						
Retail		3,921,447	-	-	**3,921,447**	**3,482,433**
Holidays and camps		155,865	-	-	**155,865**	**79,016**
Residential provision		2,341,979	-	-	**2,341,979**	**2,099,679**
Community Support Projects		349,434	-	-	**349,434**	**240,515**
Social Enterprise Activities		638,573	-	-	**638,573**	**565,880**
Youth development		22,412	-	-	**22,412**	**8,373**
Other income		226,958	-	-	**226,958**	**562,078**
Total income	4	**13,281,943**	**940,786**	-	**14,222,729**	**13,223,783**
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	766,054	-	-	**766,054**	**485,726**
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		3,075,931	509,373	-	3,585,304	3,157,622
Retail		3,819,343	-	-	3,819,343	3,546,899
Holidays and camps		446,156	-	-	446,156	250,843
Residential provision		2,362,569	-	-	2,362,569	2,009,878
Community Support Projects		2,285,906	-	-	2,285,906	1,667,415
Social Enterprise Activities		898,486	-	-	898,486	570,373
Youth Development Programme		347,157	(57)	-	347,100	211,393
Twinning		415,344	354,937	-	770,281	698,409
Total expenditure	6	**14,416,946**	**864,253**	-	**15,281,199**	**12,598,558**
Net (losses) / gains on investments	14	(93,471)	-	(94,869)	**(188,340)**	**171,942**
Share of profit / (loss) in jointly controlled entities	18	(12,840)	-	-	**(12,840)**	**125,261**
Net (expenditure) / income	7	**(1,241,314)**	**76,533**	**(94,869)**	**(1,259,650)**	**922,428**
INTERCOMPANY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
Transfers between funds	23	524,987	(524,987)	-	-	-
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	22	-	215,000	-	**215,000**	**143,000**
Net movement in funds		(716,327)	(233,454)	(94,869)	**(1,044,650)**	**1,065,428**
Funds at the start of the year	23	9,075,030	3,588,340	1,141,878	**13,805,248**	**12,739,820**
Funds at the end of the year	23	**8,358,703**	**3,354,886**	**1,047,009**	**12,760,598**	**13,805,248**

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Status

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

Governing document

The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association revised and adopted by Special Resolution on 2 August 2019.

Company Number: **3174679**

Charity Number: **1053992**

Registered and Principal Office:
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer: **Elizabeth Palmer**
Deputy CEO: **Kate Nightingale**
Director of Finance: **Christine Knight**
Director of Governance: **Beverley Whittaker**
Director of Fundraising: **Ken Madine**
Director of Communications and Marketing: **John Egan**
Director of Membership: **Jon Cornwall**
Young Vincentians Programme Director: **Sarah Barber**
Director of Retail, Trading and Social Enterprise: **Helen Voyce**

Patrons

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Sir John Battle

Auditors

Saffery LLP
10 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
250 Bishopsgate
London
EC2M 4AA

Solicitors

McCarthy Denning
25 Southampton Buildings
London
WC2A 1AL

Investment Advisers

Rathbones (Incorporating Investec Wealth & Investment (UK))
2 Castlefield Court
Church Street
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 0AH

CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria St
London
EC4V 4ET



THANK YOU

A thank you to everyone who supported us in 2023-24, including those who gave us National grants:

- Albert Trust
- B&Q
- Barnabas Charitable Trust
- Better Place Outdoor Project Fund
- Cash for Kids Cost of Living Grant Fund
- ChangeX
- Charities Trust - Natwest
- Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust
- Chorley Council
- Cllr Community Grant
- Community First Yorkshire
- Community Foundation P&G
- CP5 Small Grants Fund
- Culture Investment Fund - Community Foundation
- DiMascio Innovation Fund
- DP World
- Fowler, Smith & Jones
- Garfield Weston
- Grace Trust
- HAF
- Harry Bottom Charitable Trust
- His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
- HSBC
- J G Graves Charitable Trust
- James Neill Trust
- Joseph & Mary Hiley Trust
- LCF Digital
- LCF Men's Suicide Prevention
- Leigh Rotary
- Lottery Awards for All
- Mollie Croysdale Charitable Trust
- Morrisons Foundation
- Nationwide
- Northfield Micro Grant
- One Wirral - Community Health Checks
- Police Crime Commissioner Community Cashback
- Portia Pia
- Rosca Trust
- Sainsbury's Helping Everyone Eat Better Fund
- Screwfix
- Sheffield City Council
- Silver Lady Fund
- South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF) Cost of Living Fund
- Southend Emergency fund
- SYCF - Community Grants Programme
- The National Lottery Awards for All
- The National Lottery Community Fund Cost-of-Living Fund
- The National Lottery Community Fund Reaching Communities
- Tyneside Mind
- UCB Community Health Fund
- Wickes
- Wirral Borough Council Household Support Fund
- Wirral Council Household Support Small Grants



"The work the SVP does for the vulnerable in our society is inspirational, its great to be a small part of it. The community of volunteers is diverse, which is a strength but also a challenge. It's good to have social events for the volunteers. Thank you!"

Volunteer

"I just want to say a big thank you to you and your team in supporting SL. Having worked with SL for 2 years I know at times she can be challenging and unfortunately this resulted in her being evicted from our supported living accommodation. However you and your team have gone above and beyond to support her and keep her safe which is reassuring as I'm not sure where she would be if it wasn't for you guys. Thank you so much for all your help and support."

Partner

"The welcoming community spirit at SVP is great. Together we have achieved so much - there is always more we could do but we shouldn't forget how far we've come as we work to further extend our practical support for our desperate and vulnerable neighbours. Its great to see how many volunteers are involved on the rotas and I love the idea of pioneers."

Volunteer

"We would like to say a special 'thank you' to the SVP on behalf of our son and our family. Honestly, we don't know how to thank you all. It was devastating for our son to lose his leg aged just 15 and we have been struggling for the whole of the summer while he has been in hospital and we have not been able to work. When the SVP group in Abingdon approached us to say they might be able to help in some small way, it was a great relief. Our son has just come out of hospital and we are now able to begin to re-build our lives. Thank you so much."

Beneficiary





"Dear St Vincent's,
I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the help, advice, and support which my cousin and I received from your benefit advisors. At the time I was supporting my cousin who was ill and attempting to apply for the relevant benefits. Samantha Cheshire assisted and provided advice and assistance enabling my cousin to receive PIP and a Blue Badge. These made a significant difference to his life. Although it has taken me some to write I have not forgotten the help we received. Not only did we receive professional advice, but we received kindness and helpfulness. I would also like to thank Sophie who does an amazing job juggling all the phone calls for her patience and considerate manner when dealing with people who are often stressed by their circumstances. Please accept my donation of £100 to St Vincent's for the wonderful and much appreciated work you do to support people at times when they are at their most vulnerable. I hope your work continues for many years into the future."

Mrs Lawrenson

"This is to thank everyone who has contributed to making our house as comfortable as can be. We are overwhelmed by this kind gesture of love and family oneness. Words cannot express the feeling warmness, care and faithfulness to a course as exhibited by you all. We thank you for all the gift in all it ramifications. The children are happy,the home is beautiful. We are eternally grateful. God bless and replenish all who have contributed one way or the other to make all this happen. Thanks too for accepting us into this God-loving family. Thank you all."

Mr & Mrs C & Family



St Vincent de Paul Society

Romero House
55 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7JB

Call 020 7703 3030
Visit svp.org.uk

Keep in touch with us

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

England & Wales - Charity number 1053992

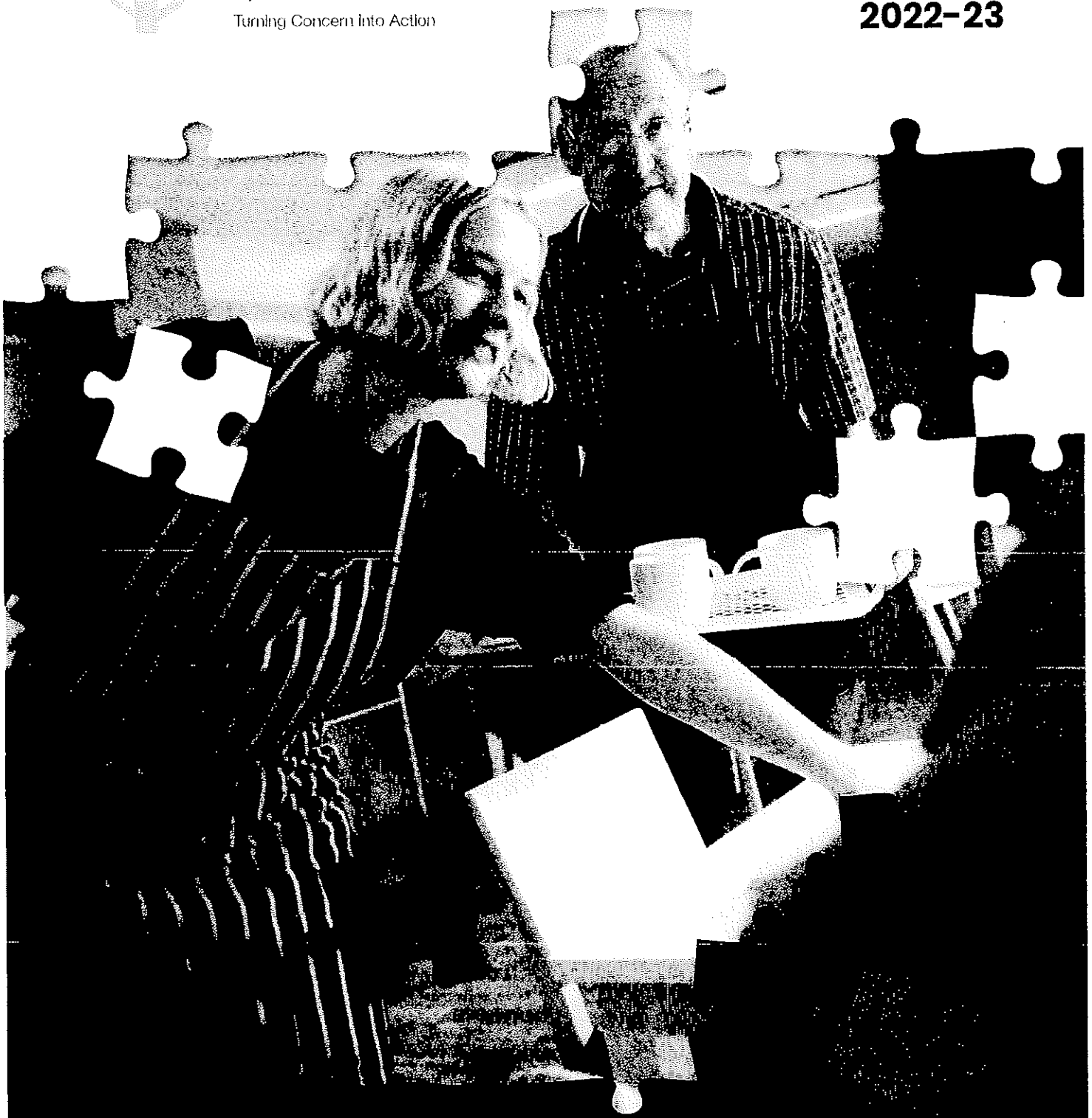
Accounts

St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern Into Action

Trustee Report and Accounts 2022-23



BUILDING A COMMUNITY

A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY BUILDING

Since the charity's foundation in 1833 in Paris, the St Vincent de Paul Society has lived by the Christian principles of its founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, who said we should "embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

In 1833 the work of the charity was prompted by the abject poverty in the slums of Paris and the first members of the Society reached out in person to help those in need. The world has changed since then, but poverty remains in many forms and our members today continue to reach out to those in need with kindness, compassion and a welcome that is non-judgmental.

As a 22-year-old university student, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam had the vision to create that network of charity, and today if he attended an SVP Conference meeting, visited a St Vincent's shop, support centre or any other of our many projects, he would recognise the same ethos of Vincentian service and welcoming acceptance of others.

The SVP numbers around 800,000 voluntary members in some 153 countries, with 8,500 members in England and Wales. The work of the Society continues to evolve but remains person-centred, where everyone has the right to be a valued member of the community in which they live.

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Our Vision

Our vision, inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is to give hope and restore the dignity of individuals and families, empowering them to live more fulfilling lives in a fairer world.

Our Purpose

Our mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Our Values

Christ-centred - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.

Compassionate - We aim to show compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.

Respectful - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.

Generous - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.

Responsive - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work, and to respond accordingly, in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms.

Accountable - We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, while acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.

Confidential - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental well-being of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

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FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

A COMMUNITY BUILT ON KINDNESS



Welcome to the SVP Annual Report and Accounts. We are pleased to present this snapshot of the past year which showcases the amazing work the SVP carries out each and every day.

Our varied and complex work has a wide reach across England and Wales, as well as in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Romania, Grenada and Guyana through our overseas support programme.

Responding to need

Between April 2022 and March 2023 we saw a dramatic increase in demand for our services as the cost of living crisis took hold across England and Wales. As we did during the Covid pandemic, our response has been to invest in our people and our services in order to provide the best response possible to those in need.

We undertook a salary benchmarking review for all staff and committed to ensuring that salaries were keeping pace with rising inflation and reflected the voluntary sector norms. We also continued to recruit new posts in line with our strategic plan, in spite of increasing costs.

In September 2023 we launched a £500,000 Cost of Living Support Fund, using money from our reserves, which local SVP members and projects could access to provide grants to those in their local community experiencing financial difficulty.

While we have a national infrastructure, we are proudly a grassroots organisation with members working in local groups (SVP Conferences) at community level. Our members, who are all volunteers, are at the heart of all we do, responding to need locally, innovating, creating new services and taking on positions of responsibility in terms of governance. Their work is underpinned by the concept of Vincentian service. They enhance the communities in which they operate and provide support to the marginalised and disadvantaged and offer a hand of friendship to those who need it.

Following investment in a team of membership support officers, we were able to recruit over 600 new members and establish 28 new SVP Conferences between April 2022 and March 2023.

In addition, we were able to launch two new St Vincent's centres, SVP Chorley Buddies and St Vincent's Birmingham, providing bespoke services for local communities. These larger projects are initiated and supported by our local members, but typically also involve paid staff who can provide specialist support and represent a physical hub in the community.

We were delighted to be able to open a new house in North Norfolk in August 2022 in response to the increasing need for temporary emergency accommodation in the area, providing two self contained apartments to house local homeless families.

As well as providing friendship and practical assistance, we are committed to addressing the issues which promote injustice and the breakdown of community. As part of our social justice work, we successfully held our first thought leadership event in December 2022 and we produced our *Stories from the Frontline* pamphlet which highlighted the impact of the cost of living crisis on the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. We seek to provide first-hand witness to politicians and policy makers of the challenges facing ordinary people in our local communities.

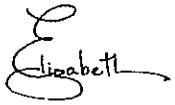
A community where everybody is welcome

In the course of the year the SVP supported local communities and encouraged inclusivity. Older people, the sick and the lonely, those struggling with their finances in work and out of work, the asylum seeker, the prisoner, the despairing, the bereaved; all can find a place of welcome and the hand of friendship with the SVP. We remain humbled by the selfless dedication of our members, volunteers and staff, who, driven by their passion to turn their concern into action, turn this vision of a welcoming and inclusive community into a reality. We are grateful to our funders, who supported us through a difficult year, and we look forward to their continued support as we seek to expand our work in response to the increasing need across England and Wales.

We thank you all.



Elaine, Chair of Trustees



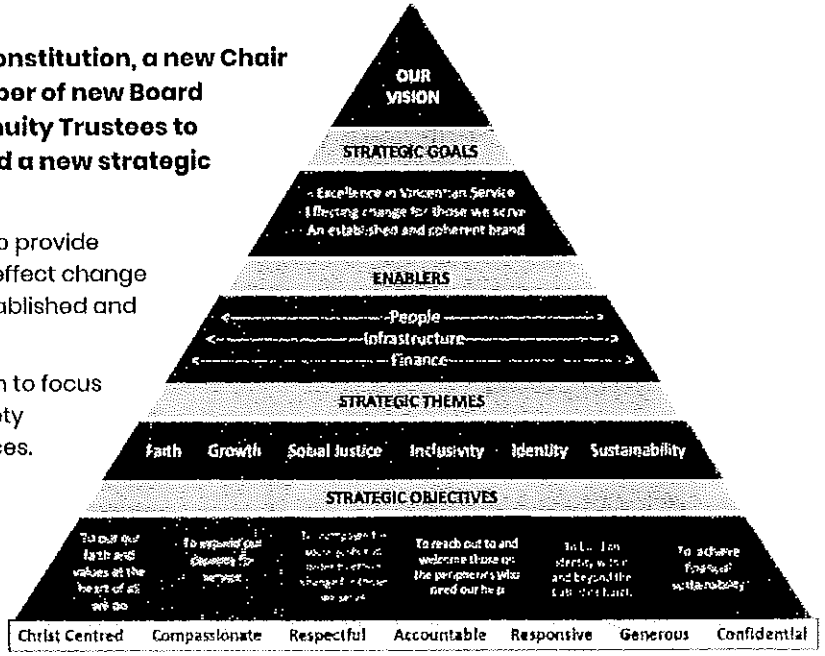
Elizabeth, CEO

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

At the end of 2022, in line with our constitution, a new Chair of Trustees was elected and a number of new Board members joined our existing continuity Trustees to commence their five-year term and a new strategic plan was developed.

The main strategic goals agreed were: to provide excellence in our Vincentian Service, to effect change for those we serve, and to create an established and coherent brand.

We now have six key objectives on which to focus our work in the years ahead as the Society continues to grow and develop its services.



To put our faith and values at the heart of all we do

The Society is Catholic and Vincentian and the Board is keen to ensure that the organisation keeps true to these aspects of our identity which underpin our culture and ethos.

Our work is informed both by Catholic Social Teaching and by our Vincentian heritage, and while we may grow and diversify our works in response to need, these are the foundations upon which we build.

This foundation informs our ethos, but our work is inclusive and supports all those in need, regardless of faith or belief. Our staff and many of our volunteers are of all faiths and none but they share the commitment to Vincentian service and compassion for those in need of help.

To reach out to and welcome those on the peripheries who need our help

Latterly the Catholic Church has undertaken a synodal process of listening and discernment. The initial published documents emphasise the need to reach out and journey with those on the peripheries. This objective is also a restatement of the words of the Vincentian prayer on the theme of our vocation, "to seek and find those who are forgotten and to bring your love to the suffering or deprived."

To expand our capacity for service

The number of requests for help we receive is increasing exponentially and we know that the current economic crisis is increasing poverty in real terms across England and Wales. It is vital that our capacity increases to meet this need. A new strategic plan was developed and the four main focus areas are: growing the membership, expanding our network of projects, developing an infrastructure to sustain growth and forging new partnerships which enhance our service.

To campaign for social justice in order to effect change for those we serve

In our Vincentian prayer on the theme of social justice we are called "to be a voice for the voiceless." While we have long been a Society of practical action, we have not always been as strong on social justice and addressing the systemic causes of poverty, be that government policy or unjust laws, or regional and national structures which contribute to disadvantage.

To achieve financial sustainability

Sustained growth and expansion is only possible if it is underpinned by sustainable income. The Society continues to develop a portfolio of funding streams to provide resilient funding. Fundraising, retail and our trading operations are all key to those plans.

To build an identity within and beyond the Catholic Church

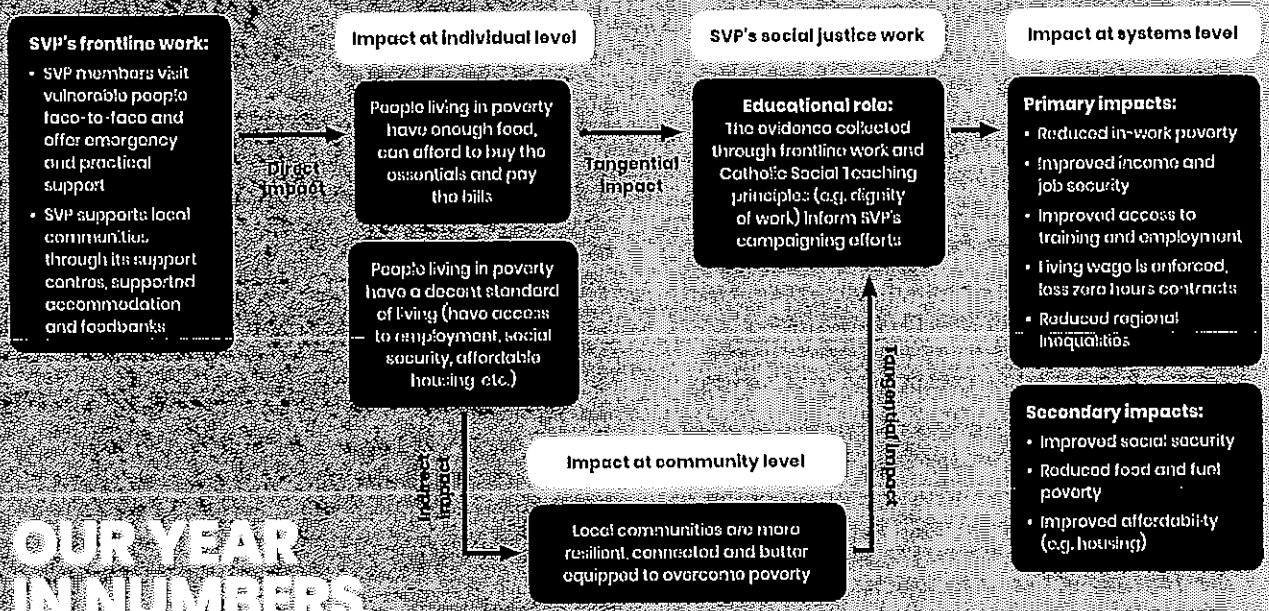
In order to reach more people, to grow our services and develop our income streams, it is important that people know who we are and what we do. We want to develop a strong and well known identity in all areas of our work that is consistent, easily recognisable and speaks of who we are, what we do and what we stand for.

OUR IMPACT

TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION

Our daily work at grassroots level has an impact on people's lives in many different ways. We have developed our theory of change model which illustrates what we seek to achieve at the macro level through day-to-day interventions.

This diagram illustrates the sustained effect on individuals, communities and systems that the SVP aims to achieve as a result of its frontline and campaigning work to tackle poverty.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

We made a total of **303,000** visits or calls to those who reached out to us for help

We helped a total of more than **44,500** people, offering emotional and practical support

We provided **80,000** meals in one of Vincent's centres and supported **19,000** people through our food banks, providing over **46,000** meals

Over **£91,000** was given in grants through our Crisis Living support fund

14,750 people joined us for group activities

Of **3,400** vouchers we provided essential furniture items

5,400 people were given advice, information, signposting, housing and other support

Our Ukraine Disaster Fund provided over **£70,000** in funding to support urgent humanitarian needs in conflict-affected communities in Romania and Ukraine

BEFRIENDING

Our volunteer members meet together in local groups called Conferences. In 2022-23 8,500 members volunteered with the Society, befriending those in need in their local communities and providing practical support as required.

The members give their time to help others, combating loneliness and isolation and providing practical solutions to life's problems where they can.

Most of our interactions with the people we serve start with a chat, usually over a cup of tea, but always without judgement and with compassion. Every person we meet is an individual and no two people have the same problem, it's personal to them. That's why our approach is bespoke and tailored to the individual's particular needs.

During 2022-23 our members befriended more than 44,500 people offering emotional and practical support and hope. We also made a total of 303,000 visits or calls to those who reached out to us for help.

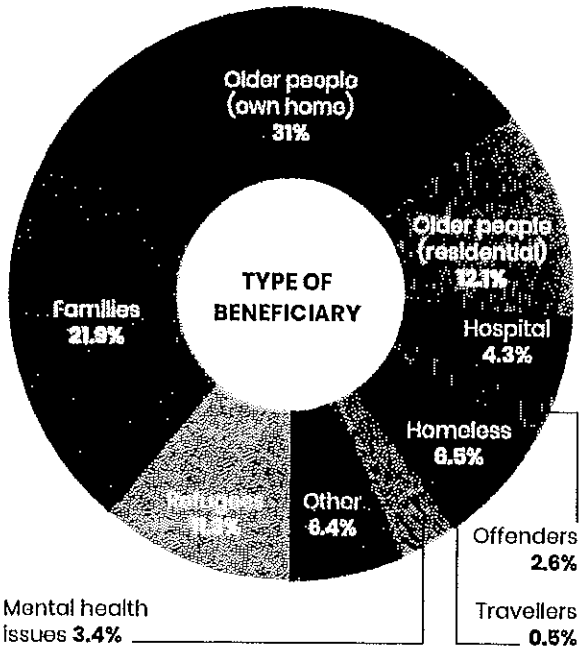
Befriending can be as simple as a single visit to check on someone, or it may last a lifetime. The reasons for befriending cover a huge range of need from isolation and loneliness, to families struggling to pay their bills, and from the anxiety of debt to the grief of losing a loved one. No matter what the reason, we offer our time freely and with the dignity of the individual paramount.

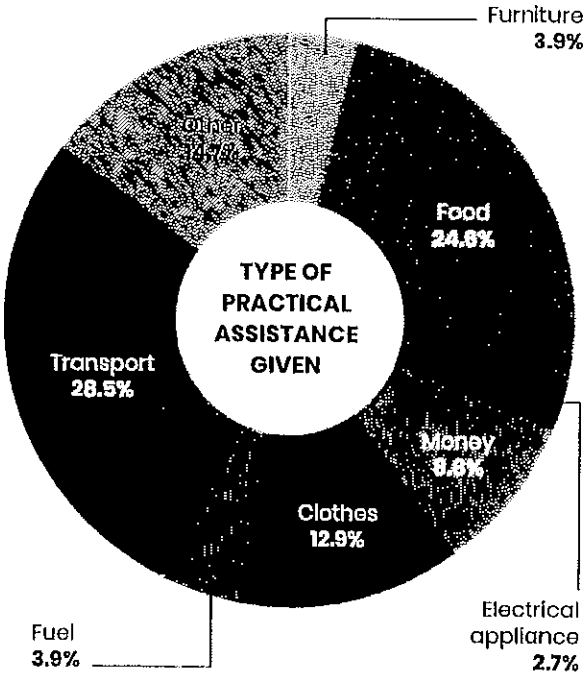


Practical help at times of crisis

Sarah* was supported by St Joan of Arc Conference after her brother died. Aged 22 and a recent graduate, she was devastated and struggling emotionally as the siblings were close and lived together. Still coming to terms with her grief, Sarah could not bring herself to clear her brother's personal belongings and reached out to the local SVP group. Our members helped with clearing, cleaning and redecorating the flat. Sarah was also unable to pay the funeral costs and the Conference again stepped in to provide a financial grant from the Cost of Living Support Fund. The changes to her flat made a huge difference to Sarah's mental health, allowing her to move on from this tragedy and return to university and her teacher training course.

**Name changed for privacy reasons*





COST OF LIVING CRISIS RESPONSE

SVP members responded to the cost of living crisis in various ways.

Over 35 warm spaces were established or supported by SVP members over the winter months, 12 Conferences operated foodbanks, and a further 61 supported existing local foodbanks. Many Conferences also helped with the provision of school uniforms.

Over the course of 2022–23, members made 203 applications to the SVP Cost of Living Support Fund on behalf of those they were visiting, and over £91,000 was given out in grants through this fund.

In the Peak District, a warm space initiative was set up at Our Lady and St Joseph's Church in Matlock during the winter months.

SVP members approached the local parish priest with the idea of setting up a community hub to help people in the local area struggling with spiralling food and fuel costs. The church hall, with its accessible large open spaces, canteen and toilets, was the ideal spot and the space was launched on 5 December 2022, just before Christmas.

Open every Monday from 9am to 5pm, it offered refreshments, books and magazines, jigsaws, toys and a food pantry. Tables were scattered around the room to encourage an average of 25 regular visitors to sit, have a conversation and socialise with one another. Along with money from the Cost of Living Support Fund, the local council also provided a grant.

The space has received a big thumbs up from visitors who say:

"I like the friendliness and good company and it also saves on my heating bill."

"This is a brilliant place and I am humbled by the generosity of the volunteers who offer such a welcoming facility."

Uniforms for families in need

When Salford diocese released figures showing that 288,885 local children were living in poverty, Pam Dakin, Conference President at Holy Cross and St Helen's Conference, felt motivated to do something. Along with fellow member Lynn Davidson, the pair asked parents at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Christopher's to donate good quality uniforms from children who had grown out of them. The uniforms were then handed to families who couldn't afford to buy new clothing. The response was amazing with more than 100 free uniforms handed out at the beginning of the school terms.



Our members run community based foodbanks

Foodbanks

No one is turned away empty-handed – that's the pledge from the Lord's Larder foodbank in Chard, an initiative of Chard Churches Together, supported by the local SVP English Martyrs Conference.

Conference Treasurer Anne Emerson says: "Originally, it began in a fairly small way with all the food donations coming from parishioners of the churches and some anonymous donations of food and money." The demand for help increased and so did the number of donations. Every week, the foodbank provides more than 200 grocery bags containing 6,000 items of non-perishables.

Similarly, St Joseph's Church in Heywood, staffed by SVP members, provide food and other essential provisions to around 90 local families a week. To meet growing demand, the Heywood foodbank recently moved to larger premises donated by local business Kavanagh and Coates.

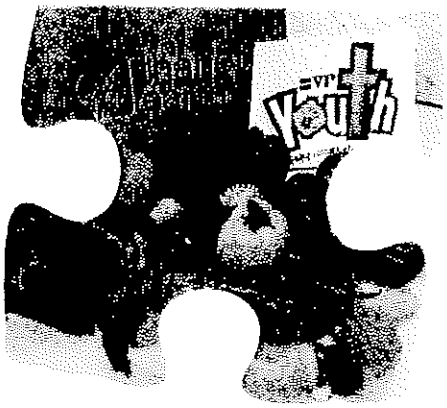
CREATING A WELCOMING HOME

Rebecca* is a single mother with two daughters aged 5 and 7. They were moved into new accommodation by the council, but the property had no furniture and they were sleeping on inflatable mattresses on the floor. The local SVP applied to the SVP Cost of Living Support Fund and were able to purchase bunk beds and bedding for the girls, as well as a wardrobe and desk for their room. Rebecca wrote: "Thank you ever so much. We are more than grateful for all you have done for us. I wish you could see how you've made my daughter the happiest girl in the world with her new bed and sheets."

**Name changed for privacy reasons*

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION



Vincentian volunteering isn't just for adults. We encourage young people to get involved through our exciting youth programme aimed at those of primary and secondary school age, as well as young adults at university.

Our young people are driven just like our adult members to alleviate poverty and injustice through social justice campaigning, providing practical support and cooperative working with local SVP groups.

Our youth programme covers aspects of the taught curriculum, such as community cohesion and, most importantly, Catholic Social Teaching, enabling them to put their faith into action.

Remaining relevant

During the 2022-23 academic year the Young Vincentian team established themselves as a go-to organisation for people working in schools and youth ministry, with schools giving thanks to our valuable support and informative resources.

Our academic year is carefully constructed to give schools and colleges the reassurance that our resources are current and relevant. For example, the Autumn Term centres on setting up new volunteering groups, celebrating the feast days of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul, and Harvest. In the second half of the term, we provide a host of resources for Christmas activities.

In the Spring Term we provide resources for campaigning during Lent. Our *What we have, we share* campaign tasked our young people to consider what they might do to help tackle the effects of the cost of living crisis, and suggested they contact their local MPs over the issue. Some groups were invited to the Houses of Parliament and many more had their MPs visit their schools.

In the Summer Term our *SVP Summer Sleep* campaign supports those suffering homelessness, and we were also active in bringing the Vincentian family together, enabling children and young people to work with adult SVP members from their local Conferences through our *Gather the Family* resources connecting intergenerational groups in new ways.

Active in their community

The Youth SVP group at Ursuline College in Westgate-on-Sea has 60 students and six staff members who are very active members of their community.

They do everything from donating sleeping bags to the Salvation army for homeless people, to organising local Christmas food donation collections, as well as 'pay £1 to miss a lesson and watch a movie' (with the blessing of the School Head), to help raise funds for charitable projects.

The Youth group also regularly visit residents at St Michael's care home, spending time with those who do not often get visitors. At Christmas they gave 70 handmade cards with personalised messages to every resident. During Easter they joined forces with Community Kindness - Thanet Earth and donated 350 Easter eggs for children from families struggling financially.

Campaigning for a better world

Our young people also have a well-deserved reputation for getting actively involved in campaigning on important issues, so it is not surprising that they made the *What we have, we share* campaign a resounding success in 2023, raising awareness of the hardship people face as a result of the cost of living crisis.

The children of English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School in Tilehurst incorporated the campaign into their *Love in Action* campaign, with the children writing a prayer for those most in need and creating a huge display of fish prayer cards showing how they have turned their concern into action.

Mini Vinnies around the country have also started conversations with their local MPs. St Clare's in Middlesbrough invited MP Andy McDonald to the school for a questions and answer session.

A future of compassion

At the end of the 2022-23 academic year there were 443 active Mini Vinnie groups, 121 Youth SVP groups and SVP affiliated secondary schools.

We took a group of 25 young adults to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, and all participants signed up to be SVP Ambassadors. Meanwhile, our Young Vincentian team gave presentations to 8,355 children and young people during the academic year, and far more children were reached through our 20 Young Vincentian Development Officers.

Thanks to our inspirational young people, the SVP's future is in safe hands.

Pictured above: Ursuline College in Westgate-on-Sea donated food to Community Kindness - Thanet Earth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

A VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Our social justice work is a vital part of our mission. As well as providing practical support to help alleviate poverty, we also seek to effect change for those in society who are often marginalised and not heard. We bring injustice into the light in the hope of creating justice, fairness and equality, and by so doing, we strive to work for the common good.

We are currently focusing on four policy areas:

- **Cost of living crisis and social security**
- **Levelling up and regional inequalities**
- **Refugees and asylum seekers**
- **In-work poverty**

The real price of the cost of living crisis

In 2022-23, we produced a pamphlet, *Stories from the Frontline*, offering a snapshot of the cost of living crisis and how it is affecting people's financial, emotional and physical well-being. We gathered evidence and insight from our frontline members, volunteers and St Vincent's community hubs to highlight the real stories of people impacted by the crisis.

Parliamentary engagement

In 2022-23 we continued to meet with MPs to talk about the work of the SVP. Speaking to MPs is an important part of our social justice work as we can share insight from our frontline work with policymakers.

MP Anna Firth attended the launch of the St Vincent's Southend-on-Sea Hungry Cupboard project. We also attended a cost of living fair in Whitstable arranged by local MP Rosie Duffield.



MP Anna Firth visiting the Hungry Cupboard project at St Vincent's Southend-on-Sea

"Hunt down poverty in order to give humanity its dignity."

Blessed Rosalie Rendu



Afghan families enjoyed a Ramadan celebration organised by a Conference in Shropshire

We submitted written evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on poverty inquiry into the review of social security. The evidence was collated using insight and data from our members' work and our St Vincent's centres.

Guarantee our Essentials campaign

We joined the ongoing national campaign calling for an increase in Universal Credit. With 90% of low-income households on Universal Credit currently going without essentials, we are calling on the government to fix this and ensure people and families can meet their basic living costs.

Compassion and welcome

We have worked tirelessly with communities across the country to challenge hostile policies towards refugees and people seeking asylum, and we continue to campaign for compassion, dignity and humanity to be at the centre of our asylum system.

Following our successful campaign on the Nationality and Borders Bill in 2021-2022 we continue to campaign against the new Illegal Migration Act.

We also joined forces with a coalition of inter-faith groups to produce a video calling for compassion towards refugees.

Thought leadership

Our Policy and Social Justice team hosted the SVP's first thought leadership roundtable. The event, sponsored by CCLA, brought together Catholic Social Teaching experts, theologians, academics, national charities and more. The discussion sought to identify effective ways in which faith groups can advocate on the cost of living crisis.

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY

Each of our St Vincent's community support centres is unique, offering bespoke services which answer the needs of their respective communities. However, what they all have in common is respect for those they serve, a non-judgmental attitude, and above all, a safe environment where visitors can find hope, support and a guaranteed warm welcome.

Our St Vincent's centres span the length and breadth of England & Wales, from Newcastle down to Brighton and everywhere in-between.

During 2022-23, St Vincent's centres have given advice on debt, immigration, housing and other issues to 5,400 people. More than 14,750 people joined us for group activities and we provided almost 80,000 meals, all supported by an army of compassionate volunteers and staff.

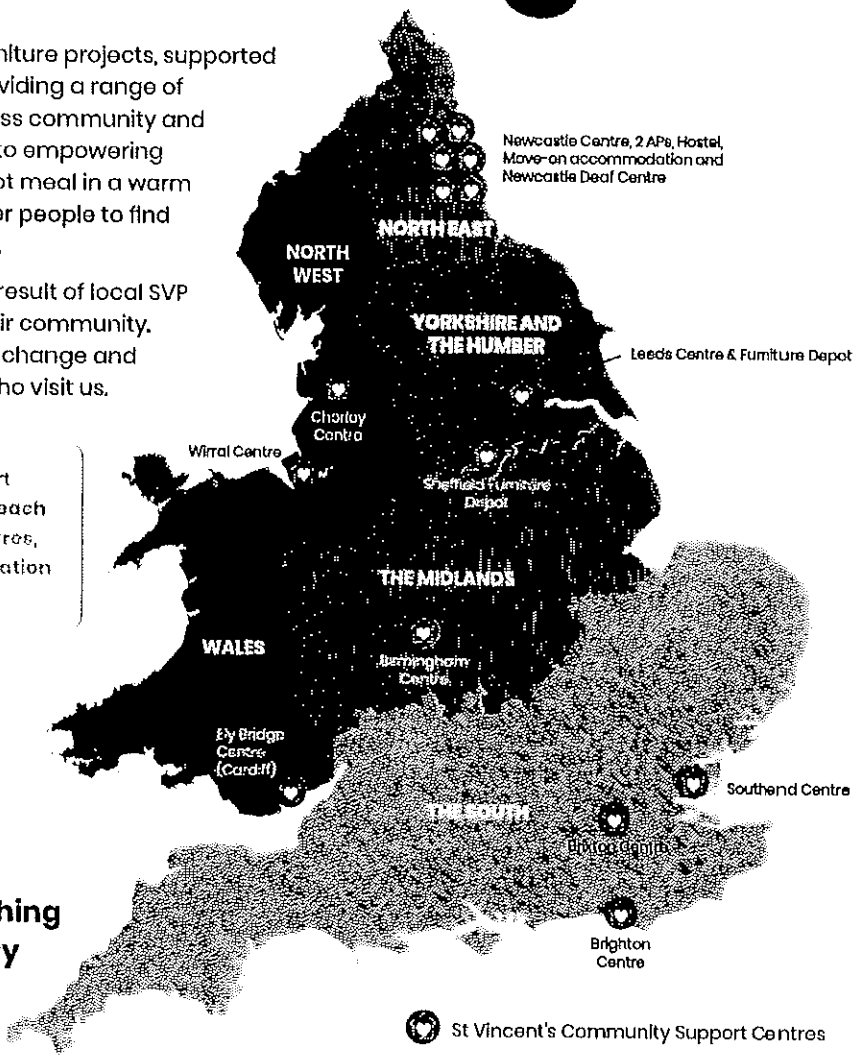
Currently, we have 10 centres, two furniture projects, supported accommodation and a hostel, all providing a range of services, from support for the homeless community and safe spaces for those leaving prison, to empowering learning environments, providing a hot meal in a warm space and supportive spaces for older people to find companionship and tackle loneliness.

St Vincent's centres are created as a result of local SVP Conferences identifying a need in their community. Our centres embrace innovation and change and offer support as individual as those who visit us.

St Vincent's centres provided

80,000

meals via emergency food parcels, free meals and the community pantries



Scan to watch our short film about the work of each of our St Vincent's centres, supported accommodation and furniture projects.

Via our health and well-being activities

14,750

people have enjoyed everything from knitting to a community choir and yoga

GIVING HOPE

Every year, St Vincent's community support centres help thousands of people. Each person that comes through the door is treated as an individual and helped in a way that is specific to them and their own needs. The centres help anyone, regardless of life history, background, or circumstance.

Wraparound support

St Vincent's Wirral, in partnership with the Citizen's Advice Bureau, help people struggling with debt, like Paul, an army veteran. Although Paul receives Universal Credit, the small army pension he receives is counted as additional income, so this is deducted from his benefits, leaving him struggling to pay monthly bills. When he visited the centre, he told the team that he had considered ending his life. The staff supported him and gave him a SIM card that had six months of free calls and data, and helped him to make an emergency fuel application. He also accessed the Wirral Foodbank. The local SVP Conference provided a new fridge, washing machine and furniture. Paul received a Cost of Living Support Fund grant which has helped him to clear debt arrears and his life is in a more positive place.

Positive life choices

At St Vincent's Ely Bridge, one of their key focus areas is supporting men on probation to make positive choices and changes to their life.

The groundbreaking Grand Avenues project at Ely Bridge, in partnership with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service in Wales, re-imagines how probation services can work with local communities in reducing reoffending and supporting people to thrive.

Already the project has had some fantastic results, like Raihan Miah who now works as a Community Peer Worker on Grand Avenues. His amazing journey is one of two parts, all within a short space of time. The 24-year-old admits he "made some mistakes" and these landed him in HMP Cardiff. When he was released from prison in August 2022, his probation officer introduced him to the SVP centre at Ely Bridge.

Raihan says: "I realised that people cared, they genuinely wanted to help and wanted what was best for me."



Darren Bailey and his partner Emma



Raihan (on the right) hosting his podcast

The *SVP Changing Lives Mental Health Matters* podcast is available to listen on Spotify. Scan the QR code to hear the latest episode.

Raihan is now working to support other men leaving prison to make positive life choices and feel connected to their community. The support he provides ranges from benefits and housing advice, to getting GP appointments, or simply being a friend. He also has a podcast, *SVP Changing Lives Mental Health Matters*.

Welcoming everyone

St Vincent's Newcastle has been supporting Nazim, a refugee, and his family to improve their circumstances and feel part of the St Vincent's family.

The family first came to the community centre when they were living in a hotel and Nazim's wife was in the early stages of pregnancy. Since then, they have been granted leave to remain status and have a house where their family can grow. SVP has helped furnish their home and provided baby supplies, food, and uniforms for their older children.

