

SVP – Herne Bay Conference

c/o The Retreat, Clarence Road, Herne Bay CT6 8TH

Helpline 07869 509804

Report of Activities and Finances for 2021/22

I am pleased to share with you this annual report which provides a summary of the activities and finances of the SVP conference Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Herne Bay, for the year to 31 March 2022.

On behalf of our beneficiaries and SVP members, I would like to thank our parishioners, supporters, charities, trusts and external organisations for their contributions towards the amazing income we received during the year totalling £39,239. This amount is even more impressive at a time when the pandemic continued to have an impact on our daily life, our ability to operate normally and hold the usual fundraising events such as the summer fayre, quizzes, entertainment evenings.

Thanks to your continuing prayers and assistance for our beneficiaries and members, we have flourished despite all the obstacles we have faced in recent times.

I am deeply gratified by your continuing generosity and on behalf of the SVP Herne Bay conference and our beneficiaries thank you for all your help. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Jan Hamilton

President Herne Bay SVP Conference

TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION

“Love Thy Neighbour”

With your help we supported our “Neighbours” as follows:

We directly supported 28 families, 5 single parents, 10 elderly, 3 ex-offenders and 18 people affected by mental health issues.

Paramount is the offer of befriending, giving time to listen and providing empathetic support through 1,107 visits/phone calls.

We provided practical support to our beneficiaries as follows:

- Food and food vouchers: equivalent to an estimated 11,200 meals for over 200 individuals and families.
- Reduce financial dependency: helped on approximately 30 occasions resulting in some beneficiaries overcoming their financial issues and no longer needing our support. This gives way for new referrals to join the scheme and be assisted following financial assessment.
- Material support: we helped in over 109 instances, 20 with furniture, 22 with white goods/electrical appliances, 2 with clothing, 40 with emergency transport, 24 with energy emergencies and 1 with removal costs.
- Debt and benefits: we helped 20 beneficiaries with financial assessment, budgeting advice and/or assistance with benefit/appeal claims including resolving debt related issues with organisations such as local authorities, utility providers, debt collectors etc.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

(Actual identity and circumstances have been altered to avoid recognition and protect confidentiality).

Case 1 - Single Parent with ten children. Parent has various health issues and living in accommodation that was in a bad state of repair. SVP were able to support as follows:

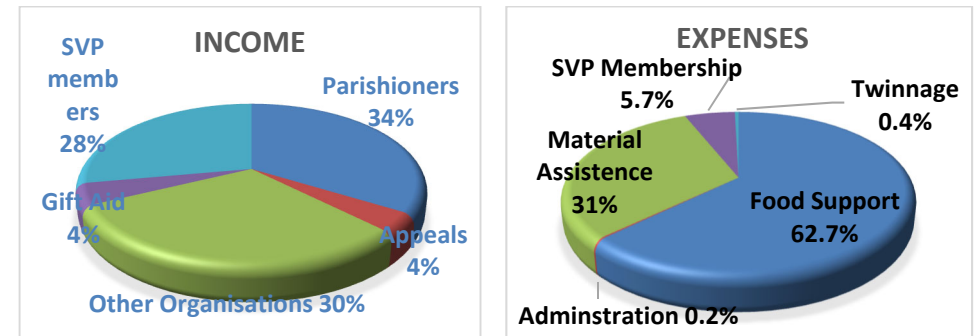
- weekly food vouchers whilst benefit claims were in progress and regular befriending visits
- bailiffs knocked at night demanding repayment of significant debt – affordable low repayment plan agreed with creditor and apology from creditor re bailiffs
- worked alongside a relative of the beneficiary to persuade owners of the accommodation to carry out essential repairs
- funded essential decoration of children’s bedrooms
- with the help of a significant donor a monthly allowance was made for 12 months to reduce continuous pressures on household budget for basic needs and to get finances on a firmer footing.

Case 2 – Beneficiary with mental health issues who lost significant benefit payments - SVP helped by

- regular befriending visits including budgeting advice
- funded the rent arrears
- provided food vouchers
- worked with GP to reapply for benefit
- supported with safe re housing

FINANCES -2021-22

The total income received £39,239 including gift aid. We spent £36,542 during the year. The surplus of 2,697 (to provide a buffer for regular food vouchers) was carried forward into the following financial year (2022/23)



Income:

PARISHIONERS – income from standing orders and one-off donations = £13,247

APPEALS - Lenten and September appeals = £1,468

OTHER ORGANISATIONS- includes grants specific for beneficiary needs from other SVP conferences and non-SVP charities and trusts = £11,893

GIFT AID – includes claims received from HMRC (through Central SVP), where donors have completed a valid Gift Aid declaration = £1,701

SVP MEMBERS – Donations from SVP members = £10,930

Expenses:

FOOD SUPPORT – food and food vouchers (regular and one-off) = £22,920

MATERIAL ASSISTANCE – assistance with white goods, repairs/refurbishments, moving costs and help to alleviate debts related problems = £11,336

SVP MEMBERSHIP – mandatory tithe to SVP National Office which provides regulatory support to the Herne Bay SVP conference = £2,067

TWINNAGE - paid to our Keralan twin, from our Keralan Community = £150

ADMINISTRATION – cost of maintaining the Herne Bay SVP conference, such as licenses for fundraising activities and postage costs = £69