



SSVP Scotland Annual Report 2020/2021



Message from 12th National President **Danny Collins**

president@ssvpscotland.com



My sincere regards to our Brothers, Sisters, Friends, and Volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Scotland. I believe that we can now

envisage, through the relaxation of Government restrictions “light at the end of the tunnel”, having faced many difficulties and personal loss since the beginning of COVID.

We have emerged, through our Vincentian commitment, perseverance, and patience, more

experienced, with a determination to learn and adapt to the worlds changing environment.

The circumstances provide the SSVP with the opportunity, not only to collectively look forward but also serves as a reminder of the many challenges we already have successfully overcome.

For example, in 1833 Blessed Frederic Ozanam and our other founding fathers, during a Plague established the first SSVP Conference. People have survived two world wars, health epidemics and other humanitarian tragedies. They have demonstrated by their actions

that with the Grace of God, we can rise above any earthly challenges that is placed before us.

I conclude by thanking our Members, Friends and Volunteers for their compassion, patience and efforts over this difficult period and encourage you all to continue to Serve in Hope those in need and I look forward to working with you to achieve this aim.

Yours in St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam,

Danny Collins
National President

Mission Statement

“As committed members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we seek to identify and combat all forms of poverty, by promoting social justice and actively working with those in need, acknowledging that, by freely giving of ourselves, we become more aware of the power of love in all our relationships.”

National Council of Scotland

The National Council of Scotland is made up of Arch/Diocesan Presidents from across seven Dioceses. In addition, there are two Conferences in Argyll and the Isles, with a possibility of a new one being formed. Diocesan Presidents are elected by Members from their Diocese. The National President leads the Council and is elected by its Members. The National President may then appoint additional office bearers. They meet six times per year.

National Office - Serving the administrative, financial and youth aspects of the national charity, the office team includes staff Margaret Thomson, Pauline Bonnar, and Jaqueline Laird and volunteers.

Our Global Community

SSVP Scotland is part of the worldwide Vincentian family. SSVP is an associate member of UNESCO and a special adviser to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is also part of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and is aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations in its Agenda 2030.

SSVP is present in 150 countries, has 800,000 members in 47,000 Conferences, and 1.5 million volunteers and collaborators. Every day, it helps over 30 million people the world over. For further information go to www.ssvpglobal.com



Archdiocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh: **President Richard Steinbach**

staneddc@ssvpScotland.com No. of Conferences:55 No. of Members:339

For the first time, a group of parishioners from St Mary's Star of the Sea, Leith, decided to participate in the KiltWalk and donate the proceeds to their SSVP Conference - the Conference members were pleased to be able to reach more people in need within their community, because of such generosity.

The Group decided on the Name "The Magnificent 7" then one of our

Priests, Fr Irwin decided to join, and it became "The Magnificent 7 + 1". Then they became Truly Magnificent!

The group walked from the Church all the way to Levenhall along the coast and back in record time. The people of Leith were generous with their donations and as always, the Scottish entrepreneur Sir Tom Hunter added 50%.

When news spread to the SSVP



family in Scotland, other Conferences liked the idea and are planning to enter next year's various KiltWalks.



The Fife Furniture Project

continues to flourish. This is meeting a desperate need, as we start to emerge from the pandemic. More and more families are being left struggling for the bare necessities to furnish their home. Our work is offering a

hand up and to provide basic comfort is the first key step on the road to improved wellbeing. To have a bed, or a cooker, where before they had none is so crucial to make life little bit easier.

Archdiocese of Glasgow: **President Joe McGuire**

glasgowdc@ssvpScotland.com No of Conferences:63 No of Members:366



COVID created new methods of working for the archdiocese of Glasgow over the last year.

Conference personal visits ended with the social restrictions. Instead, they resorted to telephone calls and zoom meetings to keep in touch with

parishioners as well as each other.

Over the year many Conferences simply remained closed. Bank balances for some Conferences did not change from the previous year as incomes were impacted by the closure of churches.

However, as Members grew accustomed to the new way of living,

Conferences began to find ways to still reach people in need. Door stepping became a feature; supporting local food banks and stewarding at Masses were all possible for our non-shielding Members. This thinking outside the box attitude really helped members feel

that they could persevere through this difficult time.

The Ozanam Centre for the homeless in the centre of Glasgow was forced to close because of COVID but has since had limited reopening.

The Ozanam Scholarship Fund, which supports students otherwise unable to afford University in the Archdiocese, continued to operate and this year 2020/21 a further eight students were chosen for support.

