

Autumn 2016

Ozanam News



Society of St Vincent
de Paul, Scotland

Clubbing together

● Jim Lynch and the amazing origins of the Ozanam Club.

Friends in Malawi

● Lucy Feeney highlights hope amidst hunger.

On the frontline

● Archbishop's challenge to fight poverty where we find it.

Having a
BLAST
in Kraków

Young Vincentians fly the flag for Scotland at World Youth Day in Poland



COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

SR AGNES MCGARVIE
National Spiritual Adviser

JAMES MCKENDRICK
National President
Trustee

KEITH WHITEHEAD
National Treasurer
Trustee

RICHARD STEINBACH
Trustee
St Andrews & Edinburgh

CHRISTINE GRAY
Trustee
Glasgow

MICHAEL DOWDS
Trustee
Paisley

JOHN JOYCE
Trustee
Dunkeld

ELIZABETH HERLIHY
Trustee
Aberdeen

JOE MACEACHAN
Trustee
Motherwell/VIP

VACANT
Galloway

IAN TIERNEY
Twinning Projects
twinning@ssvpscotland.com

The Society of St Vincent de Paul

National office:
2nd floor,
113 West Regent Street
Glasgow
G2 2RU
Tel: 0141 226 8833
email: admin@ssvpscotland.com

Ozanam News Editor: Matt Meade
communication@ssvpscotland.com



Visit our new website www.ssvpscotland.com for
Vincetian news from Scotland and the world.



@SSVPScotland




'SSVP Scotland'

GET INVOLVED! We want to know what your conference is up to. If you have a story, share it. The Ozanam News relies on your contributions. Send your articles and images (jpg or png format only, not PDFs) to **communication@ssvpscotland.com**. Simply put the name of your conference in the subject

bar, full contact details and remember to provide caption details for photos. Please note we no longer accept articles written on paper or submitted as PDFs. Articles should be written as an email or attached to an email as a Word document. If you need help, contact editor Matt Meade on 07985 592920.

Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which will be issued three times per year, May, September and November. To facilitate this, a Publications Committee has been formed and a member of the National Council has been made responsible for its operation. The Publications Committee will normally meet two months before going to the print. As at present, the actual putting together of the magazine will be the responsibility of the National Office staff, who will select the printer and liaise and coordinate with all pre-production functions. 2. In accordance with National Council requirements, the intention will be not to feature 'editorial' pieces. Any material deemed to detract from the Society's broader aims will be approved by the National Council prior to publication. Hopefully these arrangements will help the new Ozanam News develop into a more humorous, educational and spiritual publication which will concentrate on bringing the society, its members and associates closer together. With this togetherness in mind, National Council agenda business could well become a regular feature in the magazine. In the main, letters for publication will normally be from Twinning parties - regarded as reports. Other letters will be accepted for publication with an added footnote or returned for discussion by the respective Council and/or President if thought to be more appropriate.



Saint Pope John Paul II meeting Mehmet Ali Ağca, the man who wounded him in an assassination attempt in 1981.

Blessed are the merciful

As the Year of Mercy draws to a close, SSVF National President **Jim McKendrick** focuses on reflecting Jesus' Divine Mercy in our everyday Vincentian vocation.

Throughout his Papacy, the situation of the poor weighed heavily on Saint Pope John Paul II. In a homily on September 27, 1987, the Feast of St Vincent de Paul, he spoke about Vincent as a merciful man.

He did this from the perspective of the beatitudes: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (*Matthew 5:7*)," he said. "Today we are gathered in this square, in front of the Basilica that stands over the tomb of the apostle Peter, to remember a man who, in an extraordinary way, practiced this beatitude in his own life and ministry."

The founders of our society fully recognised these same virtues. In May 1838, Frederic Ozanam wrote to his friend Francois Lallier: "At our meetings we are now reading the life of St Vincent de Paul, so as to better imbue ourselves with his examples and traditions...he is the model one must strive to imitate as he himself imitated the model of Jesus Christ. He is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's heart is enkindled...he is a model on earth and a protector in heaven."

“ Blessed are those who are kind when they visit, never imposing their own views and respecting each person’s uniqueness in God’s plan.