Nazim says: "SVP has supported my family to start our journey in the UK and build a good life."

Our homeless work

On the south coast, many of the individuals that St Vincent's Southend-on-Sea work with are homeless people living on the streets.

Darren Bailey, who is originally from Cornwall, describes sleeping on the streets as a frightening experience. He also says that during the two months he spent living in a tent, he felt a complete loss of self-worth.

He now works at St Vincent's Southend as a volunteer, alongside his partner Emma, on their garden mental health and well-being project.

Darren said: "Thanks to the SVP, I found the strength to rebuild the foundations of my life and now have the prospect of a brighter future." He recently became a father.

The centres are full of hope and love. New centres are being developed across England and Wales to support even more people in these challenging times.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & RETAIL

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Our welcoming, safe communities have a culture of care and compassion, but they also need sustainable funding. The SVP has looked to social enterprise at our community hub in Bradford to deliver an array of services which bring the community together in an innovative way.

Social enterprises are businesses that are changing the world for the better. Much like traditional businesses, they aim to make a profit, but it's the way the profits are reinvested to create positive social change which sets them apart. Our social enterprise was launched in April 2022, selling goods and services in the open market and at the same time creating employment and reducing landfill. Profits are reinvested back into the business and into the local community. The projects at Bradford Social Enterprise cater to a spectrum of beneficiaries with something for everyone in the community.

The financial benefit of projects at the Bradford Social Enterprise ensure we can offer our community essential practical support in the form of food parcels, free hot meals, white goods, furniture, clothing, and essential household items at a cost suited to their budget. We can also offer educational classes such as English to Speakers of Other Languages, employability courses and well-being classes. Advice and support is also on hand for welfare benefits, debt, housing, immigration and the EU Settlement Scheme.

Also at Bradford, we refurbish white goods (we are a licensed Approved Authorised Treatment Facility,) providing training and employment to members of our community.



Bradford Social Enterprise food and clothes bank



Men's Sheds mental health support group

Our store prevents many tonnes of goods from ending up in landfill and allows people to purchase items with dignity and at a cost they can afford.

It's all about community

The community garden in Bradford is a place of sanctuary and peace, and provides fresh produce for our Community Café. The garden is also a meeting place for the mental health support group Men's Sheds which allows our male visitors to chat while repurposing donated items, including items for the community garden. It has proved a popular and essential service. Likewise, many friendships have been forged at the Repair Café which provides a means to repair items that would otherwise have ended up in landfill.

After a successful first year establishing the Bradford Social Enterprise, more SVP social enterprises are planned, allowing us to support more people in a sustainable way.

Rediscovering a vocation

Atiyya, a former fashion student came across the SVP on Facebook while looking for a course to refresh her skills. She enrolled in the sewing class at St Vincent's Bradford and rediscovered her love for fashion. Atiyya now shares her knowledge with her fellow sewers, and she has created a mural from recycled pieces of material which was displayed in the centre's sustainable fashion section. She says of the centre: "It's so much more than just a shop. I've seen people find jobs through coming here."

MORE THAN A SHOP

Our 46 St Vincent's shops are far more than mere retails outlets. They play a number of different roles, from boosting footfall on local high streets and championing sustainable fashion, to providing a safe and welcoming community space for people.

As a member of the Charity Retail Association (CRA), all our shops go the extra mile to support their communities while raising significant capital to fund the inspiring work we carry out every single day. In 2022-23, we opened three new shops; Armley Leeds, Gurnos Merthyr Tydfil and Westcliff Southend.

For many, our shops are the first point of contact they may have with the SVP, and while no two shops are the same, all share a culture of inclusion and diversity, welcoming all who need help or wish to show their support for our work, because opportunities at St Vincent's shops are endless for those who want to develop their retail, creative or social skills.

We are also at the forefront of advocating sustainable fashion by providing an alternative choice to shoppers. Our presence across England and Wales enables the SVP to be an active part in the reduction of items being sent to landfill each year, while supporting those with limited disposable income.

Our shops bring people together, from shoppers and donors to volunteers and staff. St Vincent's shops provide an accessible lifeline for people because we are a hub within the community in which we serve, where you can always find a listening ear, a friendly face, and a safe place where people can find peace and empowerment.



St Vincent's Revive Sunderland sells donated waste items

Reducing landfill

In November 2022, we launched a new venture aimed squarely at reducing landfill while providing all the facilities and care our St Vincent's shops and centres are famous for. St Vincent's Revive Sunderland, located in a Sunderland Council operated household waste transfer centre, allows visitors to leave items at a drop-off point for resale.

In the first six months of being open, the centre saved nine tonnes of waste from landfill.

Finding purpose

St Vincent's volunteer Kevin feels that without the charity, he wouldn't know what to do with his life, but he now feels he has a purpose. He says: "I've had a lot of health issues. I've been in and out of hospital, but helping at the SVP has been really good and therapeutic for me. It's helped me gain more confidence in myself."

NEW BEGINNINGS

Our new Westcliff shop in Southend opened on 6th October 2022. Since its opening, the shop has achieved financial success while establishing strong links within the community. The team are people focused on and devoted to providing a positive experience for customers. Volunteers are vital, giving both their time and kindness to help the SVP raise funds for our work. Volunteer Karen Miller says: "After retirement, I had a little more time on my hands and now I feel like I am giving something back."



Westcliff Shop in Southend

SPOTLIGHT ON OFFENDER SUPPORT

One of the many groups the SVP works with is prisoners and ex-offenders. Prisoners and their families are often socially excluded, and as a result, they experience poverty, significant hardship and material insecurity. They often don't feel part of a community, but the SVP is working hard to address stereotypes and empower them towards a better and more fulfilling future.

There are more than 80,000 men and women in prison, many of whom experience extreme loneliness and isolation. Prisoners and their families represent some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society and they often have multiple, complex needs that remain unmet by mainstream support services within and outside prisons.

Many prisoners are terrified of leaving their incarceration, a staggering one in 15 having no family or accommodation to go to. Many end up back inside because they make a mistake or cannot cope outside the prison environment. More than a third who are released on licence end up back inside because of homelessness, a return to drug or alcohol misuse, or a lack of continuity between pre- and post-release care.

Support from SVP members

An important contingent of our membership is involved in supporting prisoners, ex-offenders and their families.

In prisons, SVP members tailor their help according to circumstances, because prisons are unique environments and every prison has its own regime for the management of volunteers. Women's prisons operate differently to men's, high-security prisons operate differently to open prisons, and those managed by private companies are different to those run by His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service.

As SVP offender support has grown over the past five years, it has principally been responding to requests from prison chaplains. Examples of help we have given include: clothes, books, Christmas cards and chocolates, Easter eggs, musical instruments, bibles, rosaries and visits, such as attending Mass and chatting with prison residents over tea and coffee.

Offering support in prisons and working with ex-offenders and their families outside of the prison environment is often challenging work, but we aim to empower people out of the cycle of offending and reoffending which plagues their lives. We restore dignity by offering skills training, helping to find appropriate accommodation and reaffirming the bonds within the family and with the wider community.

We believe that everyone deserves a second chance, and change can only come from the belief that there is hope for the future.

Nationally, the SVP has set up an emergency fund to enable rapid response, particularly when a prisoner is likely to be released onto the streets. For example, the chaplain at Eastwood Park (a female prison) in Gloucestershire asked if a soon-to-be released prisoner could be provided with accommodation near Bournemouth. Probation Services could not find a suitable place for two weeks, so the SVP stepped in with support from the local probation officer to pay for a B&B.

PIANO HITS THE RIGHT NOTE

Two of our members from Saints Julius, Aaron & David in Caerleon, South Wales are registered prison visitors. When asked by the prison chaplain to help them to provide an electric piano for one of the prisoners, an accomplished pianist for his small prison choir, they rose to the challenge. The SVP Conference managed to find a good secondhand instrument to support the 15-strong prison choir. The piano is also being used to give lessons to four prisoners.

Befriending in prisons

St Werburgh's SVP Conference in Chester has about 20 members – men and women of all ages and backgrounds. Many of the members, along with those from five other locally based Conferences, provide befriending at nearby HMP Berwyn. The prison is served by representatives of most faith groups and for Catholic inmates is headed by the Bishop of Wrexham, Peter Brignall.

St Werburgh's parish priest is Paul Shaw and Conference Vice-President John O'Sullivan were among the very first group of volunteers to visit the prison and helped implement a regular Saturday morning Mass with coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards. This simple interaction enabled volunteers to become acquainted with prison residents and to befriend them in the Vincentian way.

One such person is John,* who through the support he received from SVP members was encouraged to get his life back on track. On release, John returned to his family farm and integrated back into the local community. He is in contact with Father Paul and John and grateful to them for their kindness.

Tom has told them that life on the farm is going well and that he has obtained his driving licence and is also pursuing a training course to secure his mechanical excavator operator's licence, which will enable him to find work in the construction industry, so all is looking promising and positive for his future.

Acts of kindness

Our teams in prisons across England and Wales have made a huge difference to the lives of prison residents, including delivering 810 bags of chocolate for Christmas to all the prisoners in HMYOI / HMP Deerbolt, Barnard Castle, Co Durham. Meanwhile, 60 women were provided with personal hygiene packs and clothes, and 210 phone cards were donated at Easter to Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre in Co Durham.

One Conference reached out to all the Muslim prisoners marking Ramadan during the month of April. In one Islamic tradition, the daily fast is broken each evening by eating a date. The prison Imam wanted to take dates round to all his flock and discovered that he didn't have enough. The local SVP Conference swung into action and made up the shortfall.

Additionally, 120 books and DVDs were given to HMP Wakefield, 180 Easter eggs were handed to HMP Leeds and 500 tubes of mini Easter eggs went to HMPYOI Wetherby and HMP New Hall.

Rebuilding a life

An SVP member was invited by the chaplain to buddy Sarah,* who was in a women's secure prison in the North of England, because she was making determined efforts to reform her life.



On release she had to sofa surf in the single bedroom flat with her mother and stepfather, but she was subjected to community hostility because of her previous offending and was refused several potential tenancies. Often those claiming benefits in her chosen area had to pay six months' rent in advance in addition to a rental deposit.

Her local SVP Conference funded her rental deposit, while her family helped with the rent in advance. Two people from another parish also stepped in to help, one gave a fridge freezer and another purchased a new electric cooker. Three members of another nearby SVP Conference offered to help by moving the fridge freezer into the flat and then undertook smaller jobs such as putting up curtain rails and shelving. Altogether nine SVP members were involved from three Conferences and four parishes. Thanks to the community around her, Sarah started to rebuild her life.

Dedicated projects

Several of our St Vincent's centres are helping ex-offenders in their communities, such as at Ely Bridge in Cardiff, who run an innovative community-based support project in partnership with HMPPS in Wales.

The SVP also has two approved premises in Tyneside that provide safe accommodations for prisoners who are released under licence. There are approximately 20 residents in each of the houses, which are fully staffed 24 hours per day. The staff support the residents in preparing for life back into society over a three-month period.

**Name changed for privacy reasons*

OVERSEAS SUPPORT



We support humanitarian and development projects in Sudan and South Sudan

SVP members in England and Wales extend the hand of friendship to those who need help in all four corners of the world.

SVP Conferences in England and Wales supported twin Conferences overseas throughout 2022-23. This involved 1,300 twins in India, 135 in Sudan, 35 in South Sudan, 30 in Grenada, 30 in Romania, and 13 in Guyana. The money provided enables SVP Conferences in poorer parts of the world to financially support those in need in their local communities.

Empowering communities

As well as Conference-to-Conference twin support, the SVP in England and Wales funds projects in the countries it supports. The aim of these projects is to not only support but to empower and thereby facilitate change.

Empowerment is a vital approach to our work in India. The funding of an Indian Student Sponsorship Programme has provided life-changing opportunities to many young people in the country, such as David* from Chennai, who qualified as a doctor. He says: "For the rest of my life I will never forget the help and support I received from the SVP. I don't know what I would have done without it."

We also provide small grants to income generating projects which can lift families out of poverty. More than 1,500 individual beneficiaries across 350 disadvantaged families in India were reached by this scheme during 2022-23.

Sudan and South Sudan

The shadow of conflict was also cast across Sudan in early 2023 with 3.7 million people newly internally displaced. SVP Conferences in England and Wales have been twinned with their counterparts in Sudan for many years and they continue to show solidarity and support. Due to the outbreak of hostilities in Sudan the SVP has ceased all funding since April 2023 in line with International laws on funding countries in conflict. Once the conflict has ceased, we will look at what options we have to resume funding.

In South Sudan, food insecurity and hunger continue to reach record levels, and the impact of the long civil war led to a severe economic crisis, intercommunal violence, and a huge shortage of skills and basic infrastructure. SVP Conferences continue to support humanitarian and development projects through the SVP's partner in South Sudan, which runs projects such as an infant feeding scheme, vocational training, support for homeless young people, and primary healthcare provision.

Post-pandemic recovery

Grenada's economy is reliant on tourism, so when the pandemic hit, the tiny Caribbean island suffered more than most. The country continues to simultaneously navigate a recovery from the pandemic and a rise in energy and food prices. However, thanks to the generosity of SVP members in England and Wales, a range of community support projects made a huge difference to families suffering the longer-term impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, including improvements in water harvesting, sanitation and housing schemes.

Funds raised through the SVP's Rise to the Challenge appeal provided a lifeline for Bernadette* and her son, who couldn't meet their basic needs during this challenging time. The funding allowed them to buy the essentials they needed so they could begin to rebuild their lives as the shadow of Covid lifted.

**Name changed for privacy reasons*

SUPPORT IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

Ukraine

Our overseas support takes many forms, but just as our domestic support is always led by community need, our international support is informed by need at grassroots level. This has never been more evident than in the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in Ukraine.

Our Ukraine Disaster Fund was launched in May 2022 following the outbreak of war, and during 2022-23, we provided more than £70,000 in funding to support urgent humanitarian needs and provide social assistance to conflict affected communities in Romania and Ukraine. For those who came to the UK, we supported more than 90 refugee families with a grant to buy basic essentials, such as furniture or equipment to start a new livelihood, as well as access to education, in communities across England and Wales.

Members from a Northamptonshire Conference accessed the fund to help Ukrainian families being hosted in the area. With the help of translators, the Conference was able to support several Ukrainian refugee families with basic requirements, such as clothes, computers to access the internet and for school studies, as well as enabling some to access employment by helping with transport costs. Volunteers also organised and delivered weekly English lessons thanks to local Oundle Town Council, which allowed them to use meeting rooms for free.



Our network of twinned Conferences in Romania enabled us to provide immediate support for those directly affected by the crisis through fundraising initiatives and collaborations with partner organisations. For example, St Birinus Conference in Oxfordshire funded a heating system for emergency refugee accommodation on the Romania-Ukraine border at Our Lady of Tenderness Greek Catholic Church, Turt. We also provided essential items and medicines to various welcome centres set up by our Vincentian partners, offering hope when it was most needed.

INFANT FEEDING PROGRAMME, NYARJWA, SOUTH SUDAN

The Nyarjwa baby and young children feeding centre is situated in a deprived, rural area and provides food and essential nutritional supplements for children to reduce malnutrition. The centre opens three days a week and feeds approximately 300 children daily funded by the SVP. In May 2022, the SVP sent £1,500 to help renovate the kitchen equipment and children's playground.



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

As part of an international lay Christian organisation, Catholic in origin, character and traditions, which respects religious liberty and the value of all God's people, the object of the charity includes:

The relief of poverty and sickness without differentiation on the ground of race, colour, creed, ideology or gender to bring spiritual and/or material solace to people in need, hardship or distress due to their social, economic or other circumstances.

The Society is constituted under the laws of England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 3174679). The Society is also a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number: 1053992).



Elaine Heyworth, became our new National President in 2022

The overarching governing document of the Society is the Articles of Association and is to be read in conjunction with the International Rule and the National Statutes. The International Rule is regularly reviewed and updated by International Council General of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Articles of Association describe the Society's objects, guarantees, powers and their limitation. They define 'Membership' of the Company (i.e. National Council) and describe the governance processes, including how changes and decisions are made. The National Statutes provide the framework for the governance and operation of the Society. Detailed management of the Society's affairs are covered in relevant Policies and Procedures, which are treated as a part of the Rule.

The Society adopts this corporate governance framework to deliver its strategic priorities and objectives and to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's legal and regulatory requirements (The Charities Act 2011) and adheres to the legislative requirements outlined in the Companies Act 2006. Effective governance is based on ensuring there is a culture of compliance across its works and practices. This is implemented by policies and procedures, clear accountabilities, external and internal audit plans, robust and resilient risk assessments and a culture of continuous learning.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees consists of between nine to 13 people, including the Chair. The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society (E&W). On the election of a new National President by the National Council, the President shall nominate up to five Trustees, at least three of whom will be Central Council Presidents, and shall also nominate a Vice President and a National Treasurer.

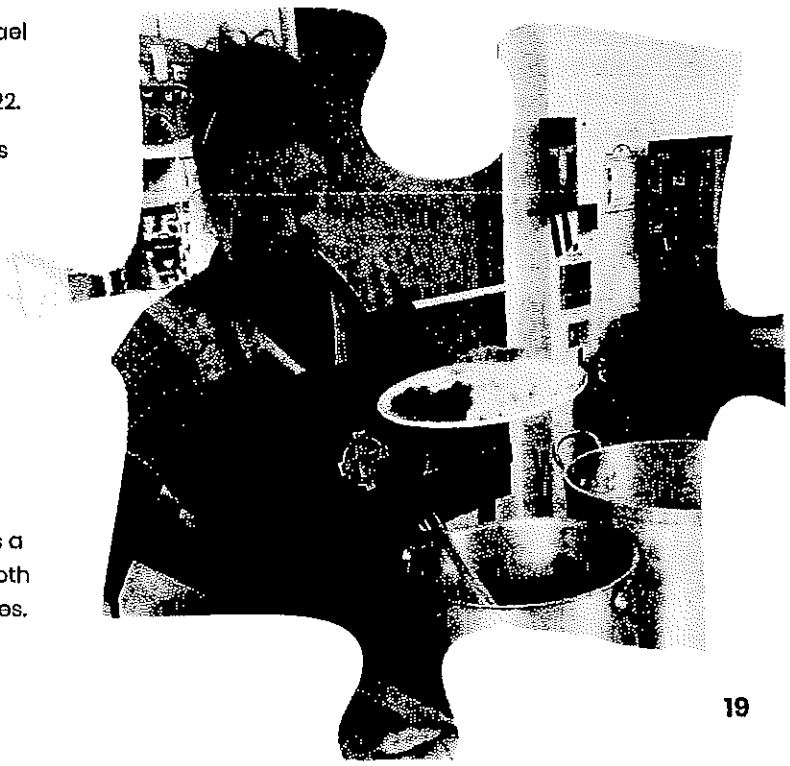
Each Trustee must be formally confirmed by the National Council to serve for a period of five years, some acting as continuation Trustees and some starting on election of a new National President. Up to four non-members of the Society may be appointed as Trustees provided that they commit to the values of the Society and have skills which are required by the Society. This year was the final term of office for the majority of Board members. The table below shows the outgoing and incoming Board members who were formally elected by National Council in December 2022 with the exception of Mark Branch who was appointed in August 2022.

Name	Status	Responsibility
Elaine Heyworth	Ongoing Trustee	National President
Steve Gill	Incoming Trustee	Senior Vice President
Mark Branch	Incoming Trustee	National Treasurer
Winston Waller	Incoming Trustee	Membership Strategic
Liz Creevy	Incoming Trustee	Membership Spirituality
Clare O'Brien	Incoming Trustee	Property Portfolio
Gustavo Vas Falcao	Incoming Trustee	Social Justice
Monica Chidgey	Incoming Trustee	Safeguarding
Nasha Pierre	Incoming Trustee	General Portfolio
Anita Motha	Incoming Trustee	General Portfolio
Mark Thompson	Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio
Susan Roberts	Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio
Dermot McGilloway	Continuation Trustee	General Portfolio

Trustees who resigned in December 2022 were Helen O'Shea, James Bellamy, Ian Kempsell, Michael Wilcock, Richard Palmi, Sebastian Muir and Vince McAllister. Christine Knight resigned in August 2022.

In addition, Fr Paul Roche attends Board meetings as a National Spiritual Advisor. The selection of Trustees seeks to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities, as well as bringing increased diversity and inclusion.

An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the charity's objectives, strategy and activities, as well as understanding Charity Commission guidance on the role of a Trustee and good governance. The Board meets at least four times a year to review the performance of the charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives.



The Society has established clear levels of delegated authority within which:

- some decisions are reserved to the Board alone.
- some to the Executive Trustees (the National President, the Senior Vice President, the Treasurer).
- responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who may in turn delegate authority to the Deputy CEO and Senior Management.
- the Board sets the strategic direction for the efficient and effective management of the Society's funds and strategic roadmap. In early 2023 the new Board set the new strategy for the Society over the next five years.
- the Board nominates committees, sub committees or working groups to fulfil ongoing or time-limited governance functions, formed of Trustees, other members, external experts and operational managers.
- the Board regularly evaluates its own performance through the 'annual Board review', examining its impact and effectiveness and any improvements required in its organisation or operation. This is done in line with the Charity Commission Governance Code guidance.

The Society's members are organised in local Conferences to carry out the work of the charity. Conferences are grouped together in geographical areas and are overseen by District Councils which in turn report to Central Councils which are structured, as far as possible, to reflect the 23 Roman Catholic Dioceses across England & Wales. The President of each Central Council sits on the National Council. No Central Council, District Council or Conference may be established as a separate charity and all constitute parts of the Charity operating under the delegated authority of the Trustees.



SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

These committees are given delegated powers by the main Board of Trustees and each is chaired by a Board member. They are responsible for supporting a specific area of operational oversight and their activities are reported to the Board. As the number and structure of the committees reflects prevailing priorities, they are reviewed and updated periodically. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference, which are reviewed annually.

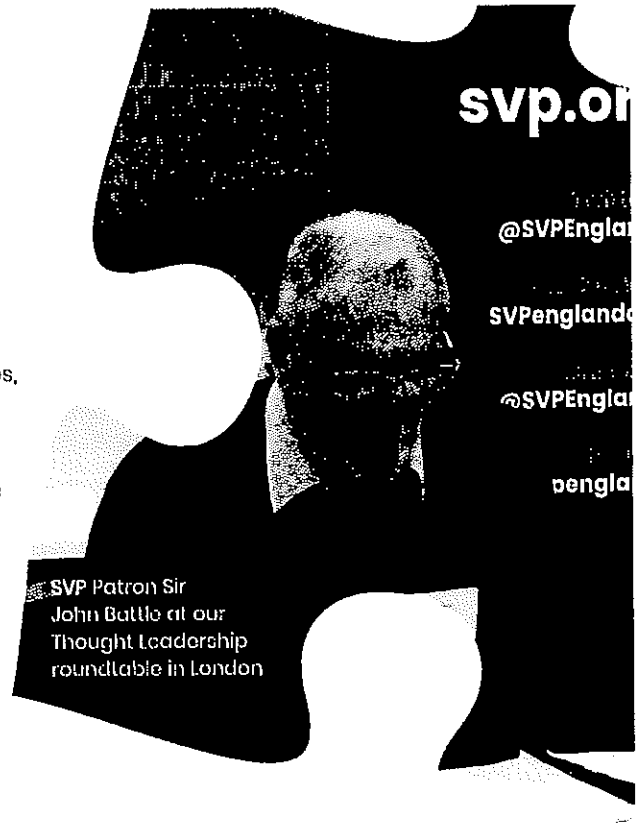
The role of each of the committees during 2022-23 was as follows:

- **Finance:** reviews and recommends for approval to the board, budgets and other financial governance matters in addition to fundraising.
- **Community Support Projects:** supports and develops sustainable community projects in appropriate areas.
- **Membership:** reviews membership issues, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels. In early 2023 this was split into two main areas covering the strategic and spiritual aspects of membership.
- **Audit & Compliance:** oversees Society wide risks and reviews control systems (Safeguarding, Human Resources, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Data Protection) as well as overseeing all internal audit activity.
- **Safeguarding:** oversees systems to ensure that controls in place are effective and review ongoing case management and deliver training for Conference members, staff and volunteers.
- **Twinning:** reviews overseas aid activities from local funding to international grant applications and where appropriate emergency aid funding on an ad hoc basis.
- **Social Justice:** explores opportunities for SVP contributions to the poverty agenda, both within and outside the Society and supports campaigning activity.
- **Property:** reviews and oversees issues and risks relating to SVP property portfolio.
- **Retail & Social Enterprise:** reviews and oversees all activity associated with the national SVP portfolio of Community shops.

- **Vinnie Camps:** ensures that SVP camps provide a safe and enjoyable experience for young people in accordance with defined safeguarding and health & safety procedures. In early 2023 Camps was brought under the Young Vincentians directorship, but remains as a separate committee.
- **Youth:** reviews and oversee all youth related programmes across schools, colleges, youth hubs, universities and parishes, as well as oversight of the Vinnie camps.

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- **Delivery of safe**, effective and personalised poverty relief, especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- **Financial sustainability**, especially in the context of the current economic situation.



SVP Patron Sir John Battle at our Thought Leadership roundtable in London

KEY RISKS IDENTIFIED DURING 2022-23

Key themes that develop through the Society's focus on risk management are fed into the annual strategic review. The demand on charity services is continuing to grow as the cost of living is a major concern for our beneficiaries and continues to add extra burden to the stretched resources across charities in general. Coupled with the war in Ukraine and the post pandemic fallout we need to ensure we are in a strong financial position to continue to respond to the need as we seek to grow in more areas.

Financial risks

Like many charities the Society has been impacted by rising costs in maintenance, infrastructure and charges by suppliers as a result of the cost of living crisis. We continue to see unprecedented demand for funds and services from beneficiaries, as some public services have declined. To mitigate this the society developed a five year sustainability model to enable long term thinking and planning solutions including new income generating streams, enabling us to continue to meet the demand.

Social Care Expansion

As the Society expands its provision in some cases to high risk beneficiaries or those with more complex welfare needs it brings increased obligations around health & safety and safeguarding awareness and signposting down the most appropriate route. We mitigate this risk by working or partnering with experts in these fields, as well reviewing targeted risk assessments and rolling out mandatory safeguarding training to all members who visit beneficiaries in their homes. Additional member guidance and fact sheets and other resources have been developed to ensure the beneficiary gets the best solution even if not provided by the Society directly.

Membership

The risk around a decline in active membership post pandemic has slowed down somewhat, but we are conscious that this is still an area of risk that should continue to be monitored. As many local parishes continue to amalgamate across the country we aim to mitigate this by welcoming new types of members and volunteers to work with us.

We aim to do this proactively by:

- Supporting "at risk" Conferences
- Developing more hybrid Conferences, welcoming others with like-minded ethos and values
- Increase flexibility for bringing in temporary members



Healthy Holidays scheme at St Vincent's Deaf Centre Newcastle

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2022-23

As we moved towards the end of our previous five year strategy at the end of 2022 we looked at the significant steps we took over this period to grow and deliver on the charity's objects. In the final year of the strategic priorities we concluded:

- **Maintaining the momentum of our fundraising campaigns, ramping up on our digital platform for giving** - this has been a huge step forward for the charity, which included a new Christmas campaign. We have also been successful in bringing in over 1,000 new donors as well as introducing a new online lottery.
- **Expanding our press and editorial coverage** - we continued to increase our coverage in the media to raise awareness of the Society and were featured in more than 1,000 news outlets during the year. This included national broadcast news programmes on ITV and Sky, national print newspapers such as the Daily Mirror, and a wide range of regional media. We also invested in a new media monitoring system to help increase the reach and impact of our media profile.
- **Expanding our network of support centres** - we established a goal of one centre in each of our 23 regions and in 2022-23 we opened two new centres. We now have a total of 11 centres and will continue to work on this goal in future years.
- **Recruiting a Membership Support officer in each of the 23 regions** - we successfully recruited seven MSOs during the year, bringing the total to 22. We delivered a new online training platform for members.
- **Continued commitment to our environmental, diversity and measurement agenda** - this is an area of increased focus which saw us develop a new reuse enterprise in Sunderland in 2022, to reduce landfill and help our aim to either reuse, restore or recycle. We will further develop our environmental policy in 2023-24, including an assessment of one of our greenfield sites to see how we can better use it to the advantage of the local community and to support our environmental goals for the future. We have also invested in our diversity agenda developing the most diverse Board of Trustees we have had to date. We are continually assessing our workforce and recruitment approach to ensure inclusivity and diversity are paramount.

OTHER UNDERTAKINGS

The SVP is the custodian trustee for the following three undertakings:

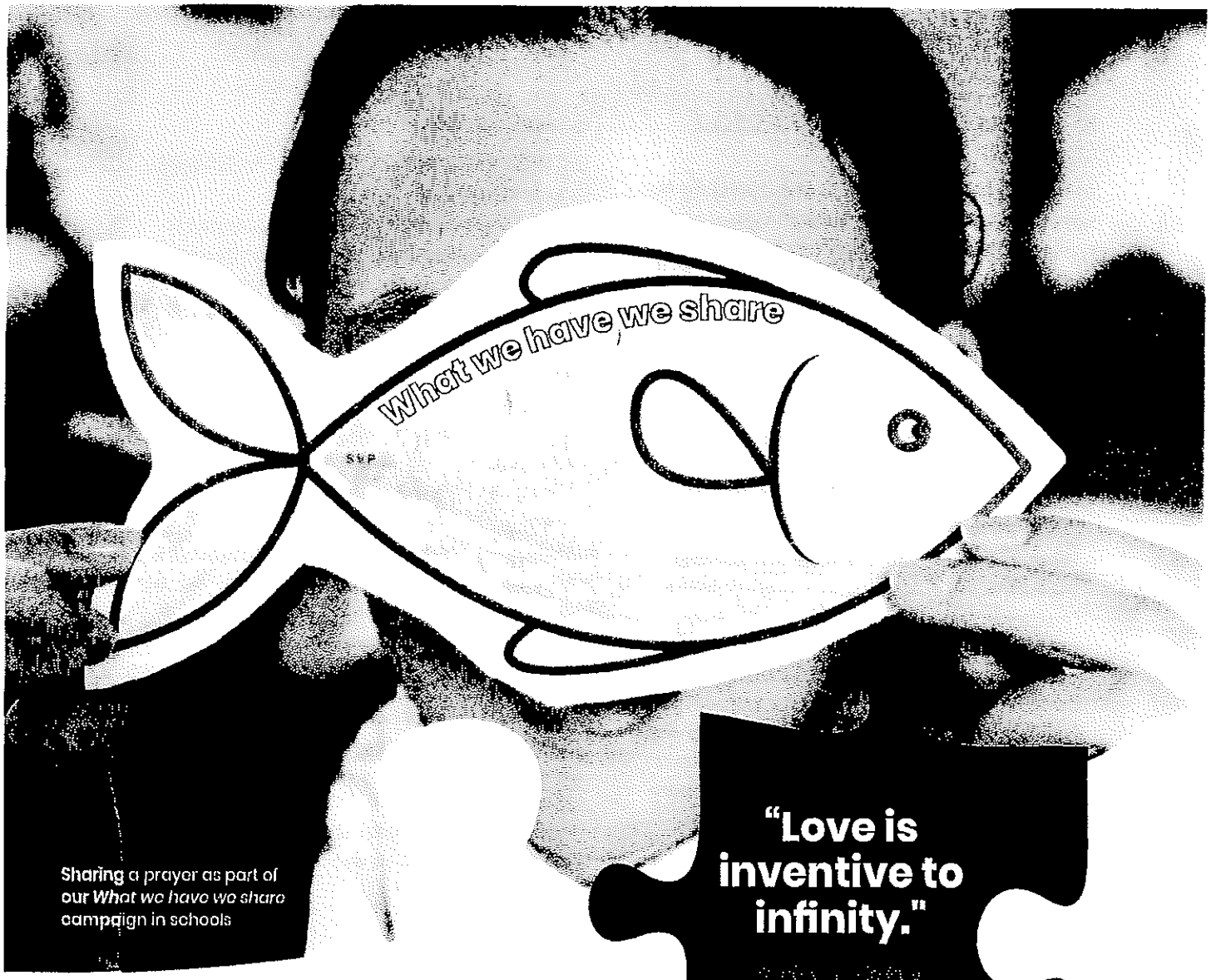
- **The Pen-y-Pound House Fund** was formed to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. It comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income.
- **The TB Hunt Fund** is a permanent endowment fund established to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need in these areas.
- **The Francis Thompson Fund** is a permanent endowment fund invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool.

In addition, the Society has oversight of:

- **The David Young Charity** (charity number: 238877) was originally set up to aid poor relatives of the Young family and has since been expanded to assist those who are in financial difficulties and who, because they are members or employees of the Society, are not eligible to seek support from the Society itself.



St Vincent's Revive Sunderland



Sharing a prayer as part of our *What we have we share* campaign in schools

INVESTMENTS

The Board of Trustees sets the overall performance and ethical parameters within which our investment managers operate. The investment managers report quarterly. Each year they meet with the Finance Committee to review performance and outlook. Performance is measured against the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers balanced index. The primary objectives of our investment portfolio are to:

- Generate income to fund operational costs
- Provide capital growth to fund new activities
- Offer diversity across asset classes, including fixed interest investments and medium risk equities

The Trustees have adopted an ethical investment policy in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church. During the year the investments achieved a return of -6.26% against an index of -2.80%.

RESERVES

The Trustees annually review the level of reserves to be held by the charity to ensure they are adequate. Free reserves of the charity are considered to be its unrestricted funds not designated for specific spending. Our reserves target is to hold a minimum of three months' spending in free reserves. Free reserves of the charity were £3.5 million at 31 March 2023 (2022: £4.5 million) which represents 3.6 months (2022: 4.7 months) of unrestricted general fund expenditure. This balance does not include £3.7 million of fixed assets (2022: £3.1 million). Reserves have reduced in the year as the Society has undertaken planned investment in projects and set up a Cost of Living Fund for beneficiaries.

MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES

Grant making

The St Vincent de Paul Society makes grants to individuals in need and to organisations, but only to those with objectives similar to those of the Society and where members are directly involved in volunteering. This includes grants to overseas SVP Conferences (Twinning). All major grants are approved in advance by the Trustees, who ensure that appropriate controls and reporting frameworks are in place.

Statement of fundraising practice 2022-23

The severe financial and other pressures on individuals and families during the year brought added urgency to our fundraising. However, our donors and supporters continued to humble us with their kindness and generosity and we deeply appreciate their ongoing financial support, without which we could not sustain and deliver growth across our membership and local services.

Throughout the year, we continued to benefit from grants, in-memoriam donations, gifts in wills and donations made through the purchase of alternative gifts in our Christmas catalogue and we launched our first weekly online lottery, which has a weekly top prize of £25k, and attracted over 170 regular players. Against the backdrop of the continuing war in Ukraine, we continued to receive donations to our Ukraine Disaster Fund, which helped the SVP in Romania give urgently needed support to refugees fleeing across the border.

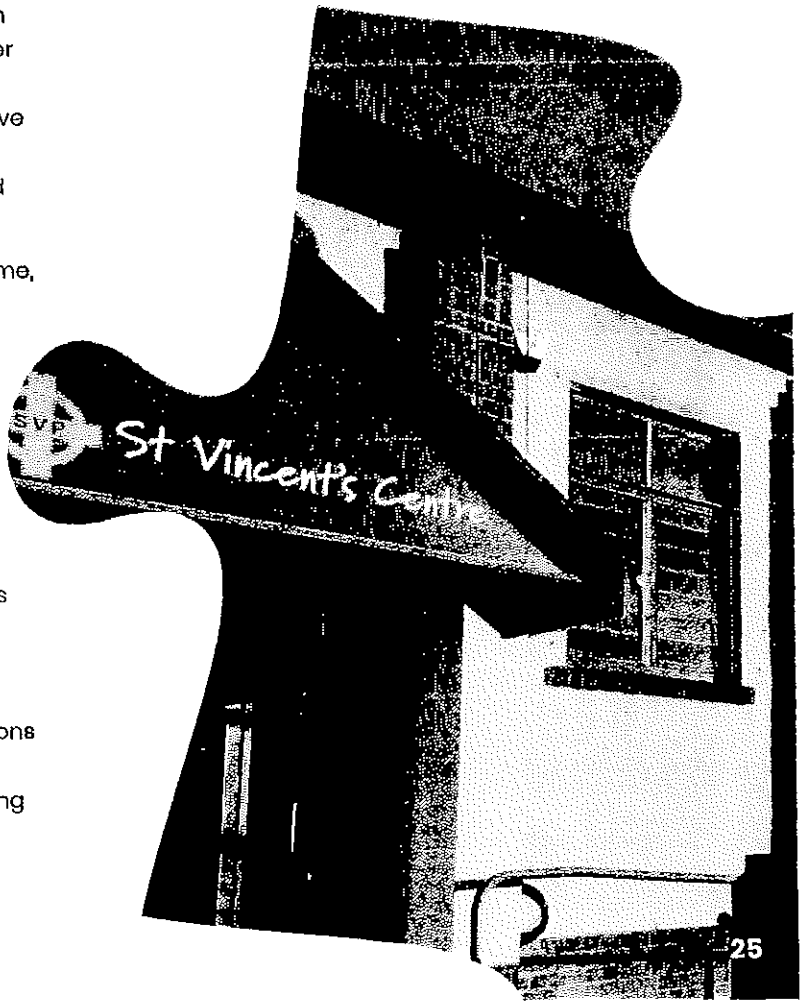
As legacies are a vital and major source of income, we produced new legacy giving resources, promoted our free will writing service to our members, supporters and staff and prepared for our first legacy giving campaign in 2024.

In the lead up to Christmas 2022 we launched our second ever national Christmas Kindness appeal, which raised awareness of our work and drew generous support from current and new donors, as well as our members, raising over £145,000 for our Cost of Living Support Fund and St Vincent's centres. The appeal was integrated across our shops, community centres and national communications channels, and we engaged new audiences and supporters through a direct and digital marketing campaign.

Our major donors generously contributed a match-funding pot of £48,000, which greatly helped to uplift donations.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice, which specifies the requirements and standards charities are required to meet as set out in the Charities Act 2016. All staff in the national fundraising team are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising and keep up to date with regulations, the latest research and reports, trends and developments in fundraising, and the ever-evolving funding landscape.

The Board of Trustees is kept informed of fundraising practice through regular reports from the Director of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing. Several members of the board are personally involved in supporting and promoting fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas Kindness and Rise to the Challenge appeals. During the year no professional fundraiser or commercial participator was engaged to carry out fundraising on behalf of the charity and no failure to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice was reported or fundraising complaints received.




£32,544
raised in memory of loved ones
1
new SVP weekly lottery
VOLUNTEER
OUR FUNDRAISING
*Received up to 31 March 2023
47
free will writing requests
JACK& JONES
171
SVP lottery players
£143,614
raised from the Christmas Kindness appeal for the Cost of Living Support Fund
£3,262
raised by schools and young people from their Summer sleepouts
1,127
new online donors


469
Friends of the SVP
43,545
SVP Summer Raffle tickets sold
£48,000
in match funding for our appeals
£9,119
raised from the SVP weekly lottery
£128,900
in donations received for our general work
4
Legacy Ambassadors
£225,586
raised in legacy gifts to support our national work
17
delighted raffle winners



Volunteers from S
Newcastle
comm

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Saffery LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the charitable company was passed at the Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities - charitable company

The Trustees (who are also directors of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

  and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2022-23 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on 24 November 2023 at the annual AGM and signed on their behalf by

Elaine Heyworth
National President and Chair of Trustees

AUDITOR'S REPORT

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and charity sheets and the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2023 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 29 the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed in the following.

IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISKS RELATED TO IRREGULARITIES

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sectors in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

AUDIT RESPONSE TO RISKS IDENTIFIED

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items, including a review of financial statement disclosures.
We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities**. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Saffery LLP

Sally Appleton
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

19 Dec. 23

For and on behalf of Saffery LLP
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors
Mitre House, North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5RX

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. The Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

The overall net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2023 was a deficit of (£1,044,650) compared to a surplus of £1,065,428 in the year ended 31 March 2022.

INCOME

Total income for the year increased by £998,946 to £14,222,729 compared to £13,223,783 in 2022.

EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure in 2023 amounted to £15,281,199 compared to £12,598,558 in 2022 representing an increase of £2,682,642. This was largely due to increased expenditure across all services and especially on visits and assistance to individuals and families compared to the previous year (£3,585,304 in 2023 compared to £3,157,622 in 2022), retail shops expansion (£3,819,343 in 2023 compared to £3,546,899 in 2022) and spend at our Support Centres (£2,285,906 in 2023 compared to £1,667,415 in 2022).

GAINS AND LOSSES

The loss on investments for 2023 amounted to (£188,340) compared to a gain of £171,942 in 2022.

PENSION FUND

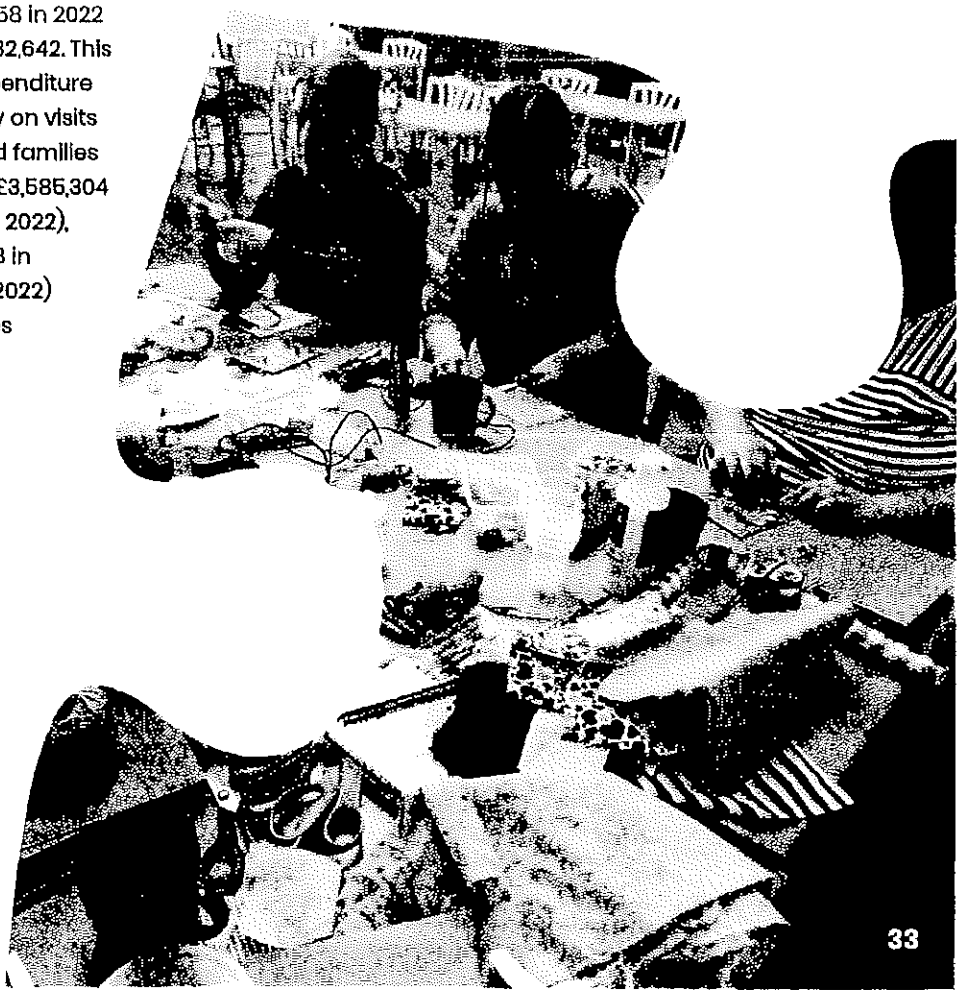
The actuarial gain recognised on the pension fund in 2023 amounted to £215,000 compared to a gain of £143,000 in 2022.

CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

The group cash at bank and in hand amounted to £6,814,086 in 2023 compared to £7,435,701 in 2022, representing a decrease of £621,615.

TOTAL FUNDS

The total group funds at 31 March 2023 amounted to £12,760,598 compared to £13,805,248 at 31 March 2022 representing a decrease of (£1,044,650).
A comparative summary of each category of fund is included in the balance sheet, and there is a detailed breakdown in note 24 of the accounts.



St Vincent's Leeds crafts class

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2023 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	5,230,685	907,957	-	6,138,642	5,942,974
Other trading activities	3	172,349	-	-	172,349	38,722
Income from investments		222,241	32,829	-	255,070	204,113
Income from charitable activities:						
Retail income		3,821,447	-	-	3,821,447	3,482,433
Holidays and camps		155,865	-	-	155,865	79,016
Residential provision		2,341,979	-	-	2,341,979	2,099,679
Community Support Projects		349,434	-	-	349,434	240,515
Social Enterprise Activities		638,573	-	-	638,573	565,880
Youth Development		22,412	-	-	22,412	8,373
Other income		226,958	-	-	226,958	562,078
Total income	4	13,281,943	940,786	-	14,222,729	13,223,783
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	766,054	-	-	766,054	485,726
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		3,075,931	509,373	-	3,585,304	3,157,622
Retail		3,819,343	-	-	3,819,343	3,546,899
Holidays and camps		446,156	-	-	446,156	250,843
Residential provision		2,362,569	-	-	2,362,569	2,009,878
Community Support Projects		2,285,906	-	-	2,285,906	1,667,415
Social Enterprise Activities		898,486	-	-	898,486	570,373
Youth Development Programme		347,157	(57)	-	347,100	211,393
Twinning		415,344	354,937	-	770,281	698,409
Total expenditure	6	14,416,946	864,253	-	15,281,199	12,598,558
Net (losses) / gains on investments	14	(83,471)	-	(84,869)	(168,340)	171,942
Share of (loss) / profit in jointly controlled entities	18	(12,840)	-	-	(12,840)	126,261
Net (expenditure) / income	7	(1,241,314)	76,533	(84,869)	(1,259,650)	922,428
Transfers between funds	23	524,987	(524,987)	-	-	-
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	-	215,000	-	215,000	143,000
Net movement in funds		(716,327)	(233,454)	(84,869)	(1,044,650)	1,065,428
Funds at the start of the year	23	9,075,030	3,588,340	1,141,878	13,805,248	12,739,820
Funds at the end of the year	23	8,358,703	3,354,886	1,047,009	12,760,598	13,805,248

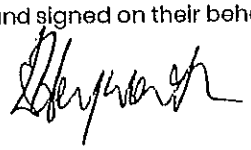
All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 24 to the financial statements. The comparative consolidated statement of financial activities is disclosed in note 30 to the financial statements.

GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Group 2023 £	Charity 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Charity 2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	**2,406,020**	**2,389,225**	2,422,522	2,422,522
Mixed motive Investment Freehold Property	12 & 13	**1,081,626**	**1,081,626**	673,495	673,495
Investments	14	**2,456,686**	**1,460,270**	2,639,449	1,520,936
Investments in subsidiaries	16	-	**1**	-	1
Investments in joint ventures	18	**123,429**	-	136,269	-
		6,067,761	**4,911,122**	5,871,735	4,616,954
Current assets					
Stock		**15,580**	**5,541**	11,900	10,344
Debtors	19	**842,735**	**1,146,185**	1,029,649	1,101,236
Cash at bank and in hand		**6,814,086**	**6,609,284**	7,435,701	7,301,358
		7,672,401	**7,761,010**	8,477,250	8,412,938
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	20	**686,284**	**735,682**	543,737	495,465
Net current assets		**6,986,117**	**7,025,328**	7,933,513	7,917,473
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	21	**293,280**	**293,280**	-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		**12,760,598**	**11,643,170**	13,805,248	12,534,427
Defined benefit scheme pension asset / (liability)	22	-	-	-	-
Net assets		**12,760,598**	**11,643,170**	13,805,248	12,534,427
Funds					
Endowment funds		**1,047,009**	**181,158**	1,141,878	196,658
Restricted funds		**3,354,886**	**3,150,498**	3,588,340	3,468,851
Unrestricted funds:					
Revaluation reserve		**625,477**	**625,477**	625,477	625,477
Designated funds		**6,381,433**	**6,368,933**	4,537,723	4,578,443
General funds		**1,351,793**	**1,317,104**	3,911,830	3,664,998
Total funds	24	**12,760,598**	**11,643,170**	13,805,248	12,534,427

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 24 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Elaine Heyworth, National President

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales). Company Number: 3174679.

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	a	**(564,365)**	871,531
Net cash used in by investing activities	b	**(350,530)**	(3,209)
Net cash provided by financing activities		**293,280**	-
(Decrease) / increase in cash in the year		**(621,615)**	868,322
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
(Decrease) / increase in cash for the year		**(621,615)**	868,322
Net funds at beginning of year		**7,435,701**	6,567,379
Net funds at end of year	c	**6,814,086**	7,435,701

a. Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities

Net (expenditure) / income before revaluations	**(1,058,470)**	625,225
Investment income	**(255,070)**	(204,113)
Depreciation	**200,072**	199,200
Loss / (Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	**8,322**	(373,322)
Defined benefit scheme net interest expense	**(1,000)**	(2,000)
Current service cost in excess of employer contributions	**216,000**	107,000
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	**142,547**	(50,701)
Decrease in debtors	**186,914**	570,451
Increase in stocks	**(3,680)**	(209)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	**(564,365)**	871,531

b. Net cash used in investing activities

Investment income	**255,070**	204,113
Proceeds from sale of listed investments	**170,820**	97,112
Purchase of investments	**(167,580)**	(299,789)
Decrease in Revive investment portfolio	-	185,981
(Increase) / Decrease in cash held within investment portfolio	**(8,817)**	23,561
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	540,000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(600,023)**	(734,187)
	(350,530)	(3,209)

c. Analysis of Net Funds

	As at 01 Apr 2022	Cash flows	As at 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	7,435,701	(621,615)	**6,814,086**
	7,435,701	(621,615)	**6,814,086**



St Vincent's Southend-on-Sea host a Christmas singalong

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Charitable company information

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) ("the Society" or "the Charity") is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

b) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified by the recognition of investment properties, and financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out in the following pages.

c) Consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (England and Wales) Trading Limited, on a line by line basis. The Society also holds a controlling interest in the Pen Y Pound House Fund, the David Young's Charity and the TB Hunt Trust. These are included within the group accounts. The results of the charity comprise the results of the National Office, Conferences and Special Works of the Society. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented because it has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Society is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee and exercises joint control over the entity via a membership agreement. Revive Leeds CIC is accounted for in the Society's consolidated accounts using the equity method. The Society's share of the profit or loss as well as the Society's share of any reserve movements of Revive Leeds CIC are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they occur.

d) Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. Individual projects within the Society are largely expected to be self-funding and shop income has continued to perform well during the year ended 31st March 2023. This, combined with the reserves the charity holds, has enabled the Trustees to conclude that the charity will be able to settle its debts as they fall due for at least 12 months following approval of these financial statements. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern and so the financial statements continue to be prepared on this basis.

e) Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pound sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the period end date. Gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

f) Income

Voluntary income received by way of donations to the Society is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the accounts in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which entitlement is notified, where there is probability of receipt and where the amount can be measured reliably.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are recognised when authorised for payment.

Governance costs relate to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Expenditure on raising funds relates to the costs incurred by the group and Society in raising funds for the charitable work.

Allocation of support costs incurred at the Society's administrative centres

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where relevant, the salary, office and premises costs of the administrative centres which represent the charity's support costs are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**35%**
Shops and furniture stores	**24%**
Holidays and camps	**6%**
Residential provision	**8%**
Twinning	**3%**
Youth development programme	**4%**
Support centres	**10%**
Expenditure on raising funds	**4%**
	100%

h) Fixed assets

Assets are capitalised at cost, as detailed in note 12.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	**2% straight line**
Leasehold property	**over the period of the lease**
Computer equipment	**33% straight line**
Furniture and equipment	**20% straight line**
Motor vehicles and caravans	**20% straight line**

Land is not depreciated.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Mixed motive investments are held at cost as this is deemed to be not materially different to fair value. The value is reviewed annually by management for impairment and provision made if appropriate.

i) Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gains or losses for the period on revaluation or disposal are taken to the statement of financial activities. The Trustees consider short term deposits to be liquid resources.

j) Assets held for sale

The charity's mixed movement investments are measured at cost and represent properties held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects.

k) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is measured on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

l) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less.

m) Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund.

Designated funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the Trustees of the Society.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Endowment funds are funds for which the assets must be held permanently by the Society. Further details of these funds are shown in note 24.

n) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

o) Pensions

Defined contribution scheme: The Society operates a stakeholder group personal pension plan. In addition, the Society contributes to the personal pension schemes of a number of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the schemes by the Society to the funds. The Society has no liability under the schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Defined benefit scheme: Some of the Society's employees are members of the Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Society in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting asset or liability is recognised in the balance sheet. In the case of an asset this is recognised to the extent it is considered recoverable through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the Scheme. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

p) Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets: Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Other financial assets: Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost.

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets: Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets: Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Classification of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities: Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

q) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The

estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.



The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements: The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and note 1. h) for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	**307,247**	-	-	**307,247**	315,207
Church collections	**606,020**	**46,218**	-	**651,238**	504,643
Legacies	**937,519**	**10,150**	-	**947,669**	854,264
Other fundraising activities	**195,798**	**293,122**	-	**488,920**	324,175
Other donations and voluntary grants	**3,185,101**	**558,467**	-	**3,743,568**	3,944,685
	5,230,685	**907,957**	-	**6,138,642**	5,942,974

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	315,207	-	-	315,207
Church collections	477,761	26,882	-	504,643
Legacies	667,595	196,669	-	864,264
Other fundraising activities	175,450	148,725	-	324,175
Other donations and voluntary grants	3,441,510	503,175	-	3,944,685
	5,067,523	875,451	-	5,942,974

Donations and legacies received covers a number of different charitable activities.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING FUNDRAISING)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading activities	**116,040**	-	-	**116,040**	37,087
Income from national raffle	**57,309**	-	-	**57,309**	1,635
	172,349	-	-	**172,349**	38,722

All the above trading activities comprise unrestricted funds in both periods.

4. TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after including the following main grants:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Visits & assistance to individuals & families		
Porta Pia	**35,000**	35,000
Porticus	**12,165**	26,357
Shops & furniture stores		
Sheffield City Council - Voluntary Sector Grants Fund	**53,283**	53,283
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	-	8,980
Support centres		
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**272,969**	143,555
National Citizens Advice	**110,191**	-
Wirral BC	**81,147**	-
LNER	**75,000**	-
EU Settlement Scheme	**43,650**	36,070
Material Focus for Social Enterprise	**39,824**	-
Leeds City Council	**35,780**	-
St Mary's University Sunderland	**30,350**	-
Leeds Community Foundation	**27,000**	39,652
Charities Trust Grant	**25,000**	-
Southend on Sea CIB	**22,422**	-
Alive in Faith Grants for SVP Trading	**20,000**	-
Newcastle Community Foundation	**15,450**	12,500
Barbour Foundation	**15,000**	-
Newcastle CC	**10,000**	-
Land Securities	**10,000**	-
NHS Mid & South	**10,000**	-
Lottery Funding	-	113,029
Homeless Link Grant	-	1,500
Veolia	-	20,400
Shared Space	-	12,000
Gateshead Council Community Grant	-	12,000
Jersey Grant	-	30,000
Welsh Government Grant	-	25,000
Leeds Mencap	-	25,333
University of Leeds	-	17,150
Leeds CEV	-	10,000

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	**352,896**	-	-	**352,896**	259,103
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**14,163**	-	-	**14,163**	10,698
Fundraising expenses	**30,761**	-	-	**30,761**	10,438
Trading activities	**22,836**	-	-	**22,836**	15,569
Investment managers' fees	**9,658**	-	-	**9,658**	10,150
Property expenses	**73,309**	-	-	**73,309**	23,037
Office expenses	**57,343**	-	-	**57,343**	18,070
Other costs	**106,563**	-	-	**106,563**	60,333
Support costs (note 6)	**98,525**	-	-	**98,525**	78,328
	766,054	-	-	**766,054**	485,726

All the above expenditure was from unrestricted funds in both periods.

6. EXPENDITURE

	Year ended 31 March 2023				
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	**352,895**	-	**314,634**	**98,525**	**766,054**
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**243,511**	-	**2,365,532**	**976,261**	**3,585,304**
Retail	**1,947,861**	-	**1,197,470**	**674,012**	**3,819,343**
Holidays and camps	-	-	**278,567**	**167,589**	**446,156**
Residential provision	**1,778,337**	-	**372,502**	**211,730**	**2,362,569**
Community Support Projects	**1,296,630**	-	**702,886**	**286,390**	**2,285,906**
Social Enterprise Activities	**525,425**	-	**213,913**	**159,148**	**898,486**
Twinning	**53,499**	**644,586**	**2,820**	**69,376**	**770,281**
Youth Development Programme	**174,468**	-	**61,626**	**111,006**	**347,100**
Total charitable activities	**6,019,731**	**644,586**	**5,195,316**	**2,855,512**	**14,515,145**
Support costs	**1,884,023**	**58,806**	**1,011,207**	**(2,754,036)**	-
	8,056,649	**703,392**	**6,521,167**	**1**	**15,281,199**

	Year ended 31 March 2022				
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	259,103	-	148,296	78,328	485,727
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	224,896	-	2,206,130	726,595	3,157,621
Retail income	1,751,855	-	1,048,802	746,444	3,546,901
Holidays and camps	-	-	139,484	111,358	250,842
Residential provision	1,531,014	-	308,778	170,085	2,009,877
Community Support Projects	1,047,543	-	466,480	153,392	1,667,415
Social Enterprise Activities	364,415	-	136,927	69,031	570,373
Twinning	51,662	592,885	2,050	51,812	698,409
Youth Development Programme	104,709	-	13,468	93,216	211,393
Total charitable activities	5,075,894	592,885	4,322,119	2,121,933	12,112,831
Support costs	1,314,596	17,453	868,212	(2,200,261)	-
	6,649,593	610,338	5,338,627	-	12,598,558

7. NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£
Depreciation	**200,072**	199,200
Trustees' indemnity insurance	**3,900**	3,900
Trustees' remuneration	**-**	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**2,976**	857
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Statutory audit	**35,000**	30,000
Prior year audit fees	**2,000**	6,900
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	**808,448**	712,492

During the year 8 (2022: 5) trustees were reimbursed expenses. This totalled £2,976 (2022: £857). In addition £Nil (2022: £Nil) was paid on behalf of Trustees directly to third parties. Expenses related to reimbursement for travel and accommodation, subsistence, telephone, postage and stationery and are in relation to their roles as trustees.

In accordance with the articles of association, the Society paid a premium of £3,900 (2022: £3,900) for trustee indemnity insurance to the value of £6 million (2022: £6 million).

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**6,726,971**	5,656,074
Social security costs	**569,262**	421,367
Pension contributions	**760,416**	572,152
	8,056,649	6,649,593

Included in staff costs and paid in the year were redundancy and termination payments totalling £17,504 - 8 employees (2022 : £0- 1 employee).

The earnings, including pension contribution and employer's National Insurance contributions, of key management personnel (including the CEO) in 2023 were £204,376 (2022: £182,190). This related to two roles (2022: two).

During the year there were six employees who received employment benefits (excluding employer's pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

£60,000 - £70,000 - 4 (2022: 0).

£80,000 - £90,000 - 0 (2022: 1).

£90,000 - £100,000 - 1 (2022: 1).

£100,000 - £110,000 - 1 (2022: 0).

The average number of employees (on a full time equivalent basis) during the year was as follows:

	Actual		FTE	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	-	-	-	-
Shops and furniture stores	**202**	175	**84**	73
Residential care and approved premises	**64**	53	**35**	33
Youth programme	**6**	5	**5**	3
Support centres	**58**	53	**31**	26
Social Enterprise Activities	**35**	33	**21**	18
Twinning	**3**	6	**2**	2
Fundraising	**26**	18	**16**	11
Support staff	**62**	51	**33**	26
Governance	**14**	13	**11**	10
	470	407	**248**	202

The Society relies substantially on voluntary services provided by its Members across the country. It is not possible to quantify the value of these services to the Society.

9. GRANTS PROGRAMME

During the year, the Society paid out grants to a number of organisations through the Twinning Programme and directly from the National Society. The majority of the grants were paid to SVP societies in other countries.

	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£
SVP India	**222,016**	242,033
Indian student scholarships programme	**48,814**	68,567
SVP Sudan	**68,622**	12,677
SVP South Sudan	**136,173**	98,445
SVP Romania	**7,750**	10,900
SVP Grenada	**16,620**	10,300
SVP Guyana	**11,036**	3,950
Payments from disaster fund:		
Lebanon	**2,000**	2,000
CGI Covid	-	11,650
Twinning projects	**20,281**	123,113
Ukraine	**134,049**	-
South Africa	**6,843**	9,250
Vincentian Volunteers	**6,000**	6,000
Council General International	**23,188**	11,453
	703,392	610,338

10. SUPPORT COSTS

	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£
Staff costs	**1,268,158**	983,143
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**105,786**	75,122
Office costs	**245,517**	216,872
Premises costs	**187,882**	155,372
Bank charges	**57,524**	26,393
Depreciation	**28,864**	39,022
Legal and professional fees	**104,237**	82,847
Other costs	**209,736**	192,332
Governance costs	**566,232**	429,158
	2,754,038	2,200,261
Support costs included the following expenditure on governance:		
Staff costs	**416,865**	331,453
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**16,822**	1,362
Auditors fees and expenses:		
Net audit fee (note 7)	**35,000**	30,000
Disbursements & Other Services	**3,000**	1,130
Irrecoverable VAT	**7,267**	3,913
Over / under accruals	**-**	6,900
Other professional fees	**54,153**	46,266
Board expenses	**25,718**	5,707
Other costs	**8,407**	2,427
	566,232	429,158

11. TAXATION

The Society is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. Available taxable profits are Gift Aided to the Society by The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - THE GROUP AND THE CHARITY

	Freehold property	Leasehold property and improvements	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles and caravans	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At the start of the year	2,379,037	1,374,618	991,414	214,079	**4,959,148**
Additions in year	428,549	33,756	117,518	20,200	**600,023**
Disposals in year	-	-	(8,882)	(4,000)	**(12,882)**
At the end of the year	2,807,586	1,408,374	1,100,050	230,279	**5,546,289**
DEPRECIATION					
At the start of the year	279,898	571,605	815,874	195,754	**1,863,131**
Charge for the year	33,585	68,294	89,014	9,179	**200,072**
Disposals in year	-	-	(3,756)	(804)	**(4,560)**
At the end of the year	313,483	639,899	901,132	204,129	**2,058,643**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2023	**2,494,103**	**768,475**	**198,918**	**26,150**	**3,487,646**
Long leasehold		**768,475**			
Short leasehold		-			
		768,475			
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2022	**2,088,139**	**803,013**	**175,540**	**18,325**	**3,086,017**
Long leasehold		**803,013**			
Short leasehold		-			
		803,013			

The above Fixed Assets include a net value of £36,795 relating to the subsidiary, SVP Trading Limited (2022:£Nil).

13. MIXED MOTIVE INVESTMENTS

The charity holds £1,081,626 (2022: £673,495) as mixed motive investments, which represent Three freehold properties (2022: Two) held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects. These are included in the Freehold Property shown in note 12.

14. INVESTMENTS

	Group 2023	Charity 2023	Group 2022	Charity 2022
	£	£	£	£
Market value at the start of the year	**2,639,449**	**1,520,936**	2,288,391	1,239,590
Opening Cash Account adjustment	**(23,076)**	**(23,076)**	(46,637)	(46,637)
Other Movements	**(1)**	**42,727**	-	-
Additions at cost	**167,580**	**167,580**	299,789	299,789
Disposal at market value	**(170,820)**	**(170,820)**	(97,112)	(94,633)
Realised (losses) / gains	**(6,521)**	**(6,521)**	6,909	6,840
Unrealised (losses) /gains	**(181,818)**	**(102,449)**	165,033	92,911
	2,424,793	**1,428,377**	2,616,373	1,497,860
Cash held with investment managers	**31,893**	**31,893**	23,076	23,076
Total investment portfolio market value	**2,456,686**	**1,460,270**	2,639,449	1,520,936
Historic cost at the year end	**199,825**	**202,235**	209,586	211,996

All the investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange and are intended to provide an investment return. Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio, as above, comprise:

	Group 2023	Charity 2023	Group 2022	Charity 2022
	£	£	£	£
Catholic Fund at CCLA	**1,207,864**	**450,084**	1,301,805	485,955

15. RESULTS OF PARENT CHARITY

These accounts do not include a Statement of Financial Activities for the parent charity, as permitted under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The relevant figures for the year ended 31 March for the parent charity were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross income	**13,902,623**	13,078,509
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	**(891,257)**	1,249,595

16. INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES - CHARITY

The charity has an unlisted investment with a historical cost of £1 representing its 100% shareholding in The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited, which is a company registered in England that operates accommodation and sells Christmas cards and other goods. A summary of that company's financial position is set out in note 17.

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

The charitable company held a controlling interest in following entities during the year:

- The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (a subsidiary charity, number 1053992-1)
- David Young's Charity (a registered charity, number 238877)
- The T B Hunt Trust Fund (a registered charity, number 216406)
- The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited (company registration number 04373817)

All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the Statement of Financial Activities.

A summary of the results of the subsidiaries is shown below:

The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (Capital and Income)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Incoming resources	**14,143**	3,020
Charitable expenditure	**(42,803)**	(107,738)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**(28,660)**	(104,718)
Unrealised (losses) / gains	**(35,875)**	31,431
Net movement in funds	**(64,535)**	(73,287)
Funds brought forward	**462,719**	536,006
Funds carried forward	**398,184**	462,719
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**468,153**	504,028
Net current assets	**(69,969)**	(41,309)
	398,184	462,719
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**388,147**	424,022
Income fund	**10,037**	38,697
	398,184	462,719

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the Pen-Y-Pound Fund. The trust's main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff.

17. SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS (CONTINUED)

David Young's Charity

	2023	2022
	£	£
Incoming resources	**9,937**	9,415
Charitable expenditure	**(11,315)**	(12,008)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**(1,378)**	(2,593)
Unrealised (losses) / gains	**(21,299)**	21,246
Realised (losses) / gains	**-**	69
Net movement in funds	**(22,677)**	18,722
Funds brought forward	**265,081**	246,359
Funds carried forward	**242,404**	265,081
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**238,636**	259,935
Net current assets	**3,768**	5,146
	242,404	265,081
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**188,088**	209,387
Restricted fund	**54,316**	55,694
	242,404	265,081

David Young's Charity is controlled by the Society as the Society appoints the Trustees of the charity. The figures included in these consolidated accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2022 as this is the date to which the subsidiary prepares their accounts; there have been no material changes in the three months to 31 March 2023. The Trust's main objective is the relief of hardship or distress by making grants of money.

T B Hunt Trust Fund

	2023	2022
	£	£
Incoming resources	**8,749**	13,150
Charitable expenditure	**(4,741)**	(3,200)
Net incoming resources for the year	**4,008**	9,950
Unrealised gains	**(22,195)**	19,445
Net movement in funds	**(18,187)**	29,395
Funds brought forward	**337,846**	308,451
Funds carried forward	**319,659**	337,846
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**289,827**	311,822
Current assets	**30,032**	26,024
	319,659	337,846
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**289,616**	311,811
Income fund	**30,043**	26,035
	319,659	337,846

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the T B Hunt Trust Fund. The trust's main objective is the relief of poverty amongst Roman Catholics in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. During 2021-22 no payments were made due to Covid but payments resumed in 2022-23.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	**287,277**	119,689
Cost of sales	**(23,551)**	(15,569)
Gross profit	**263,726**	104,120
Administrative expenses	**(230,625)**	(70,384)
Operating profit for the financial year	**33,101**	33,736
Interest payable	**(740)**	(740)
	32,361	32,996
Gift aid to parent undertaking	**(15,395)**	-
Net profit	**16,966**	32,996
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Fixed Assets	**36,796**	-
Current assets	**150,696**	90,917
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(153,740)**	(74,130)
	33,752	16,787

The trading company began in July 2003 and is based at the Society's National Office. The principal activity during the year was the management of accommodation for temporarily homeless families, sales of Christmas cards, Fairtrade items, retail sale of electrical household appliances and similar items.

18. INVESTMENTS IN JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITIES

The charity is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee, and jointly controls the entity via a Members' agreement with the other members of the company. This agreement stipulates that profits made are distributed to split evenly. The SVP's share of the assets and liabilities of the jointly controlled entity is 50% during the year.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Value of share in Jointly Controlled Entity - brought forward	**136,269**	176,989
Share of profit for the year	**108,421**	125,261
Share of profit distributed	**(121,261)**	(165,981)
Valuation carried forward	**123,429**	136,269

Related party transactions are shown in note 26.

19. DEBTORS

	Group 2023	Charity 2023	Group 2022	Charity 2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	**177,475**	**169,086**	263,129	231,654
Other debtors	**2,082**	**123,780**	158,947	240,559
Prepayments	**451,245**	**455,113**	388,262	399,568
Accrued income	**137,245**	**137,245**	171,815	171,815
Other taxation and social security	**74,688**	**82,763**	47,506	47,764
Amounts due from subsidiaries	**-**	**178,198**	-	9,876
	842,735	**1,146,185**	1,029,649	1,101,236

All debtors this year and in the prior year are due within one year from the Balance Sheet date. Amounts due from subsidiaries include a loan of £22,500 (2022: £51,676) to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited. Loan repayments are made yearly and the subsidiary accrues interest at a rate of 1% over bank base rate. The subsidiary has given the Society a floating charge over its assets as security.

20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2023	Charity 2023	Group 2022	Charity 2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	**272,420**	**328,251**	275,120	256,456
Other creditors	**38,265**	**61,565**	61,278	35,327
Other taxation and social security	**138,355**	**136,355**	93,376	93,376
Accruals	**239,244**	**209,511**	113,963	110,306
	688,284	**735,682**	543,737	495,465

Included within other creditors are outstanding pension contributions of £65,171 (2022: £28,613).

21. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Group 2023	Charity 2023	Group 2022	Charity 2022
	£	£	£	£
Mortgage on Freehold Property	**293,280**	**293,280**	-	-
	293,280	**293,280**	-	-

The mortgage on the Freehold Property is held with the NatWest Bank. The loan amount is £300,000 paid over a 20 year term. The first 10 years are on a Fixed rate at 5.24% and the remaining 10 years at 2.4% over the bank's base rate unless otherwise agreed. The bank has a registered Charge at Companies House dated 5th July 2022 on the property by way of legal mortgage.

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY

Some of the Society's employees belong to a Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS): the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund (TWPF)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014'.

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement.

The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2022 and the contributions to be paid until 31 March 2023 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Fund Administering Authority responsible for the governance of the Fund is South Tyneside.

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Administering Authority) is shown in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Risks associated with the Fund in relation to accounting

Asset volatility: The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields. If assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which, while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term, creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

Changes in Bond Yield: A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result.

Inflation Risk: The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are either unaffected or loosely correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit.

Life expectancy: The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

Exiting employers: Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further the assets at exit in respect of 'orphan liabilities' may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

	TWPF	
	2023	**2022**
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**4.7%**	2.7%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**2.7%**	3.0%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.7%**	3.0%
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.2%**	4.5%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed remaining life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	TWPF	
	2023	**2022**
Retiring today:		
Males	**21.6**	21.8
Females	**24.6**	25.0
Retiring in 20 years:		
Males	**22.9**	23.5
Females	**26.1**	26.7

The Society's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	TWPF	
	2023	**2022**
	%	**%**
Equities	**51.2%**	57.0%
Properties	**10.5%**	8.4%
Government bonds	**1.3%**	2.0%
Corporate bonds	**18.5%**	18.8%
Multi Asset Credit	**4.5%**	-
Cash	**1.8%**	1.8%
Other	**11.2%**	12.0%
Total	**100.0%**	100.0%

The actual return on scheme assets is (£348,000) (2022: (£450,000)).

22. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY (CONTINUED)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities:	**2023**	**2022**
	£	£
Current service cost	**(518,000)**	(382,000)
Interest income	**-**	126,000
Interest expense	**1,000**	(124,000)
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	**(517,000)**	(380,000)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	**2023**	**2022**
	£	£
Brought forward	**6,013,000**	5,910,000
Current service cost	**518,000**	382,000
Interest expense	**162,000**	124,000
Employee contributions	**56,000**	47,000
Actuarial gain	**(1,883,000)**	(416,000)
Benefits paid	**(107,000)**	(34,000)
Carried forward	**4,749,000**	6,013,000

Changes in the fair value of Society's share of scheme assets:	**2023**	**2022**
	£	£
Brought forward	**6,610,000**	5,872,000
Interest income	**182,000**	126,000
Remeasurement gains on assets	**166,000**	324,000
Employer contributions	**302,000**	275,000
Employee contributions	**56,000**	47,000
Benefits paid	**(107,000)**	(34,000)
Carried forward	**7,209,000**	6,610,000

Fair value of Scheme Assets	**7,209,000**	6,610,000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	**4,749,000**	6,013,000
Restriction on recognition of scheme assets	**(2,460,000)**	(597,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability) / asset	**-**	-



23. ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Year Ended 31 March 2023			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**3,487,646**	**-**	**-**	**3,487,646**
Investments	**1,367,782**	**254,071**	**958,262**	**2,580,115**
Net current assets	**3,796,555**	**3,100,815**	**88,747**	**6,986,117**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	**283,280**	**-**	**-**	**(283,280)**
Pension liability	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net assets at end of the year	**8,358,703**	**3,354,886**	**1,047,009**	**12,780,598**

	Year Ended 31 March 2022			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,096,017	-	-	3,096,017
Investments	1,468,516	254,071	1,053,131	2,775,718
Net current assets	4,510,497	3,334,269	88,747	7,933,513
Pension liability	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of the year	9,075,030	3,588,340	1,141,878	13,805,248

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At the start of the year	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At the end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	209,387	-	-	-	(21,299)	**188,088**
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	424,022	-	-	-	(35,875)	**388,147**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	311,811	-	-	-	(22,195)	**289,616**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	196,658	-	-	-	(15,500)	**181,158**
Total endowment funds	**1,141,878**	-	-	-	**(94,869)**	**1,047,009**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
David Young's Charity	54,757	9,937	(11,315)	-	-	**53,378**
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	38,697	14,143	(42,803)	-	-	**10,037**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	26,035	8,749	(4,741)	-	-	**30,043**
Charity:						
Approved Premises Pension Provision	320,000	-	-	(320,000)	-	-
Approved premises, Newcastle	143,000	-	-	-	215,000	**358,000**
B-Attitude	172	-	57	(229)	-	-
Community Grant	-	25,000	-	-	-	**25,000**
Furniture stores	142,875	-	-	(142,875)	-	-
Restricted legacies	1,679,266	-	-	-	-	**1,679,266**
Revive Leeds	-	-	-	110,929	-	**110,929**
Twinning	458,878	256,911	(354,937)	(97,269)	-	**263,583**
Special restricted funds	724,062	-	-	(75,543)	-	**648,519**
Other restricted funds	598	626,046	(450,514)	-	-	**176,130**
Total restricted funds	**3,588,340**	**940,786**	**(864,253)**	**(524,987)**	**215,000**	**3,354,886**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
AP Building Fund	-	-	-	174,356	-	**174,356**
Conference funds	2,484,259	2,337,956	(1,902,155)	-	(5,876)	**2,914,184**
CSP Project Fund	-	-	-	193,741	-	**193,741**
Fixed asset fund	811,534	17,734	(156,229)	-	(75,800)	**597,439**
National Shops Start up Funds	-	-	-	51,866	-	**51,866**
Revive Distribution	136,269	-	-	(110,929)	(12,840)	**12,500**
Shops Development Fund (Covid Grants)	118,677	-	-	(20,739)	-	**97,938**
Social Enterprise Retained Income Fund	-	-	-	149,757	-	**149,757**
St Jude's Sales Proceeds	461,996	-	-	(134,088)	-	**327,908**
Twinning	118,368	334,132	(405,202)	230,263	-	**275,561**
Special designated funds:						
Central Council Projects Fund	-	-	-	706,579	-	**706,579**
Cost of Living Fund	107,025	184,066	(5,015)	(3,959)	-	**282,117**
Innovation Fund	180,341	-	-	(63,126)	-	**117,215**
Total Special designated funds	287,366	184,066	(5,015)	639,494	-	**1,105,911**
Other designated funds	121,254	3,600	-	355,418	-	**480,272**
Total designated funds	**4,537,723**	**2,877,488**	**(2,468,601)**	**1,529,139**	**(94,316)**	**6,381,433**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	625,477
General funds	3,911,830	10,404,455	(11,948,345)	(1,004,152)	(11,995)	1,351,793
Total unrestricted funds	**9,075,030**	**13,281,943**	**(14,416,946)**	**524,987**	**(106,311)**	**8,358,703**
	13,805,248	**14,222,729**	**(15,281,199)**	-	**13,820**	**12,760,598**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

Prior year movement in funds	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	392,591	-	-	-	31,431	**424,022**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	292,366	-	-	-	19,445	**311,811**
David Young's Charity	193,993	9,415	(12,008)	-	17,987	**209,387**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	183,079	-	-	-	13,579	**196,658**
Total endowment funds	**1,062,029**	**9,415**	**(12,008)**	-	**82,442**	**1,141,878**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	143,415	3,020	(107,738)	-	-	**38,697**
T B Hunt Trust	16,085	13,150	(3,200)	-	-	**26,035**
David Young's Charity	51,429	-	-	-	3,328	**54,757**
Charity:						
Restricted legacies	1,679,266	-	-	-	-	**1,679,266**
Furniture stores	142,875	-	-	-	-	**142,875**
Approved premises, Newcastle	-	-	-	-	143,000	**143,000**
Approved Premises Pension Provision	147,142	-	-	172,858	-	**320,000**
Twinning	365,480	387,152	(386,631)	92,877	-	**458,878**
Community Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-
B-Attitude	-	190	(18)	-	-	**172**
Special restricted funds	548,327	175,735	-	-	-	**724,062**
Other restricted funds	431,730	323,375	(581,649)	(172,858)	-	**598**
Total restricted funds	**3,525,749**	**902,822**	**(1,078,236)**	**92,877**	**146,328**	**3,588,340**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Fixed asset fund	953,331	-	(153,487)	-	11,690	**811,534**
Conference funds	2,273,005	1,740,886	(1,534,695)	-	5,083	**2,484,259**
Wiedner Holiday fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twinning	134,812	241,522	(259,966)	-	-	**116,368**
Revive Leeds	176,989	-	(165,981)	-	125,261	**136,269**
Special designated funds	85,138	6,220	-	(84,820)	-	**6,538**
Other designated funds	217,210	108,630	-	656,915	-	**982,755**
Total designated funds	**3,840,485**	**2,097,238**	**(2,114,129)**	**572,095**	**142,034**	**4,537,723**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	**625,477**
General funds	3,686,080	10,214,508	(9,393,185)	(664,972)	69,399	**3,911,830**
Total unrestricted funds	8,152,042	12,311,746	(11,507,314)	(92,877)	211,433	**9,075,030**
	12,739,820	**13,223,783**	**(12,598,558)**	-	**440,203**	**13,805,248**

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Purposes of endowment funds

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective through this endowment fund is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members are eligible to apply to this fund.

Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. The fund comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.

T B Hunt Capital Fund: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the T B Hunt Trust Fund.

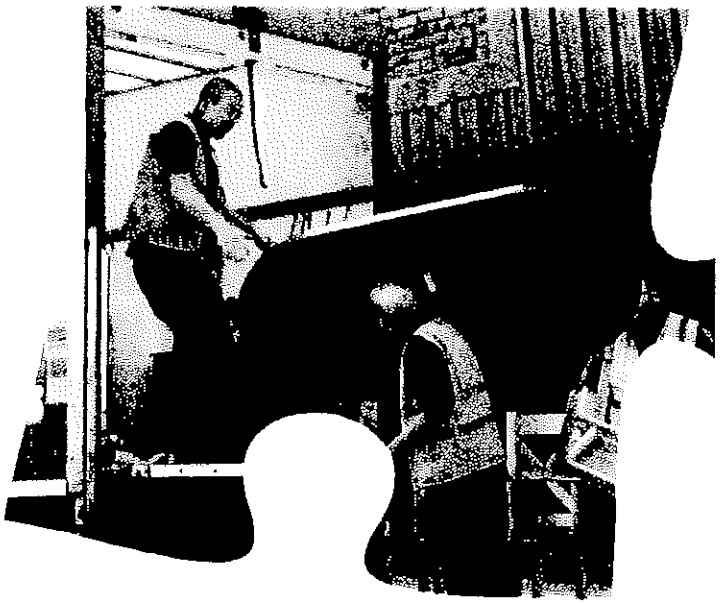
The Estate of Francis Thompson: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool. The Francis Thompson Income Fund is included in Other Restricted Funds.

Purposes of restricted funds

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members and staff are eligible to benefit from this fund.

Pen-Y-Pound House Income fund: This fund is to be spent in relieving the poor of Cardiff.

T B Hunt Trust: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to provide help to those in need in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. The TB Hunt Fund was established with funds left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need.



Approved premises, Newcastle: This represents Ozanam House, St Christopher's Hostel with the approved premises pension fund, which are approved premises funded with the help of Ministry of Justice grants. The fund is neutral as a result of the pension surplus of £Nil (2022:surplus of £Nil) on the Tyne and Wear pension fund as described in note 22. Any future deficit will be repaid over the period agreed with the pension scheme; this is approximately 20 years.

Furniture stores: This fund is represented by properties acquired with the assistance of Community Fund grants and donations to provide low cost furniture to those in need.

Restricted legacies: This fund is an amalgamation of legacies held by Conferences and at National Office. Following discussions with its professional advisors and the Charity Commission, the Society does not consider legacies to be restricted merely by reason of having been donated for use in a particular geographic area.

Revive Leeds: Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from household waste sites. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This restricted fund represents the Society's share of net assets.

Twinning: This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the Society's sister organisations overseas.

Special restricted funds: The balance at 31 March 2023 comprises:

- **Appleton Fund:** This is mainly used for the development of South Lancashire Projects.

Other restricted funds: Other restricted funds cover various projects for people in need including local restricted funds held by Conferences and Councils.

Purposes of designated funds

Generally, designated funds are spent and replenished in a year. Members are encouraged to apply for use of these funds.

AP Building Fund: Fund for building improvement works at the Approved Premises projects in Newcastle.

Conference Funds: This fund represents the reserves of the Society that are delegated to the control of Conferences. Each Conference has a bank account and most will also have small petty cash balances. These funds belong to the Society as a whole, and can be called upon by the Trustees if required, but the Society prefers to manage this on a voluntary and consultative basis. Conferences manage their own fundraising and the distribution of the funds under their control within the rules and guidance set out by the Society. Conferences report back their financial activity on a quarterly basis. We encourage Conferences to put their funds to good use and discourage the holding of funds which are surplus to local requirements. We expect funds to be turned over and replenished within one year. Conferences with funds in excess of their requirements are urged to transfer any excess to another part of the Society where the need is greater.

In addition to the funds held directly by Conferences, there are also funds held nationally on behalf of Conferences. This is typically legacies left to the SVP that reference a particular Conference. We ask all Conferences that are mentioned in a legacy to suggest a plan for how they intend to spend the money. We expect that plan to involve spending the legacy in full within 5 years. The plans are subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee or the Board, depending on the size of the legacy. If a Conference does not come up with an acceptable plan then the legacy will be spent by the Society in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.

CSP Project Fund: This fund is primarily to seed-fund projects in existing Community Support Projects.

Fixed Asset Fund: This fund shows the amount of the Society's funds invested in its unrestricted fixed assets net of any property revaluations. Depreciation relating to fixed assets is charged to the fund on an annual basis.

National Shops Start up Funds: Funded from a legacy, this fund is used to pay for set up costs for new National SVP shops.

Revive Distribution: Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from household waste sites. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This designated fund represents the balance (after restricted) of the Society's share of net assets.

Shops Development Fund (Covid Grants): Funded from grants, this funds is for building improvement works in SVP shops.

Social Enterprise Retained Income Fund: This fund is for seed-funding for new Social Enterprise projects.

St Jude's Sales Proceeds: This fund is primarily being used for Membership Support Officers where the local central council does not have sufficient funds themselves.

Twinning: This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the twinning programme.

Special designated funds: These comprise a number of funds to which Conferences can contribute. Applications for grants can be made by Conferences to any of the funds with the exception of the Spiritual Formation fund. The Society expects to spend the current balances within five years. The funds are:

- **Central Council Projects Fund:** Some central councils have access to this fund, to be spent on projects in their local area.
- **Cost of Living Fund:** Members can apply to this fund for help with beneficiary support.
- **Innovation Fund:** This fund is available for members who would like to start a new, innovative project in their local area.

