



# THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL LINLITHGOW CONFERENCE

## HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR 2017 NEWSLETTER!

### SOCIETY of ST VINCENT de PAUL

Founded in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Fredrick Ozanam and his companions, the society is an international, Christian, voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty (both material and spiritual) and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender. Placed under the Patronage of St Vincent de Paul, it is inspired by his charism and works and seeks, in the spirit of justice and charity, to help people who are disadvantaged or in need of support

**Your continued donations make a real difference to people who have fallen on hard times. It also helps promote community activities**

**On behalf of all those who have benefited - thank you for your generosity!**

**If you might be interested in the opportunity to put Christianity into action as a member of SSVP, or would just like to find out more about the work we do, speak to Fr Paul or contact one of the members listed below.**

Our brothers and sisters have continued to visit local older, disabled, addicted and disadvantaged people in their own homes, in housing with care, in nursing homes and in hospitals, carrying out a total of around 500 visits in the past year. **If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please let us know.**

At Christmas time we deliver Christmas blessings and additional assistance, as necessary to individuals and local organisations. We organised a fish tea and donations made at this event were passed on to local causes. Where appropriate, we helped vulnerable people with gardening, transport, shopping and accessing local services. During the summer, we funded a holiday at Seton Sands Caravan Park for a local West Lothian family. The caravan site is well equipped with facilities and entertainment for everyone. If anyone is interested in these opportunities, please let us know.

We have arranged furniture to be recycled from our parishioners and given to deserving persons in the local area and beyond. Word has spread and the furniture project now receives household goods from other churches within the Linlithgow area. We have also collected and delivered clothing and bedding to SSVP centres. If you think you might have some furniture or household goods that could be recycled please contact us. Don't worry about the condition - people can be overjoyed with the simplest item.

Our Linlithgow Conference receives money from: the collection box in the church after mass or after events such as the Fish Tea; special events organised to raise funds; and, legacies. In tax year 2016/17 our income amounted to £4,244. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity! During tax year 2016 / 17 our expenditure was £6,409. This additional expenditure was enabled due to a generous legacy donated late in the previous year.

We keep a small cash balance for emergencies and pass the funds on to local, related and national SSVP causes and initiatives. Since the start of the new tax year (2017/2018) we have made substantial donations to:

- the Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen;
- the diocesan furniture recycling project helping to repair and renovate their vehicle plus maintain their storage facilities;
- the West Lothian Foodbank (aside from individual parishioners very generous donations) received FAIRTRADE GOODS from us via the parish FAIRTRADE coordinator: in 2016/17 this totalled £650
- initiatives at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Blackburn.
- St Michael's hospital, Linlithgow (1 major donation) helping to enable major refurbishment and reconstruction.
- the SVDP crisis appeals (2 major donations)

If you want to know more about the SSVP or our work, please contact a member below or phone 07596 225937

Haydn Carr-Pollock

Eddie Boyle

Jerry O'Dwyer

Kathleen Love

Douglas Robertson

Jean Neilson

Danny Boyle

Theresa McHardie