



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

# **SVP Membership Present and Future**

Winston Waller  
Pat Nobbs

# Introduction

- Presentation is in two parts:
  - Membership – Winston Waller
  - View from an active Conference – Pat Nobbs

# Membership

SVP is a membership-led Society.

So it needs Members!

We should always be looking for new members.

# Member Age Profile



# Membership

- What does membership of the SVP mean to you?
- To me it means:
  - A practical expression of my Faith
  - A way of turning Concern into Action
  - Working in a dedicated team to help people in need
  - Being part of this large, generous Christian Charity
  - Working alongside the finest people I have ever known
  - Being among friends.

# Types of Membership

- Full Members
- Auxiliary Members
- TAMs – Temporary Auxiliary Members
- Honorary Member
- Retired Member
- Member (Special Works)
- Volunteer
- Young Members

# Types of Conference

- Parish based Conferences
- Youth Conferences
- University Conferences – SVP1833
- CSP based Conferences
- Hospital Conferences
- Prison Conferences

# The Future of Membership

- The Challenges:
  - Shrinking Mass attendance
  - Merging Parishes
  - Cost of Living Crisis
  - Increasing levels of need



# The Future of Membership

- The Opportunities:
  - Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP, SVP 1833
  - Overworked Clergy
  - Membership Support Officers (MSOs)
  - Support from National Office
  - New Conference Models:
    - CSP based Conferences
    - Workplace based Conferences
    - Conferences based in the Community

# Conclusion

- We visit people in need.
- Need is not going away
- So we must keep recruiting new members
- And forming new Conferences
- We have to keep our Conferences strong
- And look for new ways of working as the Church and society changes.



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Patricia Nobbs  
Middlesbrough CC President  
Former President  
St Aelred's Conference York

# Sharing my journey



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Recruitment to SVP  
Preparation for Presidency  
Systemic changes  
using technology  
The power of Auxiliary members  
Delegation by stealth

# Recruitment to SVP



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# Conference Activities



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- Fortnightly Meetings
- Visiting elderly in hospital, own & Residential homes
- Supporting 2 families with 5 children between them
- Twinned with a parish in Kerala, India
- Tuesday Lunch Club
- Annual Whitby Trip
- Pie & Pea Quiz fundraiser twice a year
- Annual appeal
- Collection twice a year
- Healing Service twice a year

# The President's Travels



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- Tuesday Lunch Club
- Twining Officer
- Annual Whitby Trip



# Systemic changes



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SVP Activity sheet 2022 April – September

Please enter the number of occasions each week you have contacted a beneficiary by a phone call (C) or physical visit (P) and the total time spent. Also details of all other SVP Activity including all travel time. Time in decimal, rounded up to the nearest 15 mins e.g. 25 mins = .5 hrs

Week commencing Monday	Family Visit Calls/Physical			Elderly (Own Home) Visit Calls/Physical			Hospital/Other Visit Calls/Physical			Conference Meeting	All Other SVP Activity- Record the number of occasions, total time involved and description of activity: { deliveries of food, furniture, clothes, electrical appliances, fuel grants, items collected and distributed or any other material or practical assistance given. SVP on-line training, fund raising events, transport given, etc. Include travel time.		
	No: C	No: P	Time	No: C	No: P	Time	No: C	No: P	Time	Time	No:	Time	Description of Other Activity (to include number of drop offs)
04.04.22													
11.04.22													
18.04.22													
25.04.22													
02.05.22													
09.05.22													
16.05.22													
23.05.22													
30.05.22													
06.06.22													
13.06.22													
20.06.22													





# Using technology



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- SVP President's email address
- Zoom / Teams meetings
- Whatsapp groups

# Auxiliary Members Activities



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- Assisting with form filling.
- Arranging/ helping at SVP events such as Masses for the sick, Christmas parties etc.
- Arranging/helping with excursions and day trips for those in need.
- Arranging and attending funerals of former beneficiaries.
- Volunteering at local SVP Special Works e.g. assisting with or running food banks.

# Delegation by Stealth

Another Way !



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- Lectern addresses / appeals & Collections
- Schedules written for Coffee mornings, Lunch Club, Healing Services, Whitby Trip & Quizzes
- Holding the SVP mobile

# Delegation by Stealth

Another Way !



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**President:** Full member. Uses the email address anything that can't wait until next meeting is shared on the Whatsapp group for members to deal with.

**Secretary:** (& Data officer & Twinning officer & Minute taking and distribution) Full member uses email address .  
Auxiliary member crunches the numbers

**Treasurer:** Auxiliary member uses email address and bank transfers



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With God's help, you will continue to succeed in your leadership and in your duties, because Our Lord's work is accomplished not so much by the multitude of workers as by the fidelity of the small number whom He calls.

*St. Vincent de Paul*