



## St Mary's Crewe Mini Vinnie's Fund Raising events!

This Lent, the Mini Vinnies have taken part in a Cafod charity event. There were many different stalls like bake stalls, Hama bead creations, charm bracelets and necklaces and a raffle. We have thoroughly enjoyed this and would love to do many more events like it. Knowing now that people in Zambia have hopefully enough money to buy equipment for fishing and be taught a life skill is fabulous!

We also had a non-school uniform day and people brought in money for Cafod too! We have raised £1,288.23. This was split between a non-uniform day which raised £514.49 and the Year 6 stalls which raised £773.74.

We also have been attending Stations of the Cross, around the field. Mr Lord and Mr Coleman had helpfully made crosses to carry and place around the field. Mrs Fau-Goodwin, Mrs Harding and Deacon Peter led us around the Stations of the Cross and helped us understand the difficult situations at the stations. There were 14 stations in total and for each one we paid our respect and prayed. It was a very emotional and moving experience that we took part in. During the stations, what we saw in our hearts showed us how the people at the crucifixion of Jesus felt, and made us feel the same way too. We would love for this to happen again next Lent.

Grace said, "I was relaxed as well as feeling how Jesus and his followers would have felt."

Halle thought, "I felt peaceful but I knew that God was with Jesus and thought; because of how powerful He was and is, he would defeat death and rise again."

Zoe said, "It was very emotional for me, as Jesus dying was very sad, but throughout the stations, I learnt that He died so that we could live."

In addition to these events we have also enjoyed taking part in the lunchtime Rosary Club led by Deacon Peter and Mrs Wright. We prayed the Rosary and were given our own Rosary beads to keep by Deacon Peter.

As Mini Vinnies, we are very proud of the work we have done to help those less-fortunate than us.

**Reported by Halle Pritchard and Zoe Aneni, Y6 Mini Vinnies.**



### Extract from St Mary's Crewe Section 48 Inspection Report – graded Outstanding

*"They are very proud of their exceptional school and were keen to talk about what makes it unique. They enjoyed talking about the many and varied wider opportunities on offer such as Mini Vinnies, whose current project is supporting the Macmillan Cancer charity through a fund raising colouring competition, the Junior Recycling Officers, who encourage staff and pupils to improve the environment and the British Values Day attended by their local Member of Parliament."*





## Living Out OUR MISSION

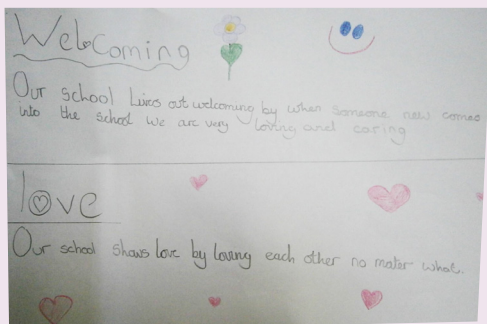
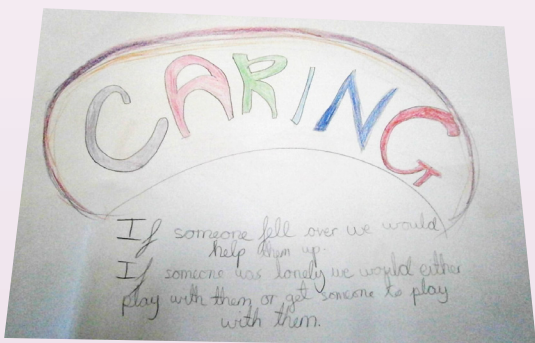
**Mini Vinnies at St Clement's in Runcorn are putting their faith into ACTION!**

With their Co-ordinator Mrs Attwood they have been looking at the key words in their school Mission Statement.

They have considered the Mini Vinnie rule of SEE where there is need, THINK how they can deal with the need, and DO by taking action to relieve the need.

Unsurprisingly the key values in their whole school Mission Statement echoes the work that they do, supports and encourages their efforts and truly teaches them how to live their lives every day as young Vincentians.

At the end of the summer term these Mini Vinnies aim to integrate these ideas and values into their KS2 summer production all about their school.



