



## Newsletter - February 25

### **MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS FOR YOUR HELP DURING 2024**

#### **How did we spend our money last year?**

Helping people - Nechells, Druids Heath, 45 Electric throws	£1600
Asylum seekers, Fatima House, St Chad's Sanctuary	£870
Twinngages – supporting SVP conferences in Rumania, India and Sudan	£950

#### **In addition, see more details overleaf, we**

1. Took over 200 Christmas presents to the children of St Vincents parish in Nechells
2. Parish collection of 80 bags of warm clothes delivered to our SVP in Druids Heath
3. Continue with our daily Costco food collection and deliveries around Central Birmingham. We believe that the value of the food distributed during 2025 was in the region of £250,000!
4. Continue to collect non perishable food from parishioners and Sainsburys for Bethany Foodbank and St Chads Sanctuary
5. Held and supported parish events including afternoon teas, lunches and parish barbecue. We have continued to welcome a number of Ukrainians from within and around the parish.
6. Assisted the parish in the collection and delivery of the Tools for Africa initiative
7. Continue to visit and support the sick, elderly and lonely in the parish. If you need a lift to Mass or any SVP events please let us know.
8. Continue with financial support to Fatima House, a Father Hudsons project, offering a safe space to up to 9 female asylum seekers
9. The Mini Vinnies are very active at St George & St Teresa School and before Christmas they organised a superb collection of food hampers for Bethany Foodbank.
10. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year the Youth SVP were formed and just before Christmas they organised a cake sale after 8.45 mass and raised a great total of £138.

#### **If you would like to help in some way here are some ideas:**

1. You could join us in a couple of ways:
  - a. As a full member, we meet for two afternoons a month to discuss and organise projects for those in need
  - b. As an auxiliary helper you can be available, at times to suit you, to help us with our various project e.g. afternoon teas, parish events, assistance with lifts to church and events etc
2. We are very keen to develop the success of the Youth SVP, for 11-18 year olds and would like more members and helpers. So please encourage any prospective members to make contact with us and come along.
3. Financially there is a wall box in the narthex and we have a Just Giving page which can be accessed via the SVP page of the parish web site or using the QR Code below.



4. For more information please email [svpstgt@btinternet.com](mailto:svpstgt@btinternet.com) or speak to any SVP member



### Mini Vinnies & Bethany Foodbank Collections



The school donated a large amount of food following their harvest festival and the Mini Vinnies organised the supply of Christmas food hampers. Bethany serve over 1.000 customers a month . Cash is also an issue as overheads are £4k pm

### Sainsburys Collections of Donated Food

Very enthusiastic support from Sainsburys staff and their customers are very generous with their donated non-perishable food



### Costco Delivery to St Chads Sanctuary



St Chads serve 200 - 300 asylum seekers per week and help them with food, clothing, English lessons and other help with their lives. They have many volunteers from across the diocese.

### Afternoon Teas and Christmas lunch

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. In 2024 we had entertainment from Strolling Players, Simply Purple, Wlod Helweger, Nadya Fot (at a Ukrainian afternoon tea), Who Let the Ukes Out and a visit from the Sand Fairy!



### Heated Throws Delivery to Druids Heath

In addition to warm clothes we have bought them 45 electric throws. One quote" *It was so cold in my bungalow that you could see my breath. I used to lie in bed to try to stay warm, some days I didn't even get up to eat because I couldn't bear trying to heat up afterwards. They brought me a heated throw and I am able to sit anywhere in the house and put the throw over me. It costs 3p a day to run.*

**Many thanks from them all**