

SVP News

June 2023

The SVP has had another busy year and we thought you might like to know how we have allocated your generous donations of money, food and household items.

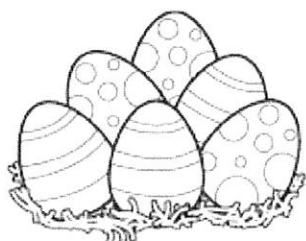
We helped 290 refugees and their families and donated 6 bicycles, 12 sewing machines, 16 prams, 8 cots, 13 buggies, bedding and towels, 16 sleeping bags, 5 clothes airers, over 100 pairs of shoes, 8 lots of school uniforms, toiletries, 105 items of furniture and 48 electrical appliances.

On Thursday December 1st 2022 we opened the Warm Space and Food Bank in the Church Hall which has grown in popularity and has proved very successful. We are open from 9.30a.m.-12.30p.m. each Thursday providing a warm welcome with tea, coffee, toast, toasted tea cakes and crumpets in the Warm Space and food parcels for families in need in Pendle. We accept referrals from schools, doctors, health visitors, the Samaritans, churches and concerned neighbours. So far, we have had 295 people taking advantage of the warm space and 260 people attending for the food bank. We have sent home over 5,000 meals to needy families of Pendle.

As you may remember, we organised a collection of new toys at Christmas and offered access to a Toy Bank for the people who came to the food bank. The remaining toys were distributed to children in need via the schools. In all, due entirely to the amazing generosity of the parishioners of the Sacred Heart we distributed over 280 good quality, new toys at Christmas, to the needy children in the area. We also donated gifts to the women and the children of the Women's Refuge in Nelson.



We purchased and distributed 40 Vinnie Packs for the homeless of Colne, Nelson and Burnley and have worked to help get a homeless man off the streets.



We provided Easter Eggs for all the children of the families who attend the Food Bank. We also provided Easter Eggs for the children at the Women's Refuge and chocolates for the mothers.

In addition, we visited elderly parishioners in their own homes and in residential homes as well as accompanying people on hospital visits, visits to the doctor and supported offenders, ex-offenders and their families. In addition to our visits to the sick, elderly and housebound and all the other support we give on a case by case basis, our main efforts this year continue to be our Putting Food on Tables Project and our Warm Space.

Initially, with our Putting Food on Tables Project, we hoped to help families get through winter, thinking that things should improve with the weather, but in fact, sadly, things are getting worse –for everyone. **Everyone** is finding it difficult to make ends meet, supplies of donated goods are decreasing at the same time need is increasing.



We need you to continue your generosity in supporting the food bank.

Help us to help the poor of Pendle.



We ask you to continue to be generous and bring food for the foodbank when you come to Mass on a Saturday or Sunday.

1. We have found supermarket own brands to be the best value. In Lidl for example, we can buy 10 loaves of bread for just £3.90. If you would rather we bought tins of food on your behalf, please just put any spare cash you have in the collection box at the back of church and we will do the rest !
2. It costs the SVP £100 a week to supplement the food collections for the food bank. We are asking any **local businesses** to please consider sponsoring the Food Bank for a week.
3. We are holding a fund-raising concert on June 24th—please come. There will be local musicians and comedians, and those of you who came last year will agree. You will have a fantastic night ! There will be a raffle with amazing prizes (please see the board at the back of church).
4. Contributions for the raffle will be gratefully received until 18th June (again—a box at back of church). Light refreshments included—anything stronger—BYO !

The need is real and desperate. Please help

THE SVP NEEDS

We realise that although many people would like to help the SVP in some capacity, due to commitments such as work or family, they are unable to devote hours of time to SVP work. Some may not want to be involved in all the different aspects of the work of the SVP but may be able / willing to devote perhaps an hour every now and then without being a full member.



Can you help the SVP work ?

1. **We need help running the warm space** - to serve tea etc and to talk to visitors.
2. **We need help with transport** to events such as the concert or Mass
3. **We need help visiting the sick** and the housebound -at home or in residential care - they just like to chat –perhaps for an hour a fortnight—a member of the SVP will accompany you

We will welcome you and **as much (or as little) of time you can give** to help support the sick, the housebound and the poor in Pendle. Please just have a word with any member of the SVP.

Once again, the SVP would like to thank you all for your generosity. You really have made a difference.

We would also like to thank Father Peter for his unfailing support and our very own Girl Friday -AKA - Hilary - who sorts every crisis for us ! Thank you ALL.