Jesus Christ was the centre of attention for Vincent de Paul, but since the whole mystery of Christ could not be fully understood, Vincent focused on that which most impressed him. This was the Word of God who became man, Jesus' humanity and Jesus the missionary who draws near to the poor and infirm. These are the individuals that 'good' society has marginalised. And yet, in the gospel of Saint Matthew, it is precisely these people with whom Jesus identifies. In imitation of Christ and Vincent, our vocation calls us to seek and find those who

are forgotten and to relieve as best we can their spiritual and corporal miseries.


A vital element of our Vincentian vocation is the visiting of people in need in their own homes, the contact between our members and those who are in need.

We seek to befriend them, listen intently to their needs and offer what assistance and advice we can.

Blessed are those who are kind when they visit, never imposing their own views, respecting each person's uniqueness in God's plan, their dignity and their right to make their own decisions.

As Vincent stated: "Let's devote ourselves with renewed love to serve persons who are poor, and even to seek out those who are the poorest and most abandoned. Let's acknowledge before God that they are our lords and masters and that we are unworthy of rendering them our little services."

So as we approach the end of the Year of Mercy and look forward to next year's celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism, may our thoughts remain centred on Divine Mercy and the imitation of Christ that St Vincent de Paul represents.

A photograph of an elderly man, James Lynch, standing outdoors in his garden. He is wearing a red and white checkered shirt, grey trousers, and glasses. He has a tattoo on his left forearm and is wearing a watch. He is leaning on a red metal fence. In the background, there is a large tree, a white house, and some greenery.

James Lynch at his
home in Uddingston.

Clubbing together

The Lynch family and the fascinating story
of the foundation of the Ozanam Club...

In 1989, **James Lynch** and his wife Cathy founded the first Ozanam Club for adults and young people with learning disabilities. They had one room, a ten pound donation and some toys from their loft. Today, Ozanam Clubs are thriving as a place to meet new friends, have fun, and which offer respite for carers. James, 73, spoke to Matt Meade about the success of the club from those humble beginnings.



A treasured photo of James and son Andrew being blessed by Pope John Paul II.

Why did you start the Ozanam Club?

There was nothing for the disabled here in Viewpark. I have two children with Down Syndrome - Andrew and Jayne. So we thought we would start something that would benefit them in the future.

How did your work as an assistant nurse at Kirklands Hospital, Lanarkshire, help inspire this decision?

When I first saw the Down's Syndrome children there, it would have broken your heart - just sat in a row and no-one did anything with them. A lot of people were forgotten in there and I felt that in the St Vincent de Paul we should be welcoming them into the community. Today, those like Andrew can travel around and be more independent.

de Paul, hired a hall and took up some games we had lying around the house. There was a bit of hardship at the beginning, but it was fun.

How did it develop?

My idea was to have ten from the community and ten from Kirklands Hospital. I think it gave some of the hospital staff a rest. I'm sure some would say: 'Send them to the Ozanam Club so we can have a quiet night' (laughs). Even the social work department wanted to get involved after a couple of years to see how they could help out. We had only started a couple of weeks and people were coming from everywhere. The hall was far too small and we had to move to a bigger place.

It sounds like you didn't get much help at the beginning...

I used to have 16 coming from

Kirklands Hospital and I wasn't given a nurse. I had to hire a bus to bring them up. Things have now

“ We had only started a few weeks and people began coming to the Ozanam Club from everywhere.

changed and the majority who come to the club have their carers with them.

What support did the Society of St Vincent de Paul provide?

At first the SSVP weren't really for it, but now they think it's great! It was two years before they invited me up to the Motherwell diocese to join the diocesan council as a special works conference. That's when we started getting donations from different conferences.

How did you raise funds prior to that?

Jumble sales, that kind of thing. I used to save up ginger bottles - people used to phone me so I could pick them up. A friend of mine once told me that the manager at a well-known local company had a canteen



full of ginger bottles and that I could have them. When I got there a few rough voices from the workforce shouted at me: 'Leave them bottles - they're ours!' I never went back there again!

How has your faith and being a member of the SSVP helped?

It gives you a certain strength and allows you to face up to anything that comes along.

You've clearly enjoy the atmosphere of the Ozanam Club...

I've missed the club just twice in all the years it's been running. One time we came back from holiday in Lanzarote and still made it along. It's really good people that volunteer and who help create a great atmosphere.



What was the Ozanam Club like in the beginning?

