

SHREWSBURY DIOCESE News

Turning Concern into Action

Issue 16 | Autumn/Winter 2022/23



St Joseph's Upton

Children Helping Children

Mini Vinnies at St Joseph's have raised £209.66 to support children. Working with SVP member Rose, who helps run the SVP homeless support project across the Wirral, the Mini Vinnies were able to support families living in temporary accommodation with "kettle packs".

They learned that in a lot of the temporary accommodation there are no cooking facilities, and any food needs to be prepared with a kettle (e.g. Pot noodles).

Supported by Wirral Foodbank the SVP conference used funds raised by these Mini Vinnies to put food parcels together. Also, funds raised for the homeless support project helps families by providing new clothing, warm coats etc. and support for families visiting loved ones in prisons. Thank you, Mini Vinnies at St Joseph's. Your acts of kindness have helped many struggling families.



"Be Creative, Be Inventive"

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

We start 2023 with an exceptionally full edition. The creative works of charity, recognising need in many forms is astonishing!

Our next issue will double the space available and will include news from the Youth SVP groups in our High Schools/Colleges, a celebration of our continuing Vincentian journey together.

Our vision for 2023 is one where Mini Vinnie groups, and Mini Vinnies and YSVP come together when they can, and all our young people join with their adult conferences to tackle poverty together whenever appropriate.

Thank you for all that you do.

Janet, Marjorie, Colette, Bernadette & Mike



Pilgrimage to Shrewsbury Cathedral



The Wythenshawe Cluster of Catholic Primary Schools hold half termly meetings of RE Leads where they focus either on aspects of Catholic Life or the RE Curriculum. The local clergy are also invited to be involved in the meetings.

They start the year with a commissioning Mass for all the new Mini Vinnies from all the cluster schools which brings the children and staff together. An invitation is also extended to our Shrewsbury YVDOs who are delighted to attend.

The schools worked together to plan a pilgrimage to Shrewsbury Cathedral so that the children could see the diocesan centre. They planned a collaborative activity based on the Stations of the Cross. Each school focused on a different station and produced their own illustration. These are proudly displayed inside the Cathedral.



St Christopher's Stockport Sharing their Love!

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Mini Vinnies at St Christopher's have raised money for Macmillan Cancer Care and recycled Christmas cards for the SVP Prison project.

They made bracelets to sell at the Christmas fair to fund card used for the Prison project. Also they launched a reverse Advent Calendar, whereby all classes created gift boxes and contributed a little something every day, (toothbrush, soap, toothpaste, biscuits, tinned goods, etc.) which was donated to a local homeless charity.



St Patrick's Shropshire A Party for Parishioners



Mini Vinnies hosted a Platinum Jubilee Coffee morning attended by 39 retired parishioners.

The hall was decorated to honour the Jubilee, coffee/tea and cakes were served by the Mini Vinnies who were perfect hosts, chatting to the parishioners who were entertained by Year 2 singing voices and the School Choir.

They ended the morning singing *God Save the Queen*, three cheers for her Majesty led by the Mini Vinnies.

St Joseph's Winsford Hampers Galore!



A huge 'Well done' to Mini Vinnies who helped to make these beautiful hampers. All 11 hampers were delivered to families in St Joseph's school community.

St Vincent's Altrincham

Off to a Flying Start!



Vincentian Coordinator Liz proudly reports that the Mini Vinnies at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School in Altrincham started as they mean to continue this school year. A Macmillan coffee morning was a triumph as they prepared and sold many cakes and helped to serve throughout, to raise over £450 for this vital charity. They even sold cakes to our builders!

The St Vincent's Mini Vinnies hosted a Mass for all the local Catholic schools in Trafford, to celebrate the fantastic and important work that the Mini Vinnies do for the community. It was an inspirational event for the children from our local Primary schools to understand how they can 'turn concern into action' and 'spread kindness.'

We invited all of Trafford's Catholic Primary schools to participate and they brought their Mini Vinnies to our Parish Church to celebrate the Mass together; the children from all schools participated in Bidding Prayers and were an inspiration to us all.

Our Mini Vinnies never stop thinking about how to raise vital funds for those in need, the sale of beautiful wooden rosary beads, proceeds donated to the Marist Mission in Gambia. The Sisters help refugees and their families. £12 feeds a family for one week. In remembrance of our soldiers, the Mini Vinnies sold poppies and accessories to raise money and awareness for The Royal British Legion.

Christmas time is always a busy period for us, we took part in the 'Be a Santa to a Senior' Project in collaboration with 'Alty Gives Back' and 'Home Instead' Charity, to spread some Christmas cheer to the elderly and isolated in our community. The Mini Vinnies coordinated the crafting of over 400 handmade cards.

To end our first term, we were invited to our local Parish centre to entertain the elderly beneficiaries at their Christmas party. The Mini Vinnies excelled themselves; telling Christmas jokes, singing joyous carols and playing musical instruments. It was a very moving and inspiring experience for the children as they saw the joy they brought to the parishioners.