# St Elizabeth's Wythenshawe Events

**The Mini Vinnies group at St Elizabeth's Primary school, Wythenshawe have run a number of successful events this term.**

During Lent they held a Hunger Lunch to support the CAFOD Lent appeal *Turn little Fish into Big Fish*. Staff and parishioners received a soup lunch in return for their donations.

Recently the Mini Vinnie's have focused on the homeless in our community and have made two large donations to The Copperdale Trust Homeless Shelter, Wythenshawe.

During Advent they collected socks, hats and scarves which helped people visiting the shelter during the cold months.

Another project, Brew and A Biscuit, involved making up insulated cups with sugar, coffee/tea, biscuits and milk. They sold these cups for £1 but instead of giving them to the buyer, they signed their name on a tag which was then put on a cup and given to a homeless person through the Copperdale Trust.

The Mini Vinnie's collected purple toiletries during Lent for the Wythenshawe Food Bank, as well as collecting towels to donate to the Copperdale Trust Homeless Shelter.

For Valentine's Day the Mini Vinnies made paper flowers and gave these with bars of chocolate wrapped in scriptures about love to staff and students at school.



### A Prayer as you start your summer break

May God give you;  
For every storm, a rainbow  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share  
And an answer for each prayer

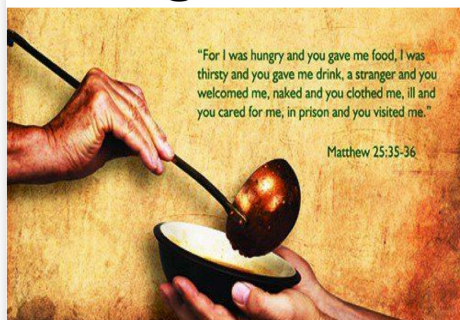
**Amen**

### Prayer of Thanks

Thank you God,  
For each new morning  
with its light,  
For rest and shelter  
of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything your  
goodness sends

**Amen**

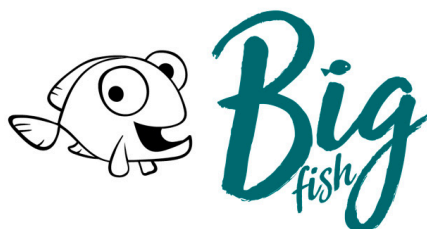
## Hunger Lunch



2017

### Hunger Lunch 2017

Welcome to the 2017 Hunger Lunch run by St Elizabeth's Mini Vinnie's. The money raised from today's lunch will go to support the CAFOD Lent appeal Turn little Fish into Big Fish.



## Successful FIRST YEAR

St. Wilfrid's Mini Vinnie's have enjoyed a very successful first year. There are 20 Year 5 and Year 6 in the group and they are supported by Mrs Robertson, Mrs Melia, Mrs Priestley and Sr Phyllis.

They have made Christmas and Easter cards for the sick and housebound in the parish, they have sung, danced and told jokes at the parish Christmas party. The children have been very creative with their fund raising activities with a Silly Socks Day, a Christmas jumper Day, a book sale and a cake sale.

The group are raising money to create an outdoor prayer space in our playground, they are already finalising their designs and digging will start soon.

The children have also organised collections for the Mid-Cheshire Food bank.

We are really pleased that that the group are now well established in school and we are all looking forward to next year and another exciting year as Mini Vinnies.

St. Wilfrid's Mini Vinnies proudly display their Easter cards.

### Springtime Tolerance

Spring is the season when new life begins to be seen. During this season, as Christians we prepare ourselves during Lent for the new life Jesus' resurrection will bring. Jewish people celebrate Purim this week, when they remember the life that was saved by Queen Esther and Hindus celebrate Holi, the festival of colours. As Mini Vinnie's we remind those in our community about tolerance and respect of other faiths.

A word from our Mini Vinnie's;

#### What Mini Vinnie's Means To Me

Being a part of Mini Vinnie's is so fun. It also gives you a heart-warming feeling because you get to see the smiles on the less fortunate people's faces when you give meaningful things to them.

#### Mia, President

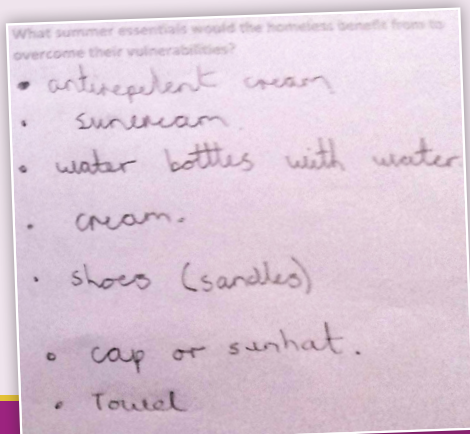
Being a part of Mini Vinnie's means being responsible, kind and caring.