We started off with a £10 donation from the St Vincent



MAKING FRIENDS IN

MALAWI

Airdrie teen **Lucy Feeney**, 17, spent a fortnight in Mendulo this summer with a project that aims to fight poverty. She told Matt Meade about hope, faith and cheerfulness...and the St Vincent de Paul Society's role in helping her get there.

How did you get involved in the 'Aiming Higher in Malawi' project?

It plays a very significant role at my school, St Margaret's, in Airdrie. I saw it as an opportunity to help those who need it most. After a few years of helping in school, I was given the opportunity to go and see how our work helps.

What role did the SSVP play in helping you get there?

My local conference at St Edward's, Airdrie, played a vital

role in preparation for the trip. All the brothers and sisters were very supportive, both financially and emotionally. The conference also donated money to the trip, and equipped me with the correct tools and information in order to set up a twinning programme between ourselves and St Joseph's parish in Mendulo.

What work did you do in Malawi?

Our main project was overseeing the planning of a female refuge

centre. It will house homeless and needy women and their children, offering them a safe place and the tools to get back on their feet. Our school has visited Malawi many times over recent years, so we have made some life-

changing connections with locals, some of whom will play key roles in keeping the centre running. We also visited numerous prisons and youth rehabilitation centres, orphanages, schools and nurseries.

Education is crucial to youngsters in Malawi and Lucy visited schools, nurseries and orphanages.





“ I was surprised at how people coped with difficult situations with a smile on their face. Nothing got in the way of them being happy.



Did anything surprise you about the trip?
I had mentally prepared myself for facing extreme levels of poverty. I was very surprised at how people managed to cope with difficult situations with a smile on their face. Nothing got in the way of them being happy, despite how difficult their lives were. This inspired me, as people with so much less than us are overjoyed with their lives. It really puts into perspective how much we take for granted.

What was the best part of the trip?
Visiting Mendulo Primary School. We did a workshop with over 150 children. I teamed

up with Girlguiding UK, who supplied neckties and fabric paints for all of the children. The joy on their faces when they realised that the neckties were a gift was unbelievable. I was delighted to give them these small gifts, as they were so grateful.

And the worst?
There was one particular day when we visited the orphanage, and the children were being unusually quiet. We later noticed that a few of the children's eyes were turning yellow - a key sign of Malaria. This really got to me as both the children and the staff at the orphanage had no idea that this was

the case. The children were suffering and had no means of help. Some simple medical attention and antibiotics would have prevented this from happening.

What kind of difficulties do children and young people face out there?
Many young people struggle to find food and clean drinking water, and often go to school while hungry. They may also struggle to keep themselves safe and free from harm. Kidnapping and abduction rates are at an all time high in Malawi, so young people often try and return home as early as they can. Young people are

particularly prosecuted for their faith in Malawi. This actually surprised me at first, however young people are often the main earners in their families, or have to look after a relative, and therefore are scrutinised for taking time to go to Mass. This shocked me as I feel that religious beliefs should be promoted within families and young people should be encouraged to discover more about their faith as much as possible.

The one thing I learned while in Malawi is...
That no matter how difficult life may be, there is always a reason to get through the day with a smile on your face.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, DUNFERMLINE

Sister Margaret Hall attended a leavers' Mass at St Kenneth's Primary School in Ballingry. She received a cheque for £235 from pupils, who have been busy fundraising for the work of The SSVP. The conference passes on its thanks to pupils and teachers.

ST LEONARD'S, EAST KILBRIDE

The annual St Patrick's event for senior parishioners was a great success. More than a hundred guests enjoyed a lovely meal, including Irish stew!

Children from St Vincent's entertained with Irish dancing and a school choir sang a selection of Irish songs.



ST FILLAN'S, HOUSTON

After a recruitment drive the conference has five members. They are Ann Armstrong, Barbara Cairns, Margaret Kerr, Tony McGowan and Eddie O'Neill.

ST COLUMBA'S, EDINBURGH

The conference celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1891. The proceedings began with a Mass and there were over forty representatives from eighteen conferences in the congregation, as well as fifty of our own parishioners.

After Mass there was a buffet reception. President Phil Whyte, welcomed the visiting conferences and was followed by Richard Steinbach, the Archdiocesan President, who spoke about Frederic Ozanam and his founding of the Society in 1833. St Columba's members visit the sick in hospitals and homes and let those in need of a holiday use our caravans at Port Seton. An important aspect of its work is the relationship with twin conferences at Kerala, India and Utrecht in South Africa, to whom practical and financial assistance is given. Member John Irvine said: "Altogether, the whole afternoon was an enjoyable and memorable celebration."

