

SVP Report 2024

Hi everyone,

This year the SVP in the UK celebrates its 180th anniversary. There is an enormous amount to be proud of and the success of the Society's achievements are far too many to mention. Today it is a very different Society than that originally founded by Frederic Ozanam. Some of the needs of the people are similar and some totally different. The SVP has maintained its core value helping people in need finding Christ in the poor - the poor come in all guises.

We can all make a difference - recently some SVP members have spoken loudly in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords making their voices heard and action taken to protect people on the margins of society, Communication digitally makes all aspects of our work much easier .

Here in Olney we have 11 members, each one brings their own special qualities which enables us to be involved with various activities.

We meet once a month but very often we are in contact at other times via email

We have 86 Beneficiaries, we visit them regularly and also provide transport when needed. This usually takes the form of Mass, social events, collecting from the station, hospital appointments etc. We made approximately 763 visits during the year and covered 163 transports. We have held Special Masses celebrated by Fr David followed by lunch here in the hall or in one's own home, next one coming up in November. The feedback from these has been good. We liaise with the people or their families as to how best we can be of help.

We recently began offering support to the bereaved especially at the time of funerals and afterwards. It appears to be helpful. We do try to have as many members as possible to attend the Requiem Mass. We are an integral part of the parish and now that we are a bit more visible the requests are more wide ranging.

We have helped people in a variety of ways eg food , furniture, wheelchair, mobility scooter, help with the cost of living crisis . We have been able to help a person who has literacy problems with the complex issues of claiming benefits and health and we have been able to support other members of the family too . We have provided "Essential Packs "and warm clothing for rough sleepers. We also help wayfarers if appropriate who knock on the Presbytery door.

We have set up a Holy Communion service in two local homes and we take Holy Communion to the sick/ housebound at home or in hospital on a weekly basis This is very much appreciated and sometimes leads to continuous involvement. There could not be a greater privilege.

We hold small tea parties in our own homes and provide transport. These are very casual and most enjoyable.

We would like to have younger people involved and plan to visit the local school at the earliest convenience. We are also hoping to get involved with the recently confirmed candidates and hopefully there will be opportunities on both sides.

We continue with ongoing training to keep us up to date with a vast variety of topics.

The latest finance report is on the noticeboard. We thank you for your trust in allowing us into your homes or other places and for your prayers and financial support.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about us, we will be around to answer your questions or contact details are below. If you would like to consider joining us again the same contact details, the more people we have the more we can do. Please do not be put off if you have only limited time to spend. A very special thanks to our volunteers who help us with transport and to the Social Committee who are with us every step of the way.

We will do a coffee after Mass later on to say "thank you" We would like you to have a think on ways that you think would be helpful to the parishioners .The members or beneficiaries do not need to be Catholic perhaps you might encounter a friend or neighbour that you might like to refer to us

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Names of the members

Anne Marie Baggott

Maria Deary

Anthony Nutt

Eileen Devine

John Curtin

Pat Reilly

Graham Ryan

Mary Richards

Kathy Thirkettle

George Hartigan

Veronica Tarrant

Contact details

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