

# St. Vincent De Paul Society, St Andrew's, Cottam

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## What is the SVP?

The SVP is an international charity – The St Vincent De Paul Society, whose objective is to help any poverty in any form. All members are local parishioner volunteers who respond to direct requests for help from individuals and families.

When requested, and only when requested, members visit individuals or families whoever they are, wherever they are from, and whatever their religious beliefs, if any, to help assess their needs and respond to them in whatever way they can. We provide limited material assistance, such as help with food/furniture/white goods/clothing, and transport, and also run special projects both at home and abroad.

## A Year in the Life of St Andrew's SVP, Cottam: your local group

**September 2016:** Planning had begun by now for applications for financial support from the local Daniel Houghton's Charity, for projects involving families in our area. A grant had been obtained for the distribution of food and essentials to families, which was combined with efforts from local schools.

**October 2016:** We held an awareness campaign about the work of the SVP with addresses to parishioners at every Mass one weekend. Monies were raised through a very well supported raffle for the eventual establishment of groups for younger SVP members, known as "The Mini-Vinnies" This money will be used to support these groups in the next academic year. Many thanks to our very generous parishioners for their support!

**December 2016:** It was all hands on deck as funds were received for the food hampers! In all, over 60 local families received food hampers, and others received warm clothing for children, with a few additionally receiving extra toys at Christmas.



**December 2016** also saw the highly successful meal for mature parishioners and SVP members.

The SVP is committed to ensuring that we combat loneliness – often described as a common problem nowadays, and these types of events are important in that process....



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## January 2017 – Our Festival Mass

We gathered to pray together, and all members of our parish and the SVP members of our Preston District celebrated Mass, after which there was a hot pot supper and an informative presentation by Mr Wonder Phiri from the British Red Cross on the subject of Asylum seekers and Refugees.



We now have regular contact with the refugee support group in Fulwood, Preston, and support their work with donations of clothing and items, as well as other practical support.

## January – March 2017 – distribution of “Vinnie Packs” to the homeless

During the cold winter months we continue to help the homeless by the free distribution of “Vinnie Packs” which include warm hats, gloves and socks as well as survival blankets, toothbrush and toothpaste.

## April – June 2017

During Lent and beyond Easter, we focussed on prayer and reflection, whilst much work to support those in need carried on “Behind the scenes”. Our annual report to National Office in London shows that in the financial year from 2016-2017, there had been 142 beneficiaries from our work, with over 3000 visits made to local families, individuals in need, or to the elderly, over 70 items of practical assistance were given. In total in 2016-2017 over 1097 hours were taken up with meetings, visits and other events.



This year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVP in England and Wales, and it was celebrated at Liverpool Cathedral at a special service, which was attended by over 1200 members nationwide.

Can you help **us**? Can we help **you** or **anyone you know**?

Contact us via church, or on our dedicated email: [cottamsvp.outlook.com](mailto:cottamsvp.outlook.com)

All enquiries will be treated with strict confidentiality and our volunteers all have enhanced DBS clearance.

For further information check out our national website [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk)

Thank you for reading this information leaflet