Around the conferences



OZANAM CENTRE, GLASGOW

Amy and Gemma Swann are volunteers at the Frederic Ozanam centre in Glasgow. Amy, 19, said: "Although at times the centre was full to burst and we were rushed off our feet, I have loved every Wednesday afternoon I have helped out there. It has been an amazing opportunity to help those in need by simply giving out necessities like clothes and toiletries. I would recommend volunteering your time at a place like the Ozanam Centre as it shows you how easy it is to help others and reinforces what is important in life."

Gemma said: "I have been volunteering at the Ozanam Centre in Glasgow for three years. It has been an eye-opening experience but one in which I have overcome challenges and really enjoyed doing so. Listening to people in need and being able to distribute items of clothing and toiletries is extremely rewarding but also a very humbling experience. In the photo, from left, are Amy and Gemma, Margaret, Claire and Kathleen from conferences St Albert's and Our Lady and St George.



ST GABRIEL'S, MERRYLEE

David O'Hagan celebrated his 90th Birthday. Conference member Margaret Robb said: "David has visited the lonely and the sick since 1982. Our conference enjoys his good humour and cheerfulness. He attributes all his gifts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

SS JOHN & COLUMBA, ROSYTH, AND ST PETER IN CHAINS, INVERKEITHING



A Day of Recollection was held at St Peter in Chains. Richard Steinbach, President of St Andrew's & Edinburgh, said: "Many thanks to Father Kevin Dow for helping organise it, and to the ladies of the parish for the buffet. A great spiritual day was enjoyed by all."



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH

Member Nicola McDonagh writes: "Every year, our conference take a trip out of the city with a summer outing for invited guests."

"This year's took place on 18 June, when the sun came out for a trip to the House of the Binns, Linlithgow, followed by tea and cakes in South

Queensferry, where we finished off the day with a walk along the seafront. Our conference has ten members who run a busy programme throughout the year, from a Burns Supper in January to Christmas Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cushley. Our guests are young at heart and the

social events are popular ways for elderly parishioners to catch up with friends.

"The summer outing is one of the most well attended events. This time we hosted fifty guests, with one of our ladies telling us it was the "Best. Trip. Ever."



KILBIRNIE, BEITH AND DALRY

Members of Kilbirnie St Vincent de Paul hosted their annual afternoon tea for parishioners of Kilbirnie, Beith and Dalry. The afternoon was enjoyed by all with fine food and great company. Live entertainment was provided by Frankie McHugh and a spectacular performance from local Irish dancers.

A member said: "Bishop Nolan graced us with his holy presence, rounding off a fantastic afternoon."



ST ALOYSIUS, CHAPELHALL

Father Daniel Rooney blessed and anointed the sick and housebound at a Mass for the sick in June. Afterwards, parishioners enjoyed a meal and entertainment in the parish hall.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, KILMARNOCK

The parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel bid farewell to a faithful servant to the Catholic community in Kilmarnock as Sister Teresa Nolan departed for pastures new in Wimbledon. Sister Teresa previously worked in Central Africa in a bush mission. In Rwanda, she was in charge of a girls' school which she had to reach in her Land

Rover via cattle tracks. In 1987 she was called to Kilmarnock and her long association with Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady and St John in Stewarton began.

Sr Teresa became Spiritual Adviser to the conference from 1987 until 1994. She particularly enjoyed her youth work and today many of the

young people she worked with are still active in the parish. A recent Mass of thanksgiving and a buffet were held and the parish community said goodbye. Sr Teresa will be missed and the conference wishes her well in her new work in Wimbledon. May she continue to do the Lord's work for many years to come.

ST CONVAL'S, GLASGOW

Member John Conachy celebrated his 90th birthday. John is pictured right with parishioners.

He has been a member of St Conval's conference for over 40 years and was the secretary until fairly recently. John remains very active within the conference and goes on home visits most of the week.

For a number of years, he visited the old Southern General Hospital on Saturday evenings.

A member said: "After this visit he popped in to see some of the old parishioners from



St Conval's who had moved to the Cardonald area. His way home always appeared to be via the Parkway Bar where he would meet up with members from Our Lady Of Lourdes Conference in 'Pope's corner'. Obviously

they only drank water and discussed spiritual matters!" John is a very valued member of both the conference and the parish where he has served as an altar boy. All the conference wish him a very happy birthday.

