

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Annual Report to Parish for 2019

In the Spirit of our Church, the **Cottingley and Bingley S.V.P. (or Bingley and Cottingley if you prefer)** raises funds to aid community initiatives, both nationally and internationally. Funds are also maintained to provide practical and financial support to families and individuals in the Parish, if the need arises. For an idea of how we allocate funds, see the Parish website for our **2018-19 Financial Report**. For more general information about the work of the S.V.P. please ask for an information leaflet from any S.V.P. member.

To promote 'out-reach' and 'inclusion', we organise several activities. For details, see our **2020 Events Calendar** overleaf (also on church notice boards and the Parish Website.)

Our 'day to day' mission, however, is to befriend by visiting 'isolated' individuals or couples in their own homes. The frequency of visits is determined individually and is always by mutual arrangement. They are an opportunity for a friendly chat and perhaps a chance to offer practical help and advice if needed, whilst keeping people informed about church activities and events. When requested, some members have shared prayers. **We regard it a privilege to spend time with the people we visit.**

From January to December 2019 we made almost 250 visits, mostly in pairs - some being hospital visits. We also arranged transport to our social events, 2 Masses of Anointing and occasionally to hospital appointments.

Our 'conference' can currently call on up to 16 members. We aim to meet 7.30 - 9.00 every Wednesday, alternating between church venues. It is hoped that members attend these planning meetings but understand this is not always possible. Meetings are friendly, focused, quietly spiritual and supportive of one another. We also meet socially, twice a year. Partners and retired members are invited. **As always, we are keen to attract new members!**

The S.V.P. continues to be extremely grateful to members of the U.C.M. and other helpers for their support and to the wider Parish for the generous donations we receive.

Below is a **summary of activities** for the past year 2019:

organised 7 social events including a Summer excursion, Christmas Party and Carol Service

sponsored 6 of our school children to attend the S.V.P. summer camp at Skipton

presented a very successful fund-raising concert with 'Chordiality'

supported St Joseph's School and Bingley Foodbank by distributing the Harvest collection

donated to local, national/international projects and disaster appeals

distributed birthday, Christmas and sympathy cards

visited Falkland Court for an S.V.P. presentation and Morton Close for carol singing

participated in Cottingley Fun Day