The year ahead will see new challenges being presented. The recruitment programme will restart as soon as it is safe to do so. Hopefully new members will join and support the work of SSV Scotland, as we seek opportunities to serve those in need.

Diocese of Motherwell: **President Pat Carr**

motherwelldc@ssvpscotland.com No. of Conferences:60 No. of Members:402

Home Learning Initiative St Edward's Airdrie During the 2020 - 2021 lockdown period

the Conference identified a strong need within the parish & local partner schools for assistance in accessing quality materials to support learning at home. It was found that many pupils within the parish & school communities were having difficulty in sourcing materials such as jotters, pens, or pencils and were suffering hardship and falling behind because of this.

The Conference therefore arranged to secure a large quantity of relevant supplies and formed over 100 learning packs (each comprising various suitable equipment and resources) which were in turn distributed to pupils from four partner schools. This enabled all children in need of such equipment to continue their studies at this most difficult time and allowed the Conference to continue to support the most vulnerable



members of their community in a new & innovative way.



New Management Team Revitalise Motherwell Furniture Project

The Furniture project in Wishaw is thriving due to the successful installation of a new Management Team. They have recruited a dedicated team of volunteers, both

offices based and on the road. They currently have 5 Drivers, 2 Drivers/ Assistants and 9 Office staff who give their time freely to enable the Unit to perform efficiently. They can be contacted at svdpfurniture@outlook.com.

Diocese of Galloway: **President Pat Snee**

gallowaydc@ssvpscotland.com No. of Conferences:23 No. of Members:140



St Mary's Conference Saltcoats have been supporting the local P4 pupils in St Anthony's Primary as they prepare for the sacraments of

Reconciliation and Holy Communion. SSVP interaction with our young Catholics at these spiritual landmarks provides experience of role models of faith and examples of Vincentian values in action. It also strengthens the bond between Conference, school, and parish.

SSVP Galloway Diocesan Council, working in collaboration with Faith in Community Scotland were invited to identify a local project to benefit from funding. Our Lady & St Cuthbert's Conference, Maybole which had

links with local Project – The Carrick Foods Garden Projects (CFGP) was the perfect candidate. The CFGP is a fruit and vegetable garden in Maybole established in November 2019 to help food bank users and others with long-term issues to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

The Parish Priest, also an enthusiastic supporter of the project, offered a plot of land located on the parish church property at Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, Maybole. While the pandemic



significantly disrupted plans, work was able to start in August 2020. The first job was to clear the

plot which had become overgrown as well as being used as a dumping ground. Working in partnership with a young team from South Ayrshire Council's Employability and Skills initiative, and with great local support, the team were able to start building raised beds ready to plant their first crop in March 2021.



The project has been an outstanding example of community collaboration. Sadly, the SSVP Conference has since closed, however the fruit of their labours continues to grow.

Diocese of Paisley: **President Joe Hendry**

Contact Joe via: admin@ssvpScotland.com No. of Conferences:33 No. of Members:268

Christ the King Conference, Howood recently assisted a young refugee who had broken his ankle. On visiting, they found he was desperately short of any home comforts. They supplied him with some essential items for which he was very grateful. He took the time to find out the furniture project phone number to thank them for their help.

Holy Spirit Special Works Conference (HSSWC) supports the work of the Jericho Drug Rehabilitation

Unit. Jericho provides 28 places for men and women in two separate houses. Over the last few years, Jericho experienced serious financial difficulties and there was danger of its closing.

HSSWC have provided some essential items for the two houses which have recently included freezer, beds, and furniture. They continue to support and maintain two minibuses which although reduced in usage during the pandemic, allow the residents to leave the houses for essential trips. Usually, the main

function of the busses is to transport residents to vital Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

Seven diocesan Conferences have continued to support the pre-COVID request for a contribution to a monthly fuel account. HSSWC are very grateful for this as it allows the minibus to be available when required.



St Patrick's Greenock have been teaming up with the other local Conferences during lockdown to ensure no one in need is left behind. They have also used the time to get to know other charity and care

organisations in the area which will be useful in the future to pass the information on to those who seek assistance.

Diocese of Dunkeld: **President John Joyce**

Contact John via: admin@ssvpscotland.com No. of Conferences:13 No. of Members:75

St James and St Matthew's Kinross/Auchtermuchty,

assisted a woman with a young family who had been allocated a new house but there was little or no floor covering. By looking at roll ends they were able to get the whole house fitted with brand new carpets at low cost. Unknown to them, the day it was fitted was in

fact her birthday. It was not until the job was done, she said, "Thank you so very much. Today is my birthday and this is the best birthday present I have ever had." She and her young family now have a comfortable home.