ST ATHENASIUS, CARLUKE

Members took part in the recent 40th Anniversary of Priesthood celebrations of Father Tom Magill.



ST MICHAEL'S, LINLITHGOW

Around 100 parishioners enjoyed the fourth annual fish tea hosted by the conference in April. Margo Uprichard gave a talk on the Space Project and £625 was raised for it. Entertainment was provided by the Linlithgow Folk Group.

'The love of Christ compels us'



Father Kevin Dow at the veneration of the relic of St Vincent de Paul.

Archbishop Leo Cushley, of St Andrews and Edinburgh diocese, addressed members at the Annual National Mass at the Gillis Centre Chapel, Edinburgh. In this extract from his homily he urges us to unite with Christ by serving the poor.

The main purposes of the Archdiocese are to preach the gospel, celebrate the sacraments, Catholic education and reaching out to the poor. It's there in black and white as one of the main objectives of this diocese - reaching out to the poor. *Caritas Christi urget nos*, the love of Christ compels us, says St Paul, to reach out to other people. You and I believe that everyone was made in the image and likeness of God and that gives us the loving, willing duty, to reach out to everybody, no matter who they are,



but especially to the poorest and the weakest. Sometimes they may find themselves

“You are on the frontline...you are doing what so many of us hesitate to do.

on the street through no fault of their own or because of their own fault. It doesn't matter. As Catholic Christians we have a solemn, loving duty to reach out to all. That is why I am very happy we have hosted this day here so we can pray, rededicate ourselves to the Sacred Heart and to the wonderful and essential

mission you share in a special way through the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Your hands, your face, are doing what so many of us often hesitate to do. You are on the frontline and you deserve a lot of credit for that. I would like to see that constantly nourished and built up - it is the best of who we are. The Holy Father Pope Francis knows this. It is one of the reasons he has given us the extraordinary gift of a holy year dedicated to mercy. We come face-to-face with our need of God's mercy. We acknowledge our need for it and willingly accepting it into our lives. Therefore, reach out to those around us in a merciful way in accordance with the will of our blessed Lord. It is something the St Vincent de Paul Society do well.”



Watch a video of the event on the SSVF Scotland Facebook page.



SSVP's Richard Steinbach, left, with national president Jim McKendrick.



Members from across Scotland enjoyed refreshments and a chat after Mass.

Respectability and poverty in a city of contrasts

"AROUND 150 years ago, a number of Irish immigrants came to Scotland for food, work and housing. They found it hard. Even one hundred years ago many of them were living in slums in the (Edinburgh) city centre.

The only people helping them were effectively the church, where people like the Daughters of Charity, the Vincentians, Franciscans and Dominicans, as well as the

diocese itself, made collections which were redistributed through people like yourselves, the Society of St Vincent de Paul. We reached out to our own people as well as others who were in need. That's still the case today.

If I go down to where the slums were in the city centre, it has transformed. St Patrick's in the Cowgate, where Hibernian Football Club was founded, is now really quite nice and

respectable. It wasn't that way a hundred years ago. Despite this respectability, if I go down on a Saturday night, as I've done with another couple of men, to take coffee, tea and sandwiches, there are all kinds of people who are living rough, who still need help. The poor of yesterday are a different question but there are still the poor today, people to whom we must reach out."

Archbishop Leo Cushley



Faith and friendship at World Youth Day

Young Vincentians had a blast at World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland. **Colette Carr** and **Hannah O'Neill** write about an adventure in faith and friendship.

THE Vincentian Youth Gathering and World Youth Day (WYD) was humbling, moving and emotional.

The Vincentian Gathering looked at themes of mercy, and reminded us that while our own work with the society in Scotland may seem small, we are part of a huge community of Vincentians worldwide.

Over the course of World Youth Week, we built up friendships with our housemates from other parts of the world.

The events of the pilgrimage were incredible, and from our first sighting of the Pope to our long walk in the hot sun to the site of the vigil, we were constantly reminded why we were there. The final mass inspired and reminded



us what we must do to help keep the church alive, and let it flourish.

Our group also visited the sites of Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps and Schindler's Factory, which allowed us to reflect on Pope Francis' call for us to build bridges and work towards a more peaceful world.

Ahead of Panama in 2019, I know that with the help of the incredible friends I made this year, it will be a trip I'll never forget.