Other designated funds: Other designated funds cover various projects for people in need. Members can apply to a special fund and guardians award grants according to the alms of the fund.

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The group had total commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2023 Land and buildings	2022 Land and buildings
	£	£
Within 1 year	**586,236**	542,744
2-5 years	**1,909,215**	1,455,732
Over 5 years	**1,214,210**	185,053
	3,709,661	2,183,529

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Helen O Shea is a trustee of Porta Pia. The Charity received restricted grant income from Porta Pia of £35,000 (2022 - £35,000).

The total amount of donations from Trustees without any conditions attached amounted to £47,175 during the year (2022 - £63,260).

SVP Trading (note 17) - Income received by the Charity amounted to £36,701 (2022 - £28,589). Expenditure by the Charity amounted to £37,005 (2022 - £27,220). Internal recharges by the Charity amounted to £10,473 (2022 - £8,387). Amount due to group undertakings amounted to : £82,453 (2022 - £67,432)

Revive CIC is a related party as it is a Jointly Controlled Entity as detailed in note 18. During the year, the Society was entitled to a distribution from Revive CIC of £108,421 (2022: £125,261) as the agreement states all profits must be distributed evenly between the member charities. This amount was outstanding at the year end.

T B Hunt Trust Fund: The trust fund received dividends of £8,749 (2022 - £8,674) during the year. There were no outstanding creditor or debtor balances at the year end.

27. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no capital commitments at the year end.

28. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no post balance sheet events.

29. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Group 2023	Charity 2023	Group 2022	Charity 2022
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	**391,490**	**292,866**	641,397	415,364
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	**548,928**	**599,327**	450,361	282,518

30. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	5,067,523	875,451	-	**5,942,974**
Other trading activities	3	38,722	-	-	**38,722**
Income from investments		167,527	27,171	9,415	**204,113**
Income from charitable activities:					
Shops and furniture stores		3,871,872	-	-	**3,871,872**
Holidays and camps		79,016	-	-	**79,016**
Residential provision		2,099,679	-	-	**2,099,679**
Support centres		416,956	-	-	**416,956**
Youth development		8,373	-	-	**8,373**
Other income		562,078	-	-	**562,078**
Total income		**12,311,746**	**902,622**	**9,415**	**13,223,783**
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds	5	485,726	-	-	**485,726**
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		2,577,839	692,587	12,008	3,282,434
Shops and furniture stores		3,735,557	-	-	3,735,557
Holidays and camps		250,843	-	-	250,843
Residential provision		2,009,878	-	-	2,009,878
Support centres		1,924,318	-	-	1,924,318
Twinning		311,778	386,631	-	698,409
Youth Development Programme		211,375	18	-	211,393
Total expenditure	6	**11,507,314**	**1,079,236**	**12,008**	**12,598,558**
Net (losses) / gains on investments		86,172	3,328	82,442	**171,942**
Share of profit / (loss) in jointly controlled entities		125,261	-	-	**125,261**
Net (expenditure) / income		**1,015,885**	**(173,286)**	**79,849**	**922,428**
Transfers between funds	23	(92,877)	92,877	-	-
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme		-	143,000	-	**143,000**
Net movement in funds	23	922,988	62,591	79,849	**1,065,428**
Funds at the start of the year		8,152,042	3,525,749	1,062,029	**12,738,820**
Funds at the end of the year		**9,075,030**	**3,588,340**	**1,141,878**	**13,805,248**

A thank you to everyone who supported us in 2022-23, including those who gave us National grants:

- **Faithful Companion of Jesus**
- **Hollick Family Foundation**
- **Mrs L D Rope's Third Charitable Settlement**
- **National Lottery Awards for All England**
- **Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust**
- **Sisters of St Joseph of Peace**
- **The Anthony Scholefield Foundation**
- **The Chetwode Foundation**
- **The Garfield Weston Foundation**
- **The John and Sally Reeve Charitable Trust**
- **The Porta Pia 2012 Foundation**

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Status

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

Governing document

The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association revised and adopted by Special Resolution on 2 August 2019.

Company Number: **3174679**

Charity Number: **1053992**

Registered and Principal Office:
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer: **Elizabeth Palmer**
Deputy CEO: **Kate Nightingale**
Director of Finance: **Christine Knight**
Director of Governance: **Beverley Whittaker**
Director of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing: **Ken Madine**
Director of Membership: **Jon Cornwall**
Young Vincentians Programme Director: **Sarah Barber**
Director of Retail, Trading and Social Enterprise: **Helen Voyce**

Patrons

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Sir John Battle

Auditors

Saffery LLP
Mitre House
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HG1 5RX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
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Solicitors

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WC2A 1AL

Investment Advisers

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THANK YOU

Many people and organisations support the SVP. We can only do what we do because of your money, time, and encouragement. Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2022-23, including those who wish to remain anonymous. You are all appreciated and your support is much valued.

"I am now completely convinced that when one does a deed of charity one need not worry about where the money will come from; it will always come."



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Keep in touch with us

SVPEnglandWales

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

England & Wales - Charity number 1053992

Accounts

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Trustee Report and Accounts 2021–22

Touching lives



KINDNESS AS UNIQUE AS A FINGERPRINT

Fingerprints are unique. They mark us out as individuals, but it's relationships and experience which define us. So, when life becomes a challenge, we need support tailored to our own situations.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) works in communities across England and Wales, offering support to those facing poverty in all its forms, friendship when loneliness seems inevitable, and kindness when the world feels unfair. Our mission is to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, empowering individuals to succeed.

We may give a moment or a lifetime of support, but whatever the case, that connection through compassion will always be as individual and unique as a fingerprint.



Children from the Our Lady of Fatima Trust, Harlow
Front cover: Wallasey Conference Associate Anne who offered Jo a room in her house

OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Our Vision

Our Vision, which is inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is for individuals and families who are in need to have hope, together with a sense of dignity, worth, wellbeing and peace of mind.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Our Values

- **Christ Centred** - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.
- **Compassionate** - We aim to show a compassion that is non-judgemental towards those with whom we work.
- **Respectful** - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.
- **Generous** - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.
- **Responsive** - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work, and to respond accordingly, in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms as well as we can.
- **Accountable** - We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, whilst acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.
- **Confidential** - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental wellbeing of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

We strive to achieve these values through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, prayer, friendship, mutual support and encouragement.

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WHO ARE WE?

The SVP is working to tackle poverty and its causes throughout England and Wales by bringing a blend of services and support to people in need in our local communities, whether it is for an hour or a lifetime...

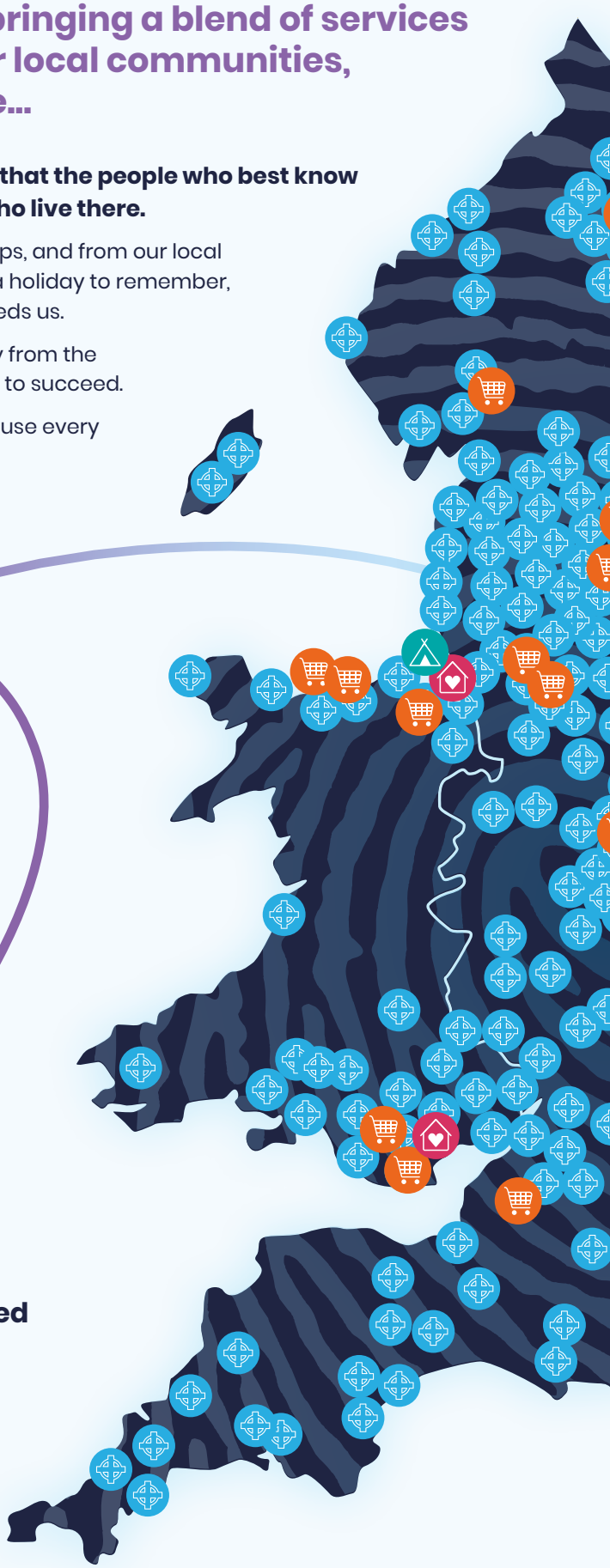
Our services are community-led because we believe that the people who best know the challenges and problems in any area are those who live there.

From our St Vincent's Support Centres to our Community Shops, and from our local Conferences to the Summer Camps we run to give children a holiday to remember, our groups give the same warm welcome to anyone who needs us.

All of our locations across England and Wales offer sanctuary from the turbulence of life, a place to learn, grow and feel empowered to succeed.

Our approach is always as individual as those we serve because every one of the people we help is as unique as a fingerprint.





Our Members spent

351,920

hours providing support to those who need it

253,059

visits or calls made to people in need

14,772 older people in their own home

7,966 families

2,868 older people in residential care

2,732 refugees

2,346 homeless

55,066

people given material or practical help by SVP Conferences

15,904 offers of transport
3,723 items of clothing
3,142 items of furniture
1,671 electrical appliances
1,351 people provided with fuel



876 **Members' groups known as Conferences**, which organise visits and other support for people in need in their community.

45 **Community Shops**, which are generally located in deprived areas and provide low-cost goods. They also accept donations of second-hand items.

9 **Support Centres**, located outside city centres in areas of deprivation. They provide a range of services including food parcels, hot meals, debt advice and counselling, as well as a warm place for a cup of tea and a friendly chat.

Summer Camps at three different locations give children the opportunity to have a summer holiday full of exciting activities.

30,722

servings from Conference-run food banks

8,089 people were served across **37** facilities
125 food banks run by other organisations supported

14,505

servings given out from Conference-run soup outlets

In our Community Support Projects...

- **35,229** free meals and food parcels were provided. If an average meal costs £4, that equates to **£140,916**
- **509** pets were helped
- **5** centres are currently running Healthy Holidays schemes
- **2** new marketplace schemes have opened

FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

April 2021 saw lockdown restrictions begin to lift as we started to emerge from the depths of the pandemic. The SVP continued to look for ways to emerge stronger and better from the crisis, recognising growing and changing needs.

The Board agreed to a significant investment in Membership Support Officers, charged with recruiting Members and starting Conferences to counteract the effect that COVID had taken on our membership and to assist our overstretched Central Council Presidents.

This strategy is already showing positive results and our new Membership Support Officers are a refreshing and welcome addition to our Society. Further, the Trustees, to address emerging needs, sought to accelerate an existing strategy by establishing a medium to long-term goal of having a Support Centre in each of the 23 Central Councils. St Vincent's Support Centres were opened during the year, and I was lucky enough to visit all of them and to see the positive impact they are having on their local communities. They are places of welcome and of hope, where help offered is tailored to each person's individual needs and circumstances. Strategic investment was also made in the area of Social Justice, recognising that more needed to be done to fulfil the part of our mission that seeks to tackle the causes of poverty where we can. We have embarked on awareness raising and campaigning to seek to influence policymakers and public opinion, from a position of authority based on the evidence from our Members and staff in our frontline services.

As I reach the end of my term as Chair and National President, I reflect on a period full of challenges, all of which were met head-on by the selfless dedication of Members, volunteers and staff. I would like to thank SVP Members who continue to put their faith into action week by week; our CEO and all SVP staff and volunteers who choose to adopt out charism and work tirelessly to help us fulfil our mission; and all the Trustees and Members of the National Council who have contributed diligently and professionally to the governance of the Society. I offer my best wishes and support to Elaine Heyworth, my successor, as she begins her term of office.

It has been a privilege to be National President of a Society so rich in history and embedded in a global network, that strives to combat poverty and that has love as its beating heart.



Helen O'Shea, National President



Helen O'Shea, National President



Elizabeth Palmer, CEO

“The work of St Vincent de Paul never grows old: who would not wish to continue it?”

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, SVP founder

It was recently announced that the Collins Dictionary Word Of The Year for 2022 was “permacrisis”, reflecting the extended period of upheaval being experienced by populations across the globe, whether in the form of the pandemic, climate change, war, inflation or political instability. While few have been exempt from the impact of these factors, the poor and marginalised have borne the biggest burden.

Emerging from the pandemic into a full-blown cost of living crisis, requests for help made to the Society and the number of service users visiting our projects continue to rise.

The Society has responded accordingly. Investing in staffing and other resources to ensure that we can continue to meet this demand. Highlights in 2021/22 included the opening of new Support Centres in Ely Bridge Cardiff and the Wirral, providing friendship and support in the heart of local communities; the purchase of a property in Cromer to provide temporary emergency accommodation to those who find themselves homeless; and the opening of a new Community Shop in Upminster, Essex.

At the same time, the Society extended its small grant provision - usually available to local Members - to provide financial support to those they visit who need it the most. Throughout 2021/22, 79 applications were made, and small grants totalling £28, 841 were awarded.

The Society continues to develop a sustainable funding portfolio to enable and support growth, even when the economic climate is challenging. Investment has been made in fundraising, trading and retail, while a review of the Society’s legacy marketing resulted in the development of a new strategy. The Society was also successful in a tender for a new waste site shop in Pallion, Sunderland.

Throughout the year, SVP Members, volunteers and staff continued to dedicate considerable time and energy to helping people most in need in their local communities. As this report makes clear, we are a national charity, which operates at grass roots. Our Vincentian charism focuses us on the service of others through befriending. Everyone we help is an individual and our approach recognises that individuality in the person-to-person support we provide.



Elizabeth Palmer, CEO

...providing friendship and support in the heart of local communities

BEFRIENDING IS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

The essence of our work is befriending. That person-to-person contact is extremely special, and spending time with people is our greatest gift.

Giving people our time shows them we care. That's what befriending is about, and that's why it's at the heart of what we do.

Befriending benefits not only those we support, but also the befrienders themselves, so it's no surprise that some of these relationships blossom into lifelong bonds.

In 2021/22 we visited a total of 35,825 people, equating to 206,735 hours of donated time by some very special volunteers. Every visit provides a compassionate response to a crisis, and every conversation gives comfort and companionship.

For many people loneliness is a way of life, while for others isolation is a new and unwelcome guest, such as the loss of a loved one. Life doesn't have to be this way. We all need someone to turn to, and the opportunity to share experiences, stories, and gossip. This is where we make a huge difference to lives by transforming solitude into solidarity.

35,825

people visited by our Members in 2021/22

For many of the people we help, the first contact they have with the SVP is over a cup of tea. It's that friendly face, those kind gestures and the practical support which can really brighten someone's day.

Everyone is unique, as individual as the circumstances which sometimes knock us off course. By chatting and getting to know someone, we can find out what they need, and how we can help them to reach their goals. This individual approach is what makes us so special. It's in our DNA. It's our fingerprint.



"For many of the people we help, the first contact they have with the SVP is over a cup of tea"



The SVP has supported asylum seeker Jo from Zimbabwe

Kindness makes dreams come true

Jo's story...

After many ups and downs, Jo finally achieved her aim of becoming a fully registered nurse. Her journey to this high point - which began when she arrived as an asylum seeker - has included many years of false hope and heartache, but thanks to SVP Members, Jo's dream has come true.

In 2011, Jo, homeless and destitute, had been refused asylum. For several months, while she was sofa surfing in Liverpool, SVP Member Mary visited Jo on behalf of the Holy Apostles and Martyrs SVP Conference in Wallasey, providing her with the essentials she needed to survive.

While addressing parishioners in church, Conference President Mary suggested a way to help Jo: "What if we could get enough people to offer the price of a loaf of bread each week, so that we could allow Jo to pay rent and buy her food and other essentials?" The parish responded, funding Jo for 12 months with weekly £1 donations from a number of kind people.

Following many setbacks, Jo was granted discretionary leave to remain in the country. She began to earn her living as a care worker, but she dearly wished to become a fully qualified nurse.

She already had the required academic qualifications to follow this path, but she was dismayed to find that her status did not allow her to enrol for college to take the access course. After six years, Jo was at last able to apply for an Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), but as her legal expenses had drained her savings, she couldn't pay the costly fee to acquire ILR status. SVP members once again asked the parish for help, and the £2,000 needed was soon taken care of.

Jo was able to begin the studies that would lead to her nursing career, but an administrative error by the Home Office meant that her residential stay had been recorded as 'interrupted', which meant she was deemed ineligible for the student loan. She was forced to abandon the access course, and yet was liable for the fees for the term attended.

By the time the next year's applications were due, the residency problem had been resolved and she was able to successfully apply for funding. Three years on - and after juggling study, placements and overnight care work to make ends meet - Jo has achieved the goal she set herself all those years ago. She has also been confirmed as a British citizen.

THE BEATING HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Our St Vincent's centres are as unique as a fingerprint. No two are alike, but they share the same values, offering a warm welcome, respect for those we serve, a non-judgemental attitude and above all, a safe environment where our visitors can be themselves.

Across England and Wales, our centres are our response to the particular problems and challenges faced by their communities.

SVP Head of Centre Development Sheena Eastwood says: "If you take nine chocolate bars all wrapped in red wrapping, they may all look alike, but underneath they are all different. That is what our St Vincent's centres are like. They may have the same signage and values, but underneath they all offer services tailored to their own specific communities."

Currently, we have nine centres (as well as the Sheffield Furniture Project), three houses offering supported accommodation and two Approved Premises. All of these are linked by our mission to help anyone in need irrespective of background, through actions delivered with kindness, compassion and love.

The centres are created by local SVP Conferences who have identified a need for them. They embrace innovation and change, offering bespoke solutions where necessary. St Vincent's Southend-on-Sea was originally intended primarily as a place of refuge for those affected by homelessness - while that is still very much the case, the community hub has diversified to address the problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers too, demonstrating the clear adaptability of every location.

The newest site in Cardiff's Ely Bridge evolved in a similar way when it opened in January 2022. It quickly noted the poverty, lack of opportunity and sense of isolation many in the community felt, and became its heart. It now offers the warmest of welcomes, support which empowers and a feeling of togetherness, which in turn inspires confidence.

Ely Bridge Manager Nathan Harding says: "We don't have a set agenda or narrow priorities like some organisations, which means when we listen to the community, we are innovative, providing the right support for them. After all, the community knows what it needs better than anyone else."

In Newcastle, St Vincent's New Bridges is a 21-bed hostel, divided into supported and move-on accommodation. The 15 supported rooms are en-suite, while the rest are en-suite plus a kitchen/living area (and residents pay a subsidised electricity bill). The primary role of the move-on accommodation is to support access to housing but can also accommodate long term residents. New Bridges mainly caters for men (aged 25 plus), however in 2020/2021, there were three rooms for vulnerable women (victims of domestic violence).



“We are one big, happy family”



Carmela, a guest at St Vincent’s Ely Bridge

Across 2021/22, St Vincent’s centres provided 35,229 free meals, including food parcels, which equates to £140,916 at an average of £4 per meal. They recognise that pets are an important part of family life, and during the same period they also helped 509 animals. More than 700 people volunteer at St Vincent’s centres and shops, giving each and every one of them the opportunity to give back to their communities while enjoying a wonderful sense of fulfilment.

Five of our teams run the Healthy Holidays scheme, providing food, fun and camaraderie for children during school holidays.

Additionally, we have opened two new marketplace initiatives, where our guests can purchase food and essential items at a vastly reduced cost, saving them money and giving them plenty of choice.

Other centres offer debt and immigration advice, cookery classes, food and clothes banks, English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) classes and sewing groups - and all have a cafe where you can drop in for a cup of tea and a chat, or enjoy a hearty meal.

SVP Deputy CEO Kate Nightingale says: “Our St Vincent’s centres are really unique in the way they listen and respond to their respective communities. They are all hubs which have become beloved places of sanctuary from the troubles of the people we serve. But most of all, they are places of welcome, where people can enjoy a few hours of calm in an environment of compassion and kindness where no-one is judged and where our support empowers change.”



Ely Bridge Manager Nathan Harding

“I knew I had come to the right place”

When Carmela first visited St Vincent’s Ely Bridge, she was nervous. She didn’t know what to expect, but after meeting Nathan and his team, she knew she had come to the right place.

“I was depressed and lonely, so I was going through a really tough time,” says Carmela.

However, her life completely changed following that first visit to her local St Vincent’s. She says: “I really enjoy my time with people at the centre. We talk about anything and everything. We laugh, we go on day trips, and I go to the ‘knit and natter’ group every Monday, where there are people of all ages.”

Carmela, who says she can see herself volunteering at the centre, describes St Vincent’s as “one big, happy family.” Her days of loneliness now behind her, she adds: “If someone who is in the same position as I was asked me whether to go to St Vincent’s Ely Bridge, I’d say, ‘don’t be shy, you’ll be made welcome.’”

A true part of the community

Nawaf was trafficked to England from Kuwait, where he was an undocumented nomadic Bedoon and where he suffered inhumane treatment, including false imprisonment.

After arriving in the UK, Nawaf, like so many other asylum seekers, found it difficult to settle into his new community. However, volunteering at St Vincent's Newcastle allowed him to find his place, and begin giving back to those who have supported him.

Do not be afraid of new beginnings. Be creative. Be inventive. Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Nawaf says: "The SVP treats you with respect, and I have been able to volunteer for them five days a week, which gives me the chance to leave my accommodation and be active in the community."

"The SVP treats you with respect"

He is currently taking courses in English Language alongside his volunteering, and adds: "I support the St Vincent's kitchen, cooking quality meals for Vinnie's Café, and I also help to organise the clothing donations that come in. Jan, who works with me in the kitchen, has been so kind and a great help to me. She supports me on a daily basis in all areas of my life, gives me advice and makes sure I take all of the assessments I need to move forward. I am very grateful to her and the rest of the team for being so friendly and helpful."

Nawaf is now able to look forward to a brighter future thanks to his experience working at St Vincent's. Asked about his prospects for the coming years, he says: "I want to be part of this community, to serve this country and be part of it, because its people have done so much for me."

Mohammad is originally from Syria. He and his family were forced to flee Assad's brutal war, and in doing so they experienced both the loss of loved ones and the breakdown of their society. His children are studying and volunteering, and are keen to settle in Newcastle, while Mohammad has a strong desire to work and be the best possible role model for them. He trained as an engineer back in his homeland, and is great at fixing things!



Mohammad and Nawaf (left to right) who volunteer in our Newcastle CSP

35,229

free meals provided by St Vincent's centres in 2021/22



Two new marketplace schemes have opened in 2021–2022

St Vincent's Community Centres, Hostels and Special Projects

St Vincent's Centre Bradford has a community café to allow locals to chat over a cuppa or a hot meal. The centre also offers ESOL classes, employment help, an outreach project and immigration support.

St Vincent's Tower House Brighton has lots of group activities, focused particularly on older people (especially those with dementia). It also provides free transport.

St Vincent's Centre Brixton uses the arts to support children and young people, running two youth theatre groups in addition to a Healthy Holidays scheme.

St Vincent's Centre Ely Bridge runs a café, food bank, training courses, parent and toddler groups, cooking sessions, art and craft classes and youth clubs. It also offers support for those leaving the criminal justice system.

St Vincent's Centre Leeds has a wide range of services on offer, including education classes, money management and IT drop-ins, immigration services and outreach advice. There's also food provision and furniture collection and referrals, signposting to further help, and singing, drama and dance groups.

The two **Approved Premises in Newcastle** are able to accommodate up to 47 men following their release from prison. Staff work closely with the residents, the Probation Service and other agencies to ensure everyone is welcomed and supported in readjusting to society, and that any subsequent risk to the public is minimised.

St Vincent's Newcastle Deaf Centre has been a hub for the local D/deaf community for more than 70 years. There are activity sessions, a pay-as-you-feel café, and a Deaf Social Club.

St Vincent's Centre Sheffield redistributes vital emergency provisions, including furniture and food parcels, to those who need them most.

St Vincent's Centre Southend-on-Sea has diversified considerably in recent years. As well as its food bank and deliveries, it now also provides support for mental wellbeing, dementia, bereavement and sourcing accommodation. Vegetables are grown in its very own allotment, and medical and veterinary checks, educational support, ESOL classes and free haircuts are all available too.

St Vincent's Centre Wirral is home to the Trussell Trust's main food bank, as well as a large clothes bank and a cafe, which is open daily to provide free refreshments and a safe place for befriending chats. All of this - and the numerous activities the centre offers - is delivered with the support of partners including Citizens Advice Wirral, Liverpool University Law Clinic, Wirral Mind and local charity Energy Project Plus.

"A positive atmosphere. A safe and confidential space. A beautiful group of women from all walks of life..."

Attendee from the Ladies' group

CELEBRATING THE ENERGY OF YOUTH

Our young people are vital to the growth and sustainability of our Society. Their energy, appetite for learning and will to help others is inspirational and hugely important to the greater work of the SVP.

We want to inspire young people through the transformational experience of volunteering in a safe and supportive environment, which helps them grow positively by giving them the opportunity to turn their concern into action.

We have 306 active Mini Vinnie groups (for 7-11 year olds) in 17% of Catholic primary schools, and 63 Youth SVP groups (for 11-18 year olds) in 15% of Catholic secondary schools. Additionally, there are nine Young Adult/1833 groups (for 18-35 year olds), and 36 Young Vincentian Development Officers (YVDOs), who provide an essential link between our young people and our National Youth Team.

378
Young Vincentian groups

Across 2021/22, 4,235 children and young people took part in a staff presentation about the SVP delivered by a member of the Youth Team, and many more will have been reached by our YVDOs, which helps to sow the seeds of a lifetime of service.

Our young people make an enormous difference to the lives of people in their communities. For example, we have a Youth SVP project based at our St Vincent's centre in Southend-on-Sea, which encourages them to grow fruit and vegetables which will then be used in the Kindness Café. The project, which meets once a month, represents how we are trying to connect our St Vincent's Community Hubs, our shops and our adult Members to the youngsters of the SVP family.

Meanwhile, our programmes and materials for schools, colleges and universities provide the opportunity to support our wider social justice campaigns, such as that which highlights the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. This was timed to coincide with Lent and featured immersive activities, spirituality and action for the young people, who wrote letters to their MPs on the issue.

As most of our groups are in schools, we have worked hard to discover those that either continued during the Covid pandemic or have been re-established during this academic year. In the coming months we are looking forward to bringing the SVP family together for more intergenerational events, celebrations and joint social justice projects.

Tackling digital poverty

The shift from face-to-face working and learning during the pandemic lockdowns meant young people had to navigate Zoom and Google classrooms instead.

This piqued the interest of the Mini Vinnies at St Luke's Academy in Essex, who were concerned that many of their fellow pupils didn't have a laptop, phone or even Wi-Fi, and were therefore unable to access their online resources. Always keen to help out on issues affecting people in their community, the Mini Vinnies started a campaign of their own.

They chose to write a letter, addressed to the Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Chair of the Commons Education Select Committee, outlining this and the problems surrounding Government cuts to educational resources. These concerns were forwarded to the Minister of State for School Standards, the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP. Both MPs responded with highly positive messages, thanking the Mini Vinnies for their caring and thoughtful letter, and clarifying the action that has been taken and is ongoing to ensure that access to digital resources is improved.



Youth groups supported our Forget Me Not Lent social justice campaign

I want to make a difference, says Rose

Year 11 student Rose wanted to be involved when she heard there was an opportunity to become part of a Youth SVP group focused on faith and service. Along with about 25 other young members at St Francis Xavier in Richmond, North Yorkshire, she has been turning her concerns into action.

Rose says: "In my community I can see that people have problems, so when I heard that I could join the SVP it was something I wanted to do.

"We always have lots happening. One of the highlights was taking part in the SVP Summer Sleep. Our group held a sleepover at school and we raised £500 to support the SVP's work. It was a fun night, but also a night where we learned about the realities of homelessness and how people end up with nowhere to go."

Rose and her fellow Youth SVP members at St Francis Xavier are aware of the financial pressure on families in her community. She says: "It's really hard for people to even get to work. The government needs to work harder to look after the people who are experiencing difficulties. We are doing our bit to help and we hope that our example might inspire those in Parliament to do more too."



Rose from the Youth SVP group at St Francis Xavier school

The main priority for Rose's group is to support the SVP's activities, but it also helps local charity Storehouse, collecting sanitary products and tins for the food bank. There are plans to visit a local care home soon too - and of course, everyone is looking forward to the next SVP Summer Sleep.

Rose concludes: "I think there is a lot of suffering in our world, but I believe that everyone should be equal. The SVP is a team who work together, and the work we do really helps the people in our community.

"I'm really grateful to be part of the SVP and I'm humbled by how the really small things we do, like collecting sanitary products, can have such a big impact. I'm excited to have the opportunity to make a difference."

EMPOWERING CHANGE FOR PRISONERS

Post-pandemic, visitations remains a key focus of SVP volunteers, and it is of huge importance in our prisons.

There are currently more than 81,000 men and women locked up in 117 prisons across England and Wales. Working with Prisons is a new area of special work aimed at focusing on the needs of these prisoners, ex-offenders and their families.

SVP Board Member and Trustee Ian Kempsell says the work first started in 2018, with the formation of an informal group of volunteers who wanted to learn from each other about how to better support prisoners and their families.

"As the network began to grow, we were able to support ex-offenders more as they moved around the country," Ian says. "For example, when one man was released from a prison near Wigan, an SVP volunteer took him to Wigan station and another met him at Blackpool to take him to his accommodation."

The project's special status within the SVP means it now has credibility, both internally and externally.

Ian says: "We are increasingly being nationally recognised as a charity trying to help prisoners. In September, we addressed the National Catholic Chaplains' Conference at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and in October, the Community Chaplaincy Association national meeting in London.

"We have also recently set up a £10K emergency fund which will be used as a rapid response for accommodation, clothes or food where a local SVP Conference does not exist or cannot respond quickly enough."

Furthermore, Working With Prisons is making contact with Central and District Councils - and individual Conferences throughout the country - to encourage them to liaise with Prison Chaplains, and the many support organisations already working in prisons, to find out what they need.

Ian says: "A large proportion of the prison population will have mental health issues, and many others will have lived in poverty at some point in their lives. They may also have experienced poor housing, dysfunctional family backgrounds, physical or mental abuse, inadequate education, addiction, unemployment, or any of the countless other obstacles that can adversely affect a person's wellbeing.

"These are just some of the reasons why almost half of the 70,000 people who are released from prison every year are back inside again within 12 months."

By reaching out to Prison Chaplains (the best source of help for inmates who are vulnerable), SVP volunteers are able to fulfil the Society's pledge: turning concern into action.

"We know that spending time with people is our greatest gift," Ian says. "People in prison are amongst the most isolated and excluded in our society today. Many will have no strong family links, few (if any) real friends, and almost none of the 'normal' day-to-day routines and structures most of us take for granted."



SVP visitor with a pet rabbit at HMP Hindley

Breaking the barriers

Teresa Carlota Nunez Cueto, 33, joined SVP's St Werburgh's Conference in 2019 with the specific purpose of working in prisons, and she was soon making regular visits to HMP Berwyn.

As someone who also works with homeless people, she says: "I like to break my own prejudices - the prejudices that we all have - to see for myself who these people really are and what they are like. And they are normal people, just like you or me!" Teresa says the prisoners - most of whom are family men - are "super friendly and super respectful", adding: "We show them a friendly face, that we care and that not everyone thinks of them as horrible people."



St Werburgh's Conference member Teresa Carlota Nunez Cueto

"Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favourable light at all times and under all circumstances"

St Vincent de Paul

As well as befriending, the SVP's work in prisons can be more practical. During 2021, the SVP and Working with Prisons:

- **Operated and managed two Approved Premises on Tyneside**
- **Worked closely with chaplains to develop special projects, such as HMP Warren for pet rabbits at HMP Hindley**
- **Partnered with Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) to provide Christmas gifts for prisoners' children at HMP Wandsworth**
- **Sourced and delivered 150,000 wordsearches, colouring pictures and crosswords to 20 prisons**
- **Distributed 1,400 Christmas posters prepared by the Knights of St Columba to 27 prisons.**

The SVP currently has a regular presence (i.e. daily or weekly visits) in at least 16 prisons. There is less frequent contact with 50 others. At the time of writing, 5,000 Christmas posters were being distributed to 50 prisons to be put up in inmates' cells.



Working with Prisons

SVP

Supporting men and women in prison, ex-offenders and families

Support from within

The name doesn't really give it away, but St Thomas More Conference is unique: it is based inside Manchester Prison.

It was formed in 2020 at the Category B establishment (formerly known as Strangeways), and Prison Chaplain James Gallogly says: "Inside, the SVP is quite different in some ways, but the spirit and principles are the same."

The Conference President is a Chapel Orderly on Sunday mornings, and on hand to liaise with the men as they arrive for service. This enables him to gauge how everyone is feeling and to raise any concerns which might otherwise have been missed.

And as a Wing SVP Representative, he is able to provide tangible help: a brew pack, shower gel, or time for a chat.

Due to lingering pandemic restrictions, group meetings are limited, but it is hoped they will soon resume on a weekly basis. Representatives remain a positive presence among their fellow inmates (often acting as an early warning system when there is a crisis) and there has been a recent successful recruitment drive.

HELPING PEOPLE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH

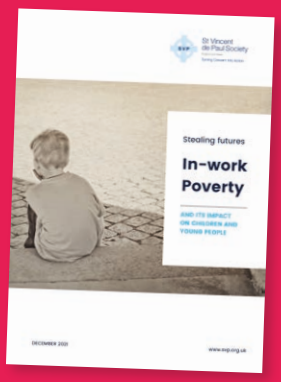
Our social justice work continues to grow as we tackle inequality and injustice wherever we see it.

Our vision is to empower, advocate and campaign for people living in poverty of any kind, and those facing discrimination.

Our grassroots approach to advocacy engages individuals, communities, organisations, faith groups and government.

Post-Covid we established four social justice work areas - Levelling Up, Digital Poverty, In-Work Poverty (and Insecure Work), and Migrants, Refugees And People Seeking Asylum.

Stealing Futures



In December we published the report '*Stealing Futures: the impact on in-work poverty on children and young people*.'

For this report we collated existing research and captured the voices of some of the children and young people we support through our Mini Vinnies groups, as well as those of the SVP volunteers, staff and St Vincent's Community Support Centres, who help thousands of households living in poverty every day.

The aim of the report was to shine a light on one of the most daunting silent issues facing the UK today - the impact of poverty on children and young people, something that often goes undetected.

Stealing Futures was launched alongside our Christmas Fundraising Appeal 'Gift of Kindness', and received widespread media coverage.

We also established a social justice committee to determine our priorities, make recommendations to the board and oversee campaigns. Members include our Patron Sir John Battle KCSG and National President Helen O'Shea.

Working in partnership with other Catholic organisations (including CSAN, Caritas and Jesuit Refugee Service), as well as networks such as National Justice and Peace, we took a leading role in advocating against the Government's proposed Nationality and Border Bills.

We coordinated a successful letter to the Home Secretary, signed by more than 250 faith leaders and groups. This was endorsed by several Bishops and large organisations, including The Salvation Army, the Quakers, and many others.

We published a campaign toolkit together with Jesuit Refugee Service UK (JRS) on the Nationality and Borders Bill. The toolkit explains the eight things people should know about the Bill, and why it will make life that much harder for people seeking safety. It also takes readers through the four ways they can advocate for refugees today.

We mobilised members and other groups across the country to use their voices and engage with their MPs.

We ran webinars to raise awareness of the Nationality and Borders Bill, and provide guidance on how to contact policymakers.

We have produced many resources for our members and the public on proposed changes to the UK asylum system, as well as fact sheets and up-to-date information on the Afghan refugee resettlement scheme.

We launched a successful Write To Your MP action, mobilising hundreds of supporters in using their voice to appeal to those in power.



The Good Shepherd Conference in Telford has supported Afghans

“Charity teaches us that when we visit the poor we gain much more than they do”

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Supporting evacuated Afghan families

The Good Shepherd Conference in Telford have supported about 200 Afghan people living in local hotels following the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

The families were brought here under one of two schemes - the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) - with the aim of helping them settle and integrate into UK society.

The evacuated families include parents, grandparents and children, who live in cramped hotel rooms and are unable to cook their own food.

When SVP Members Michael Coyle, Anne McNulty, Bernadette Walton and Jane Clarke - from the Telford-based Good Shepherd Conference - heard about their plight, they began to visit the families to offer their support. They invited three other SVP Conferences in Telford and Shrewsbury to join their befriending work, and together with the local Council and another charity, they have helped the Afghans in many practical ways.

12,000

Afghan families were evacuated to the UK following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

They have provided dozens of mobile phones, beard trimmers, suitcases and pushchairs, as well as shopping centre vouchers, clothing, cosmetics, and more. The Conference also joined forces with volunteers from Shropshire Supports Refugees to provide a successful, well-attended ESOL programme.

Because of their situation, some of the Afghans were becoming very upset, so the Conference arranged social events - including a day at the seaside - to get the families out of the hotel for a bit of fun.

TURNING A CHALLENGING RETAIL YEAR INTO SUCCESS

Following the Covid-19 lockdowns, all of our retail shops reopened in April 2021, with staff working hard to re-establish the outlets after what had been a challenging previous year.

Operations in shops and across areas were streamlined, and where necessary, changes were made to offer a consistent and exciting retail experience. This worked, too - the changes were well-received, and income was higher than ever before.

About half of all shop volunteers returned post-Covid, and many new people joined the St Vincent's family as well.

Donations also increased following the lockdowns, partly due to wider awareness of the positive impact that reusing objects and materials can have.

The primary aim of the shops is to raise funds for the financial sustainability of the SVP, but Director of Retail, Trading and Social Enterprise Helen Voyce says no-one ever loses sight of the impact on individuals and the communities in which they serve:

"We do all we can to keep on supporting people in need - this includes signposting them to local Conferences, having drop-in boxes as food parcel collection points, and offering referrals to other organisations who can help where necessary.

The 45 St Vincent's shops sit in 12 Central Councils across England and Wales. At the end of the financial year, they had achieved a turnover of nearly

£4,000,000

Net surplus was **£992,238** against a budgeted surplus of **£585,143**, which included **£120,000** in Gift Aid. All credit must go to 130 paid employees and more than 600 volunteers for their hard work and commitment!

"We offer a warm welcome to everyone crossing our threshold and treat them with the dignity and care they deserve, while offering an excellent range of affordably priced goods."

The post-pandemic consolidation meant no new shops were opened in the last year, but online retail continued to grow, with items being dispatched to all over the world, including to Asia, Australia, Europe, the USA and Canada.



St Vincent's Holloway Road

“We set ourselves apart because we call ourselves a community shop. We take on the SVP’s values and bring them into everything we do.”



Jack Marder, the Holloway Road Shop Manager

Jack’s SVP journey

People are drawn time and time again to one of the SVP’s most successful shops – thanks to its artistic Manager and his team.

Jack Marder heads St Vincent’s Holloway Road branch in north London. His creative background is put to good use in the shop, which is bright, fun and very welcoming.

The 30 year old, who has been volunteering in charity shops since he was 17, has a Master’s Degree in Fine Art from Central St Martin’s, but he chose to pursue a career in the charity sector. After a stint as a volunteer at a PDSA shop, he was about to take on the role of Assistant Manager, only for Covid to hit and lose him the opportunity.

Undeterred, Jack began helping out at the SVP’s Hackney shop in September 2020, and moved to the new location in Holloway Road a couple of months later as Assistant Manager. A year on, he became Manager outright.

Jack says: “We started the shop from scratch, so it was all quite new to me. Luckily, I had the support of the old Manager, Jane London, who has gone on to manage the Upminster shop. She had a lot of experience for me to learn from.

“Customers see the kindness in us.”

“It was a bit of a tricky time, as we didn’t know what to expect. We were probably the only people opening a shop because everyone else was closing - it was an odd situation.”

Challenges came from customers who weren’t venturing out because of the pandemic, and the low number of volunteers. Thankfully, local SVP Members offered their support and were instrumental in building a rapport with the community. At the same time, new faces started coming on board.

When the shop opened, the SVP, its work and its values were unknown to many of the locals, but they soon found that this new facility - like all of its counterparts - is first and foremost about togetherness. Holloway Road and its surrounding area are diverse; affluence and poverty sit alongside one another, and customers come from a range of different backgrounds.

“Along our road there are a number of charity shops, but I think we set ourselves apart because we call ourselves a community shop. We take on the SVP’s values and bring them into everything we do.

“Customers see the kindness in us. We give them support and very often, they end up giving it back.”

Among other things, the support comes in the form of signposting people to further help, and the distribution of Vinnie Packs to rough sleepers. It’s of huge importance to Jack that anyone who needs help is treated with respect and dignity - and that’s where the staff come in (10 volunteers and three paid, plus Jack).

“Without them, we wouldn’t be able to run the shop to such a high standard. Values are so important to us, which also sets us apart from other shops. Customers can clearly see the kindness in us, and they respond to that.”

Jack believes the shop is also distinctive because of the way it looks, which is where his artistic background comes in. He explains that the SVP shop Managers are given autonomy to run things how they wish.

“There’s a big drive towards letting us be creative and we are given the chance to do things in a different way, like the layout.

“I try to use my creative skills in the shop in any way I can, such as in the visual merchandising or window displays. There was always a lot of trial and error when I made artworks, so I use that to my advantage now - I’m never afraid to try something out.”

