**REPORT FOR PARISH AGM: SVP CHESS VALLEY ACTIVITIES IN 2021**

Website***:*** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/parish-groups/svp/>

Contact: **ChessValleySVP@gmail.com**

**Current Membership**

Full members: 16 Auxiliary members: 5

**Ongoing Work**

**Visits** – During the first and this present lockdown visits have not taken place however, we have kept in close touch through phone calls with those we normally visit and have been able to give additional help, such as shopping when needed. This has been greatly appreciated.

**Material assistance given through the year**: We received a referral to help a homeless person with securing rented accommodation. This person was able to find a job but unable to pay the money needed upfront for a months rent. We paid this on his behalf in order that he could secure the accommodation.

We also supported a family with payment of their rent.

In November we bought and arranged delivery and installation of a cooker for a person with mobility problems who moved into new accommodation. Very recently, we have helped a family needing items of furniture, a bed and table and chairs and arranged for these to be delivered.

In May we donated £203 of food to the Food Bank at Three Rivers Council.

We work with a local Food Bank which runs from the Methodist Church in Mill End and have donated Tesco food vouchers to be distributed to those that need them. This is ongoing.

**Community Lunch**: Our very successful Community lunch has not been able to run since the first lockdown in March. However, during July in order to use food bought and stored in the freezer before lockdown 2 SVP members cooked individual family meals and delivered to the Food bank for distribution to families.

We hope to resume our Community Lunch when we can, following Government guidelines.

**Catholic Worker Farm**: Due to the closure of churches earlier in the year and the difficulty of collecting items for the CWF needed items have been bought by SVP members and delivered to the CWF.

**Support for Vinnie Packs for the homeless:** Help was given by SVP members for the packing of Vinnie Packs in the Autumn when this was allowed however, due to the restrictions most of the packing took place in 14 Secondary schools with young people giving up their time for this. As the homeless were given accommodation during lockdown, the demand for Vinnie packs was reduced across the country but remained high in the London Area. Chess Valley made a donation towards the Vinnie packs, which is organised by National SVP.

**Twinnage:** We funded a new project in Kerala, India in July. This was to purchase a mobile mortuary unit for the area. This may seem a strange request however, there are no mortuary facilities locally and families have to travel long distances to pay their respects and to bury family members. This causes much hardship for poor Catholic families who want to be with their loved ones and attend their funeral. The project cost was £720 payable over 2 to 3 years.

A donation of £1500 was given to the Sudan Appeal (you will see this appeal in this week’s newsletter as parishioners can give their individual support to this), £500 for each of the following areas; Baby feeding and pre-school meals, to support Medical Centres and Water tankers for local areas.

We continue to support 4 students. We have committed to a 4-year term to sponsor a Higher Education student, vocational training for between 1 to 4 students (depending on the length of the training) and school education for 1 student. Sponsorship is paid annually.

**Finance:**

We have been unable to organise any fundraising event during the past year.

**Income & Expenditure:**

In 2020 Chess Valley SVP spent a total of **£…..** on our ongoing projects and one-off aid assistance.

Members donations and your regular donations via the SVP boxes and in other ways generated an income of approximately **£…….**

If you wish to make a donation towards the work we do this can either be done through the SVP boxes in each of the parishes, sending a cheque payable to Chess Valley SVP to The Treasurer, Chess Valley SVP c/o Our Lady Help of Christians or making an online donation. Details of our account are available on the Our Lady Help of Christian’s website, Parish Groups, Chess Valley SVP.

**A big THANK YOU for all your prayers, donations and practical support enabling us to do this work. Please continue to pray for us and for the people whom we serve.**