Colette Carr

World Youth Day in Kraków was an amazing experience.

We made so many great memories and enjoyed getting to know each other and our new friends from all over the world.

After only a few hours in Kraków we agreed to do everything 'With Joy!'. Our first few days were spent sight seeing in Kraków and getting used to the busy public transport. We visited St Mary's Basilica in the Old Town, the Divine Mercy Sanctuary

and the beautiful church and museum dedicated to Saint John Paul II. After our time in the city we moved just out of the city centre to the village of Piekary where we lived with American and Slovenian pilgrims. The Vincentian Youth Days gave us the opportunity to meet other Vincentians from all over the world and celebrate our Vincentian friendship before World Youth Day began.

Hannah O'Neill



National Youth Day

National Youth Day in June involved bringing young people from a number of schools together for a day of learning, bonding, reflection and fun. The day was filled with games for team bonding and workshops to provoke thought and inspire action. Using the Pope's theme of mercy from World Youth Day the young people, guided by SSVP volunteers, explored topics of mercy and social justice.



Pat Byrne with St Mary's pupil Ruby and fellow Mini Vinnies.

Ruby Hodgson, of St Mary's Primary School in Duntocher, Clydebank, is the winner of the Mini Vinnies Logo Competition. Ruby was delighted to receive a prize of an arts set, which was presented by local



SSVP member Pat Byrne.
Ruby's original

design was worked into a logo by graphic designer Jennifer Convery and will now be used as the official logo of the Mini Vinnies in Scotland. Well done to Ruby and to all who entered the competition!

OBITUARIES

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen



● Faithful former member of Holy Trinity conference in Lockerbie, **Helmut Wosnitza**, died on the 13 June. He was 91. Helmut, *above*, resigned from the SSVP at the age of 90 and had been a member for 38 years. Such was the faith of this former German prisoner of war that his funeral mass was conducted by three priests. Conference president Rory McPherson said: "His dedication to Holy Trinity Church was outstanding and he will be sorely missed by all the parish."

● **Gordon Lethorn**, of St Fillan's conference, Houston, passed away at the end of April. Conference member Eddie O'Neill said: "Gordon was for many years an incredible ambassador for the SSVP in this area and beyond. "He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by this parish and the wider community. May his soul rest in peace."

● Brother **John Stirling**, from St John the Evangelist conference, Barrhead, died recently. May he rest in peace.

● Very Rev **Hugh Canon Sreenan**, former spiritual director of St Stephen's conference, Blairgowrie, died on 17th April, in Wellburn Care Home, Dundee. He was 83. His funeral took place at St Mary's Forebank, Dundee - his childhood parish - and the Requiem Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Stephen Robson and priests of the Diocese. May he rest in peace.

● Former Member of St Aloysius' conference in Chapelhall, **Hugh McGuigan**, died suddenly on 28th July. May he rest in peace.

End notes



Donation feeds poor in India

The SSVP made a donation of 5878 rupees (around £66) to a twin conference in India. Steffie Dmello, from the SSVP at Jyoti Mata Church, wrote a letter of thanks and added: "Your contribution was used for helping adopted families, and they were provided with medicines and groceries."

Twins wanted

The SSVP National Council of India is looking for twelve Scottish twins. If your conference can take on another twin call Ian Tierney on 01698 340887 or email twinning@ssvpScotland.com. Twenty conferences have been twinned for more than the 15-year set duration with Indian conferences. If you become aware that you have been twinned for more than that period let Ian know. The sponsoring of students in India remains an important part of our work. Without our help many families would not be able to have their children educated. Details of the student sponsorships are available in the twinning booklet from head office. Ian is available to visit conferences to give talks on twinning.



Furniture plus!

AN SSVP furniture project in Fife was delighted after an MP helped them over a recycling wrangle. It faced a leap in charges for depositing items at recycling centres. The charges were dropped after Douglas Chapman, MP for Dunfermline and West Fife, got involved. It means other not-for-profit charities will also be able to use the centres at no extra cost. Mr Chapman, *above right*, is pictured with the SSVP's David Hunter and Moira McCrae.

Diary dates

Saturday 24th Sep: Annual Vincentian Family Mass, Carfin Grotto Rosary 1pm, Holy Mass 2pm.

Saturday 29th Oct: SSVP Scotland National Meeting, Celtic Park.