EMPOWERING PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

Our mission to support and empower people out of poverty reaches far beyond our shores.



Our Twinning projects empower people to be self-sufficient

Our twinning programme supports SVP Conferences across England and Wales to assist those in developing countries. Our Conferences are currently twinned with local groups in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Grenada, Guyana and Romania - more recently, we have also supported Ukraine, thanks to contributions from our Members to our Disaster Fund.

We sent a total of £592,885 overseas to our six twinned countries, plus Haiti, Polokong in South Africa and Lebanon, in 2021/22. Our support helped to buy medicines, feed babies and young children, provide food parcels and clothes, and fund educational scholarships. Other sustainability projects included support for farmers, crop production, cow and goat ownership and chicken rearing.

Many of our support schemes empower people in our twinned countries to be self-sufficient. For example, we help to fund a vocational training centre in South Sudan which deals with a variety of technical skills, enabling students, some of whom are enrolled from the displaced persons camp, to secure employment and support their families. Everything they learn is vital to the South Sudan economy and its infrastructure.

We also support the Be In Hope programme, which rescues and educates boys up to the age of 18 who would otherwise be living on the streets. They receive food, accommodation, clothing, and education and skills training, in addition to spiritual and mental health help.

They learn what they need to live securely in the future and, where possible, they are reunited with their relatives. The project was set up by a team who were themselves rescued by a similar initiative in Sudan.

We highlight education further through schemes such as the Indian SVP's Student Sponsorship programme, and we also provide long-term, practical solutions to combat poverty and improve the lives of people facing the harsh realities of life in our twinned countries.

Twinning has also allowed us to support those caught up in the conflict in Ukraine. Members in England and Wales have been quick to donate funds to our Conferences in Romania, where they can be redistributed to those most in need through our affiliation with DePaul International.

We continue to support Ukrainian refugees who are now based in England and Wales through grants from our Disaster Fund.

Our unique grassroots approach means we understand the problems facing those we support, and we provide bespoke help which is as individual as a fingerprint.

...we provide bespoke help which is as individual as a fingerprint

Photo credit: asase. www.asase.org

Compassion and understanding in an uncertain world

Jack and his partner Orla left Ukraine on 16 March 2022, accompanied by their three children and Orla's parents - Jack sadly had to leave his own family behind.

Following this, they were refugees in several countries, before finding their way to England through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. It was while staying in Herne Bay in Kent that they first met SVP Members.

Local Conference Member Jan learned that a Ukrainian family were moving to her community, which prompted her and Joanna, a member of a neighbouring Conference at Whitstable, to welcome them and offer any help they might need. Orla says she felt "lucky the SVP knocked at our door."

The Conference applied to the Ukraine Disaster Fund for a grant to help Jack set up his carpentry business, and buy the tools he had left behind when fleeing his country. This money has helped to provide Jack with stable work, and the family with a crucial source of income.

Unfortunately, the family were then told they must leave their house in Herne Bay and find a new home, but despite the continuing upheaval, Jack remains positive, saying: "We never give up." Orla adds: "We have met so many nice people on our journey, and we are so grateful."

SVP Members continue to support them, providing friendship, understanding and practical assistance.

This is only one example of many instances where we have welcomed and helped our Ukrainian brothers and sisters arriving in England and Wales. Through our Conferences, we seek to develop communities which embrace people from overseas who are escaping poverty and conflict, and in doing so, build a fairer and more compassionate world.



Grenada - Carol's Poultry Project



This project involved the construction of a 10x10 chicken pen, followed by the small-scale rearing of 50 chickens. The 25 initial birds were joined by 25 more within two weeks, and a six-week period followed before they were ready for resale in the community of Beausejour and its surrounding areas. The money gained will be used to replenish stock on an ongoing basis, providing a sustainable living for a number of families.

Guyana

One of the most successful projects in Guyana was the financing of maintenance work on the St. Thomas More Men's Home in Georgetown, which included the replacement of windows and internal and external decoration.

India

Throughout India, we support numerous projects that purchase goats, cows and chickens for families most in need. Each project costs less than £800, and additional money has allowed individuals to set up small tailoring services, which - alongside generating further income - allows crucial skills to be developed and improved for many.

"I would like to embrace the world in a network of charity"

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

As part of an international lay Christian organisation, Catholic in origin, character and traditions, which respects religious liberty and the value of all God's people, the objects of the Charity are:

- The relief of poverty and sickness without differentiation on the ground of race, colour, creed, ideology or sex and in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing, to bring spiritual and/or material solace to the sick or individuals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress due to their social, economic or other circumstances.
- The undertaking, in any part of the world, of such other object or objects which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Charity in its discretion shall see fit.

The Society is constituted under the laws of England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 3174679). The Society is also a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number: 1053992).



The overarching governing document of the Society is the Articles of Association and is to be read in conjunction with the International Rule and the National Statutes. Where there is a conflict between the Articles of Association and the National Statutes of the Society, the Articles will take precedence. However, there is an annual exercise that is in place to ensure alignment where practicable to do so.

The Articles of Association describe the Society's objects, guarantees, powers and their limitation. They define 'Membership' of the Company (i.e. National Council) and describe the governance processes, including how changes and decisions are made.

The National Statutes provide the framework for the governance and operation of the Society. Detailed management of the Society's affairs are covered in relevant Policies and Procedures, which should be treated as a part of the Rule.

The first International Rule was introduced in 1835 and is regularly reviewed and updated by International Council General of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Society adopts this corporate governance framework in order to deliver its strategic priorities and objectives and to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's legal and regulatory requirements (The Charities Act 2011) and adheres to the legislative requirements outlined in the Companies Act 2006.

The Society believes that effective governance is based on ensuring there is a culture of compliance across its works and practices. This is implemented by policies and procedures, clear accountabilities, external and internal audit plans, robust and resilient risk assessments and a culture of continuous learning.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of nine and a maximum of thirteen people, including the Chair. The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society (E&W). On the election of a new National President by the National Council, the President shall nominate up to five Trustees, at least three of whom are current Central Council Presidents, and shall also nominate a Vice President and a National Treasurer.

Each Trustee must be formally confirmed by the National Council to serve for a period of five years. Up to five new Trustees are selected halfway through the President's five-year term to act as continuation Trustees and serve for a term of five years. Up to four non-Members of the Society may be appointed as Trustees provided that they commit to the values of the Society and have skills which are required by the Society.

Name	Responsibility
Helen O'Shea	National President
James Bellamy	Senior Vice President
Christine Knight	National Treasurer
Dermot McGilloway	Retail
Elaine Heyworth	Twinning
Ian Kempsell	Membership Outreach
Mark Thompson	General Portfolio
Michael Willcock	Youth
Richard Palmi	CSPs & Property
Sebastian Muir	General Portfolio
Susan Roberts	General Portfolio
Vince McAllister	Camps & Safeguarding

In addition, Fr Paul Roche attends Board meetings as a National Spiritual Advisor.

The selection of Trustees seeks to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities. An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the charity's objectives, strategy and activities, as well as understanding Charity Commission guidance on the role of a Trustee. The Board meets at least four times a year to review the performance of the charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives.

In line with Charity Commission guidance during the pandemic, the Board met virtually for meetings including the AGM online also. All decisions from these meetings were recorded in the minutes taken and stored electronically as part of the normal governance process.

The Society has established clear levels of delegated authority within which:

- some decisions are reserved to the Board alone.
- some to the Executive Trustees (the National President, the Senior Vice President, the Treasurer).
- responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who may in turn delegate authority to the Deputy CEO and Senior Management. (The Chief Executive attends all Board meetings; other senior managers attend as required.)
- the Chief Executive is required to escalate high risk and/or high impact issues for the timely attention and consideration of the Board.
- the Board sets the strategic direction for the efficient and effective management of the Society's funds and strategic roadmap.
- the Board will establish committees, sub-committees or working groups to fulfil ongoing or time-limited governance functions (usually at the start of office of the new National President elect), formed of Trustees, other members, external experts and operational managers.
- the Board regularly evaluates its own performance through the 'annual Board review', examining its impact and effectiveness and any improvements required in its organisation or operation.

The Society's members are organised in local Conferences to carry out the work of the charity. Conferences are grouped together in geographical areas and are overseen by District Councils which in turn report to Central Councils which are structured, as far as possible, to reflect the Roman Catholic Dioceses. The President of each Central Council sits on the National Council. No Central Council, District Council or Conference may be established as a separate charity and all constitute parts of the Charity operating under the delegated authority of the Trustees.

Sub-committees of the Board

These committees are given delegated powers by the main Board of Trustees and each is chaired by a Board member. They are responsible for supporting a specific area of operational oversight and their activities are reported to the Board. As the number and structure of the committees reflects prevailing priorities, they are reviewed and updated periodically.

The role of each of the committees during 2020-21 was as follows:

- **Finance:** reviews and recommends for approval to the board, budgets and other financial governance matters in addition to fundraising.
- **Community Support Projects:** supports and develops sustainable community projects in appropriate areas.
- **Membership:** reviews membership issues, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels and oversight of youth matters.
- **Audit & Compliance:** oversees Society wide risks and reviews control systems (Safeguarding, Human Resources, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Data Protection) as well as overseeing all internal audit activity.
- **Safeguarding:** oversees systems to ensure that controls in place are effective and review ongoing case management and deliver training for Conference members and staff to ensure general awareness and that procedures are followed.
- **Twinning:** reviews overseas activities from local funding to international grant applications and where appropriate emergency aid funding on an ad hoc basis.
- **Camps:** ensures that SVP (Vinnie Camps) camps provide a safe and enjoyable experience for young people in accordance with defined Safeguarding and Health & Safety procedures.
- **Social Justice:** explores opportunities for SVP contributions to the poverty agenda, both within and outside the Society.
- **Property:** reviews and oversees issues and risks relating to SVP property.
- **Retail:** reviews and oversees all activity associated with the national SVP portfolio of Community shops.
- **Youth:** reviews and oversee all youth related programmes across schools, colleges, youth hubs, universities and parishes, as well as oversight of the Vinnie camps.

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- **Delivery of safe,** effective and personalised poverty relief, especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- **Financial sustainability**, especially in the context of the current economic situation.



Key risks identified during 2021–2022

Key themes that develop through the Society's focus on risk management are fed into the annual strategic review. Primarily taking into account the demand on services will continue to grow in the sector (with over a 40% increase in requests for help during December 2021) more than ever as we deliver our strategy as well as taking into account emerging factors like the situation Ukraine, the levelling up agenda, energy price rises etc.

Financial

Although the Society weathered the storm well moving out of the pandemic, it was offset by the increased demand for funds and services from beneficiaries, as some public services declined. The society developed a 5 year sustainability model to enable long term thinking and planning solutions including new social enterprise schemes, growth in e-commerce operation and expansion of retail outlets.

Membership

The decline in Mass attendance continued as we moved slowly out of lockdown in early 2022 and many Conference members were still unable to visit beneficiaries in person or felt unable to deliver services on the same scale as pre pandemic. The Society mitigated this by developing alternative volunteer models including temporary and seasonal volunteers and the continued utilisation of the Hardship Fund was helpful in providing individuals and families material means of support. A new support role was introduced for members on a regional basis to help them focus on development and recruitment of more members in order to regenerate activity.

Human Resources

Again as we emerged from the pandemic the Society saw a higher turnover of staff (consistent with the recruitment market) as more job opportunities opened up in often better paid sectors, coupled with the lack of diversity in some areas of the Society where paid staff exist. The Society sought to address this by first carrying out a market review of job roles within the sector and in many cases adjusting salaries to bring in line. This is an ongoing activity as we seek to respond to continuing job market changes. In addition to this the Society has embarked on developing a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) programme, looking at new networks of recruitment, developing job adverts to be more inclusive and embarking in EDI training across the existing workforce.



35,229 free meals and food parcels were provided by our Community Support Projects in 2021-2022

Key Strategic Priorities for 2021-2022

As we move towards the end of our 5 year strategy at the end of 2022 we look at the significant steps we have taken over this period to grow and continue to deliver on the charity's objects.

For the 2021-2022 our strategic priorities included:

- Maintaining the momentum of our fundraising campaigns, ramping up on our digital platform for giving.
- Expanding our press and editorial coverage.
- Expanding our network of support centres. We established a goal of one centre in each of our 23 regions and in 2021/22 we added a further 2 new centres to the list. We hope to continue this goal throughout 2022-2023 and beyond.
- Recruiting a Membership Support officer in each of the 23 regions, of which we successfully recruited 15 MSOs during the year and delivering a new online training platform for members to access various modular courses and live webinars.
- Continued focus on our environmental, diversity and measurement agenda as well as developing new hybrid workplace procedures for our office working staff.

"Charity teaches us that when we visit the poor we gain much more than they do"

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam



Other Undertakings

The SVP is the custodian trustee for the following three undertakings:

- **The Pen-y-Pound House Fund** was formed in 1973 to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. It comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.
- **The TB Hunt Fund** is a permanent endowment fund established with monies left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need in these areas.
- **The Francis Thompson Fund** is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy whose terms are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool.

In addition, the Society has oversight of:

- **The David Young Charity** (charity number: 238877) was originally set up in 1860 to aid poor relatives of the Young family. Under a scheme established in 1978 the charity aims to assist, in addition to Young family relatives, those who are in financial difficulties and who, because they are members of the Society, are not eligible to seek support from the Society itself.



> **"Hunt down poverty in order to give humanity its dignity"**
>
> Blessed Rosalie Rendu

Investments

The Board of Trustees sets the overall performance and ethical parameters within which our investment managers operate. The investment managers report quarterly. Each year they meet with the Finance Committee to review performance and outlook. Performance is measured against the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers balanced index. The primary objectives of our investment portfolio are to:

- Generate income to fund operational costs
- Provide capital growth to fund new activities
- Offer diversity across asset classes, including fixed interest investments and medium risk equities

The Trustees have adopted an ethical investment policy in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church. The year to 31/03/2022 should be actual +6.33 and benchmark +8.68 as per page 6 of the Investec report.

Reserves

The Trustees annually review the level of reserves to be held by the charity to ensure they are adequate. Free reserves of the charity are considered to be its unrestricted funds not designated for specific spending. Our reserves target is to hold a minimum of three months' spending in free reserves. Free reserves of the charity were £4.5 million at 31 March 2022 (2021: £4.3 million) which represents 4.7 months (2021: 5.6) of unrestricted general fund expenditure. This balance does not include £2.9m of fixed assets. Reserves are currently higher than the minimum required. The Society has plans to invest in new projects over the forthcoming years as well as supporting those in need with a newly launched Cost of Living Support Fund.

Management and Policies

Grant making

The St Vincent de Paul Society makes grants to individuals in need and to organisations, but only to those with objectives similar to those of the Society and where members are directly involved in volunteering. This includes grants to overseas SVP Conferences (Twinning). All major grants are approved in advance by the Trustees, who ensure that appropriate controls and reporting frameworks are in place.

Statement of fundraising practice 2021/22

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing generosity and support of our donors and funders during what was another year of uncertainty as we ventured cautiously out of lockdown. Our supporters stayed with us as we invested in online communications, supporter care, and piloted new fundraising approaches using technology and digital techniques. As church congregations were still recovering, the annual national paper raffle was paused for a second year and the national coffee morning was repivoted to an online, digital initiative 'Tea with the SVP', which included two online Tea Talks from our Rise to the Challenge Patrons. The usual community fundraising activities organised by our local support centres, as well as collections and events organised by our members in their local churches, parishes, and communities, remained partly suspended for much of the year.

Building on the success of our first Giving Tuesday campaign in 2020 and Tea with the SVP in 2021, the national fundraising team launched its first digital public-facing SVP Christmas Kindness appeal which was a triumph, raising over £100,000 for the SVP Hardship Fund and securing the support of new major donors who provided pound for pound matched funding. We worked with a creative agency for the first time to develop the proposition and digital assets. We also worked with new partners to offer a smoother donating experience and support our local groups with digital fundraising alternatives such as virtual events, bespoke online donation platforms, QR codes and contactless devices.

Throughout the year, we continued to benefit from grants, gifts in wills, donations made through the purchase of alternative gifts in our Christmas catalogue, and our online in-memory giving platform Light a Candle. We reviewed our legacy and in-memorium fundraising with help from a legacy specialist, which resulted in a new legacy and in-memorium strategic plan.

Donors to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) can be confident that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice which covers the requirements charities must follow as set out in the Charities Act 2016. All our staff in the national fundraising team are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, and we join online fundraising networks, attend webinars and online fundraising conferences to keep up to date with regulations, the latest research and reports, trends and developments in fundraising and the future funding landscape. We introduced the roles of Trusts Relationships Manager and Regional Trusts Fundraiser to bolster trusts fundraising at both national and regional level, providing support across the Society to staff and members. We participated in a Society-wide Measuring Impact workstream and Theory of Change workshop to procure a new data-gathering platform and improve our methods of collating qualitative and quantitative impact data.

The Board of Trustees is kept informed of fundraising practice through regular reports from the Director of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing. Several members of the board are personally involved in supporting and promoting fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas Kindness and Rise to the Challenge appeals. No professional fundraiser or commercial participator was engaged to carry out fundraising on behalf of the charity. During the year, no failure to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice was reported and no fundraising complaints were received.

OUR FUNDRAISING YEAR IN NUMBERS

**Received up to 31 March 2022*



1 digital fundraising campaign

2 trusts fundraisers

43 gifts in wills received

95 donations made in memory of loved ones

169 donations to the Ukraine Disaster Fund*

463 Friends of the SVP

812 new online donors

1,105 donations received for wherever they are needed most

£34,499 for the Ukraine Disaster Fund*

£50,000 in match funding for our appeals

£90,000 biggest individual gift received

£118,504 raised from the Christmas Kindness appeal for the SVP Hardship Fund

£168,253 in donations received for wherever they are needed most

£262,849 in grants successfully applied for by our National Office

"Supporting the SVP has been an inspirational journey of discovery for us, because it ticks all our boxes. It is firmly rooted in concern for everyone, whoever they are - and especially those who struggle with loneliness, sickness and poverty. At its heart, it is about individual volunteers who offer the hand of friendship in addition to material support; not grandiose strategies, but many small acts of kindness by small groups in their own communities. Together, they work open-heartedly in partnership with other agencies to address the same issues."

A Trust Supporter



The Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir from London


CORSAIR

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Saffery Champness be re-appointed as auditors of the charitable company was passed at the Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities - charitable company

The Trustees (who are also directors of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2021-22 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on 25 November 2022 at the annual AGM and signed on their behalf by



Helen O'Shea
National President and Chair of Trustees

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and charity sheets and the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2022 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 35, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company

by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sectors in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Audit response to risks identified

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items, including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities**. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Saffery Champness LLP

Sally Appleton
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

5 December 2022

For and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors
Mitre House, North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5RX

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. The Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

Net movement in funds

The overall net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2022 was a surplus of £1,065,428 compared to a surplus of £1,124,419 in the year ended 31 March 2021.

There was therefore a decrease in surplus of £58,991 compared to the previous year.

Income

Total income for the year increased by £2.1m to £13,223,783 compared to £11,146,004 in 2021.

Expenditure

The total expenditure in 2022 amounted to £12,598,558 compared to £10,292,900 in 2021 representing an increase of £2,305,658. This was largely due to increased expenditure on visits and assistance to individuals and families compared to the previous year (£3,282,434 in 2022 compared to £2,506,525 in 2021) and spend at our Support Centres (£1,924,318 in 2022 compared to £1,084,163 in 2021).

Gains and losses

The gain on investments for 2022 amounted to £171,942 compared to a gain of £336,570 in 2021.

Pension fund

The actuarial gain recognised on the pension fund in 2022 amounted to £143,000 compared to a loss of £104,000 in 2021.

Cash at bank and in hand

The group cash at bank and in hand amounted to £7,435,701 in 2022 compared to £6,567,379 in 2021, representing an increase of £868,322.

Total funds

The total group funds at 31 March 2022 amounted to £13,805,248 compared to £12,739,820 at 31 March 2021 representing an increase of £1,065,428. A comparative summary of each category of fund is included in the balance sheet, and there is a detailed breakdown in note 23 of the accounts.



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	**5,067,523**	**875,451**	-	**5,942,974**	6,787,474
Other trading activities	3	**38,722**	-	-	**38,722**	33,178
Income from investments		**167,527**	**27,171**	**9,415**	**204,113**	72,321
Income from charitable activities:						
Shops and furniture stores		**3,871,872**	-	-	**3,871,872**	1,623,774
Holidays and camps		**79,016**	-	-	**79,016**	18,989
Residential provision		**2,099,679**	-	-	**2,099,679**	1,922,811
Support centres		**416,956**	-	-	**416,956**	334,564
Youth development		**8,373**	-	-	**8,373**	2,463
Other income		**562,078**	-	-	**562,078**	350,430
Total income	4	**12,311,746**	**902,622**	**9,415**	**13,223,783**	11,146,004
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	**485,726**	-	-	**485,726**	312,241
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		**2,577,839**	**692,587**	**12,008**	**3,282,434**	2,506,525
Shops and furniture stores		**3,735,557**	-	-	**3,735,557**	3,283,389
Holidays and camps		**250,843**	-	-	**250,843**	202,089
Residential provision		**2,009,878**	-	-	**2,009,878**	1,939,742
Support centres		**1,924,318**	-	-	**1,924,318**	1,084,163
Twinning		**311,778**	**386,631**	-	**698,409**	808,503
Youth Development Programme		**211,375**	**18**	-	**211,393**	156,248
Total expenditure	6	**11,507,314**	**1,079,236**	**12,008**	**12,598,558**	10,292,900
Net gains on investments	14	**86,172**	**3,328**	**82,442**	**171,942**	336,570
Share of profit in jointly controlled entities	18	**125,261**	-	-	**125,261**	38,745
Net income / (expenditure)	7	**1,015,865**	**(173,286)**	**79,849**	**922,428**	1,228,419
Transfers between funds	23	**(92,877)**	**92,877**	-	-	-
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	21	-	**143,000**	-	**143,000**	(104,000)
Net movement in funds		**922,988**	**62,591**	**79,849**	**1,065,428**	1,124,419
Funds at the start of the year	23	**8,152,042**	**3,525,749**	**1,062,029**	**12,739,820**	11,615,401
Funds at the end of the year	23	**9,075,030**	**3,588,340**	**1,141,878**	**13,805,248**	12,739,820

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 23 to the financial statements. The comparative consolidated statement of financial activities is disclosed in note 29 to the financial statements.

GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Group 2022 £	Charity 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Charity 2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	**2,422,522**	**2,422,522**	2,439,478	2,439,478
Mixed motive Investment Freehold Property	12	**673,495**	**673,495**	288,230	288,230
Investments	14	**2,639,449**	**1,520,936**	2,288,391	1,239,590
Investments in subsidiaries	16	-	**1**	-	1
Investments in joint ventures	18	**136,269**	-	176,989	-
		5,871,735	**4,616,954**	5,193,088	3,967,299
Current assets					
Stock		**11,900**	**10,344**	11,691	11,691
Debtors	19	**1,029,649**	**1,101,236**	1,600,100	1,666,140
Cash at bank and in hand		**7,435,701**	**7,301,358**	6,567,379	6,418,725
		8,477,250	**8,412,938**	8,179,170	8,096,556
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	20	**543,737**	**495,465**	594,438	589,752
Net current assets		**7,933,513**	**7,917,473**	7,584,732	7,506,804
Total assets less current liabilities		**13,805,248**	**12,534,427**	12,777,820	11,474,103
Defined benefit scheme pension (liability)	21	-	-	(38,000)	(38,000)
Net assets		**13,805,248**	**12,534,427**	12,739,820	11,436,103
Funds					
Endowment funds		**1,141,878**	**196,658**	1,062,029	183,079
Restricted funds		**3,588,340**	**3,468,851**	3,525,749	3,314,820
Unrestricted funds:					
Revaluation reserve		**625,477**	**625,477**	625,477	625,477
Designated funds		**4,537,723**	**4,578,443**	3,840,485	3,840,485
General funds		**3,911,830**	**3,664,998**	3,686,080	3,472,242
Total funds	23	**13,805,248**	**12,534,427**	12,739,820	11,436,103

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 25th November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Helen O'Shea, National President

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales). Company Number: 3174679.

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash provided by operating activities	*a*	**871,531**	1,420,353
Net cash used in by investing activities	*b*	**(3,209)**	(89,271)
Increase in cash in the year		**868,322**	1,331,082
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Increase in cash for the year		**868,322**	1,331,082
Net funds at beginning of year		**6,567,379**	5,236,297
Net funds at end of year	*c*	**7,435,701**	6,567,379

a. Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities

Net income before revaluations	**625,225**	853,104
Investment income	**(204,113)**	(72,321)
Depreciation	**199,200**	229,703
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**(373,322)**	4,431
Defined benefit scheme net interest expense	**(2,000)**	(5,000)
Current service cost in excess of employer contributions	**107,000**	25,000
(Decrease) in creditors	**(50,701)**	(54,305)
Decrease in debtors	**570,451**	438,934
(Increase) / Decrease in stocks	**(209)**	807
Net cash used in operating activities	**871,531**	1,420,353

b. Net cash (used in) investing activities

Investment income	**204,113**	72,321
Proceeds from sale of listed investments	**97,112**	195,896
Purchase of investments	**(299,789)**	(222,332)
Decrease in Revive investment portfolio	**165,981**	-
Decrease in cash held within investment portfolio	**23,561**	48,530
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	**540,000**	(1,431)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(734,187)**	(182,255)
	(3,209)	(89,271)

c. Analysis of Net Funds

	As at 01 Apr 2021	Cash flows	As at 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	6,567,379	868,322	**7,435,701**
	6,567,379	868,322	**7,435,701**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting Policies

a) Charitable company information

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) ("the Society" or "the Charity") is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

b) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified by the recognition of investment properties, and financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out on the following pages.

c) Consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (England and Wales) Trading Limited, on a line by line basis. The Society also holds a controlling interest in the Pen Y Pound House Fund, the David Young's Charity and the TB Hunt Trust. These are included within the group accounts. The results of the charity comprise the results of the National Office, Conferences and Special Works of the Society. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented because it has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Society is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee and exercises joint control over the entity via a membership agreement. Revive Leeds CIC is accounted for in the Society's consolidated accounts using the equity method. The Society's share of the profit or loss as well as the Society's share of any reserve movements of Revive Leeds CIC are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they occur.



Our members ran 125 food banks in partnership with other organisations

d) Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. Individual projects within the Society are largely expected to be self-funding. Some funding streams changed priority during the Covid-19 pandemic when shops closed during lockdowns but our shops re-opened in April 2021 and have continued to perform well during the year ended 31st March 2022. This, combined with the reserves the charity holds, has enabled the Trustees to conclude that the charity will be able to settle its debts as they fall due for at least 12 months following approval of these financial statements. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern and so the financial statements continue to be prepared on this basis.

e) Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pound sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the period end date. Gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

f) Income

Voluntary income received by way of donations to the Society is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the accounts in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which entitlement is notified, where there is probability of receipt and where the amount can be measured reliably.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are recognised when authorised for payment.

Governance costs relate to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Expenditure on raising funds relates to the costs incurred by the group and Society in raising funds for the charitable work.

Allocation of support costs incurred at the Society's administrative centres

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where relevant, the salary, office and premises costs of the administrative centres which represent the charity's support costs are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**34%**
Shops and furniture stores	**35%**
Holidays and camps	**5%**
Residential provision	**8%**
Twinning	**2%**
Youth development programme	**4%**
Support centres	**7%**
Expenditure on raising funds	**4%**
	100%

h) Fixed assets

Assets are capitalised at cost, as detailed in note 12.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	**2% straight line**
Leasehold property	**over the period of the lease**
Computer equipment	**33% straight line**
Furniture and equipment	**20% straight line**
Motor vehicles and caravans	**20% straight line**

Land is not depreciated.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are

reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Mixed motive investments are held at depreciated cost and represent properties held for both their investment potential and in furtherance of the charity's objects.

i) Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gains or losses for the period on revaluation or disposal are taken to the statement of financial activities. The Trustees consider short term deposits to be liquid resources.

j) Assets held for sale

The charity's mixed movement investments are measured at cost and represent properties held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects.

k) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is measured on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

l) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

m) Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund.

Designated funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the Trustees of the Society.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Endowment funds are funds for which the assets must be held permanently by the Society. Further details of these funds are shown in note 23.

n) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

o) Pensions

Defined contribution scheme: The Society operates a stakeholder group personal pension plan. In addition, the Society contributes to the personal pension schemes of a number of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the schemes by the Society to the funds. The Society has no liability under the schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Defined benefit scheme: Some of the Society's employees are members of the Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Society in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting asset or liability is recognised in the balance sheet. In the case of an asset this is recognised to the extent it is considered recoverable through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the Scheme. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

p) Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets: Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Other financial assets: Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets: Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets: Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Classification of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities: Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

q) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements: The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and note 1. h) for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.



2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	**315,207**	-	-	**315,207**	253,020
Church collections	**477,761**	**26,882**	-	**504,643**	268,973
Legacies	**657,595**	**196,669**	-	**854,264**	1,089,276
Other fundraising activities	**175,450**	**148,725**	-	**324,175**	259,238
Other donations and voluntary grants	**3,441,510**	**503,175**	-	**3,944,685**	4,916,967
	5,067,523	**875,451**	-	**5,942,974**	6,787,474

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	253,020	-	-	253,020
Church collections	246,966	22,007	-	268,973
Legacies	474,128	615,148	-	1,089,276
Other fundraising activities	199,115	60,123	-	259,238
Other donations and voluntary grants	4,094,882	822,085	-	4,916,967
	5,268,111	1,519,363	-	6,787,474

Donations and legacies received covers a number of different charitable activities.

3. Other trading activities (including fundraising)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading activities	**37,087**	-	-	**37,087**	27,119
Income from national raffle	**1,635**	-	-	**1,635**	6,059
	38,722	-	-	**38,722**	33,178

All the above trading activities comprise unrestricted funds in both periods.

4. Total incoming resources for the year

This is stated after including the following restricted grants:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Visits & assistance to individuals & families		
Porta Pia	**35,000**	35,000
Porticus	**26,357**	38,000
Shops & furniture stores		
Sheffield City Council - Voluntary Sector Grants Fund	**53,283**	53,283
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**8,980**	37,904
Support centres		
Lottery Funding	**113,029**	112,972
Homeless Link Grant	**1,500**	10,000
Veolia	**20,400**	7,220
Shared Space	**12,000**	15,000
Newcastle CCG	-	15,000
Newcastle Community Foundation	**12,500**	10,000
Gateshead Council Community Grant	**12,000**	-
Jersey Grant	**30,000**	-
Land Securities	-	15,000
DEFRA	-	20,000
Welsh Government Grant	**25,000**	-
Leeds Community Foundation	**39,652**	32,200
EU Settlement Scheme	**36,070**	41,925
Leeds Mencap	**25,333**	-
University of Leeds	**17,150**	-
Leeds CEV	**10,000**	-
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**143,555**	41,398

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	**259,103**	-	-	**259,103**	171,456
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**10,698**	-	-	**10,698**	2,188
Fundraising expenses	**10,438**	-	-	**10,438**	22,126
Trading activities	**15,569**	-	-	**15,569**	21,776
Investment managers' fees	**10,150**	-	-	**10,150**	5,951
Property expenses	**23,037**	-	-	**23,037**	6,579
Office expenses	**18,070**	-	-	**18,070**	6,841
Other costs	**60,333**	-	-	**60,333**	17,695
Support costs (note 6)	**78,328**	-	-	**78,328**	57,629
	485,726	-	-	**485,726**	312,241

All the above expenditure was from unrestricted funds in both periods.

6. Expenditure

	Year ended 31 March 2022				
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	**259,103**	-	**148,296**	**78,328**	**485,727**
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**230,979**	-	**2,295,444**	**756,011**	**3,282,434**
Shops and furniture stores	**1,875,340**	-	**1,079,666**	**780,552**	**3,735,558**
Holidays and camps	-	-	**139,484**	**111,358**	**250,842**
Residential provision	**1,531,014**	-	**308,778**	**170,085**	**2,009,877**
Support centres	**1,282,190**	-	**483,229**	**158,899**	**1,924,318**
Twinning	**51,662**	**592,885**	**2,050**	**51,812**	**698,409**
Youth Development Programme	**104,709**	-	**13,468**	**93,216**	**211,393**
Total charitable activities	**5,075,894**	**592,885**	**4,322,119**	**2,121,933**	**12,112,831**
Support costs	**1,314,596**	**17,453**	**868,212**	**(2,200,261)**	-
	6,649,593	**610,338**	**5,338,627**	-	**12,598,558**

	Year ended 31 March 2021				
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	171,456	-	83,156	57,629	312,241
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	128,095	8,655	1,733,580	636,195	2,506,525
Shops and furniture stores	1,721,779	-	1,114,087	447,523	3,283,389
Holidays and camps	-	-	69,353	132,736	202,089
Residential provision	1,719,015	-	111,292	109,435	1,939,742
Support centres	678,690	-	302,717	102,756	1,084,163
Twinning	45,857	717,115	9,037	36,494	808,503
Youth Development Programme	89,226	-	7,534	59,488	156,248
Total charitable activities	4,382,662	725,770	3,347,600	1,524,627	9,980,659
Support costs	1,002,459	40,140	539,657	(1,582,256)	-
	5,556,577	765,910	3,970,413	-	10,292,900

7. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Depreciation	**199,200**	229,703
Trustees' indemnity insurance	**3,900**	2,800
Trustees' remuneration	-	-
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**857**	50
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Statutory audit	**30,000**	30,000
Prior year audit fees	**6,900**	10,970
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	**712,492**	651,153

During the year 5 (2021: 1) trustees were reimbursed expenses. This totalled £857 (2021: £50). In addition £Nil (2021: £Nil) was paid on behalf of Trustees directly to third parties. Expenses related to reimbursement for travel and accommodation, subsistence, telephone, postage and stationery and are in relation to their roles as trustees.

In accordance with the articles of association, the Society paid a premium of £3,900 (2021: £2,800) for trustee indemnity insurance to the value of £6 million (2021: £5 million).

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**5,656,074**	4,450,103
Social security costs	**421,367**	361,908
Pension contributions	**572,152**	744,566
	6,649,593	5,556,577

Included in staff costs and paid in the year were redundancy and termination payments totalling (2022 : £0 - 1 employee), (2021 : £29,307 - 7 employees).

The earnings, including pension contribution and employer's National Insurance contributions, of key management personnel (including the CEO) in 2022 were £182,190 (2021: £180,120). This related to two roles (2021: two).

During the year there were two employees who received employment benefits (excluding employer's pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

£60,000 -£70,000 = 2 (2021: 2).

For all full-pay relevant employees, the mean hourly rate of pay is £12.52 for males and £12.34 for females which represents a 1.41% mean gender pay gap.

For all full-pay relevant employees, the median hourly rate of pay is £10.23 for males and £10.39 for females which represents a 1.52% median gender pay gap.

Of the 80 employees in the lower quartile, 39 are male and 41 are female (male: 49%, female: 51%).

Of the 81 employees in the lower middle quartile, 14 are male and 67 are female (male: 17%, female: 83%).

Of the 80 employees in the upper middle quartile, 55 are male and 25 are female (male: 69%, female: 31%).

Of the 81 employees in the upper quartile, 28 are male and 53 are female (male: 35%, female: 65%).

The average number of employees (on a full time equivalent basis) during the year was as follows:

	Actual		FTE	
	2022	**2021**	**2022**	**2021**
	No.	**No.**	**No.**	**No.**
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	-	-	-	-
Shops and furniture stores	**192**	116	**84**	78
Residential care and approved premises	**53**	47	**33**	46
Youth programme	**5**	4	**3**	2
Support centres	**69**	45	**33**	27
Twinning	**6**	3	**2**	1
Fundraising	**18**	21	**11**	12
Support staff	**51**	43	**26**	19
Governance	**13**	6	**10**	11
	407	285	**202**	196

The Society relies substantially on voluntary services provided by its Members across the country. It is not possible to quantify the value of these services to the Society.

9. Grants programme

During the year, the Society paid out grants to a number of organisations through the Twinning Programme and directly from the National Society . The majority of the grants were paid to SVP societies in other countries.

	2022 Total	**2021 Total**
	£	**£**
SVP India	**242,033**	69,354
Indian student scholarships programme	**68,567**	10,905
SVP Sudan	**12,677**	175,684
SVP South Sudan	**98,445**	94,680
SVP Romania	**10,900**	1,000
SVP Grenada	**10,300**	4,500
SVP Lebanon	-	4,107
SVP Guyana	**3,950**	2,000
Payments from disaster fund:		
Sudan and South Sudan	-	5,000
Lebanon	**2,000**	5,000
CGI Covid	**11,650**	10,000
Twinning projects	**123,113**	327,210
South Africa	**9,250**	7,675
Vincentian Volunteers	**6,000**	4,000
Council General International	**11,453**	36,140
Other grants	-	8,655
	610,338	765,910

10. Support costs

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Staff costs	**983,143**	735,993
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**75,122**	42,278
Office costs	**216,872**	150,577
Premises costs	**155,372**	29,968
Bank charges	**26,393**	42,587
Depreciation	**39,022**	28,923
Legal and professional fees	**82,847**	64,928
Other costs	**192,332**	105,733
Governance costs	**429,158**	381,269
	2,200,261	1,582,256

Support costs included the following expenditure on governance:

Staff costs	**331,453**	266,466
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**1,362**	256
Auditors fees and expenses:		
Net audit fee (note 7)	**30,000**	30,000
Disbursements	**1,130**	-
Irrecoverable VAT	**3,913**	-
Over / under accruals	**6,900**	-
Other professional fees	**46,266**	63,397
Board expenses	**5,707**	220
Other costs	**2,427**	20,930
	429,158	381,269

11. Taxation

The Society is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. Available taxable profits are Gift Aided to the Society by The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited.

12. Tangible fixed assets - The group and the charity

	Freehold property	Leasehold property and improvements	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles and caravans	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At the start of the year	1,929,734	1,447,581	913,567	214,079	**4,504,961**
Additions in year	449,303	207,037	77,847	-	**734,187**
Disposals in year	-	(280,000)	-	-	**(280,000)**
At the end of the year	2,379,037	1,374,618	991,414	214,079	**4,959,148**
DEPRECIATION					
At the start of the year	234,186	634,447	726,224	182,396	**1,777,253**
Charge for the year	45,712	50,480	89,650	13,358	**199,200**
Disposals in year	-	(113,322)	-	-	**(113,322)**
At the end of the year	279,898	571,605	815,874	195,754	**1,863,131**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2022	**2,099,139**	**803,013**	**175,540**	**18,325**	**3,096,017**
Long leasehold		**803,013**			
Short leasehold		-			
		803,013			
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2021	**1,695,548**	**813,134**	**187,343**	**31,683**	**2,727,708**
Long leasehold		**813,134**			
Short leasehold		-			
		813,134			

13. Investment property - The group and the charity

	2022 UK Properties	2021 UK Properties
	£	£
VALUATION		
At the start of the year	-	610,000
Transfers	-	(610,000)
At the end of the year	-	-

Mixed Motive Investments

The charity also holds £673,495 (2021: £288,230) as mixed motive investments, which represent two freehold properties held for both financial return and to further the charity's objects.

14. Investments

	Group 2022	Charity 2022	Group 2021	Charity 2021
	£	£	£	£
Market value at the start of the year	**2,288,391**	**1,239,590**	1,936,041	1,001,522
Prior Year Opening Cash Account adjustment	**(46,637)**	**(46,637)**	-	-
Additions at cost	**299,789**	**299,789**	222,332	222,332
Disposal at market value	**(97,112)**	**(94,633)**	(195,896)	(211,043)
Realised gains	**6,909**	**6,840**	23,230	23,230
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**165,033**	**92,911**	313,340	214,205
	2,616,373	**1,497,860**	2,299,047	1,250,246
Cash held with investment managers	**23,076**	**23,076**	(10,656)	(10,656)
Total investment portfolio market value	**2,639,449**	**1,520,936**	2,288,391	1,239,590
Historic cost at the year end	**209,586**	**211,996**	1,474,918	927,155

All the investments are listed on the UK stock exchange and are intended to provide an investment return. Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio, as above, comprise:

	Group 2022	Charity 2022	Group 2021	Charity 2021
	£	£	£	£
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	**1,301,805**	**485,955**	1,043,552	280,059

15. Results of parent charity

These accounts do not include a Statement of Financial Activities for the parent charity, as permitted under section 403 of the Companies Act 2006. The relevant figures for the year ended 31 March for the parent charity were:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross income	**13,078,509**	11,058,112
Surplus for the year	**1,098,324**	894,597

16. Investments in subsidiaries - Charity

The charity has an unlisted investment with a historical cost of £1 representing its 100% shareholding in The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited, which is a company registered in England that operates accommodation and sells Christmas cards and other goods. A summary of that company's financial position is set out in note 17.

17. Subsidiary undertakings

The charitable company held a controlling interest in the following entities during the year:

- The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (a subsidiary charity, number 1053992-1)
- David Young's Charity (a registered charity, number 238877)
- The T B Hunt Trust Fund (a registered charity, number 216406)
- The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited (company registration number 04373817)

All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the Statement of Financial Activities.

A summary of the results of the subsidiaries is shown below:

The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (Capital and Income)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Incoming resources	**3,020**	(1,612)
Charitable expenditure	**(107,738)**	(36,128)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**(104,718)**	(37,740)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**31,431**	98,955
Net movement in funds	**(73,287)**	61,215
Funds brought forward	**536,006**	474,791
Funds carried forward	**462,719**	536,006
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**504,028**	456,675
Net current assets	**(41,309)**	79,331
	462,719	536,006
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**424,022**	392,591
Income fund	**38,697**	143,415
	462,719	536,006

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the Pen-Y-Pound Fund. The trust's main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff.

17. Subsidiary undertakings (continued)

David Young's Charity

	2022	2021
	£	£
Incoming resources	**9,415**	9,891
Charitable expenditure	**(12,008)**	(9,721)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**(2,593)**	170
Unrealised (losses) / gains	**21,246**	(13,268)
Realised (losses) / gains	**69**	-
Net movement in funds	**18,722**	(13,098)
Funds brought forward	**246,359**	259,457
Funds carried forward	**265,081**	246,359
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**259,935**	241,099
Net current assets	**5,146**	5,260
	265,081	246,359
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**209,387**	193,993
Restricted fund	**55,694**	52,366
	265,081	246,359

David Young's Charity is controlled by the Society as the Society appoints the Trustees of the charity. The figures included in these consolidated accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2021 as this is the date to which the subsidiary prepares their accounts; there have been no material changes in the three months to 31 March 2022. The Trust's main objective is the relief of hardship or distress by making grants of money.

