

"Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. But it is justice's role to prevent the attacks." (Blessed Frédéric Ozanam)

## Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



St. Vincent de Paul

### Linlithgow Conference Newsletter April 2022

Welcome to our latest Newsletter to update parishioners with the work of our conference over the last 12 months including a success story from the Tajikistan Project we have supported. The global pandemic continued to impact activities however the wonderful generosity of the parish has allowed us to make a difference in our community - SO SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

#### Activity and Financial Summary

Visits	iPads	Furniture	FB / CAP	Hospital
301	38	29	22	10

The iPad count refers to our participation in the Connecting Scotland Project in which we placed 16 new iPads (7 to families, 9 to "Older" people) with 2 years of free internet to recipients across West Lothian.

FB / CAP relates to our work with the West Lothian Foodbank and volunteering with the Christians Against Poverty Organisation.

This financial year donations have amounted to £3353 and expenditure has been £2944 which has allowed us to support a number of entities including:

- > Furniture Project regular Fuel Cost contributions
- > West Lothian School Bank - 11 new winter coats
- > West Lothian Foodbank - Food Packs via Grow Wild
- > Family of Devastating Fire - Provision of a new iPad
- > Christmas donations to care homes in Linlithgow
- > Donation to The Day Care Centre Linlithgow

#### Tajikistan Update

An international project we as a parish through the SSVP have supported is the work of HealthProm in Tajikistan. They have established Family and Child Support Centres providing parenting programmes and practical support to families for the safer care and development of children. No longer are children abandoned in old Soviet style Baby Homes with all four of Tajikistan's old baby homes having been converted into community oriented Family and Child Support Centres modelled on HealthProm's family support centres.

Over the last three years HealthProm assisted a total of 650 families, prevented 75 children under 4 from entering an institution, and helped 228 children return to their families or to an alternative family.

As a parish we have used SSVP Funds, including proceeds from our pre-COVID Fish Tea, to purchase goods for these Centres. With this phase of the project having reached a successful conclusion we recently received a letter of appreciation for our support. This demonstrates the impact we can make when helping ventures like this and hopefully others in the future.

#### Our Conference

Our conference meet throughout the year usually on the first Thursday of each month. If you know someone who might benefit from our help, you want to know more about the SSVP or you are interested in joining please get in touch.

Our Society information sheet is provided on the next page.



St. Vincent de Paul -  
inspiration of SSVP

# SSVP

## Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

### *St. Michael's Conference Linlithgow*

In 1883 the society was formed in Paris when Frédéric Ozanam and some friends resolved to put their faith into action and serve the poor.

The SSVP was established as this group began to work with the desperately poor in their city. Developing a simple system, they went in teams to help the poor in their homes, on the streets, in hospitals and asylums. Saint Vincent de Paul was a 16th century cleric renowned for his work with the poor and inspired Frédéric and his friends to dedicate their new group in his name.

In Scotland the Society was established in 1845 and internationally the Society is active in over 150 countries, with some 45,000 conferences and over 800,000 volunteers.

*"The knowledge of social well-being and of reform can be learned not from books, nor from public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor person's garret, sitting by their bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces them, sharing the secrets of their lonely hearts and troubled minds."*

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam - the Society's Founder

### **What we do, who we help**

The SSVP aims to assist those in need, regardless of their faith, colour, race or status respecting religious liberty and the worth of all.

In our local community we visit people in their homes, care homes and hospitals, arrange caravan holidays for those in need, and give financial assistance where appropriate.

Our conference works closely with wider SSVP initiatives including The Furniture Project and regular support the West Lothian Foodbank helping the most vulnerable in our county.

### **Members and Contact Details**

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Frédéric Ozanam