#### Ella, Vice-President

We would like to thank you for taking the time out of your day to support the Mini Vinnies and for your kind donations towards this great cause.



## Mini Vinnies at St Wilfrid's are Truly thinking of those in need!



They have come up with an idea to help the homeless on our streets during the hot summer season and would like the SVP to consider producing a "Summer Pack" to compliment the wonderful "Winter Pack" already issued to the homeless.

They have even suggested what the pack should contain! Watch this space!

Thank you for sharing your fantastic idea!



# St Vincent's Altrincham

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School in Altrincham recently had a Section 48 Religious Education Inspection. They are delighted to report that the school was judged to be outstanding. As part of the inspection, the Mini Vinnies met the inspector and he heard about the wonderful initiatives they had been a part of, introducing Fairtrade Fortnight alongside their local parish SVP conference; seeking donations for Cornerstones homeless centre and a "Knit a Chick" appeal for the local children's hospice.



More recently, the Mini Vinnies have helped to raise money following the fire at the Cancer Research UK centre (at the Christie Hospital in Manchester). They are delighted to have raised over £1,100 after baking and selling cakes to pupils and parents. The response from the children and the school community had been fantastic.

Dr James O'Connor - whose children attend the school - came to support on the day and gave talks to the children on the importance of the work within Cancer Research.

The St Vincent's Mini Vinnies have achieved a great deal this school year. They have embraced the "see - think - do" philosophy and will continue to help those in need with more activities planned for the near future.

Their Coordinator Sarah Gough stated, "I am very proud to have led such a proactive and enthusiastic team of Mini Vinnies this year!"

## Mini Vinnie Schools in Shrewsbury

(Written by Janet Lawrence, Shrewsbury Mini Vinnie Team.)

**Our family of Mini Vinnie schools is growing! We currently have 45 active schools across 9 SVP districts in our diocese, and look forward to welcoming more in the next school year.**

We would like to thank Headteachers, coordinators, governors, parents and most especially our 600+ Mini Vinnies for their commitment and hard work, especially given all the pressures on schools at this time.

It takes vision, courage and faith to see the importance of the Mini Vinnie programme to develop our young people as caring individuals who put their faith into action. Have a wonderful summer.

*Marj, Mike & Janet*



## Going For A Song

Written by Marjorie M Lightfoot,  
Shrewsbury Mini Vinnie Team

During the trialling of the Mini Vinnie Programme in the Shrewsbury Diocese in 2010 I was visiting Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Primary school in Birkenhead.

Whilst speaking with the Headteacher, Mrs McGunnigall she introduced me to a teacher Emily Rainsford whom she thought would make a very good Mini Vinnie Coordinator.

During my conversation with Emily I mentioned that the Mini Vinnie programme would benefit from having its own song. One of Emily's duties at the school was music and she very readily agreed to compose a song for us.

Shortly after she came to Runcorn with her guitar and together with a music teacher Luke Lewis from St Clement's Catholic Primary, Runcorn and their Mini Vinnie group recorded the song.

John O'Sullivan of CD&P Media Ltd. arranged this recording

Emily kindly signed over the copyright to the song to the St Vincent de Paul Society to use as they see fit. A copy of the sheet music is enclosed in the Mini Vinnie resources pack for each new group, and is available on request.

Recently our National SVP Office in London has been approached by a school in Sydney, Australia – St Joachim, Lidcombe. They have a Mini Vinnie group and have asked for a copy of the sheet music so that their group can learn the Mini Vinnie song.

It was through liaising with our Australian colleagues in 2010 that the Mini Vinnie Programme was first introduced into schools in the Shrewsbury Diocese.

We have developed strong links and relationships with our fellow Vincentians in Australia, and learned a great deal from each other.

It would be lovely to think that by sharing our Mini Vinnie song with St Joachim's school in Lidcombe very soon "all" Mini Vinnies in Australia will be singing the same song as those across England and Wales! Happy singing Mini Vinnies!