T B Hunt Trust Fund

	2022	2021
	£	£
Incoming resources	**13,150**	4,359
Charitable expenditure	**(3,200)**	(4,100)
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources for the year	**9,950**	259
Unrealised gains	**19,445**	48,931
Net movement in funds	**29,395**	49,190
Funds brought forward	**308,451**	259,261
Funds carried forward	**337,846**	308,451
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**311,822**	279,001
Current assets	**26,024**	29,450
	337,846	308,451
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**311,811**	292,366
Income fund	**26,035**	16,085
	337,846	308,451

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the T B Hunt Trust Fund. The trust's main objective is the relief of poverty amongst Roman Catholics in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. During 2021-22 no payments were made due to Covid but payments are resuming in 2022-23.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover	**119,689**	75,342
Cost of sales	**(15,569)**	(20,381)
Gross profit	**104,120**	54,961
Administrative expenses	**(70,384)**	(23,646)
Operating profit for the financial year	**33,736**	31,315
Interest payable	**(740)**	(832)
Net profit	**32,996**	30,483
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Current assets	**90,917**	60,762
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(74,130)**	(76,971)
	16,787	(16,209)

The trading company began in July 2003 and is based at the Society's National Office. Activity is centred around the management of move on accommodation and the sale of Christmas cards, Fairtrade goods and similar items.

18. Investments in jointly controlled entities

The charity is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee, and jointly controls the entity via a Members' agreement with the other members of the company. This agreement stipulates that profits made are distributed to split evenly. The SVP's share of the assets and liabilities of the jointly controlled entity is 50% during the year.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Value of share in Jointly Controlled Entity - brought forward	**176,989**	138,244
Share of profit / (loss) for the year	**125,261**	38,745
Share of profit distributed	**(165,981)**	-
Valuation carried forward	**136,269**	176,989

Related party transactions are shown in note 25.

19. Debtors

	Group 2022	Charity 2022	Group 2021	Charity 2021
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	**263,129**	**231,654**	421,018	419,680
Other debtors	**158,947**	**240,559**	109,382	109,382
Prepayments	**388,252**	**399,568**	486,890	484,927
Accrued income	**171,815**	**171,815**	500,000	500,000
Other taxation and social security	**47,506**	**47,764**	82,810	82,822
Amounts due from subsidiaries	-	**9,876**	-	69,329
	1,029,649	**1,101,236**	1,600,100	1,666,140

All debtors this year and in the prior year are due within one year from the Balance Sheet date.

Amounts due from subsidiaries include a loan of £5,180 (2021: £5,180) to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited which is due to be repaid by March 2029. Loan repayments are made yearly and the subsidiary accrues interest at a rate of 1.5%. The subsidiary has given the Society a floating charge over its assets as security.

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2022	Charity 2022	Group 2021	Charity 2021
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	**275,120**	**256,456**	173,371	174,849
Other creditors	**61,278**	**35,327**	89,597	89,597
Other taxation and social security	**93,376**	**93,376**	68,092	68,092
Accruals	**113,963**	**110,307**	263,378	257,214
	543,737	**495,465**	594,438	589,752

Included within other creditors are outstanding pension contributions of £28,613 (2021: £nil).

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability

Some of the Society's employees belong to a Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS): the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund (TWPF).

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014'.

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2019 and the contributions to be paid until 31 March 2022 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Fund Administering Authority responsible for the governance of the Fund is South Tyneside.

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period.

The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Administering Authority) is shown in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Risks associated with the Fund in relation to accounting

Asset volatility: The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields. If assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which, while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term, creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

Changes in Bond Yield: A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result.

Inflation Risk: The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are either unaffected or loosely correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit.



Life expectancy: The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

Exiting employers: Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further the assets at exit in respect of 'orphan liabilities' may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

	TWPF	
	2022	**2021**
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**2.7%**	2.1%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**3.0%**	2.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**3.0%**	2.7%
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.5%**	4.2%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed remaining life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	TWPF	
	2022	**2021**
Retiring today:		
Males	**21.8**	21.9
Females	**25.0**	25.1
Retiring in 20 years:		
Males	**23.5**	23.6
Females	**26.7**	26.9

The Society's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	TWPF	
	2022	**2021**
	%	**%**
Equities	**57.0%**	55.5%
Properties	**8.4%**	7.9%
Government bonds	**2.0%**	2.2%
Corporate bonds	**18.8%**	19.8%
Cash	**1.8%**	4.0%
Other	**12.0%**	10.6%
Total	**100.0%**	100.0%

The actual return on scheme assets is (£450,000) (2021: (£1,127,000)).

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities:	2022	2021
	£	£
Current service cost	**(382,000)**	(283,000)
Interest income	**126,000**	107,000
Interest expense	**(124,000)**	(102,000)
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	**(380,000)**	(278,000)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Brought forward	**5,910,000**	4,438,000
Current service cost	**382,000**	283,000
Interest expense	**124,000**	102,000
Employee contributions	**47,000**	48,000
Actuarial loss / (gain)	**(416,000)**	1,124,000
Benefits paid	**(34,000)**	(85,000)
Carried forward	**6,013,000**	5,910,000

Changes in the fair value of Society's share of scheme assets:	2022	2021
	£	£
Brought forward	**5,872,000**	4,524,000
Interest income	**126,000**	107,000
Remeasurement gains / (losses) on assets	**324,000**	1,020,000
Employer contributions	**275,000**	258,000
Employee contributions	**47,000**	48,000
Benefits paid	**(34,000)**	(85,000)
Carried forward	**6,610,000**	5,872,000
Fair value of Scheme Assets	**6,610,000**	5,872,000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	**6,013,000**	5,910,000
Restriction on recognition of scheme assets	**(597,000)**	-
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability) / asset	-	(38,000)

22. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Year Ended 31 March 2022			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**3,096,017**	-	-	**3,096,017**
Investments	**1,468,516**	**254,071**	**1,053,131**	**2,775,718**
Net current assets	**4,510,497**	**3,334,269**	**88,747**	**7,933,513**
Pension liability	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of the year	**9,075,030**	**3,588,340**	**1,141,878**	**13,805,248**

	Year Ended 31 March 2021			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,548,968	178,740	-	2,727,708
Investments	1,240,620	254,071	970,689	2,465,380
Net current assets	4,362,454	3,130,938	91,340	7,584,732
Pension liability	-	(38,000)	-	(38,000)
Net assets at end of the year	8,152,042	3,525,749	1,062,029	12,739,820



23. Movement in funds

	At the start of the year	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At the end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	392,591	-	-	-	31,431	**424,022**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	292,366	-	-	-	19,445	**311,811**
David Young's Charity	193,993	9,415	(12,008)	-	17,987	**209,387**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	183,079	-	-	-	13,579	**196,658**
Total endowment funds	**1,062,029**	**9,415**	**(12,008)**	-	**82,442**	**1,141,878**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	143,415	3,020	(107,738)	-	-	**38,697**
T B Hunt Trust income fund	16,085	13,150	(3,200)	-	-	**26,035**
David Young's Charity	51,429	-	-	-	3,328	**54,757**
Charity:						
Restricted legacies	1,679,266	-	-	-	-	**1,679,266**
Furniture stores	142,875	-	-	-	-	**142,875**
Approved premises, Newcastle	-	-	-	-	143,000	**143,000**
Approved Premises Pension Provision	147,142			172,858		**320,000**
Twinning	365,480	387,152	(386,631)	92,877	-	**458,878**
Community Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-
B-Attitude	-	190	(18)	-	-	**172**
Special restricted funds	548,327	175,735	-	-	-	**724,062**
Other restricted funds	431,730	323,375	(581,649)	(172,858)	-	**598**
Total restricted funds	**3,525,749**	**902,622**	**(1,079,236)**	**92,877**	**146,328**	**3,588,340**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Fixed asset fund	953,331	-	(153,487)	-	11,690	**811,534**
Conference funds	2,273,005	1,740,866	(1,534,695)	-	5,083	**2,484,259**
Twinning	134,812	241,522	(259,966)	-	-	**116,368**
Revive Leeds	176,989	-	(165,981)	-	125,261	**136,269**
Special designated funds	85,138	6,220	-	(84,820)	-	**6,538**
Other designated funds	217,210	108,630	-	656,915	-	**982,755**
Total designated funds	**3,840,485**	**2,097,238**	**(2,114,129)**	**572,095**	**142,034**	**4,537,723**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	**625,477**
General funds	3,686,080	10,214,508	(9,393,185)	(664,972)	69,399	**3,911,830**
Total unrestricted funds	8,152,042	12,311,746	(11,507,314)	(92,877)	211,433	**9,075,030**
	12,739,820	**13,223,783**	**(12,598,558)**	-	**440,203**	**13,805,248**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

Prior year movement in funds	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	372,727	-	-	-	19,864	**392,591**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	243,435	-	-	-	48,931	**292,366**
David Young's Charity	198,007	-	-	-	(4,014)	**193,993**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	176,791	-	-	-	6,288	**183,079**
Total endowment funds	**990,960**	-	-	-	**71,069**	**1,062,029**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	102,064	(1,612)	(36,128)	-	79,091	**143,415**
T B Hunt Trust income fund	15,826	4,359	(4,100)		-	**16,085**
David Young's Charity	50,282	9,802	(8,655)	-	-	**51,429**
Charity:						
Restricted legacies	1,470,745	208,521	-	-	-	**1,679,266**
Furniture stores	142,875	-		-	-	**142,875**
Approved premises, Newcastle	271,142	-	(20,000)	-	(104,000)	**147,142**
Twinning	249,325	807,686	(691,531)	-	-	**365,480**
Community Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-
B-Attitude	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special restricted funds	48,327	500,000	-	-	-	**548,327**
Other restricted funds	264,512	415,381	(248,163)	-	-	**431,730**
Total restricted funds	**2,615,098**	**1,944,137**	**(1,008,577)**	-	**(24,909)**	**3,525,749**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Fixed asset fund	947,656	100	5,575	-	-	**953,331**
Conference funds	2,020,806	1,715,156	(1,390,816)	-	(72,141)	**2,273,005**
Wiedner Holiday fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twinning	73,975	91,877	(31,040)	-	-	**134,812**
Revive Leeds	138,244	-	-	-	38,745	**176,989**
Kathleen McHugh Legacy	164,033	-	-	(164,033)	-	-
Special designated funds	78,438	6,700	-	-	-	**85,138**
Other designated funds	114,716	102,494	-	-	-	**217,210**
Total designated funds	**3,537,868**	**1,916,327**	**(1,416,281)**	**(164,033)**	**(33,396)**	**3,840,485**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	**625,477**
General funds	3,845,998	7,285,540	(7,868,042)	164,033	258,551	**3,686,080**
Total unrestricted funds	8,009,343	9,201,867	(9,284,323)	-	225,155	**8,152,042**
	11,615,401	**11,146,004**	**(10,292,900)**	-	**271,315**	**12,739,820**

23. Movement in funds (continued)

Purposes of endowment funds

Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. The fund comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.

The Estate of Francis Thompson: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool. The Francis Thompson Income Fund is included in Other Restricted Funds.

T B Hunt Capital Fund: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the T B Hunt Trust Fund.

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective through this endowment fund is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members are eligible to apply to this fund.

Purposes of restricted funds

Pen-Y-Pound House Income fund: This fund is to be spent in relieving the poor of Cardiff.

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members and staff are eligible to benefit from this fund.

Restricted legacies: This fund is an amalgamation of legacies held by Conferences and at National Office. Following discussions with its professional advisors and the Charity Commission, the Society does not consider legacies to be restricted merely by reason of having been donated for use in a particular geographic area.

Furniture stores: This fund is represented by properties acquired with the assistance of Community Fund grants and donations to provide low cost furniture to those in need.

Approved premises, Newcastle: This represents Ozanam House, St Christopher's Hostel with the approved premises pension fund, which are approved premises funded with the help of Ministry of Justice grants. The fund is in surplus as a result of the pension surplus of £Nil (2021:deficit £38,000) on the Tyne and Wear pension fund as described in note 21. Any future deficit will be repaid over the period agreed with the pension scheme; this is approximately 20 years.

Community projects: This fund is an amalgamation of specific grants and donations held by various projects and at National Office to fund support work in a number of areas.

T B Hunt Trust: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to provide help to those in need in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. The T B Hunt Fund was established with funds left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need.

Special restricted funds: These comprise:

- **Appleton Fund:** Mainly used for the development of South Lancashire Projects.

Other restricted funds: Other restricted funds cover various projects for people in need including local restricted funds held by Conferences and Councils.

Purposes of designated funds

Generally, designated funds are spent and replenished in a year. Members are encouraged to apply for use of these funds.

Fixed Asset Fund: This fund shows the amount of the Society's funds invested in its unrestricted fixed assets net of any property revaluations. Depreciation relating to fixed assets is charged to the fund on an annual basis.

Conference Funds: This fund represents the reserves of the Society that are delegated to the control of Conferences. Each Conference has a bank account and most will also have small petty cash balances.

These funds belong to the Society as a whole, and can be called upon by the Trustees if required, but the Society prefers to manage this on a voluntary



SVP's Furniture Project in Sheffield

and consultative basis. Conferences manage their own fundraising and the distribution of the funds under their control within the rules and guidance set out by the Society. Conferences report back their financial activity on a quarterly basis. We encourage Conferences to put their funds to good use and discourage the holding of funds which are surplus to local requirements. We expect funds to be turned over and replenished within one year. Conferences with funds in excess of their requirements are urged to transfer any excess to another part of the Society where the need is greater.

In addition to the funds held directly by Conferences, there are also funds held nationally on behalf of Conferences. This is typically legacies left to the SVP that reference a particular Conference. We ask all Conferences that are mentioned in a legacy to suggest a plan for how they intend to spend the money. We expect that plan to involve spending the legacy in full within 5 years. The plans are subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee or the Board, depending on the size of the legacy. If a Conference does not come up with an acceptable plan then the legacy will be spent by the Society in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.

Twinning: This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the Society's sister organisations overseas.

Revive Leeds: Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from two household waste sites in Leeds. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This designated fund represents the Society's share of net assets.

Special designated funds: These comprise a number of funds to which local Conferences can contribute. Applications for grants can be made by Conferences to any of the funds with the exception of the Spiritual Formation fund. The Society expects to spend the current balances within five years. The funds are:

- **Holidays and Camps:** Used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils needing to purchase new equipment for the caravans or camps, as well as to Conferences/Councils wishing to send people on a break.
- **Small Furniture Stores:** Used to provide grants to SVP furniture stores to improve their service or to kick start the founding of new furniture stores where appropriate.
- **Youth SVP development:** Used to help fund the Society's youth programme and to fund local youth activities which would otherwise not be able to take place.
- **Lourdes Fund:** Established to provide grants to Conferences and Councils wishing to send people to Lourdes.
- **Offender Care:** Used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils requiring funds for particular Offender needs.
- **Asylum Seeker Care:** Used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils requiring funds for particular Asylum Seeker Care needs.
- **Spiritual Formation:** Used to support the spiritual development of the Society's Members.

Other designated funds: Other designated funds cover various projects for people in need. Members can apply to a special fund and guardians award grants according to the aims of the fund. In 2021-22 these included a Hardship fund and an Innovation fund for members. Other funds are set aside to support an increase in the number of Membership Support Officers.

24. Operating lease commitments

The group had total commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2022 Land and buildings	2021 Land and buildings
	£	£
Within 1 year	**542,744**	468,074
2-5 years	**1,455,732**	1,080,483
Over 5 years	**185,053**	884,220
	2,183,529	2,432,777

25. Related party transactions

Helen O Shea is a trustee of Porta Pia. The Charity received restricted grant income from Porta Pia of £35,000 (2021 - £35,000).

The total amount of donations from Trustees without any conditions attached amounted to £63,260 during the year.

SVP Trading (note 17) - Income received by the Charity amounted to £28,589 (2021 - £30,501). Expenditure by the Charity amounted to £27,220 (2021 - £57,249). Internal recharges by the Charity amounted to £8,387 (2021 - £7,083). Amount due to group undertakings amounted to : £67,432 (2021 - £69,329).

Revive CIC is a related party as it is a Jointly Controlled Entity as detailed in note 18. During the year the Society received a distribution from Revive CIC of £125,261 (2021: £108,348). This amount was outstanding at the year end and was included in other debtors as the agreement states all profits must be distributed evenly between the member charities.

T B Hunt Trust Fund: The trust fund received quarterly dividends of £2,143 during the year. There were no outstanding creditor or debtor balances at the year end.

26. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at the year end.

27. Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events.

28. Financial instruments

	Group 2022	Charity 2022	Group 2021	Charity 2021
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	**641,397**	**472,213**	1,113,210	529,062
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	**450,361**	**402,089**	526,346	521,660

29. Comparative statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	5,268,111	1,519,363	-	**6,787,474**
Other trading activities	3	33,178	-	-	**33,178**
Income from investments		53,681	18,640	-	**72,321**
Income from charitable activities:					
Shops and furniture stores		1,348,185	275,589	-	**1,623,774**
Holidays and camps		18,989	-	-	**18,989**
Residential provision		1,922,811	-	-	**1,922,811**
Support centres		325,687	8,877	-	**334,564**
Youth development		2,463	-	-	**2,463**
Other income		228,762	121,668	-	**350,430**
Total income		**9,201,867**	**1,944,137**	-	**11,146,004**
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds	5	312,241	-	-	**312,241**
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		2,214,458	292,067	-	**2,506,525**
Shops and furniture stores		3,278,410	4,979	-	**3,283,389**
Holidays and camps		202,089	-	-	**202,089**
Residential provision		1,919,742	20,000	-	**1,939,742**
Support centres		1,084,163		-	**1,084,163**
Twinning		116,972	691,531	-	**808,503**
Youth Development Programme		156,248	-	-	**156,248**
Total expenditure	**6**	**9,284,323**	**1,008,577**	-	**10,292,900**
Net (losses) / gains on investments		186,410	79,091	71,069	**336,570**
Share of profit / (loss) in jointly controlled entities		38,745	-	-	**38,745**
Net (expenditure) / income		**142,699**	**1,014,651**	**71,069**	**1,228,419**
Transfers between funds	23	-	-	-	**-**
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme		-	(104,000)	-	**(104,000)**
Net movement in funds	**23**	142,699	910,651	71,069	**1,124,419**
Funds at the start of the year		8,009,343	2,615,098	990,960	**11,615,401**
Funds at the end of the year		**8,152,042**	**3,525,749**	**1,062,029**	**12,739,820**

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Status

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

Governing document

The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association revised and adopted by Special Resolution on 2 August 2019.

Company Number: **3174679**

Charity Number: **1053992**

Registered and Principal Office:
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

Administrative details

Trustees (from November 2017): Helen O'Shea (National President), James Bellamy (Senior Vice President), Christine Knight (National Treasurer), Ann Harris (until July 2020), Ann Towey (until July 2020), Dermot McGilloway (from July 2020), Elaine Heyworth, Ian Kempsell, Mark Thompson (from July 2020), Michael Willcock, Raymond Daley (until July 2020), Richard Palmi, Sebastian Muir, Susan Roberts (from July 2020), Vince McAllister.

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer: **Elizabeth Palmer**
Deputy CEO: **Kate Nightingale**
Director of Finance: **Fiona Smith** *(Resigned 25/02/2022)*
Director of Governance: **Beverley Whittaker**
Director of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing: **Ken Madine**
Director of Membership: **Jon Cornwall**
Young Vincentians Programme Director: **Sarah Barber**
National Safeguarding Manager: **Catherine Kerr**
Head of Compliance: **Matthew Stockton**

Patrons

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Sir John Battle

Auditors

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Mitre House
North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5RX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
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London
EC2M 4AA

Solicitors

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WC2A 1AL

Investment Advisers

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2 Castlefield Court
Church Street
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 0AH

CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria St
London
EC4V 4ET


St Vincent's Helping locally

Connor and Peter



THANK YOU

Many people and organisations support the SVP. We can only do what we do because of your money, time, and encouragement. Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2021/22, including those who wish to remain anonymous. You are all appreciated, and your support is highly valued.

St Vincent's, Bradford
- Arnold Clarke
- Home Office
- Metropolitan City of Bradford Council
- Tesco Community Fund

St Vincent's, Brighton
- The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust

St Vincent's, Brixton
- The London Community Foundation

St Vincent's, Ely Bridge
- Cardiff Council
- HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)
- National Lottery Awards for All Wales
- Viridor and Prosiect Gwyrdd Community Fund
- Welsh Government

St Vincent's, Leeds
- LandsSec
- Leeds City Council
- Leeds Community Foundation
- LNER
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Revive

St Vincent's, Newcastle
- HAF
- LA6
- RW Mann Trust
- Streetgames
- St Hilda's Trust
- St James Place

Newcastle Deaf Centre
- Handley Trust
- LNER
- Newcastle Community Health Fund
- Rothley Trust

SVP Approved Premises / supported accommodation
- The Co-op (Moor Farm, Northumberland)
- DeliDelights (Walker)
- Ministry of Justice (HMPPS)

St Vincent's, Sheffield
- The Abba Charitable Trust
- Barnabas Charitable Trust
- The Comic Relief Covid-19 Community Fund
- Facey Family Foundation
- J G Graves Charitable Trust
- The Hanley Trust
- The James Neill Trust Fund
- Mrs L D Rope Third Charitable Settlement
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Town Trust

St Vincent's, Southend-on Sea
- Albert Trust
- CI-Connect
- CIB Southend
- Essex Community Fund
- IMS Shoeburyness
- Lions Club Leigh-on-Sea
- Lordsons Estate
- Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
- Rosca Trust
- Rotary Club Leigh-on-Sea
- SAVS
- Southend Emergency Fund
- Tesco Southend
- Waitrose (Southend and Leigh-on-Sea)

National
- The Anthony Scholefield Foundation
- Baxi Heating Charitable Trust
- The Geoffrey Watling Charity
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- National Philanthropic Trust
- Sir Pierce Lacy Charitable Trust
- The Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
- The T K Maxx and Homesense Foundation
- National Lottery Awards for All England

St Vincent de Paul Society

Romero House
55 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7JB

Call 020 7703 3030
Visit svp.org.uk

DONATE

Click here to donate to the SVP and help to change someone's life

Keep in touch with us

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND AND WALES)

England & Wales - Charity number 1053992

Accounts



ONE MILLION ACTS OF KINDNESS

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) Trustees Report 2020-21

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. Company Number: 3174679 Charity Number: 1053992

Regardless of the global nature of the challenges of the past year, our mission remains unchanged: offering help and care, person to person. We do this through a million small gestures of compassion because it's in the everyday acts of kindness that we make a difference to people's lives. As we continue to work through the ongoing pandemic, we remember those we have lost and those we have supported to reshape their lives for the better. We will continue to rise to the challenge one act of kindness at a time.



OUR MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Our Vision

Our Vision, which is inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is for individuals and families who are in need to have hope together with a sense of dignity, worth, well-being and peace of mind.

Our Mission

To seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice, and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Our Values

- **Christ Centred** - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.
- **Compassionate** - We aim to show a compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.
- **Respectful** - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.
- **Generous** - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.
- **Responsive** - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs in the communities in which we work and to respond accordingly in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms as well as we can.
- **Accountable** - We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help, whilst acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.
- **Confidential** - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental well-being of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

We strive to achieve these values through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, through prayer, friendship, mutual support and encouragement.



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ONE MILLION ACTS OF KINDNESS

No, we don't actually count every smile, every hug, every encouraging word. We're too busy preparing food, delivering medicines, phoning people who can't get out, visiting prisoners, raising funds, providing furniture, making soup, distributing grants, running kids' camps, sorting clothes, training the next generation...

But we do know that each gesture adds up.

That's who we are.

The SVP.

Turning our concern into acts of kindness.

Every day.

Since 1833.

Acts of kindness include...

Practical help provided

8,501	Transport
8,112	Money
7,453	Furniture
3,195	Clothes
1,476	Fuel
1,466	Electrical Appliances



Total: 30,203

Numbers of visits or calls to

Older People	**259,772**
Families	**43,168**
People with Mental Health Issues	**13,199**
Others	**7,640**
Refugees	**5,219**
Homeless	**2,842**
Offenders	**1,867**
People in Hospital	**886**



Total: 334,593

Our people

9,083	Members
798	Volunteers
280	Staff
10,000	Young people
171	Temporary Auxiliary Members



Total: 20,332

Meals provided

Through our Support Centres	**45,103**
Through our Food Banks	**34,345**
Through Home Deliveries	**28,412**
Through our Soup Runs	**2,790**

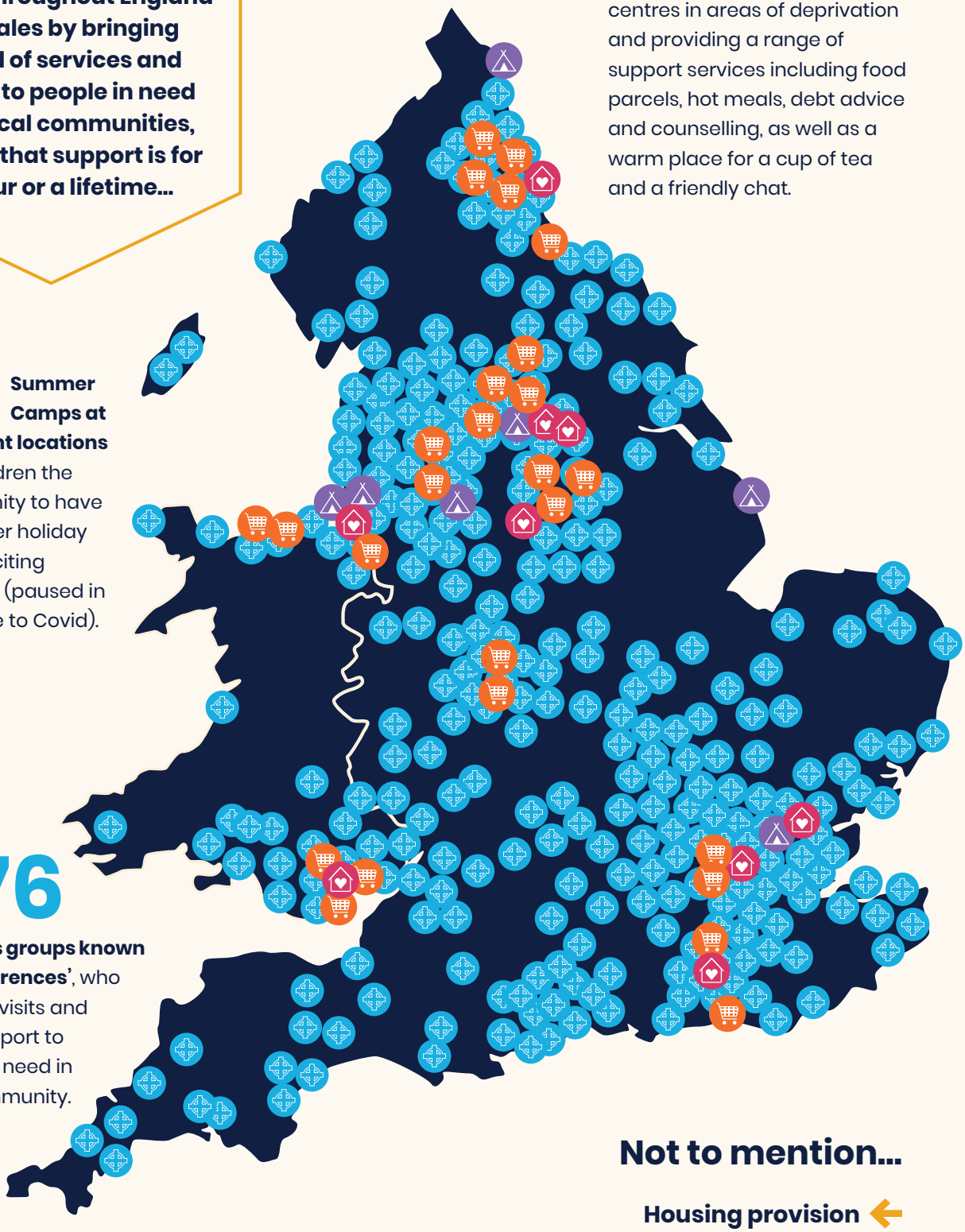


Total: 110,650

The SVP is working to tackle poverty and the causes of poverty throughout England and Wales by bringing a blend of services and support to people in need in our local communities, whether that support is for an hour or a lifetime...

9 **Support Centres** located outside city centres in areas of deprivation and providing a range of support services including food parcels, hot meals, debt advice and counselling, as well as a warm place for a cup of tea and a friendly chat.

19 **Summer Camps at 7 different locations** give children the opportunity to have a summer holiday full of exciting activities (paused in 20-21 due to Covid).



876 **Members groups known as 'Conferences'**, who organise visits and other support to people in need in their community.

44 **Community Shops** which are generally located in deprived areas and provide low-cost goods as well as accepting donations of second-hand items.

Not to mention...

Housing provision

Holidays for families

Campaigning for social justice

Prison visiting and Approved Premises

768 school groups running in Catholic schools

Support for SVP overseas projects in 6 countries (see p31)

THE CHALLENGE OF COVID



"We knew we would need to take risks if we were to rise to this unfolding challenge"



Elizabeth Palmer CEO and Helen O'Shea National President

In 2020, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic presented a huge challenge to our work. It became apparent early on that the people we support - primarily older, isolated individuals, families and people with complex needs - would find themselves in greater need, especially as other support services, such as food banks and social groups, were either severely curtailed or closed.

Much of our work relies on our volunteer Members, our Community Support Centres and shops. Lockdowns and social distancing severely restricted our core activities of befriending and visiting people who are isolated, lonely and in need, and the work of our shops and centres in local communities. It also quickly became evident that the number of people needing our help was expanding rapidly, and we knew we would have to take risks if we were to rise to this unfolding challenge.

Most of our volunteers were classified as vulnerable to Covid-19 because of their age. As the crisis expanded, we faced not only losing their active contribution, but also the possibility of being unable to deliver many of our core services to those who need them most.

The pandemic also presented a major financial challenge. Our Members, who are organised in parish groups, generate funds for SVP activities through church collections, and with church services curtailed, this income stream dried up. We also generate funds from our network of 44 charity shops and seven support centres but, as they had to close during periods of lockdown, so did another vital income source.

The harsh reality of the pandemic meant we had to meet increased need with reduced resources. Increasing numbers of people were slipping into poverty, many of whom were previously solvent and had never needed to seek help before. Meanwhile, isolation became a reality for millions. As the pandemic took hold, our Members were unable to visit, and some of our local support centres had to close their doors. As people are at the heart of our service, we innovated, adapted and found new ways to fulfil our mission.



Addressing the challenge

As the first lockdown was announced, we formed a crisis management team to co-ordinate our response. We set up monthly online meetings to provide inspiration and practical support to our Members. We offered training via Zoom to support and reinforce connection between Members, staff and the people we serve. Our weekly webinars became a vital source of hope and encouragement and attracted over 1,000 attendees in total.

The pandemic stimulated a rise in volunteering, and we seized on the growing appetite in our communities to offer help in a crisis. We streamlined our application process, making it faster and more efficient. We launched a new Membership category – temporary auxiliary member (TAM) – which attracted 160 new volunteers who could make deliveries of food parcels and medication. We also partnered with other charities to develop a volunteering toolkit to support this desire to volunteer in our parishes.

Undeterred by Covid restrictions, our Members turned to the telephone to escalate their support for those in need, with one group quadrupling the number of individuals they support from 30 to 120.

Our weekly webinars became a vital source of hope and encouragement and attracted over

1,000
attendees

We set up a hardship fund of £100,000 to which Members could apply for grants to support people in need. To date, we have fulfilled 260 requests, averaging £406 each, and we have set aside an additional £50,000 for further requests.



Preparing food in a support centre

“The only thing that kept us optimistic in the very first days in lockdown was the advice from St Vincent’s”

At the start of the pandemic, we were operating six community support centres. Each is unique and represents our response to the needs of their communities, providing for example debt, housing and benefits advice, skills training, food services, counselling, cafés, and support for people experiencing homelessness, to name just some of the services available. Undaunted by the pandemic, some services continued in new formats, such as debt advice by telephone or food bags which could be collected outside our support centres. We even opened a new centre in Southend during the height of the pandemic to focus on the homeless community. To further demonstrate our commitment to the people we serve, we are opening a new centre in Cardiff and one on the Wirral.

We receive thousands of requests for help each year. Requests coming via our website increased by 75% for food, 50% for clothing, and 67% for household appliances. We sought to meet the vastly increased demand for essential food items by delivering to households, as well as by providing nutritious meals wherever possible. During the winter months alone (December 2020 to March 2021), we distributed around 34,000 meals. Many were prepared by our support centres and others by those of our groups which run large food distribution programmes.

Rising to the challenge

In common with all charities, the pandemic posed financial challenges. Our shops provide a vital income stream, and their closure prompted us to innovate and adapt. We introduced click and collect services, using eBay, Etsy, Depop and social media to offer our quality pre-loved goods. This has been a huge success, providing a crucial new income stream and a model of future growth for our retail arm. While we had to close two shops permanently, we also opened a new one.

The challenges of the pandemic also supercharged our digital fundraising. We invested in a Digital Fundraising Manager; we experimented and tested new fundraising approaches including a Giving Tuesday campaign; and we pivoted our major fundraising campaign, Rise to the Challenge, which had been planned before the pandemic, to raise substantial additional funds to realise our board's ambitions and deliver its strategy.

We aligned our fundraising with our annual Awareness Month campaign in September, investing in both print and digital advertising to raise our profile at a time when many of our traditional fundraising channels were closed.

The investment paid off. Press coverage increased dramatically - over 100 articles and interviews appeared in the media between September 2020 and March 2021 - with BBC Breakfast TV interviews from our Leeds and Newcastle centres particular highlights. The number of national online donations increased by 143% compared with the previous year, and online income rose by 138%. Our first foray into the international 24-hour fundraising campaign Giving Tuesday generated over £20,000, and our Christmas catalogue achieved unprecedented sales.

As a charity whose history in Britain dates back to 1844 and whose membership age profile is heavily weighted towards retirees, one might expect us to be slow to change. But this year, faced with the greatest health crisis in 100 years, we adapted and reacted to need swiftly. Driven by our foundational values of responsiveness, accountability and generosity, we embraced change, recruited in key areas when other charities were losing staff, acted boldly, thought laterally and have been strengthened as a result.

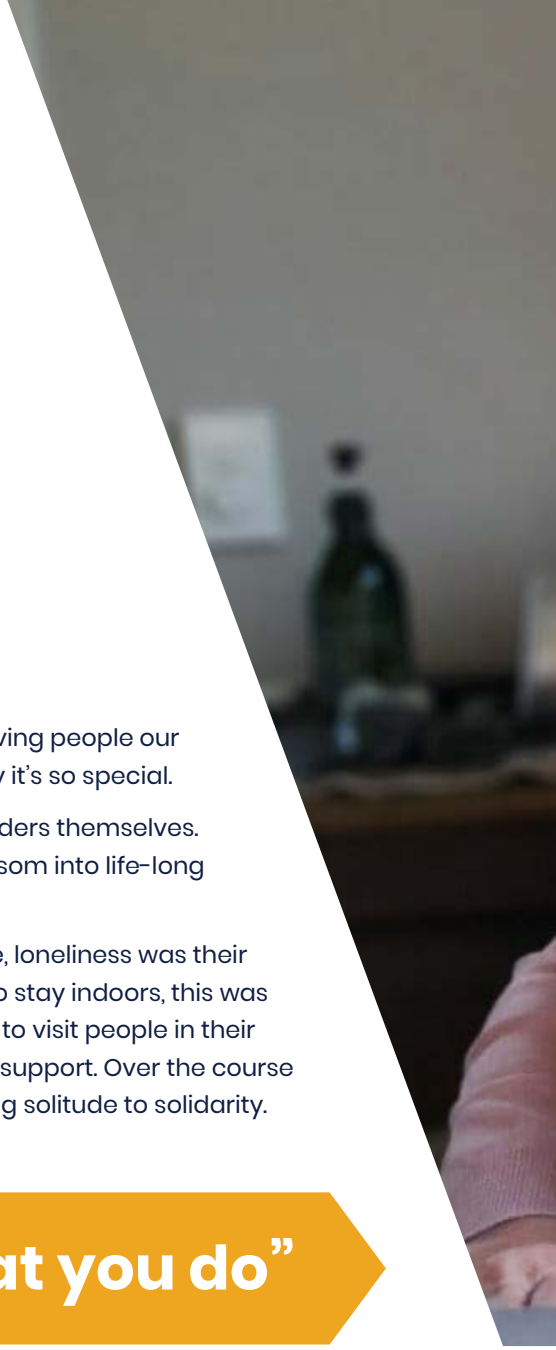
We remain humbled by the selfless dedication of our Members, volunteers and staff, who, driven by their passion to address need in our communities, rose to the challenge in an amazing, inspirational way. We are grateful to our funders, who supported us through a difficult year, and we look forward to their continued support as we seek to expand our work in response to the increasing need across the England and Wales.



Elizabeth Palmer, SVP Chief Executive



Helen O'Shea, SVP National President



BEFRIENDING IS AT THE CENTRE OF OUR MISSION

Time is a precious commodity. After all, we only have a limited amount. Giving people our time shows them we care. That's what befriending is about, and that's why it's so special.

Befriending benefits not only those whom we support, but also the befrienders themselves. It's not surprising that befriending relationships sometimes grow and blossom into life-long friendships.

For many people, even before social distancing rules became a way of life, loneliness was their only companion. For others, as lockdowns took effect and people began to stay indoors, this was their first experience of isolation. Before the pandemic, our Members used to visit people in their homes, but now they had to find new ways to listen, understand and offer support. Over the course of the year, that's what we did, telephoning, dropping off food, transforming solitude to solidarity.

"I am truly grateful for all that you do"

"I don't know what I'd do without you"

Before the pandemic, although wheelchair bound, Mary liked nothing better than putting on her best and going out. Even at 89, she was the life and soul of any party. But since the first lockdown, she hadn't been out except for hospital visits, and this had a huge impact on her well-being.

Three members of the Society took it in turns to 'visit' or phone her each week. An SVP member would go into the garden and talk to her through the window to agree what shopping she needed. The shopping was later put away while a member chatted with Mary through the window.

The frequent phone calls meant a lot to Mary, as did deliveries of 'cheer up' parcels such as an Easter egg with a bunch of daffodils and a card with a prayer from St Vincent. She repeatedly says how wonderful it is to have our help: "I don't know what I'd do without you. I am very lucky to be helped by so many kind people from the SVP."

The time spent with Mary is a great example of how, under lockdown, SVP members met the challenge of finding new ways to stay in touch with the people they support.

Over 60% of our Members managed to stay in contact with all of the people they befriend. Prevented from meeting in person, Members sent handwritten letters and cards, delivered Christmas hampers and Easter baskets, sent emails and WhatsApp messages, Skyped and Zoomed. Where possible, they met for chats through the window, or in the garden, or went for walks in the park. Mostly though, they turned to the telephone.



Telephone befriending

"There's a will to help"

SVP members in Sidmouth became a great support to their local community through telephone befriending during lockdowns. They initially phoned around 30 people, but word soon got out, and that number grew to 136. New volunteers came on board, doubling their capacity. They then expanded their services to delivering shopping for those in isolation and even to providing emergency DIY work for those in desperate need.

Sidmouth Conference President Peter McGauley says: "I believe the pandemic has brought out the best in people. There is so much goodness in the world, and a will to help."

They made a total of 2,994 phone calls, as well as 157 shopping trips.

Visiting someone once a week for a cup of tea and a chat may seem insignificant, but that gesture, the gift of time, is something precious.

Our members made

250,571

phone calls to beneficiaries across England and Wales



A NEW GENERATION DRIVEN BY COMPASSION

Our work has a habit of developing organically. Just as the Sidmouth Conference's telephone service led to other services, so our adult activities have spun off work among young people. We have over 8,000 adult volunteer members, but also several thousand young people, organised by age, in different groups: Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP, B-Attitude and SVP1833 groups. Although schools were closed during some parts of last year, some groups were able to meet and help in their communities.

"I am very grateful for what you and the SVP did for me today. Thanks from the bottom of my heart"



Mini Vinnies delivering Christmas cheer to a care home

647 **Mini Vinnie Groups**

97 **Youth SVP Groups**

24 **B-Attitude Groups**

All areas of the SVP have demonstrated resilience in the face of the pandemic. Students from the newly established University of Birmingham SVP1833 Conference successfully completed their first project during the initial lockdown, working with people experiencing homelessness in the city, and later staffing local food banks.

Our young people brought energy and enthusiasm to support their communities during the pandemic, collecting clothing for people living on the street and essential items for food banks, and making cards for individuals experiencing loneliness.

"You made this a special Christmas"

One school with a Mini Vinnie group prepared Christmas gift boxes for the residents in a nearby care home. Parents donated presents suggested by the care home, which the Mini Vinnies helped to pack into boxes. They also wrote personal letters, prayers, poems and jokes for each box to bring additional Christmas joy to each of the 38 residents who, due to Covid-19 restrictions on care home visitors, had been feeling particularly lonely.

When the boxes were delivered to the care home on the last day of term, the manager could not believe her eyes. She wrote to us later: "Thank you to all who donated cards, gifts, letters and treats to our lovely residents to help make this a special Christmas."

David, aged 10, adds: "I am very pleased and happy that the residents loved their presents. It makes me feel good that I have helped people."



THE BAROMETER OF THE SOUL

"Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another..." *St Vincent de Paul*

Following the devastating closure of our portfolio of shops during the first national lockdown, we were grateful to be able to resume trading with renewed enthusiasm. Our landlords were supportive and receptive to our requests for reduced rent and payment holidays. Our shops were also very grateful for the timely grants we received from local businesses and councils along with financial support from generous individuals.

When restrictions eased in the summer of 2020, the sense of relief from our staff and customers was palpable, and our shops sales were strong. Our shops are mainly located in areas of deprivation, and our customers appreciate and welcome the opportunity to buy quality goods at reasonable prices. SVP shops also provide people with a way to volunteer in their local community, a vital conduit for people in need to connect with our services and with other people.