Another lady required a new mattress and bed which was

provided for her. She said, "That is fantastic, the bed is amazing! I am so happy."

A gentleman who received help from the Conference said "Thank you so very much. I can't believe people are so good."

At St Stephen's Blairgowrie,

co-operation has been key. They were asked by Social Work to help a local family by providing £100. £50 was for proper fitting clothes for their young child, and £50 for gas vouchers to help the parents out of a monthly "debt cycle" of repaying loans to other family members. The parents were both on benefit and repaying a crisis loan. This help was

gratefully received by Social Work and the family.

A local Primary School Headteacher requested help for a mother with two daughters who had moved into the area from a difficult situation. They were provided with money to help them over the Christmas period. This made a huge difference to the family and the mother was very grateful for SSVP Scotland support.

**Whatever the need,
and there are many,
SSVP Members are
always grateful for
the opportunity to
serve.**

Diocese of Aberdeen: President Elizabeth Herlihy

Contact Elizabeth via admin@ssvpscotland.com No. of Conferences:10 No. of Members:69



Holy Family and St Mary's Cathedral Aberdeen

SSVP members have been distributing parcels every week through lockdown. Holy Family benefits from generous donations from nearby parish of St Francis, Mannofield. Both

Conferences benefit from donations of food from Community Food Initiative North East (CFINE). The food is near its best before date but still useable and includes fresh fruit and vegetables. It was greatly appreciated by those who receive it and has helped families

struggling with food poverty.

St Mary's Conference also distributed food parcels from Social Bite at the start of lockdown. It was helpful to work with other organisations in identifying and addressing need.

Diocese of Argyll and the Isles: Contact via the National Office:

admin@ssvpscotland.com No. of Conferences:3 No. of Members:12

Lockdown called a halt to in person meetings for **St Columba's Oban** though there was no stopping them answering the call of the poor.

One family needed a pushchair for their toddler they purchased. This made a huge improvement to their daily lives by being able to go out together for essential shopping more easily with the little one

safely in the pram.

Another lady was helped with money for food and electricity. As well as this, the Conference members took the time to find out the details of other agencies who may be able to help her further regarding benefits and financial matters. She was extremely grateful for this as it was useful information, she had been totally unaware of.

As lockdown eased, they worked collaboratively with our Parish Priest in assisting a family who had a dying relative abroad. As a result, they were able to make the journey to be with them in their final days.



Youth: **Pauline Bonnar Youth Coordinator**

youth@ssvpscotland.com  Youth SSVP Scotland  Youth SSVP



Keeping the Mini, Junior and Senior Vinnies flame burning was so important in this difficult year. We managed to achieve this using Email and Zoom and Teams.

At Christmas, the Motherwell Diocesan Chaplain for SSVP offered the Christmas morning Mass for the needs of all the groups and their leaders within the Diocese. For the feast days of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed

Frederic Ozanam some groups were able to attend online Masses, which also provided focus and a sense of togetherness.

Many of the groups, to their great credit, continued to function. Examples include supporting local food banks, providing the homeless with personalised cards and giving Easter flowers to Senior Citizens at Nursing Homes.

New Logos arrive in Style!

We're delighted to have launched new groups for all school children. Mini Vinnies P4-P7, Junior Vinnies S1-S3 and Senior Vinnies S4-S6. These will provide a clear progression and sense of identity during their time as a young member of SSVP Scotland. New logos have been designed and badges are now available from National Office.

See www.ssvpscotland.com/youth



Social Justice: **Tricia McCartney, Coordinator**

socialjustice@ssvpScotland.com  @SocJustSSVPScot



Nationally SSVP Scotland played an important role in enabling people to become digitally connected by providing free iPads with 24 months internet connectivity plus support to develop digital skills, through the Scottish Government's initiative 'Connecting Digitally'. The devices were available for two separate groups of beneficiaries. 1) Older people / or people with disabilities and 2) Families with children. Applications by SSVP Scotland were made for both streams for each of the 27 Local Authority areas with SSVP Conferences.

In total of 231 free devices were awarded to SSVP Scotland to distribute. Of the 231 devices awarded a total 207 iPads and 200 MiFi devices were distributed. Around 20 members undertook training to be Digital Champions.

There were challenges along the way, however feedback from beneficiaries was very positive and overall, it was an extremely worthwhile exercise which demonstrated SSVP Scotland's commitment to the changing needs of those we serve. Assisting older people to access digital devices can significantly reduce the poverty of loneliness. Many of those in receipt said they were happy to now be able to stay in better touch with their wider families and friends.



