



St Edward's Runcorn

Links to the Parish Community and Beyond



Mini Vinnies at St Edward's school in Runcorn invited SVP members from the Parish of Maximilian Kolbe to their commissioning ceremony, Peter Keig the President of the conference presented the children with their badges and certificates.

To support their parish autumn fair the Mini Vinnies put their creative talents to good use by painting empty wine and spirit bottles. By adding bottle lights, they created beautiful festive centre pieces. The result is amazing! These bottle decorations were snapped up at the fair and contributed greatly to the parish fund.

On the 11th December the Mini Vinnies invited the elderly of the Parish for Christmas dinner then into the staff room for a "cuppa" and mince pie.

The children were delighted to hear that two visitors had attended St Edward's School and were engrossed by their recollections of school days in the past.

The visitors were entertained by Foundation children singing Christmas songs, and a small gift was given to each of them. It was an enjoyable occasion for all.

The Mini Vinnies have also collected new hats, gloves and toiletries for the homeless. These were presented to the hostel for the homeless in Seel Street, Liverpool that is managed by the Sisters of Charity.

St Edward's Mini Vinnies are lucky to have an extra helper in their group this year. As part of her Duke of Edinburgh award programme she is required to carry out voluntary work. As she had previously been a Mini Vinnie whilst attending St Edward's she asked to do her voluntary hours with the current Mini Vinnies.

Mrs Farrell, Mini Vinnie Coordinator reports that she is a great help and encourages the children to keep up their good work, reminding them how special they are as Mini Vinnies.



MINI VINNIES

Happy New Year

PLEASE JOIN US
To celebrate 10 years of
the St. Vincent de Paul
Mini Vinnie programme
in the Shrewsbury Diocese.

ST. COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHESTER CH2 1SA

16th JUNE 2020
11:30 AM

The Right Reverend Mark Davies
Bishop of Shrewsbury to officiate.

You're braver
than you believe,
stronger than you
seem and smarter
than you think.

- A. A. MILNE -





St Wilfrid's Northwich Making mosaic murals for our prayer garden

By Louise Robertson, Mini Vinnie Co-ordinator

In December 2018, I contacted a lady, Briony Machin who advertised creating Mosaics, I thought what a great idea, we can create murals (for our prayer garden) from the designs that the Mini Vinnies had drawn.

After a few emails were exchanged, it transpired that she was the grand-daughter of Albert Carney, a 90 year old parishioner, a member of the SVP and former pupil of St Wilfrid's Primary school 86 years ago! What a small world!

Over three days, 24 Mini Vinnies participated in the mosaic workshop and during the last session they were joined by the guest of honour, Albert.

From the drawn designs, three mosaic murals were created - ready to be installed in our upcoming prayer garden in the school grounds - watch this space.

A Special Guest!

Albert Carney came to help the Mini Vinnies create the Mosaics in school. He came prepared, with his pockets full of school photographs and plenty of stories to tell. From tales about the war to anecdotes about his time at St Wilfrid's and kept the children amused with his typical '(Grand)Dad Jokes'. He even found some mutual connections with the children's family, which was no surprise as he seems to know half of Northwich! Not only did the children enjoy his stories, but he was equally interested in hearing about modern school life and was most amused by the fact he could hear children chatting away in the classroom, as 'you'd never get away with that in my day!'.



A message from Albert Carney...

'I went back to school today, 76 years after leaving in 1943, aged 14. I was made welcome by the pupils I was going to be working with, all of them 11 years or so. I wondered how conversation was going to be, there was no problem. They were wonderful.

I was most impressed with their well-mannered confidence and enthusiasm with what they were doing. I really enjoyed my time with them. I hope I got a 9 out of 10!

Thank you to everyone.



Generous Mini Vinnies

at St Clare's Catholic School Chester

Mini Vinnies at St Clare's Catholic School Chester received a letter from Mike Coyle St Vincent de Paul Society, England & Wales, a member of the Twinnage Team for Shrewsbury Central Council.

His letter thanked the Mini Vinnies for their generosity. Mini Vinnies at St Clare's have raised £270 to sponsor 6 students in India on the Vidya Jyothi Scheme (VJES).

£270 will educate 6 children for 3 years! This money will ensure that these primary age children receive a good basic education.

By learning to read, write and count they will have better life chances as they grow older.

These children may go on to be doctors, nurses, teachers, politicians - whatever they dream to be!



You can get involved too!

SVP Overseas Aid: Suggested donation: £15.00. Give a child a gift of education. Your donation will help enable a primary school child to receive a good basic education for a year. To find out more please email info@svp.org.uk

Student Sponsorship: Education is very cheap but not always affordable to poor families. Most sponsorship is for 3 or 4 years. School children can also be helped to afford books, uniforms, transport, etc. for even less.

SVP Twinnage

Twinnage is how the SVP groups in developed countries provide support to SVP groups in developing countries.