Volunteering with the SVP means people become part of our Vincentian family with all the care, support and fulfilment that brings. If volunteering is a barometer of the soul, the support shown by our army of dedicated volunteers means the Society is set fair for a bright future.

"I can't imagine life without the shop"

Tina is one of our shop volunteers who lives on her own following her husband's death. She was lonely during lockdown because she couldn't go to the shop, to church, or visit her grown-up children. Life was a real struggle.

The shop staff regularly kept in touch with her during her enforced confinement, and as soon as she could return to her voluntary work, she did. She says: "I can't imagine life without the shop. I love being here. I don't think I've stopped talking since we re-opened and got back together; chatting to staff while we're working, sorting stock, talking to customers and reminiscing about the old days. It's great. I recommend that others who are lonely do it too."



One of our 44 community shops



Dropping off food parcels during lockdown

The SVP is a volunteering organisation, and people like Tina are its lifeblood. We couldn't run our shops without our volunteers, and age isn't a barrier – we have several volunteers in their eighties. Without their time, talent and energy, our amazing organisation would not exist.

The pandemic saw a rise in volunteering as people looked for ways to contribute to their local communities. To support this growing appetite for giving back, we streamlined our application process, making it faster and more efficient. We recruited volunteers who could make 'knock and drop' deliveries of food parcels and medication, and we ensured our volunteers were fully supported with practical advice and training.

"Thanks so much for coming by, and for all your help. I am so grateful and still speechless... I pray that God continues to give you strength"

"It's just wonderful to be able to do something"

When lockdown started, Zen felt helpless. She says: "It was difficult knowing that there were so many people in lockdown who were unable to go to the shops without potentially exposing themselves to Covid-19. I reached out to my local SVP group and found out our local parish foodbank had closed, and people were bringing food to the presbytery instead and that they needed extra volunteers. I said I had a car and could help."

Zen started volunteering at her local SVP food bank in Highbury, London. She collected bags of food from the presbytery and delivered them to vulnerable families in the area who were house-bound and struggling to access the basics.

Zen was one of 157 inspiring 'knock and drop' volunteers across England and Wales who joined the SVP to give their time during the Covid-19 crisis.

As Zen concludes: "It's just wonderful to be able to do something."

"Volunteering means making new friends"

Pamela regularly visits an older woman who hadn't left her house since her husband died and had become frightened to go out. Pamela says: "We talk regularly on the phone, and she proudly talks about her life and work. She loves cake, but she is no longer able to cook, so she really appreciates it when I deliver a homemade piece of cake. To me, volunteering means making new friends."

"Volunteering is like being in one big family"

Sarah began volunteering with the SVP in December 2017 through a Job Centre placement and has stayed ever since. She says: "I volunteer around my children, so when they are at school I come to the shop and help out. I love working in the shop. The staff and volunteers have made me feel so welcome. It's like one big family. I have received training in all areas of the job and have gained so much confidence. I highly recommend volunteering with the SVP."



SHELTER FROM THE STORMS OF LIFE

Thousands of people were furloughed during the pandemic and survived on lower incomes. Others were less fortunate and lost their jobs. Many fell below the poverty line for the first time. By January 2021, six million people were claiming Universal Credit, a 98% increase since March 2020. As the demand for our support increased, we found practical ways of helping people such as paying bills, awarding grants and giving food vouchers.

"You restored my faith in human kindness"

Before the first lockdown, Sally became unwell and had to go on sick leave from her job at a hospice. The illness was hard to diagnose, and progress was delayed by the lockdown. Coming to the end of her half-pay sick leave, she found herself struggling financially. She was referred to her local SVP group who made her a grant of £250. This was enough to get her through a rough patch, and she eventually recovered from her illness and is now back at work.

She says: "Thank you for the wonderful cheque. It has certainly helped me in these unfortunate times. You have restored my faith in human kindness. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your help. Thank you."

Members provided practical assistance on



53,254

occasions

53%

was food related - usually delivered to the doorstep due to pandemic restrictions and

15%

were financial, usually to pay bills



Tea for older people at a support centre



Delivering furniture

“Thanks for all your help and please express my gratitude to everyone who contributes. God bless you all”

A chair is more than just a place to sit

Furniture represents so much more than chairs, tables and beds. Being given these simple objects means someone cares. It is life-changing when families can share mealtimes around a table, sleep in their own beds every night and live with dignity. St Vincent’s Sheffield specialises in providing furniture to people across the city suffering hardship in many forms, helping to turn a space into a home.

Sometimes, the need is very specific and sometimes urgent.

Providing furniture to turn accommodation into a home is central to the service provided by St Vincent’s Sheffield. After the team provided beds for a single mother, Sheffield City Council said: “The furniture has made a massive difference to this mother’s mental state and to her well-being. She is no longer worrying about the state of the children’s room and feels comfortable knowing they each have their own bed now. The children are happy to have a space of their own.”

Meanwhile, in Newcastle, we bought a new washing machine for a family with six children, because the mother had been doing all the washing by hand. One of her daughters said: “Thank you. Mum was so happy.”

“We were very impressed by the fast service”

In January 2021, St Vincent’s Sheffield was contacted about an urgent referral from local charity Family Voice for a family in a stressful situation.

The parents and two children were moving at short notice out of one council-provided accommodation into another and desperately needed beds for the whole family at the new property.

After speaking to the referrer and understanding how urgent the situation was, the St Vincent’s team was able to step in and provide beds for the family the day they moved into their new home.

The referring charity says: “We were very impressed by the fast service provided for this family in real need. Thank you to the fantastic team working at St Vincent’s who enabled this family to move into their new accommodation.”

Sheffield furniture project delivered a total of

5,111



items of furniture, helping 1,721 people

Food provided with love

The past year has seen a massive increase in foodbank use. According to the Trussell Trust, foodbank use rose by a third in 2020-21. People can feel ashamed to ask for help, yet when desperate to provide for their families, a foodbank offers a lifeline. While a lack of food is hugely pressing, this sometimes masks other needs. The SVP's holistic approach can often be helpful at these times.

For us, people are not cases, they are individuals. There is no one solution which fits all. We strive to listen and respond in the most appropriate way. Often, people come to us with an urgent problem, but over time, we help them with many other needs. Because of the breadth of our experience, we are able to help people not only with practical concerns, but also support them with emotional and spiritual issues.

"St Vincent's has really helped my family through this"

During the first lockdown, a man arrived in the queue for food. He was obviously uncomfortable about needing support and took food for his family without any communication other than a muttered 'thank you'.

Over the weeks, we built up a relationship with Darren, and one day, he asked if we had books as his girls had read everything in their house. We gave him some books, and the following day, he returned with his six-year-old daughter bringing us a dandelion as a gift for the books.

Darren had always worked, but he had lost his job during the first the lockdown. We helped him to claim Universal Credit and then to secure employment by supporting him with things such as printing his CV and providing suitable clothes for him to attend interviews.

He said: "I was at my wits' end. I never thought I would be in this situation. St Vincent's has really helped my family through this."



The need for food was greatest in the winter months. Between December 2020 and March 2021, around

34,000

meals were supplied by Members and Support Centres across England and Wales, including Christmas dinners, hampers and food parcels.



Dishing up meals for the hungry

“Thank you for the kind food parcel. You are angels. My cupboards are now fully stocked for me and my two children”

“The SVP eased me through a very rough time when I was really low”

One of our volunteers has been working closely with Janet, a woman in her fifties with complex medical issues, including early onset dementia and anxiety. Janet had lost all her confidence due to a lack of support during the pandemic and was facing financial difficulties.

Our compassionate and resourceful volunteer liaised closely with our foodbank in Southend to provide her with bespoke food parcels tailored to her dietary needs. She also sourced essential household items such as a slow cooker, and a whiteboard and pens to keep track of appointments so Janet could continue to live independently.

This help, along with support from local partners with form filling and medical appointments, meant that Janet could keep her head above water. As she herself puts it: “The SVP has been a fantastic help and eased me through a very rough time when I was really low. Thank you to all the wonderful helpers.”

During the lockdowns, when out of school clubs were shut down, our Community Support Centres became a hive of activity for parents and guardians providing activities, nutritious meals and company for children denied the camaraderie of their peers. One parent said: “Thank you very much for the most fabulous service we have ever experienced in our life.”



Foodbank use increased during the pandemic

“No-one has ever done anything for me and my girls like you have. I’m speechless”

CATALYST FOR KINDNESS

No organisation can have all the answers, so when we cannot provide the specialist help needed, we partner with others to make sure that people get the support and help they need.

Throughout England and Wales, SVP Members and our Community Support Projects have partnered with local organisations to provide bespoke support. We have joined with food companies, storage facilities, partners who can give specialist advice on debt, housing, benefits and asylum seeking, to name only a few, with the sole intention of providing the best care and support possible. The needs of the people we serve and their dignity always inform our actions.

Partnerships take many forms. As well as partnering with other organisations, we give members of the general public opportunities to partner with us each time they bring cans of beans or bags of apples to one of our food banks. Or when they drop off used clothing at one of our shops. Or when they donate through our website. Some people who want to help are busy or are unclear how to get involved. By offering them the chance to partner with us through donating or fundraising, or by volunteering, the number of acts of kindness grows. No gesture is too small; they all make a positive difference to someone's life.

"Thank you very much for the enquiries you made and the advice you gave Mary. She has taken a lot of courage and strength from your communication!"

"The timing could not have been better"

Community TechAid is a south London charity which helps to bridge the digital divide. Working with local schools, disability, refugee and other community-focused organisations, they collect unwanted computers, tablets and mobile phones, refurbish them and deliver them to people in need.

The organisation was started during the first lockdown with volunteers refurbishing devices out of their own homes. However, as they grew, it desperately needed space with secure storage, but it was not yet registered as a charity and had no funding.

St Vincent's Brixton came to the rescue in late September 2020, providing access to their hall and a secure storage cupboard at a peppercorn rent.

A TechAid representative said: "The timing could not have been better. By late December 2020 we had a well-organised operation up and running, with capacity to increase our output enormously.

"St Vincent's should take enormous pride in enabling so many devices to reach those who need them most, including school children, refugees and asylum seekers, people with disabilities, senior citizens, families in refuges and more. On behalf of all our volunteers and those we serve, we express our gratitude and love."

LOCKED UP, BUT NOT LOCKED OUT

According to the Ministry of Justice, there are more than 83,000 prisoners in England and Wales, around 80% more than 30 years ago. Some 30% of prisoners have learning disabilities, up to 90% are estimated to have mental health issues, some have had a poor education and others have suffered trauma such as being abused. All this means they have been failed by society, but that does not mean they should be abandoned. The SVP has a long history of supporting people in prison, helping with rehabilitation and demonstrating the redemptive power of kindness.

One Society Member, a regular prison visitor, realised that people in prison miss physical contact. It is well known that the simple act of caring for an animal is proven to help mental health. The calming effect of holding an animal and stroking it can be beneficial for people suffering with mental health problems, such as depression. Additionally, caring for an animal's needs gives purpose and is rewarding. And so, Vinnie Bunnies came into being.

"Thanks so much. Your help is really appreciated. I am so grateful that I could share my situation with you. I'm very relieved"

"The scheme has made a significant positive impact on individuals"

At HMP Hindley, we provided a bunny for prisoners to take care of and funding to build a rabbit hutch. The project gradually expanded and now, in a green area next to the chapel, there is a small complex hosting three rabbits, two guinea pigs, eight finches and six budgies. The area is affectionately nicknamed 'HMP Warren' by the prison residents.

As well as providing a safe space and a place to support improved well-being, the scheme has had a significant positive impact on individuals. SVP member, Tony Blackburne, explains: "One lad was almost suicidal until he joined in the construction phase. The simple act of doing something with his hands allowed him to take his mind away from the constant introspection that comes from being isolated for so long. It made such a huge difference to him. Another one of the lads takes care of the rabbits, cleaning them out and sitting with them. It's the focus of his day and recharges him before going back to his cell."



It's a simple thing targeted at a small number of individuals, but it's making a huge difference. The SVP also provides prisoners with reading glasses, puzzle books and other simple items to alleviate both the boredom of incarceration and their sense of isolation. These small gestures also give a sense of worth and value to people in a system which can strip them of their dignity.



One of our Vinnie bunnies



Gardening helps residents with mental health

A sense of worth

Once individuals leave prison, they often flounder. More than 70,000 people are released from prison every year, yet almost half are back inside within 12 months. This depressing figure is largely due to the experiences of ex-offenders on their release.

Around ten percent have no families to help them when they come out and are left to fend for themselves. In Newcastle, we run two approved premises to accommodate men who have committed serious offences and have been assessed to pose a high risk of harm when they are released from prison. We help to prepare them for life back in society.

In addition, we run a hostel in Newcastle for people who find themselves homeless, who come to us with mental health problems, long criminal pasts, bereavement issues, low confidence and poor self-esteem. Some are refugees, while others may have active substance misuse issues. We help residents to move on to independent tenancies.

34

individuals supported in our hostel in 2020-21



“Spending time in a green space helps with mental health”

We have a garden where residents can go for fresh air, a chat with others around the table when the weather is good or for some peace at quiet times during the day. Residents say that spending time in a green space helps them with their mental health. Mick said that helping with the weeding and planting new shrubs and plants is good exercise. The residents have taken the responsibility for watering all the vegetables that we grow in the greenhouse, and they are interested in expanding this area to grow more of their own food.

Meanwhile, indoors, Alf found cleaning therapeutic and often volunteered to help with routine domestic chores. He also learned to play the guitar and would play it in communal areas, which helped to raise everyone’s morale during the height of the pandemic.

Reg had a problem with alcohol use. With the support of his keyworker, he began to use a diary to record his use of alcohol, and eventually he agreed to engage with an agency to help him address this. When he moved successfully into the community, he continued to engage with the agency for ongoing support with his alcohol issue.

Our Approved Premises in Newcastle accommodated

188

residents in 2020-21.



India is one of the countries supported by our Twinnage programme

"We should take as a maxim never to be surprised at current difficulties, no more than at a passing breeze, because with a little patience we shall see them disappear. Time changes everything" *St Vincent de Paul*

HANDS JOINED ACROSS THE WORLD

While the bulk of our work takes place in England and Wales, our Members never lose sight of the often desperate plight of people in the developing world. Most of our Conferences are twinned with SVP Conferences in India, Romania, Grenada, Guyana, Sudan or South Sudan, and regularly award grants to Members in these countries, offering practical and financial support for sustainable projects which offer long-term solutions to the ever-present problems of poverty, illness and lack of education. Last year we transferred around £700,000 in financial aid from 'over here' to make a huge difference to people in need 'over there'.

"SVP members stepped in to support them with food and medicines"

Mihai is 53 and has diabetes. His wife Liliana is 50 and has colon cancer and secondary liver cancer. The couple have two children, now aged seven and eight, whom they adopted from the local orphanage after Liliana recovered from a serious operation. The seven-year-old has ADHD and the eight-year-old has autism. Liliana's health has recently deteriorated. She is now confined to bed and needs help with personal care.

At the end of January 2021, Mihai and Liliana both contracted Covid-19. Mihai's symptoms were severe enough for him to be hospitalised for nine days. He requested an early discharge from hospital before he was fully recovered in order to look after his wife who suffers acute fatigue and chest pain. The family's monthly income consists of Liliana's medical benefit of £140, child allowance of £90 and Mihai's salary of £355.

Neighbours initially helped the couple with food and other support, but this has stopped. Local SVP members have stepped in and support them with food and medicines, using money from a grant sent to them from England and Wales.



We sent a total of

£765,910

to overseas projects in 2020-21



A GROUNDSWELL OF ACTIONS

The pandemic has presented enormous challenges to our way of life, necessitating innovation, determination and resolution to meet them. Many of the current problems in England and Wales, however, are deep-seated and will endure after the pandemic has abated, unless we act now.

Inequality, lack of opportunity, lack of access to resources or education, prejudice and discrimination, poverty, homelessness and so on have blighted our communities for years. These are systemic issues and require a systemic response.

The SVP is uniquely placed to contribute insights to the political debate on these issues. Our Members witness the effects of government policy at grassroots level, giving our voice authenticity and significance. We have set out to actively pursue social justice through policy advocacy to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, intolerance and exclusion.

We will focus on four specific policy areas during the next three years:

In-work poverty and insecure work.

In-work poverty affects roughly 18% of the UK working population according to a recent study from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). Before the pandemic, roughly 3.6 million people, one worker in nine, was in insecure work, leaving them exposed to massive drops in income or unsafe working conditions. We will use our experience of supporting those on low incomes to inform the debate on this issue.

Levelling up, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and regional inequalities.

The SVP can play a role in ensuring the voices and experience of people in so-called 'left behind communities' are heard when new services and policies are developed. Our experience of the issues faced by communities in more deprived parts of the country will inform our response to government proposals surrounding regional inequalities.

Digital poverty.

The importance of online communication became paramount as the pandemic robbed us of face-to-face contact. The latest in-depth study on the 'digital divide' by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that the number of adult 'internet non-users' was above 5.3 million or 10% of the UK adult population (as of 2018). We will seek to add our voice to the discussion around digital inclusivity.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

From a Vincentian perspective, the issue of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum is a central concern. Pope Francis has spoken many times about the importance of helping and welcoming migrants and refugees. The SVP intends to meaningfully contribute to campaigns on this topic given its frontline experience in supporting refugees and migrants, particularly at its support centres in Leeds and Bradford.



Art therapy in a support centre

In 2020–21, we:

Hired a Social Policy Manager and our Board approved a new and revised strategy.

Joined the national Keep the Lifeline campaign to make the temporary £20 uplift to Universal Credit permanent.

Began to build strategic relationships with key national advocacy partners and several faith groups.

Submitted written evidence to a government consultation on its new plan for immigration.

A million small gestures of kindness

None of us will forget 2020–2021 — one of the most challenging years in the SVP's history. During the pandemic we lost several of our members to Covid (at least 78, but possibly many more), and among the people we visit and support, at least 394 succumbed to Covid, but again, the numbers may well be much higher. Each loss brings grief, but with it comes a focussed determination to extend our reach, to help more people, and to bring equality to our communities.

We will accomplish this monumental task through a million small gestures of compassion, because it's in the everyday acts of kindness that we make an enormous difference to people's lives. It's in the raised voices of our members changing the world by doing the little things well that we will seek to influence government policy.

As we look forward with renewed vigour to the challenges ahead, we not only remember those we have lost, but also those whose lives we have reshaped for the better. We will recall the innovation we employed, our determination to make a difference, and the way we continued to serve individuals and families during the toughest of times. We continue to rise to the challenge.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

"Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite" *Frédéric Ozanam*

As part of an international lay Christian organisation, Catholic in origin, character and traditions, which respects religious liberty and the value of all God's people, the objects of the Charity are:

- The relief of poverty and sickness without differentiation on the ground of race, colour, creed, ideology or sex and in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing, to bring spiritual and/or material solace to the sick or individuals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress due to their social, economic or other circumstances.
- The undertaking, in any part of the world, of such other object or objects which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Charity in its discretion shall see fit.

The Society is constituted under the laws of England & Wales as a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 3174679). The Society is also a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Number: 1053992). The overarching governing document of the Society is the Articles of Association and is to be read in conjunction with the International Rule and the National Statutes.

Where there is a conflict between the Articles of Association and the National Statutes of the Society, the Articles will take precedence. However, there is an annual exercise that is in place to ensure alignment where practicable to do so.

The Articles of Association describe the Society's objects, guarantees, powers and their limitation. They define 'Membership' of the Company (i.e. National Council) and describe the governance processes, including how changes and decisions are made.

The National Statutes provide the framework for the governance and operation of the Society. Detailed management of the Society's affairs are covered in relevant Policies and Procedures, which should be treated as a part of the Rule.

The first International Rule was introduced in 1835 and is regularly reviewed and updated by International Council General of the International Confederation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Society adopts this corporate governance framework in order to deliver its strategic priorities and objectives and to ensure it complies with the Charity Commission's legal and regulatory requirements (The Charities Act 2011) and adheres

to the legislative requirements outlined in the Companies Act 2006.

The Society believes that effective governance is based on ensuring there is a culture of compliance across its works and practices. This is implemented by policies and procedures, clear accountabilities, external and internal audit plans, robust and resilient risk assessments and a culture of continuous learning.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of nine and a maximum of thirteen people, including the Chair. The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society (E&W). On the election of a new National President by the National Council, the President shall nominate up to five Trustees, at least three of whom are current Central Council Presidents, and shall also nominate a Vice President and a National Treasurer. Each Trustee must be formally confirmed by the National Council to serve for a period of five years. Up to five new Trustees are selected halfway through the President's five-year term to act as continuation Trustees and serve for a term of five years. Up to four non-Members of the Society may be appointed as Trustees provided that they commit to the values of the Society and have skills which are required by the Society.

This process was last enacted in 2017 with the new National President and Board now over halfway through their term.

Name	Responsibility
Helen O'Shea	National President
James Bellamy	Senior Vice President
Christine Knight	National Treasurer
Ann Harris (until July 2020)	Membership Development
Ann Towey (until July 2020)	General Portfolio
Dermot McGilloway (from July 2020)	Retail
Elaine Heyworth	Twinnage (from Oct 2020)
Ian Kempsell	Membership Outreach
Mark Thompson (from July 2020)	General Portfolio
Michael Willcock	Youth
Raymond Daley (until July 2020)	Social Justice
Richard Palmi	CSPs & Property
Sebastian Muir	General Portfolio (from Oct 2020)
Susan Roberts (from July 2020)	General Portfolio
Vince McAllister	Camps & Safeguarding

In addition, Fr Paul Roche attends Board meetings as a National Spiritual Advisor.

The selection of Trustees seeks to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities. An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the charity's objectives, strategy and activities, as well as understanding Charity Commission guidance on the role of a Trustee.

The Board meets at least four times a year to review the performance of the charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives. In line with Charity Commission guidance during the pandemic, the Board met virtually for meetings as well as holding the first ever online AGM. All decisions from these meetings were recorded in the minutes and stored electronically as part of the normal governance process.

“Go to the poor: you will find God”

St Vincent de Paul

The Society has established clear levels of delegated authority within which:

- some decisions are reserved to the Board alone.
- some to the Executive Trustees (the National President, the Senior Vice President, the Treasurer).
- responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive who may in turn delegate authority to the Deputy CEO and Senior Management. (The Chief Executive attends all Board meetings; other senior managers attend as required.)
- the Chief Executive is required to escalate high risk and/or high impact issues for the timely attention and consideration of the Board.
- the Board sets the strategic direction for the efficient and effective management of the Society’s funds and strategic roadmap.
- the Board will establish committees, sub-committees or working groups to fulfil ongoing or time-limited governance functions (usually at the start of office of the new National President elect), formed of Trustees, other members, external experts and operational managers.
- the Board regularly evaluates its own performance through the ‘annual Board review’, examining its impact and effectiveness and any improvements required in its organisation or operation.

The Society’s members are organised in local Conferences to carry out the work of the charity. Conferences are grouped together in geographical areas and are overseen by District Councils which in turn report to Central Councils which are structured, as far as possible, to reflect the Roman Catholic Dioceses. The President of each Central Council sits on the National Council. No Central Council, District Council or Conference may be established as a separate charity and all constitute parts of the Charity operating under the delegated authority of the Trustees.

Sub-committees of the Board

These committees are given delegated powers by the main Board of Trustees and each is chaired by a Board member. They are responsible for supporting a specific area of operational oversight and their activities are reported to the Board. As the number and structure of the committees reflects prevailing priorities, they are reviewed and updated periodically.

The role of each of the committees during 2020-21 was as follows:

- **Finance:** reviews and approves financial results, budgets and other financial governance matters in addition to fundraising.
- **Community Support Projects:** supports and develops sustainable community projects in appropriate areas.
- **Membership:** reviews membership issues, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels and oversight of youth matters.
- **Audit & Compliance:** oversees Society-wide risks and reviews control systems (Safeguarding, Human Resources, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Data Protection) as well as overseeing all internal audit activity.
- **Safeguarding:** ensures that the control systems in place are effective; reviews ongoing case management; delivers training for Conference members and staff to ensure continued awareness and that procedures are followed.
- **Twinnage:** reviews overseas activities from local funding to international grant applications.
- **Camps:** ensures that SVP camps provide a safe and enjoyable experience for young people in accordance with defined Safeguarding and Health & Safety procedures.

- **Social Justice:** explores opportunities for SVP contributions to the poverty agenda, both within and outside the Society.
- **Property:** reviews and oversees issues and risks relating to SVP property.

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- **Delivery of safe, effective and personalised poverty relief**, especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults
- **Financial sustainability**, especially in the context of the current economic situation



Mini Vinnies preparing food parcels

Key risks identified during 2020–2021

Financial

Loss of income from the Charity's retail arm during lockdown combined with the costs of supplementing the furlough scheme brought new risks for the Society; however, these were offset by the value of grants the Charity was successful in applying for, which in turn ensured the Society continued to operate in an unprecedented climate.

Membership

The decline in Mass attendance across England and Wales during lockdown coupled with the fact that many of the Conference members were unable to visit beneficiaries in person meant that the Society had to quickly adapt how it operated in delivering its mission.

To mitigate this risk, the Society adapted communications with Conference members by delivering increased news bulletins, launching new online training modules and introducing ways to hold Conference meetings online to ensure members felt engaged and supported. We also introduced new types of auxiliary membership and new ways to maintain beneficiary contact to ensure that beneficiary needs continued to be met, as well as introducing a new Hardship Fund for individuals struggling as a direct result of the pandemic.

Safeguarding

The Society saw a decline in reported safeguarding incidents in 2020–21. To mitigate the risk of vulnerable people in enforced lockdown positions finding it hard to report issues in a safe environment, the Society increased its online training awareness for Conference members and staff to help them become more vigilant in their dealings with potential vulnerable groups.



Shop staff preparing to reopen after lockdown

Key Strategic Priorities

We are over halfway through the five-year strategic plan that was adopted in 2018. This contains six pillars:

- Empower our membership
- Extend our reach
- Embrace innovation
- Raise our profile
- Build a 'mission ready' organisation
- Secure financial sustainability

Highlights in our progress towards these goals include:

- Investing in our members through increased online resources and training.
- Launching our Rise to the Challenge campaign and investing in digital fundraising to secure financial sustainability.
- Enhancing our communications to increase our exposure in the media.

Looking to 2021-22, our strategic priorities include:

- Maintaining the momentum of our fundraising campaign.
- Expanding our network of support centres. We have established a goal of one centre in each of our 23 regions. We hope to open two centres in the coming year.
- Recruiting a Membership Support Officer in each of the 23 regions to support our membership. We aim to recruit three officers this year.
- Reviewing our environmental, diversity, measurement and workplace procedures to help us build a more mission-ready organisation.

Engagement with employees

We provide employees with information on matters of concern to them as employees through various channels of communications, including a staff newsletter, the intranet and regular emails from the CEO.

During the pandemic, when about 50% of staff were on furlough at any one time, line managers made a special effort to keep in touch with both staff and volunteers through regular wellbeing telephone calls. In addition, we carried out extra training where possible through online channels and addressed any individual welfare problems caused by the pandemic in a quick and responsive way. We also provided all staff members with a handmade hamper for Christmas.

We solicit feedback from all staff through our annual employee engagement survey. 80% of employees said they felt supported by the SVP during the pandemic, 89% said they were given the opportunity to give feedback, 93% said they have a good working relationship with colleagues and 79% said they were valued at work. One employee said, 'I really enjoy reading the newsletter that is published for all employees to be kept up to date about what's happening'. Another said, 'I think the SVP is a really good place to work, and in a way, I think COVID has brought some staff closer together and we have a real chance to change the future for the better if we continue to work collaboratively and live the values.'

Other Undertakings

The SVP is the custodian trustee for the following three undertakings:

- **The Pen-y-Pound House Fund** was formed in 1973 to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. It comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.
- **The TB Hunt Fund** is a permanent endowment fund established with monies left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need in these areas. In 2020-21, the fund distributed grants totalling £5,200 to 32 beneficiaries.
- **The Francis Thompson Fund** is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy whose terms are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool.

In addition, the Society has oversight of:

- **The David Young Charity** (charity number: 238877) was originally set up in 1860 to aid poor relatives of the Young family. Under a scheme established in 1978 the charity aims to assist, in addition to Young family relatives, those who are in financial difficulties and who, because they are members of the Society, are not eligible to seek support from the Society itself.

Investments

The Board of Trustees sets the overall performance and ethical parameters within which our investment managers operate. The investment managers report quarterly. Each year they meet with the Finance Committee to review performance and outlook. Performance is measured against the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers balanced index. The primary objectives of our investment portfolio are to:

- Generate income to fund operational costs
- Provide capital growth to fund new activities
- Offer diversity across asset classes, including fixed interest investments and medium risk equities

The Trustees have adopted an ethical investment policy in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church. During the year, the investments achieved a return of 23.87% against an index of -14.66%.

Reserves

The Trustees annually review the level of reserves to be held by the charity to ensure they are adequate. Free reserves of the charity are considered to be its unrestricted funds not designated for specific spending, less any fixed assets held within unrestricted funds. Our reserves target is to hold a minimum of three months' spending in free reserves. Free reserves of the charity were £3.68 million at 31 March 2021 (2020: £3.84 million) which represents 4 months (2020: 4.41) of unrestricted general fund expenditure.

In the light of Covid-19, the reserves policy may need to be reviewed as the negative impact of an ongoing pandemic on income could extend beyond a three-month period, and a greater level of reserves may become prudent in the medium term.

Management and Policies

Grant making

The St Vincent de Paul Society makes grants to individuals in need and to organisations, but only to those with objectives similar to those of the Society and where members are directly involved in volunteering. This includes grants to overseas SVP Conferences (Twinnage). All major grants are approved in advance by the Trustees, who ensure that appropriate controls and reporting frameworks are in place.

Statement of fundraising practice

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing generosity and support of our donors and funders during a turbulent and unpredictable year. Due to the pandemic, the national fundraising team had to halt implementing standard fundraising activities such as the annual national raffle and national coffee morning. The usual community fundraising activities organised by our regional support centres, as well as collections and events organised by our members in their local churches, parishes and communities, all had to be suspended.

Despite fundraising staff being furloughed, the national fundraising team launched an emergency Covid-response appeal through a direct mail and email campaign. The Society also participated for the first time in online fundraising initiatives, including Giving Tuesday, which raised double the expectation, thanks to a match funder. We continued to benefit from gifts in wills, donations made through the purchase of alternative gifts in our Christmas catalogue, and our online in-memory giving platform Light a Candle.

We benefited from a few high value individual four-year pledges to our major gifts campaign, Rise to the Challenge, but the public launch was paused

"Nature makes trees put down deep roots before having them bear fruit, and even this is done gradually" *St Vincent de Paul*



Support centre volunteers

at the beginning of the pandemic and repivoted to raise funds for our Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Programmes. Our main efforts, both at national and local level, were submitting applications for emergency funding from trusts and foundations, statutory and lottery funders to whom we are extremely grateful. We recruited digital expertise into the fundraising team in October, piloted the use of contactless devices, tested a virtual events fundraising platform and developed a digital fundraising strategy which we hope will improve the online user experience, engage with new audiences and increase levels of online giving in the future.

Our donors can be confident that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice which covers the requirements charities must follow as set out in the Charities Act 2016. All our fundraising staff are members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising. While working from home, as well as repivoting our fundraising efforts, we appreciated many of the free webinars and online fundraising conferences which were organised during the pandemic to support fundraisers during the challenging times.

A review of our fundraising policy and procedures was completed this year and reflects changes in the fundraising environment due to the pandemic and the provisions of the Code of Fundraising Practice. The Board of Trustees is kept informed of fundraising practice through regular reports from the Director of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing. Several members of the board are personally involved in supporting and promoting fundraising initiatives such as Giving Tuesday and Rise to the Challenge. No professional fundraiser or commercial participator was engaged to carry out fundraising on behalf of the charity. During the year, no failure to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice was reported and no fundraising complaints were received.



TapSimple contactless device

Our fundraising year in numbers

1 virtual fundraising event for our India Student Sponsorship Scheme

1 new Digital Fundraising Manager

1 match funder

13 contactless devices

25 gifts left in wills

77 donations made in memory of loved ones

618 SVP Friends

1,148 new online donors

1,456 donations to wherever they are needed most

£20,480 raised in 24 hours on Giving Tuesday

£70,837 in donations to go to wherever they are needed most

£264,171 successfully applied for by our national office





Staff are grateful for donations



"I support the SVP because its work is vital to the health and well-being of our local communities. Its dedicated members and volunteers give so much of their time and energy in the service of people in need; and the Society constantly evolves and innovates to meet the ever-present, ever-changing needs" *Aidan Birkett, donor*

Remuneration

The Trustees determine remuneration levels of senior executives, taking into account the potential impact on the wider workforce, the need to ensure the Society can access the types of skills, experiences and competencies that it requires in its senior staff and the levels of pay at charities of a similar size in the sector. Remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2021 comprised salary and pension contributions. There are no other pecuniary benefits for senior or other staff.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Saffery Champness be appointed as auditors of the charitable company was passed at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees confirm, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware. Trustees have taken all possible steps to ensure all relevant audit information has been passed on to the charity's auditor.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare, for each financial year, financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2020-21 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on 26 November 2021 at the annual AGM and signed on their behalf by



Helen O'Shea
National President and Chair of Trustees

AUDITORS' REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and charity sheets and the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other

information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 45, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives

and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sectors in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Audit response to risks identified

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items, including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

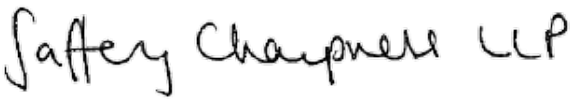
During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities**. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Sally Appleton
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Mitre House, North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5RX
Date: 31 January 2022

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. Covid-19 is not expected to have a significant impact on the entity. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern. They expect that Covid-19 might have some impact, though not significant, in relation to expected future performance, for example, or the effects on some future asset valuations. However, individual projects within the Society are largely expected to be self-funding, and some of these projects may close.

Net movement in funds

The overall net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2021 was a surplus of £1,124,419 compared to a surplus of £3,663,621 in the year ended 31 March 2020.

There was therefore a decrease in surplus by £2,539,202 compared to the previous year.

Income

Total income for the year decreased by £2,840,537 to £11,146,004 compared to £13,986,541 in 2020.

Expenditure

The total expenditure in 2021 amounted to £10,292,900 compared to £10,765,148 in 2020 representing a decrease of £472,248. There was increased expenditure on visits and assistance to individuals and families compared to the previous year: £2,506,525 in 2021 compared to £2,373,443 in 2020.

Gains and losses

The gain on investments for 2021 amounted to £336,570 compared to a loss of (£28,258) in 2020.

Pension fund

The actuarial loss on the pension fund in 2021 amounted to (£104,000) compared to a gain of £369,000 in 2020.

Cash at bank and in hand

The group cash at bank and in hand amounted to £6,567,379 in 2021 compared to £5,236,297 in 2020, representing an increase of £1,331,082.

Total funds

The total group funds at 31 March 2021 amounted to £12,739,820 compared to £11,615,401 at 31 March 2020 representing an increase of £1,124,419. A comparative summary of each category of fund is included in the balance sheet, and there is a detailed breakdown in note 23 of the accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
						(Restated)
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	**5,268,111**	**1,519,363**	-	**6,787,474**	7,631,557
Other trading activities	3	**33,178**	-	-	**33,178**	92,263
Income from investments		**53,681**	**18,640**	-	**72,321**	151,065
Income from charitable activities:						
Shops and furniture projects		**1,348,185**	**275,589**	-	**1,623,774**	3,150,518
Holidays and camps		**18,989**	-	-	**18,989**	148,802
Residential provision		**1,922,811**	-	-	**1,922,811**	2,222,853
Support centres		**325,687**	**8,877**	-	**334,564**	356,890
Youth development		**2,463**	-	-	**2,463**	32,598
Other income		**228,762**	**121,668**	-	**350,430**	199,995
Total income	4	**9,201,867**	**1,944,137**	-	**11,146,004**	13,986,541
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	**312,241**	-	-	**312,241**	375,381
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		**2,214,458**	**292,067**	-	**2,506,525**	2,373,443
Shops and furniture projects		**3,278,410**	**4,979**	-	**3,283,389**	3,576,011
Holidays and camps		**202,089**	-	-	**202,089**	406,686
Residential provision		**1,919,742**	**20,000**	-	**1,939,742**	1,763,986
Support centres		**1,084,163**	-	-	**1,084,163**	1,231,593
Twinnage		**116,972**	**691,531**	-	**808,503**	779,904
Youth Development Programme		**156,248**	-	-	**156,248**	258,144
Total expenditure	6	**9,284,323**	**1,008,577**	-	**10,292,900**	10,765,148
Net gains / (losses) on investments	14	**186,410**	**79,091**	**71,069**	**336,570**	(28,258)
Share of profit in jointly controlled entities	18	**38,745**	-	-	**38,745**	101,486
Net income	7	**142,699**	**1,014,651**	**71,069**	**1,228,419**	3,294,621
Transfers between funds	23	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	21	-	**(104,000)**	-	**(104,000)**	369,000
Net movement in funds		**142,699**	**910,651**	**71,069**	**1,124,419**	3,663,621
Funds at the start of the year (Restated)	30	**8,009,343**	**2,615,098**	**990,960**	**11,615,401**	7,951,780
Funds at the end of the year	23	**8,152,042**	**3,525,749**	**1,062,029**	**12,739,820**	11,615,401

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 23 to the financial statements. The comparative consolidated statement of financial activities is disclosed in note 29 to the financial statements.

GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Group 2021 £	Charity 2021 £	Group 2020 £	Charity 2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	**2,727,708**	**2,727,708**	2,168,156	2,168,156
Investment properties	13	**-**	**-**	610,000	610,000
Investments	14	**2,288,391**	**1,239,590**	1,973,915	1,039,396
Investments in subsidiaries	16	**-**	**1**	-	1
Investments in joint ventures	18	**176,989**	**-**	138,244	-
		5,193,088	**3,967,299**	4,890,315	3,817,553
Current assets					
Stock		**11,691**	**11,691**	12,498	9,521
Debtors	19	**1,600,100**	**1,666,140**	2,039,034	2,150,381
Cash at bank and in hand		**6,567,379**	**6,418,725**	5,236,297	4,989,580
		8,179,170	**8,096,556**	7,287,829	7,149,482
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	20	**594,438**	**589,752**	648,743	632,441
Net current assets		**7,584,732**	**7,506,804**	6,639,086	6,517,041
Total assets less current liabilities		**12,777,820**	**11,474,103**	11,529,401	10,334,594
Defined benefit scheme pension asset / (liability)	21	**(38,000)**	**(38,000)**	86,000	86,000
Net assets		**12,739,820**	**11,436,103**	11,615,401	10,420,594
Funds					
Endowment funds		**1,062,029**	**183,079**	990,960	176,791
Restricted funds		**3,525,749**	**3,314,820**	2,615,098	2,446,926
Unrestricted funds:					
Revaluation reserve		**625,477**	**625,477**	625,477	625,477
Designated funds		**3,840,485**	**3,840,485**	3,537,868	3,537,868
General funds		**3,686,080**	**3,472,242**	3,845,998	3,633,532
Total funds	23	**12,739,820**	**11,436,103**	11,615,401	10,420,594

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 27 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Helen O'Shea, National President
St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales). Company Number: 3174679

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	*a*	**1,420,353**	1,388,197
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	*b*	**(89,271)**	(42,686)
Increase / (decrease) in cash in the year		**1,331,082**	1,345,511
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Increase / (decrease) in cash for the year		**1,331,082**	1,345,511
Net funds at beginning of year		**5,236,297**	3,890,786
Net funds at end of year	*c*	**6,567,379**	5,236,297
a. Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities			
Net income before revaluations		**853,104**	3,221,393
Prior year pension adjustment		**-**	(235,000)
Investment income		**(72,321)**	(151,065)
Depreciation		**229,703**	186,823
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		**4,431**	2,593
Loss on disposal of assets held for sale		**-**	-
Defined benefit scheme net interest expense		**(5,000)**	5,000
Current service cost in excess of employer contributions		**25,000**	39,000
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors		**(54,305)**	(163,011)
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors		**438,934**	(1,525,563)
Decrease / (Increase) in stocks		**807**	8,027
Net cash used in operating activities		**1,420,353**	1,388,197
b. Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities			
Investment income		**72,321**	151,065
Proceeds from sale of listed investments		**195,896**	223,076
Purchase of investments		**(222,332)**	(237,976)
Decrease in cash held within investment portfolio		**48,530**	1,094
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		**(1,431)**	(2,533)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(182,255)**	(177,412)
		(89,271)	(42,686)

c. Analysis of Net Funds

	As at 01 Apr 2020 £	Cash flows £	As at 31 Mar 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	5,236,297	1,331,082	**6,567,379**
	5,236,297	1,331,082	**6,567,379**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2021

"Help honours when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity; and to save us by our works" *Frédéric Ozanam*

1. Accounting Policies

a) Charitable company information

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) ("the Society" or "the Charity") is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

b) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified by the recognition of investment properties, and financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

c) Consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (England and Wales) Trading Limited, on a line by line basis. The Society also holds a controlling interest in the Pen Y Pound House Fund, the David Young's Charity and the TB Hunt Trust. These are included within the group accounts. The results of the charity comprise the results of the National Office, Conferences and Special Works of the Society. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented because it has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Society is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee, and exercises joint control over the entity via a membership agreement. Revive Leeds CIC is accounted for in the Society's consolidated accounting using the equity method. The Society's share of the profit or loss as well as the Society's share of any reserve movements of Revive Leeds CIC are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they occur.

d) Going concern

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. Individual projects within the Society are largely expected to be self-funding. Some funding streams have changed priority during the Covid-19 pandemic. Shops closed during national and regional lockdowns; however, the charity has benefitted from some grant funding, including the furlough scheme, and as a result the charity has been in a position to absorb some of the impact of Covid-19. The shops opened in April 2021, and have been performing to budget. This, combined with the reserves the charity holds, has enabled the Trustees to conclude that the charity will be able to settle its debts as they fall due for at least 12 months following approval of these financial statements. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern, and so the financial statements continue to be prepared on this basis.

e) Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than pound sterling are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at the period end date. Gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the period.

f) Income

Voluntary income received by way of donations to the Society is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the accounts in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which entitlement is notified, where there is probability of receipt and where the amount can be measured reliably.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are recognised when authorised for payment.

Governance costs relate to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Expenditure on raising funds relates to the costs incurred by the group and Society in raising funds for the charitable work.

