**2022 REPORT FOR PARISH APM: SVP CHESS VALLEY ACTIVITIES**

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

Contact: [**ChessValleySVP@gmail.com**](mailto:ChessValleySVP@gmail.com)

**Current Membership**

Full members: 14 Auxiliary members: 6

**Ongoing Work**

**Visits** – Where possible visits to the elderly or homebound were resumed taking all necessary COVID precautions. A telephone befriending service was offered to those beneficiaries who did not wish an in person visit.

**Material financial assistance given through the year in the local area**:

* Supporting a family in buying school uniform
* Donating food vouchers to the Food bank
* Buying and paying for food shopping for 2 families
* Supporting 2 different families with their monthly fuel bills
* Buying a washing machine for a family and having it installed
* Sourcing dining room table and chairs for a family
* Referred a family of 5 for a Christmas food hamper
* Paying for carpeting for a beneficiary recently moved into accommodation by Social Services

From the money raised on the SVP stall at the Advent Fair a donation of £340 was made to SVP’s National Christmas Kindness Appeal this was to support the SVP Hardship Fund, which was set up at the start of the pandemic to provide emergency funds for those in need.

**Community Lunch**: We were able to hold our Community lunch in October of last year and invited our beneficiaries to the Cardinal’s lunch in November. For the present time we will not be able to have the Community lunch but are looking at ways in which this might be resumed in the future.

**Chess Valley Twinnage**

**India:** We continue to support a twinned SVP Conference in Andhra Pradesh State on the east coast of India, through prayer, communication and an annual donation.

Thanks to a generous bequest we were able to fund housing for a family in Kerala state, at a cost of £850. We continue to support 4 students in Education.  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.

**Sudan and South Sudan:** Until Christmas 2021 there has been an annual appeal for financial aid for a range of projects in Sudan and South Sudan which we have given support to in the past. However, last September the outgoing SVP Ambassador to the Sudan detailed in his report the realities on the ground, with famine, drought, floods, war, crop failure and almost total lack of an infrastructure outside Khartoum and Juba. In addition, because of continuing political instability and governance issues over how and where donated SVP funds are distributed, fund-raising has had to be suspended until mid-February 2022 at the earliest while matters are investigated. We ask for your prayers for the people of these two countries who struggle against overwhelming odds.

**Pilgrimage:**Last May SVP members made a pilgrimage to St Alban's Abbey to pray the Rosary for the people of India overwhelmed by Covid-19 with very high rates of infection, hospitalisations and deaths. While vaccinations are helping to ameliorate the situation, the crisis is far from over.

**Finance:**

We had one fundraising event last year, the SVP stall at the OLHC Advent Fair, at which we raised £340.

**Income & Expenditure:**

In 2021 Chess Valley SVP spent a total of £4075 on our ongoing projects and one-off financial aid assistance.

Members donations and your regular donations via the SVP boxes and in other ways you donate generated an income of approximately £4,104.

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 Our Lady Help of Christian’s website, Parish Groups, Chess Valley SVP.

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