Twinnage promises that all money raised reaches even the poorest communities in countries where the SVP exists.

The following countries are designated "twins" with the St Vincent de Paul Society of England and Wales: **India, Grenada, Guyana, Romania, South Sudan, Sudan.** Here is an example of how the SVP support in the Sudan.



The Sudan Sponsorship Appeal

The SVP in England and Wales has a long-term sponsorship programme to aid the humanitarian crises in Sudan and in South Sudan. The SVDP in Sudan is already supporting hundreds of thousands of people. Together with local people, the SVP has developed projects including:

- Baby feeding programmes
- Vocational training projects
- Medical care • Foster homes for orphans

If you would like to find out more about how to support this appeal or download a sponsorship form please contact the SVP National Office:

SVP England and Wales, National Office, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, LONDON, SE1 7JB.

Telephone: **020 7703 3030** Email: info@svp.org.uk

New Mini Vinnies website!

After months of work the new Mini Vinnies website has been unveiled at: www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies

There are some brand-new workshops and resources and a few new worksheets for you to work through with your groups and there will be more to come. Eventually you will be issued with a Co-ordinator's login to access the members area of the site. On there will be all sorts of useful information, resources, administration forms and news. However, for now please bear with us as this is not currently ready to go live.

PLEASE learn the Mini Vinnie song. It is on the website. We **WILL** be singing this song at our special Mass on 16th June. Let us raise the roof!

St Vincent's Knutsford

Children at St Vincent de Paul's school in Knutsford were asked why they wanted to become a Mini Vinnie:

"I wanted to become a Mini Vinnie because I am kind and want to make other people happy."

"I wanted to be a Mini Vinnie because I want to learn more about Jesus."

"I am a very understanding friend. I love to make people laugh and I am honoured to be a Mini Vinnie."



What does the St Vincent de Paul Society do?

The St Vincent de Paul Society helps people in need in this country and all over the world.

Can you help others in need in your community? Your adult SVP conference can work with you too.



SVP Turn a House into a Home

Suggested donation: £25
Help those who have moved into unfurnished apartments and struggling to buy the necessary furniture including beds, sofas, cookers and fridges.



SVP Support a Family

Suggested donation: £20
The SVP can help families in need whether this be for food, school uniform, clothes, furniture or other essential items.



SVP Help the Homeless

£12.00 will supply three Vinnie packs. These 'Vinnie Packs' contain survival items including thermal gloves, a hat, socks and toiletries.



SVP A Day to Remember

Suggested donation: £10
Older people frequently feel lonely and isolated, especially at Christmas and the cold, dark months. Give someone the chance to make new friends and memories through organised social events and excursions.

A busy start to the year for St Joseph's Winsford Cheshire



Mini Vinnies at St Joseph's Winsford have had a great start to the school year and have been working closely with the foodbank.

They have visited Mid Cheshire Foodbank warehouse and helped to date and organise food. They have organised a school harvest donation as well as promoting general food bank donations.

They have run a prayer competition to raise funds for the food bank. The winning prayer from a nursery child is shown left.

During advent the children helped at a parish lunch for pensioners and also made food hampers for families in need. They have been busy!

*Dear God
Please bless our school and all the children in the world.
Please help us to learn and make friends. Amen*

News from Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Our Mini Vinnies have had a very busy year and these are some of the highlights.

Our Catholic faith is central to all aspects of the school and we worked hard on Bishop Mark's Mission - A Call to Holiness in 2019. Central to this had been writing a school prayer with Father Tom in which we feel represents the ethos of our school.

*God Our Father,
We give our time for others' sake and pray to God a difference this will make.
We share our talents across our school, showing humility to help us improve.
We love one another in all we do, and we pray we show this through our actions, to you. Amen*

Another part of the school's ethos is the desire to put other's needs in front of their own based on the teachings of Jesus and we continued to live our faith in action through our fundraising, supporting vulnerable families in our care and working with the Cathedral Chaplaincy team and wider Parish community. We were particularly impressed with the donations for the harvest festival which filled two tables. Also, during the Advent period, we were able to create two hampers which were donated to our local SVP charity by holding a non-uniform day. The Mini Vinnies also held a collection for Caritas at the end of the Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance at the Cathedral and were able to raise £165. We know that Caritas was able to use this money to further support vulnerable families in our parish.

The Mini Vinnies are now looking forward to the New Year to develop the use of scripture within the school and to fundraise for water projects through CAFOD.

International Peace Day at St Joseph's Upton



Peace is enjoyable and peace is love.
Peace is sent down from the clouds above.
Peace is respecting others and being fair.
Peace is showing kindness to all.
Peace is treating others how you want to be treated.
Peace is loving one another.
Peace is spending time with loved ones.
Peace is seeing people happy.
Peace is a gift from God.
Peace is everywhere.
Peace is in you and me.

St Joseph's Mini Vinnies (pictured right) composed this beautiful poem to mark this special day of reflection.