Allocation of support costs incurred at the Society's administrative centres

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where relevant, the salary, office and premises costs of the administrative centres which represent the charity's support costs are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**40%**
Shops and furniture projects	**29%**
Holidays and camps	**8%**
Residential provision	**7%**
Twinnage	**2%**
Youth development programme	**4%**
Support centres	**6%**
Expenditure on raising funds	**4%**
	100%

h) Fixed assets

Assets are capitalised at cost, as detailed in note 12.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	**2% straight line**
Leasehold property	**over the period of the lease**
Computer equipment	**33% straight line**
Furniture and equipment	**20% straight line**
Motor vehicles and caravans	**20% straight line**

Land is not depreciated.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

i) Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gains or losses for the period on revaluation or disposal are taken to the statement of financial activities. The Trustees consider short term deposits to be liquid resources.

j) Assets held for sale

Surplus property which is in the process of being sold at the year end is taken out of fixed assets and included at valuation.

k) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is measured on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

l) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

m) Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund.

Designated funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the Trustees of the Society.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Endowment funds are funds for which the assets must be held permanently by the Society. Further details of these funds are shown in note 23.

n) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

o) Pensions

Defined contribution scheme: The Society operates a stakeholder group personal pension plan. In addition, the Society contributes to the personal pension schemes of a number of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the schemes by the Society to the funds. The Society has no liability under the schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

Defined benefit scheme: Some of the Society's employees are members of the Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme. The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Society in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The resulting asset or liability is recognised in the balance sheet. In the case of an asset this is recognised to the extent it is considered recoverable through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the Scheme.

The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the

interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

p) Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial assets: Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Other financial assets: Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets: Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets: Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Classification of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities: Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities: Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when,

the company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

q) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements: The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

The charity uses the valuation performed by its selling agents as the fair value of its assets held for sale. The valuation is based upon the key assumptions of estimated rental values and market based yields. In determining fair value the valuers make reference to market evidence and recent transaction prices for similar properties. Due to Covid-19 this work has been remote.

The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and note 1. h) for the useful economic lives for each class of asset. The charity uses a professional valuer to value the investment property. The valuer makes reference to prices of comparable properties and local market conditions to arrive at the market value at the balance sheet date.

The charity uses a professional valuer to value the investment property. The valuer makes reference to prices of comparable properties and local market conditions to arrive at the market value at the balance sheet date.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	**253,020**	-	-	**253,020**	330,246
Church collections	**246,966**	**22,007**	-	**268,973**	937,708
Legacies	**474,128**	**615,148**	-	**1,089,276**	4,014,317
Other fundraising activities	**199,115**	**60,123**	-	**259,238**	304,933
Other donations and voluntary grants	**4,094,882**	**822,085**	-	**4,916,967**	2,044,353
	5,268,111	**1,519,363**	-	**6,787,474**	7,631,557

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020 Total (Restated)
	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	330,246	-	-	330,246
Church collections	896,652	41,056	-	937,708
Legacies	3,552,154	462,163	-	4,014,317
Other fundraising activities	249,250	55,683	-	304,933
Other donations and voluntary grants	1,215,083	829,270	-	2,044,353
	6,243,385	1,388,172	-	7,631,557

Donations and legacies received covers a number of different charitable activities.

3. Other trading activities (including fundraising)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading activities	**27,119**	-	-	**27,119**	42,179
Income from national raffle	**6,059**	-	-	**6,059**	50,084
	33,178	-	-	**33,178**	92,263

All the above trading activities comprise unrestricted funds in both periods.

"Thank you so much for my Christmas meal. I have spent the day alone, but these little gifts, warm meal and wonderfully homemade card have really put a smile on my face"

4. Total incoming resources for the year

This is stated after including the following restricted grants:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Visits & assistance to individuals & families		
Porta Pia	**35,000**	34,999
Porticus	**38,000**	27,831
Holy Cross Child of Jesus	-	20,000
Shops & furniture projects		
Sheffield City Council - Voluntary Sector Grants Fund	**53,283**	60,161
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**37,904**	-
Support centres		
Lottery Funding	**112,972**	104,020
Homeless Link Grant	**10,000**	-
Veolia	**7,220**	-
Shared Space	**15,000**	-
Newcastle CCG	**15,000**	-
Newcastle Community Foundation	**10,000**	-
Land Securities	**15,000**	-
DEFRA	**20,000**	-
Leeds Community Foundation	**32,200**	-
EU Settlement Scheme	**41,925**	15,000
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	**41,398**	23,598
Youth development programme		
Sisters of the Holy Cross	-	10,000

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	**171,456**	-	-	**171,456**	129,611
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**2,188**	-	-	**2,188**	11,763
Fundraising expenses	**22,126**	-	-	**22,126**	80,106
Trading activities	**21,776**	-	-	**21,776**	7,672
Investment managers' fees	**5,951**	-	-	**5,951**	8,615
Property expenses	**6,579**	-	-	**6,579**	13,203
Office expenses	**6,841**	-	-	**6,841**	11,925
Other costs	**17,695**	-	-	**17,695**	19,048
Support costs (note 6)	**57,629**	-	-	**57,635**	93,438
	312,241	-	-	**312,241**	375,381

All the above expenditure was from unrestricted funds in both periods.

6. Expenditure

	Year ended 31 March 2021				
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	**171,456**	-	**83,156**	**57,629**	**312,241**
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	**128,095**	**8,655**	**1,733,580**	**636,195**	**2,506,525**
Shops and furniture projects	**1,721,779**	-	**1,114,087**	**447,523**	**3,283,389**
Holidays and camps	-	-	**69,353**	**132,736**	**202,089**
Residential provision	**1,719,015**	-	**111,292**	**109,435**	**1,939,742**
Support centres	**678,690**	-	**302,717**	**102,756**	**1,084,163**
Twinnage	**45,857**	**717,115**	**9,037**	**36,494**	**808,503**
Youth Development Programme	**89,226**	-	**7,534**	**59,488**	**156,248**
Total charitable activities	**4,382,662**	**725,770**	**3,347,600**	**1,524,627**	**9,980,659**
Support costs	**1,002,459**	**40,140**	**539,657**	**(1,582,256)**	-
	5,556,577	**765,910**	**3,970,413**	-	**10,292,900**

	Year ended 31 March 2020 (Restated)				
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds (note 5)	129,611	-	152,332	93,438	375,381
Charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	134,907	-	1,577,023	661,513	2,373,443
Shops and furniture projects	1,653,348	-	1,205,436	717,227	3,576,011
Holidays and camps	-	-	316,697	89,989	406,686
Residential provision	1,740,658	-	(103,025)	126,353	1,763,986
Support centres	775,343	-	323,922	132,328	1,231,593
Twinnage	12,300	707,720	18,098	41,786	779,904
Youth Development Programme	137,238	-	30,904	90,002	258,144
Total charitable activities	4,453,794	707,720	3,369,055	1,859,198	10,389,767
Support costs	950,004	27,029	975,603	(1,952,636)	-
	5,533,409	734,749	4,496,990	-	10,765,148

7. Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£
Depreciation	**229,703**	186,823
Trustees' indemnity insurance	**2,800**	2,496
Trustees' remuneration	**Nil**	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	**50**	8,322
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Statutory audit	**30,000**	31,950
Prior year audit fees	**10,970**	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	**651,153**	468,074

During the year, 1 (2020: 10) trustee was reimbursed expenses. This totalled £50 (2020: £8,322). In addition £Nil (2020: £Nil) was paid on behalf of Trustees directly to third parties. Expenses related to reimbursement for travel and accommodation, subsistence, telephone, postage and stationery and are in relation to their roles as trustees.

In accordance with the articles of association, the Society paid a premium of £2,800 (2020: £2,496) for trustee indemnity insurance to the value of £5 million (2020: £5 million).

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**4,450,103**	4,510,756
Social security costs	**361,908**	314,072
Pension contributions	**744,566**	708,581
	5,556,577	5,533,409

Included in staff costs and paid in the year were redundancy and termination payments totalling £29,307 for 7 employees (2020: £36,871 for 3 employees).

The earnings, including pension contribution and employer's National Insurance contributions, of key management personnel (including the CEO) in 2021 were £180,120 (2020: £158,843). This related to two roles (2020: two).

During the year there were two employees who received employment benefits (excluding employer's pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

£60,000 -£70,000 = 2 (2020: 2).

For all full-pay relevant employees, the mean hourly rate of pay is £13.27 for males and £13.78 for females which represents a -3.84% mean gender pay gap.

For all full-pay relevant employees, the median hourly rate of pay is £11.03 for males and £11.62 for females which represents a -5.35% median gender pay gap.

Of the 37 employees in the lower quartile, 15 are male and 22 are female (male: 41%, female: 59%)

Of the 36 employees in the lower middle quartile, 10 are male and 26 are female (male: 28%, female: 72%).

Of the 36 employees in the upper middle quartile, 10 are male and 26 are female (male: 28%, female: 72%).

Of the 37 employees in the upper quartile, 13 are male and 24 are female (male: 35%, female: 65%).

The average number of employees (on a full time equivalent basis (FTE)) during the year was as follows:

	Actual		FTE	
	2021	**2020**	**2021**	**2020**
	No.	**No.**	**No.**	**No.**
Visits & assistance to individuals and families	-	7	-	3
Shops and furniture projects	**116**	135	78	77
Holidays and camps	-	-	-	-
Residential care and approved premises	**47**	46	46	45
Youth programme	**4**	6	2	4
Support centres	**45**	41	27	25
Twinnage	**3**	2	1	1
Fundraising	**21**	12	12	8
Support staff	**43**	27	19	18
Governance	**6**	4	11	2
	285	280	196	183

The Society relies substantially on voluntary services provided by its Members across the country. It is not possible to quantify the value of these services to the Society.

9. Grants programme

During the year, the Society paid out grants to a number of organisations through the Twinnage Programme and directly from the National Society. The majority of the grants were paid to SVP societies in other countries.

	2021 Total	**2020 Total**
	£	**£**
SVP India	**69,354**	98,577
Indian student scholarships programme	**10,905**	57,370
SVP Sudan	**175,684**	91,336
SVP South Sudan	**94,680**	94,209
SVP Romania	**1,000**	2,296
SVP Grenada	**4,500**	3,450
SVP Lebanon	**4,107**	-
SVP Guyana	**2,000**	2,000
Payments from disaster fund:		
Sudan and South Sudan	**5,000**	-
India	-	85,500
Lebanon	**5,000**	-
CGI Covid	**10,000**	-
Botswana	-	5,000
Twinnage projects	**327,210**	253,922
South America	-	-
South Africa	**7,675**	12,016
Vincentian Volunteers	**4,000**	-
Council General International	**36,140**	27,030
Other grants	**8,655**	2,043
	765,910	734,749

10. Support costs

	2021 Total	2020 Total (Restated)
	£	£
Staff costs	**735,993**	763,246
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**42,278**	191,435
Office costs	**150,577**	264,118
Premises costs	**29,968**	134,604
Bank charges	**42,587**	74,353
Depreciation	**28,923**	22,809
Legal and professional fees	**64,928**	126,012
Other costs	**105,733**	96,607
Governance costs	**381,269**	279,452
	1,582,256	1,952,636
Support costs included the following expenditure on governance:		
Staff costs	**266,466**	186,758
Other staff and volunteer expenses	**256**	6,557
Auditors fees and expenses:		
Net audit fee (note 7)	**30,000**	31,950
Other professional fees	**63,397**	38,905
Board expenses	**220**	10,913
Other costs	**20,930**	4,369
	381,269	279,452

11. Taxation

The Society is exempt from Corporation Tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. Available taxable profits are Gift Aided to the Society by The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited.

"I just wanted to thank you for the furniture delivered to me today. I am so very grateful to all involved, and many thanks to the delivery guys. I hope one day I will be able to contribute to St Vincent's in some capacity. Thanks again"

12. Tangible fixed assets - The group and the charity

	Freehold property	Leasehold property and improvements	Furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles and caravans	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At the start of the year	1,223,004	1,440,502	839,121	213,079	**3,715,706**
Additions in year	96,730	7,079	74,446	4,000	**182,255**
Disposals in year	-	-	-	(3,000)	**(3,000)**
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Impairments	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	610,000	-	-	-	**610,000**
At the end of the year	1,929,734	1,447,581	913,567	214,079	**4,504,961**
DEPRECIATION					
At the start of the year	197,043	568,512	623,714	158,281	**1,547,550**
Charge for the year	37,143	65,935	102,510	24,115	**229,703**
Disposals in year	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Impairments	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
At the end of the year	234,186	634,447	726,224	182,396	**1,777,253**
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2021	**1,695,548**	**813,134**	**187,343**	**31,683**	**2,727,708**
Long leasehold		**813,134**			
Short leasehold		-			
		813,134			
NET BOOK VALUE AT 31 MARCH 2020	**1,025,961**	**871,990**	**215,407**	**54,798**	**2,168,156**
Long leasehold		**871,990**			
Short leasehold		-			
		871,990			

13. Investment property - The group and the charity

	UK Properties
	£
VALUATION	
At the start of the year	610,000
Transfers	(610,000)
At the end of the year	-

The Society's investment property was valued on an Open Market Basis by Abigail Burt BSc (Hons) MSc MRICS on behalf of Third Sector Property Limited in April 2020 at £610,000. This was transferred to the fixed asset register as a Support Centre.

14. Investments

	Group 2021	Charity 2021	Group 2020	Charity 2020
	£	£	£	£
Market value at the start of the year	**1,936,041**	**1,001,522**	1,949,399	1,050,972
Additions at cost	**222,332**	**222,332**	237,976	237,976
Disposal at market value	**(195,896)**	**(211,043)**	(223,076)	(225,522)
Realised gains / (losses)	**23,230**	**23,230**	34,612	34,612
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**313,340**	**214,205**	(62,870)	(96,516)
	2,299,047	**1,250,246**	1,936,041	1,001,522
Cash held with investment managers	**(10,656)**	**(10,656)**	37,874	37,874
Total investment portfolio market value at the end of the year	**2,288,391**	**1,239,590**	1,973,915	1,039,396
Historic cost at the end of the year	**1,474,918**	**927,155**	1,425,252	892,636

All the investments are listed on the UK stock exchange and are intended to provide an investment return. Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio, as above, comprise:

	Group 2021	Charity 2021	Group 2020	Charity 2020
	£	£	£	£
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	**1,043,552**	**280,059**	870,556	233,632

15. Results of parent charity

These accounts do not include a Statement of Financial Activities for the parent charity, as permitted under section 403 of the Companies Act 2006. The relevant figures for the year ended 31 March for the parent charity were:

	2021	2020 (Restated)
	£	£
Gross income	**11,058,112**	13,884,876
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	**894,597**	3,089,429

16. Investments in subsidiaries - Charity

The charity has an unlisted investment with a historical cost of £1 representing its 100% shareholding in The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited, which is a company registered in England that operates accommodation and sells Christmas cards and other goods. A summary of that company's financial position is set out in note 17.

17. Subsidiary undertakings

The charitable company held a controlling interest in the following entities during the year:

- The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (a subsidiary charity, number 1053992-1)
- David Young's Charity (a registered charity, number 238877)
- The T B Hunt Trust Fund (a registered charity, number 216406)
- The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited (company registration number 04373817)

All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the Statement of Financial Activities.

A summary of the results of the subsidiaries is shown below:

The Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (Capital and Income)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Incoming resources	**(1,612)**	35,058
Charitable expenditure	**(36,128)**	(14,108)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**(37,740)**	20,950
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**98,955**	(12,193)
Net movement in funds	**61,215**	8,757
Funds brought forward	**474,791**	466,034
Funds carried forward	**536,006**	474,791
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**456,675**	398,882
Net current assets	**79,331**	75,909
	536,006	474,791
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**392,591**	372,727
Income fund	**143,415**	102,064
	536,006	474,791

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the Pen-Y-Pound Fund. The trust's main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff.

17. Subsidiary undertakings (continued)

David Young's Charity

	2021	2020
	£	£
Incoming resources	**9,891**	5,236
Charitable expenditure	**(9,721)**	(6,395)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**170**	(1,159)
Unrealised gains / (losses)	**(13,268)**	11,417
Net movement in funds	**(13,098)**	10,258
Funds brought forward	**259,457**	249,199
Funds carried forward	**246,359**	259,457
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**241,099**	255,344
Net current assets	**5,260**	4,113
	246,359	259,457
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**193,993**	198,007
Income fund	**52,366**	61,450
	246,359	259,457

David Young's Charity is controlled by the Society as the Society appoints the Trustees of the charity. The figures included in these consolidated accounts are for the year ended 31 December 2020 as this is the date to which the subsidiary prepares their accounts; there have been no material changes in the three months to 31 March 2021. The Trust's main objective is the relief of hardship or distress by making grants of money.

T B Hunt Trust Fund

	2021	2020
	£	£
Incoming resources	**4,359**	8,734
Charitable expenditure	**(4,100)**	(4,570)
Net outgoing resources for the year	**259**	4,164
Unrealised gains	**48,931**	(7,543)
Net movement in funds	**49,190**	(3,379)
Funds brought forward	**259,261**	262,640
Funds carried forward	**308,451**	259,261
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Investments	**279,001**	243,435
Current assets	**29,450**	15,826
	308,451	259,261
Funds:		
Endowment fund	**292,366**	243,435
Income fund	**16,085**	15,826
	308,451	259,261

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society as the Trustees of the Society are the Trustees of the T B Hunt Trust Fund. The trust's main objective is the relief of poverty amongst Roman Catholics in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited

	2021	2020
	£	£
Turnover	**75,342**	51,375
Cost of sales	**(20,381)**	(11,944)
Gross profit	**54,961**	39,431
Administrative expenses	**(23,646)**	(27,301)
Operating profit / (loss) for the financial year	**31,315**	12,130
Interest payable	**(832)**	–
Net profit / loss	**30,483**	12,130
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Current assets	**60,762**	57,605
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(76,971)**	(104,296)
	(16,209)	(46,691)

The trading company began trading in July 2003 and is based at the Society's National Office. Activity is centred around the management of move on accommodation and the sale of Christmas cards, Fairtrade goods and similar items.

18. Investments in jointly controlled entities

The charity is a member of Revive Leeds CIC, a company limited by guarantee, and jointly controls the entity via a Members' agreement with the other members of the company. This agreement stipulates that profits made are distributed evenly between the member charities as a distribution. Last year the number of members of Revive Leeds CIC has reduced from three to two and consequently the SVP's share of the assets and liabilities of the jointly controlled entity is 50% during the year.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Value of share in Jointly Controlled Entity – brought forward	**138,244**	36,758
Share of profit /(loss) for the year	**38,745**	101,486
Valuation carried forward	**176,989**	138,244

Related party transactions are shown in note 25.

19. Debtors

	Group 2021	Charity 2021	Group 2020	Charity 2020
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	**421,018**	**419,680**	424,691	424,992
Other debtors	**109,382**	**109,382**	20,565	20,565
Prepayments	**486,890**	**484,927**	263,262	263,262
Accrued income	**500,000**	**500,000**	1,250,000	1,250,000
Other taxation and social security	**82,810**	**82,822**	80,516	80,516
Amounts due from subsidiaries	–	**69,329**	–	111,046
	1,600,100	**1,666,140**	2,039,034	2,150,381

Included within other debtors for the group and charity shown above is £nil (2020: £NIL) which is due after one year from the balance sheet date.

Amounts due from subsidiaries include a loan of £5,180 (2020: £5,180) to The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Trading Limited that is due to be repaid by March 2029. Loan repayments are made yearly and the subsidiary accrues interest at a rate of 1.5%. The subsidiary has given the Society a floating charge over its assets as security.

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2021	Charity 2021	Group 2020	Charity 2020
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	**173,371**	**174,849**	132,463	128,243
Other creditors	**89,597**	**89,597**	80,584	80,584
Other taxation and social security	**68,092**	**68,092**	71,755	71,755
Accruals	**263,378**	**257,214**	363,941	351,859
Deferred income	-	-	-	-
	594,438	**589,752**	648,743	632,441

Included within other creditors are outstanding pension contributions of £nil (2020: £21,983).

	Group 2021	Charity 2021	Group 2020	Charity 2020
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income brought forward	-	-	58,708	58,708
Released in the year	-	-	(58,708)	(58,708)
Deferred income carried forward	-	-	-	-

Deferred income primarily consists of future memberships and grants for future accounting periods.

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability

Some of the Society's employees belong to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund (TWPF).

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014'.

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

The funded nature of the LGPS requires participating employers and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2016 and the contributions to be paid until 31 March 2020 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Fund Administering Authority is responsible for the governance of the Fund which is South Tyneside for the TWPF.

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Administering Authority) is shown in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Risks associated with the Fund in relation to accounting

Asset volatility: The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields. If assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

Changes in Bond Yield: A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result.

Inflation Risk: The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are either unaffected or loosely correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit.

Life expectancy: The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

Exiting employers: Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further the assets at exit in respect of 'orphan liabilities' may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

	TWPF	
	2021	**2020**
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**2.1%**	2.3%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**2.7%**	2.0%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	**2.7%**	2.0%
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.2%**	3.5%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed remaining life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	TWPF	
	2021	**2020**
Retiring today:		
Males	**21.9**	21.8
Females	**23.6**	25.0
Retiring in 20 years:		
Males	**25.1**	23.5
Females	**26.9**	26.8

The Society's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	TWPF	
	2021	**2020**
	%	**%**
Equities	**55.5%**	54.8%
Properties	**7.9%**	9.0%
Government bonds	**2.2%**	4.1%
Corporate bonds	**19.8%**	15.3%
Cash	**4.0%**	2.3%
Other	**10.6%**	14.5%
Total	**100.0%**	100.0%

The actual return on scheme assets was TWPF: (£1,127,000) (2020: £40,000).

21. Defined benefit pension scheme liability (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities:	2021	2020
	£	£
Current service cost	**(283,000)**	(278,000)
Past service cost	**-**	(21,000)
Interest income	**107,000**	107,000
Interest expense	**(102,000)**	(112,000)
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	**(278,000)**	(304,000)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2021	2020
	£	£
Brought forward	**4,438,000**	4,843,000
Funds brought in on transfer of employment	**-**	-
Current service cost	**283,000**	278,000
Past service cost	**-**	21,000
Remeasurement gains / (losses)	**-**	(148,000)
Interest expense	**102,000**	112,000
Employee contributions	**48,000**	45,000
Actuarial (gain) / loss	**1,124,000**	(604,000)
Benefits paid	**(85,000)**	(109,000)
Carried forward	**5,910,000**	4,438,000

Changes in the fair value of Society's share of scheme assets:	2021	2020
	£	£
Brought forward	**4,524,000**	4,459,000
Funds brought in on transfer of employment	**-**	-
Interest income	**107,000**	107,000
Remeasurement gains / (losses) on assets	**1,020,000**	(235,000)
Employer contributions	**258,000**	257,000
Employee contributions	**48,000**	45,000
Benefits paid	**(85,000)**	(109,000)
Carried forward	**5,872,000**	4,524,000
Fair value of Scheme Assets	**5,872,000**	4,524,000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	**5,910,000**	4,438,000
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	**(38,000)**	86,000

22. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Year Ended 31 March 2021			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	**2,548,968**	**178,740**	**-**	**2,727,708**
Investments	**1,240,620**	**254,071**	**970,689**	**2,465,380**
Net current assets	**4,362,454**	**3,130,938**	**91,340**	**7,584,732**
Pension asset / (liability)	**-**	**(38,000)**	**-**	**(38,000)**
Net assets at end of the year	**8,152,042**	**3,525,749**	**1,062,029**	**12,739,820**

	Year Ended 31 March 2020			
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,984,437	183,719	-	2,168,156
Investments	1,563,027	168,172	990,960	2,722,159
Net current assets	4,461,879	2,177,207	-	6,639,086
Pension asset / (liability)	-	86,000	-	86,000
Net assets at end of the year	8,009,343	2,615,098	990,960	11,615,401

"Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an inalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis; you must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of a long term improvement." *Frédéric Ozanam*

23. Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	372,727	-	-	-	19,864	**392,591**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	243,435	-	-	-	48,931	**292,366**
David Young's Charity	198,007	-	-	-	(4,014)	**193,993**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	176,791	-	-	-	6,288	**183,079**
Total endowment funds	**990,960**	-	-	-	**71,069**	**1,062,029**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	102,064	(1,612)	(36,128)	-	79,091	**143,415**
T B Hunt Trust income fund	15,826	4,359	(4,100)	-	-	**16,085**
David Young's Charity	50,282	9,802	(8,655)	-	-	**51,429**
Charity:						
Restricted legacies	1,470,745	208,521	-	-	-	**1,679,266**
Furniture projects	142,875	-	-	-	-	**142,875**
Approved premises, Newcastle	271,142	-	(20,000)	-	(104,000)	**147,142**
Twinnage	249,325	807,686	(691,531)	-	-	**365,480**
Special restricted funds	48,327	500,000	-	-	-	**548,327**
Other restricted funds	264,512	415,381	(248,163)	-	-	**431,730**
Total restricted funds	**2,615,098**	**1,944,137**	**(1,008,577)**	-	**(24,909)**	**3,525,749**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Fixed asset fund	947,656	100	5,575	-	-	**953,331**
Conference funds	2,020,806	1,715,156	(1,390,816)	-	(72,141)	**2,273,005**
Twinnage	73,975	91,877	(31,040)	-	-	**134,812**
Revive Leeds	138,244	-	-	-	38,745	**176,989**
Kathleen McHugh Legacy	164,033	-	-	(164,033)	-	-
Special designated funds	78,438	6,700	-	-	-	**85,138**
Other designated funds	114,716	102,494	-	-	-	**217,210**
Total designated funds	3,537,868	1,916,327	(1,416,281)	(164,033)	(33,396)	**3,840,485**
Revaluation reserve	625,477	-	-	-	-	**625,477**
General funds	3,845,998	7,285,540	(7,868,042)	164,033	258,551	**3,686,080**
Total unrestricted funds	8,009,343	9,201,867	(9,284,323)	-	225,155	**8,152,042**
	11,615,401	**11,146,004**	**(10,292,900)**	-	**271,315**	**12,739,820**

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

Prior year movement in funds (Restated)	At 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and (losses)	At 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Endowment funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund	384,920	-	-	-	(12,193)	**372,727**
T B Hunt Trust capital fund	250,978	-	-	-	(7,543)	**243,435**
David Young's Charity	198,007	-	-	-	-	**198,007**
Charity:						
The Estate of Francis Thompson	176,791	-	-	-	-	**176,791**
Total endowment funds	**1,010,696**	-	-	-	**(19,736)**	**990,960**
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries (note 17):						
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund	81,113	35,058	(14,108)	1	-	**102,064**
T B Hunt Trust	11,662	8,734	(4,570)	-	-	**15,826**
David Young's Charity	51,191	5,236	(6,395)	250	-	**50,282**
Charity:						
Restricted legacies	321,291	1,413,591	-	(264,137)	-	**1,470,745**
Furniture projects	150,879	-	(8,004)	-	-	**142,875**
Approved premises, Newcastle	(138,858)	-	41,000	-	369,000	**271,142**
Twinnage	83,889	-	(581,759)	747,195	-	**249,325**
Community Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-
B-Attitude	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special restricted funds	48,327	-	-	-	-	**48,327**
Other restricted funds	249,177	269,215	(210,514)	(43,366)	-	**264,512**
Total restricted funds	**858,671**	**1,731,834**	**(784,350)**	**439,943**	**369,000**	**2,615,098**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Fixed asset fund	1,034,685	2,500	(94,328)	4,799	-	**947,656**
Conference funds	2,314,949	2,156,731	(1,791,613)	(652,022)	(7,239)	**2,020,806**
Wiedner Holiday fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twinnage	158,150	-	(156,359)	72,184	-	**73,975**
Revive Leeds	36,758	-	-	-	101,486	**138,244**
Kathleen McHugh Legacy	164,033	-	-	-	-	**164,033**
Special designated funds	79,323	250	-	(1,135)	-	**78,438**
Other designated funds	114,716	-	-	-	-	**114,716**
Total designated funds	3,902,614	2,159,481	(2,042,300)	(576,174)	94,247	**3,537,868**
Revaluation reserve	535,477	-	-	-	90,000	**625,477**
General funds	1,644,322	10,095,226	(7,938,498)	136,231	(91,283)	**3,845,998**
Total unrestricted funds	6,082,413	12,254,707	(9,980,798)	(439,943)	92,964	**8,009,343**
	7,951,780	**13,986,541**	**(10,765,148)**	-	**442,228**	**11,615,401**

23. Movement in funds (continued)

Purposes of endowment funds

Pen-Y-Pound House fund: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. The fund comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.

The Estate of Francis Thompson: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the Christ the King Conference in Wavertree, Liverpool. The Francis Thompson Income Fund is included in Other Restricted Funds.

T B Hunt Capital Fund: This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the T B Hunt Trust Fund.

Purposes of restricted funds

Pen-Y-Pound Income fund: This fund is to be spent in relieving the poor of Cardiff.

David Young's Charity: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members are eligible to apply to this fund.

Restricted legacies: This fund is an amalgamation of legacies held by Conferences and at National Office. Following discussions with its professional advisors and the Charity Commission, the Society does not consider legacies to be restricted merely by reason of having been donated for use in a particular geographic area.

Furniture projects: This fund is represented by properties acquired with the assistance of Community Fund grants and donations to provide low cost furniture to those in need.

Approved premises, Newcastle: This represents Ozanam House and St Christopher's Hostel, approved premises funded with the help of Ministry of Justice grants. The fund is in deficit as a result of the pension deficit of £38,000 (2020: £86,000) on the Tyne and Wear pension fund as described in note 21. This deficit will be repaid over the period agreed with the pension scheme; this is approximately 20 years.

Community projects: This fund is an amalgamation of specific grants and donations held by various projects and at National Office to fund support work in a number of areas.

T B Hunt Trust: This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The Trustees' main objective is to provide help to those in need in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas. The TB Hunt Fund was established with funds left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need.

Special restricted funds: These comprise:

- **George Blount trust fund**
  This fund offers financial assistance to young people up to the age of 20 to enable them to achieve an aim, hope or ambition, which will give direction to their life.
- **Lucy's fund**
  The fund has been set up from a grant made in memory of the late Lucy Doreen Rope. SVP Conferences may apply to this fund for individuals in need of financial help with travel and equipment costs to return to work.
- **Gilbert Cooper fund**
  The fund is used to award scholarships tenable to any educational establishment for persons under 25 years of age who are in the care of or guardianship of the SVP.
- **Young Families fund**
  This fund was set up in 2006/2007 and exists to support young mothers and their children who are experiencing difficulties.
- **J McLaughlin Holiday fund**
  This fund was established in 2007 to assist disadvantaged individuals by helping to cover the costs of a holiday through one of the Society's Special Works.

Other restricted funds: Other restricted funds cover various projects for people in need including local restricted funds held by Conferences and Councils.

Purposes of designated funds

Generally, designated funds are spent and replenished in a year. Members are encouraged to apply for use of these funds.

Fixed Asset Fund: This fund shows the amount of the Society's funds invested in its unrestricted fixed assets net of any property revaluations. Depreciation relating to fixed assets is charged to the fund on an annual basis.

Conference Funds: This fund represents the reserves of the Society that are delegated to the control of Conferences. Each Conference has a bank account and most will also have small petty cash balances. These funds belong to the Society as a whole, and can be called upon by the Trustees if required, but the Society prefers to manage this on a voluntary and consultative basis. Conferences manage their own fundraising and the distribution of the funds under their control within the rules and guidance set out by the Society. Conferences report back their financial activity on a quarterly basis. We encourage Conferences to put their funds to good use and discourage the holding of funds which are surplus to local requirements. We expect funds to be turned over and replenished within one year. Conferences with funds in excess of their requirements are urged to transfer any excess to another part of the Society where the need is greater.

In addition to the funds held directly by Conferences, there are also funds held nationally on behalf of Conferences. This is typically legacies left to the SVP that reference a particular Conference. We ask all Conferences that are mentioned in a legacy to suggest a plan for how they intend to spend the money. We expect that plan to involve spending the legacy in full within 5 years. The plans are subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee or the Board, depending on the size of the legacy. If a Conference does not come up with an acceptable plan then the legacy will be spent by the Society in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.

Twinnage: This represents funds contributed mainly by Conferences specifically to support the activities of the Society's sister organisations overseas.

Revive Leeds: Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a 50% interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from two household waste sites in Leeds. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This designated fund represents the Society's share of net assets.

Kathleen McHugh Legacy: The purpose of the Kathleen McHugh Legacy has now finished and the funds have been transferred from designated to unrestricted.

Special designated funds: These comprise a number of funds to which local Conferences can contribute. Applications for grants can be made by Conferences to any of the funds with the exception of the Spiritual Formation fund. The Society expects to spend the current balances within five years. The funds are:

- **Holidays and Camps:** used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils needing to purchase new equipment for the caravans or camps, as well as to Conferences/Councils wishing to send people on a break.
- **Small Furniture Projects:** used to provide grants to SVP furniture projects to improve their service or to kick start the founding of new furniture projects where appropriate.
- **Youth SVP development:** used to help fund the Society's youth programme and to fund local youth activities which would otherwise not be able to take place.
- **Lourdes Fund:** established to provide grants to Conferences and Councils wishing to send people to Lourdes.
- **Offender Care:** used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils requiring funds for particular Offender needs.
- **Asylum Seeker Care:** used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils requiring funds for particular Asylum Seeker Care needs.
- **Spiritual Formation:** used to support the spiritual development of the Society's Members.

Other designated funds: Other designated funds cover various projects for people in need.

24. Operating lease commitments

The group had total commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2021 Land and buildings	2020 Land and buildings
	£	£
Within 1 year	**468,074**	468,074
2-5 years	**1,080,483**	1,149,783
Over 5 years	**884,220**	884,220
	2,432,777	2,502,077

25. Related party transactions

Helen O Shea is a trustee of Porta Pia. The Charity received restricted grant income from Porta Pia of £35,000 (2020: £34,999).

SVP Trading (note 17) - Income received by the Charity amounted to £30,501. Expenditure by the Charity amounted to £57,249. Internal recharges by the Charity amounted to £7,083. Amount due to group undertakings amounted to £69,329 (2020: £98,255).

Revive CIC is a related party as it is a Jointly Controlled Entity as detailed in note 18. During the year the Society received a distribution from Revive CIC of £108,348 (2020: £63,268), this amount was outstanding at the year end and was included in other debtors as the agreement states all profits must be distributed evenly between the member charities.

26. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at the year end.

27. Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events.

28. Financial instruments

	Group 2021	Charity 2021	Group 2020	Charity 2020
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	**1,113,210**	**529,062**	1,775,772	249,571
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	**526,346**	**521,660**	576,988	560,686

29. Restated comparative statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2020 Total £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	6,243,385	1,388,172	-	**7,631,557**
Other trading activities	3	92,263	-	-	**92,263**
Income from investments		103,012	48,053	-	**151,065**
Income from charitable activities:					
Shops and furniture projects		3,090,357	60,161	-	**3,150,518**
Holidays and camps		148,802	-	-	**148,802**
Residential provision		2,222,853	-	-	**2,222,853**
Support centres		214,272	142,618	-	**356,890**
Youth development		22,598	10,000	-	**32,598**
Other income		117,165	82,830	-	**199,995**
Total income		**12,254,707**	**1,731,834**	-	**13,986,541**
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds	5	375,381	-	-	**375,381**
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		2,153,168	220,275	-	**2,373,443**
Shops and furniture projects		3,568,007	8,004	-	**3,576,011**
Holidays and camps		391,374	15,312	-	**406,686**
Residential provision		1,804,986	(41,000)	-	**1,763,986**
Support centres		1,231,593	-	-	**1,231,593**
Twinnage		198,145	581,759	-	**779,904**
Youth Development Programme		258,144	-	-	**258,144**
Total expenditure	6	**9,980,798**	**784,350**	-	**10,765,148**
Net (losses) / gains on investments		(8,522)	-	(19,736)	**(28,258)**
Share of profit / (loss) in jointly controlled entities		101,486	-	-	**101,486**
Net (expenditure) / income		2,366,873	947,484	(19,736)	**3,294,621**
Transfers between funds	23	(439,943)	439,943	-	-
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme		-	369,000	-	**369,000**
Net movement in funds	23	1,926,930	1,756,427	(19,736)	**3,663,621**
Funds at 1 April 2019		6,082,413	858,671	1,010,696	**7,951,780**
Funds at 31 March 2020		**8,009,343**	**2,615,098**	**990,960**	**11,615,401**

30. Prior year adjustments

The comparative figures on the statement of financial activities have been restated to reflect the correction of a material error in the allocation of the actuarial movement on the assets within the defined benefit pension scheme of £235,000. The result of this adjustment has been to reduce expenditure (residential provision) by £235,000 and reduce the actuarial gain. Net income (prior to actuarial movements) has therefore increased by £235,000, although the adjustment has no impact on overall funds at 31 March 2020.

	£
Net impact as reported within the statutory accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020	3,059,621
Prior period adjustment	235,000
Net income as reported within the restated figures for the year ended 31 March 2020	3,294,621

The prior year funds brought forward on the statement of financial activities have been restated to reflect the allocation of certain donations and activities of the Charity between restricted and unrestricted funds. The restated allocation on the statement of financial activities is now in line with that presented on the 2020 balance sheet and within the notes to the 2020 financial statements. The comparative figures within note 16 have been restated to reflect the above amendments and the revised comparative SOFA.

"I've seen first-hand how the SVP responds to local need and offers support to anyone with love, compassion and respect, recognising and affirming the dignity and value of each individual. Also, as a successful business woman, I am so impressed by their professional and organised approach to everything they do. I love supporting the SVP and think of them as my "one stop shop" because they address so many of the issues I care about and which are close to my heart." *Blossom Fletcher, Tech Entrepreneur*

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Status

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

Governing document

The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association revised and adopted by Special Resolution on 2 August 2019.

Company Number: **3174679**

Charity Number: **1053992**

Registered and Principal Office:
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

Administrative details

Trustees (from November 2017): Helen O'Shea (National President), James Bellamy (Senior Vice President), Christine Knight (National Treasurer), Ann Harris (until July 2020), Ann Towey (until July 2020), Dermot McGilloway (from July 2020), Elaine Heyworth, Ian Kempsell, Mark Thompson (from July 2020), Michael Willcock, Raymond Daley (until July 2020), Richard Palmi, Sebastian Muir, Susan Roberts (from July 2020), Vince McAllister.

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer: **Elizabeth Palmer**
Deputy CEO: **Kate Nightingale**
Director of Finance: **Fiona Smith**
Director of Governance: **Beverley Whittaker**
Director of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing: **Ken Madine**
Director of Membership: **Jon Cornwall**
Director of Young Vincentians and Youth Services: **Sarah Barber**
Director of Retail, Trading and Social Enterprise: **Helen Voyce**

Patrons

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
John Battle

Auditors

Saffery Champness LLP
Mitre House
North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5RX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
250 Bishopsgate
London
EC2M 4AA

Solicitors

McCarthy Denning
25 Southampton Buildings
London
WC2A 1AL

Investment Advisers

Investec Wealth & Investment
2 Castlefield Court
Church Street
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 0AH

CCLA
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

Thank You

Many people and organisations support the SVP. We can only do what we do as a result of your money, time and encouragement. Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2020-21, including those who wish to remain anonymous.



St Vincent's, Brighton

- Brighton and Hove City Council
- Ernest Kleinwort Foundation
- Persimmon Homes Community Champions
- Sussex Community Foundation

St Vincent's, Bradford

- Aspire iGen
- Better Place Bradford
- Bradford Volunteer Centre
- Community Action Bradford & District
- Groundworks
- Home Office
- ICM Creative Communications Limited
- Leeds Beckett University
- Metropolitan City of Bradford Council
- Realistic Business Consortium
- Shipley College
- Yorkshire Water

St Vincent's, Ely Bridge

- The Welsh Government

St Vincent's, Leeds

- Aspire iGen
- Crowne Plaza Leeds
- DAC Beachcroft
- Equifax
- Fareshare Yorkshire
- Home Office
- ICM Creative Communications Limited
- Kirklees Law Centre
- Landsec
- Leeds Beckett University
- Leeds City Council
- Leeds Federated Housing
- Leeds Trinity University
- Realistic Business Consortium
- ReThink Food
- Ring Automotive
- The Big Lottery Fund
- The Manuel Bravo project
- The Money Advice Service
- Trinity Leeds
- Veolia Environmental Trust
- Voluntary Action Leeds
- William Dodgson Funeral Homes
- Willis Towers Watson

St Vincent's, Newcastle

- Asda Foundation
- B&Q Foundation
- Business in the Community
- Community Foundation Tyne & Wear
- Connected Voice Spirit of Christmas
- Co-op Food Share (Moor Farm)
- Morrisons Foundation
- Newcastle City Council / DEFRA
- Newcastle Gateshead Initiative
- NHS Winter Resilience Fund
- Screwfix Foundation

St Vincent's, Sheffield

- Albert Hunt Trust
- Church Burgesses Trust
- Comic Relief
- Cutlers Company Charitable Trust
- Facey Family Foundation
- Freshgate Trust Foundation
- Great Places Housing
- James Neill Trust Fund
- Joseph Sheldon Trust
- Mrs L. D. Rope's Third Charitable Settlement
- Queen Victoria and Johnson Memorial Trust
- Sanctuary Housing
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Town Trust
- Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation
- St Agatha's Community Kickstart Fund



- The Beatrice Laing Family Trust
- The Hanley Trust
- The Silver Lady Fund

St Vincent's, Southend-on-Sea

- Albert Hunt Trust
- Cecil Jones Fund
- Essex Community Foundation
- Jeanne Marie Gunn Trust
- John Mountain Memorial Fund
- Rosca Trust
- Southend Emergency Fund

National

- Anthony Scholefield Foundation
- Baxi Heating Charitable Trust
- Crisis
- Haramead Trust
- Marcella and Claude Digby Charitable Trust
- Morrisons Foundation
- National Philanthropic Trust
- Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
- Sir Pierce Lacy Trust
- TK Maxx and Homesense

Motivated by their Christian faith and inspired by the message of the Gospels, our volunteers seek and find people in need in their local community, offer them practical support and sincere friendship and tackle poverty wherever they can.

"All my life I have followed the poetry of love in preference to the poetry of anger. I will not change now."

— Frédéric Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul Society

Romero House
55 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7JB

call 020 7703 3030
visit svp.org.uk

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