Twinning: Kate Kelley, Coordinator

twinning@ssvpScotland.com



A full and detailed report from St John the Baptist Parish, Atlanta South Africa brought a very clear picture of the difficult conditions our wider Vincentian family are dealing with and how they are helping to relieve poverty. It shows how vital our donations are and reminds us of our part in something bigger than ourselves.

St. Dominic's SSVP Conference, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, commented to say they are "so grateful for, and overwhelmed

by, the detailed report sent by our Twin Conference St John the Baptist, Atlantis. Even with the added burden of the COVID pandemic, our Vincentian Sisters and Brother have carried out incredible works of charity through their love, care, and concern for the vulnerable and those less fortunate within their society. They have achieved so much despite living in such adverse socio-economic conditions."

Each year SSVP Conferences in Scotland collect funds which are then sent to SSVP Conferences in India, South Africa, and Hungary. These donations provide a lifeline allowing the Conferences to support those in need in their local area.

Donations collected by SSVP Scotland 2020/2021:

Conferences in India:	£34,220
Conferences in South Africa:	£12,330
Students in India:	£670
Project in Hungary:	£1,900
Total:	£49,120

How you can help



Time is precious to us at SSVP. If you can give your time to volunteer alongside our Conference members at events or projects, we'd be very grateful.



Put the Fun in Fundraising: join in the next Scottish KiltWalk and nominate SSVP Scotland as your chosen charity or plan your own fundraising event.



Donate online sponsorships and activities are not for everyone so if you'd prefer a gentler means of giving, head to our website **www.ssvpscotland.com** and donate easily there.



Donate your talent Do you have a special skillset that could help us reach more of the poor in our Scottish communities? Art, computing, design, financial or benefit system training to name but a few. If you can share these skills at a meeting or two, we'd be grateful to learn from you.



To help, contact your Diocesan President or National Office

admin@ssvpscotland.com

To all Members, Volunteers and Friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland

Time

Time is the most gracious gift
That each of us possess
And when we choose to share ours
We don't get more but less.

For those who spend their time
In the way that you have done
Deserve the highest accolade
Each and everyone.

So this particular honour
Today I send to you
For volunteering your time
In the way you choose to do.

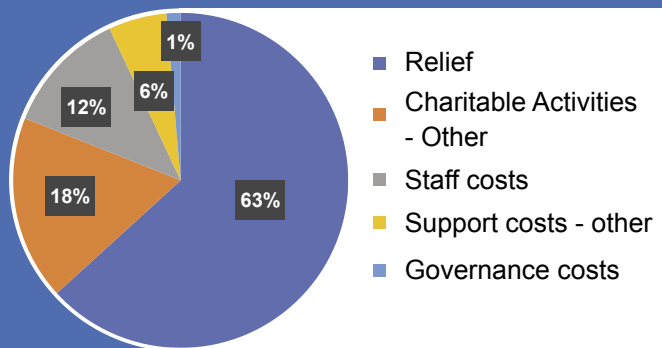
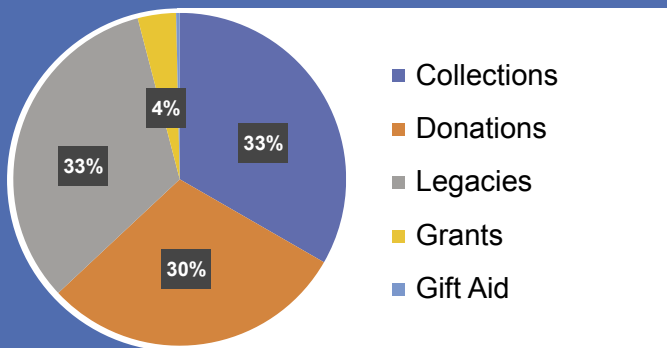
So it is for me, a privilege to put these words in rhyme to thank our brothers and sisters for giving up their time.

Danny Collins
National President

Society of St Vincent de Paul (Scotland) Summary of Accounts 2020/2021

Income	Total
Collections	£326,255
Donations	£290,999
Legacies	£322,273
Grants	£36,407
Gift Aid	£3,415
Total Income	£979,349

Expenditure	Total
Relief	£521,555
Charitable activities - other	£146,807
Staff Costs	£98,912
Support costs - other	£46,272
Governance costs	£11,236
Total Expenditure	£824,782



Vincentians Working Together in Scotland



DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
of St. Vincent de Paul



📍 Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Scotland)

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