A message from our Shrewsbury SVP President, Shrewsbury YVDOs, and our National Youth Team, January 2023:

Thank you for our warm welcome to St Vincent's school. It was a wonderful and inspiring afternoon and a great opportunity to meet you and your wonderful Mini Vinnies. Their enthusiasm for the Mini Vinnie programme and their excitement at being part of our SVP family was a delight to see.



St Wilfrid's Northwich Welcoming & Helpful



On Saturday 22nd October Mini Vinnies attended a Healing Mass at St Wilfrid's Church along with SVP adult conference members.

They welcomed the arriving parishioners, beautifully read the bidding prayers, and helpfully served the buffet and teas/coffees.

Louise, their VC reports that, "They were an absolute credit to our parish community. Their willingness to engage in conversation with the elderly was amazing and I received many lovely comments from parishioners and SVP members."

Thank you, Mini Vinnies.



St Vincent's Knutsford Visit to Sharston House Care Home



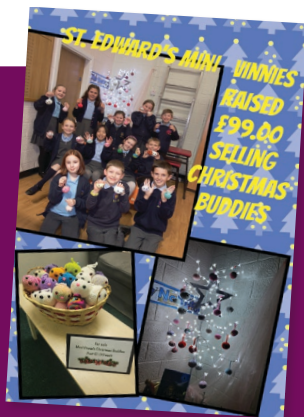
On 24th November, St Vincent's Mini Vinnies visited Sharston House to make Christmas cards with the residents.

Their VC, Mrs Davies said, "To say the children were a credit to our school, and their families, is an understatement. Their smiles, listening ears and conversations were a joy to watch - they certainly brightened the residents' day. They have been asked to come back again soon, and certainly will. Well done children, we are very proud of you."

St Edward's Runcorn Working for Justice

Mini Vinnies at St Edward's enjoyed selling crocheted Christmas baubles, raising money for the SVP Cost of Living fund.

When asked why they had chosen this fund they replied, "There are so many people who are struggling, and it's not fair!" Additional fundraising has supported the SVP Disaster Fund to help their work in Ukraine.



St Werburgh's Birkenhead Mini Vinnies Support Prison Project



The SVP Prison Project is a popular project with our Mini Vinnie and Youth SVP groups. St Werburgh's Mini Vinnies have supported the project from the start, recycling Christmas cards for prisoners to send to their families and children. This year cards were provided for HMP Thorn Cross (near Warrington) and HMP Berwyn (near Wrexham).

SVP member, Kevin McKenna who leads on this project is thankful for the feedback from our VCs who report that children and young people enjoy the activity and begin to understand God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

Thank you Mini Vinnies at St Werburgh's for supporting this project.

St Vincent's Wirral

"A Place of Warmth and Hope for Everyone"

Befriending

A warm, safe place to talk, share and connect

Clothing

Adult and children clothing, as well as basic household items

Refreshments

Join us for a cuppa, cake and a chat

Volunteering

Join our team of volunteers, gain new skills, experience and make friends

Wirral Foodbank

Contact 0151 666 5050 or 0808 278 7848 to discuss your emergency food needs

Advice ?

A wide range of partners, such as Citizen's Advice

Activities

From reading groups to game groups, share ideas and passions over a cuppa

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Welcome Mini Vinnies!

St Winefride's Neston



Welcome to Mini Vinnies at St Winefride's Neston! A Commissioning Assembly at St Winefride's Neston was a joyful event. The Mini Vinnies were welcomed by the school family, including Mark Branch, Chair of the Governing Board, and invited guest Janet, Shrewsbury SVP YVDO.

St Mary of the Angels Ellesmere Port



Welcome to St Mary of the Angels Ellesmere Port. Thank you for your smiles. They are small acts of kindness that make such a difference!

All Saint's Trafford



Welcome to All Saint's Trafford. Thank you for the warm welcome to your happy school.

St Philip's Stockport Making a Difference



On Friday 7th October Janet, YVDO, was delighted to be invited to join Mini Vinnies at St Philip's for their Commissioning Ceremony. It was such a special time to share with St Philip's school family.

Here are a few thoughts from the day:

"I felt proud because I have been chosen to make a difference." Edward

"I felt happy because I am looking forward to working with others such as the elderly." Isla

We can't wait to get started with our first project supporting local community helpers.



Since then the group has been very busy. They helped their SVP Conference put together 70 bags for parishioners filled with a variety of Christmas goodies.

They sent this special message to the children:

"Please pass on our enormous thanks for the cards, bookmarks, and painted candle holders your Mini Vinnies made for our elderly parishioners. When we took one bag to one of our ladies (who is 90 and has been in hospital many times recently), she was over the moon with the drawings on her bookmark and candle holder. It really brightened her day."

St Alban's Wallasey



Welcome to Mini Vinnies at St Alban's Wallasey and their VC, Teresa! They have been busy recrafting Christmas cards for prisoners (51 in total), recrafting Christmas cards for a local care home and creating and decorating 125 party hats for the parishioners Christmas party. Also, working closely with the President of the St Alban's SVP Conference, the children wrote a personal note in each card for elderly parishioners.