



# SVP News



As we can't speak to in person, we thought it would perhaps be appropriate to send a short SVP newsletter to let you know what we have been doing and to share with you some of our thoughts for the future once we can meet and be together again— whenever that is.

Following Patrick's retirement from the SVP last year the other members of the team are still the same with the exception, of course, of our very dear Cathy. However, we think our emphasis will change going forward as we want to focus on creating opportunities for members of the community to come together, enjoy good company and activities with the result that no one needs to feel they are alone. We hope that as many people as possible will become involved in the activities so that the work is shared during the course of the year and the benefit is extended to as many people as possible within and outside of our parish communities.

We will continue with our work of visiting and befriending people who would like us to do so. We also want to continue with some of the work that has been going on during the pandemic where there has been an upsurge in people helping each other with things such as shopping, dog walking, collecting prescriptions, taxi services etc. This has been such a positive and rewarding experience that we really want it to continue and grow within our community.

Even during this period where we have not been able to be together, we have continued to give financial help where this is needed within the confines of our available funds. Cathy was always so good at knowing people who needed our help, so we now need you to keep your ear to the ground and let us know if you think there is someone who needs our help. No one should assume that somebody else has identified the need.

Over the last few months, we have supported families of children at our school with the provision of clothing and a washing machine. We also provided funds to enable children to receive a Christmas present and have supported a number of families with the provision of food. We topped up the funds needed to provide Christmas parcels for the seaman support group and provided 91 book tokens for children of families who were supported by New Forest Basics Bank. We worked with the women's refuge to support families living there and in their new homes and provided a walking aid to a member of one of our parishes. We also continued our support for the SVP Twinnage and helped a family who were homeless.

We could not have undertaken any of this support without the most generous gifts from our parishes, but our coffers are now sadly depleted as we have not been able to benefit from our normal appeals. If you feel that you would like to make a gift to support our work going forward, please contact Nichola using the details below.

Do please give us your thoughts on our plans for the future and let us know of anyone who you think might need our help. Please also keep those we help in your prayers.

For the moment, please contact Nichola Kirby on [nicholakirby@outlook.com](mailto:nicholakirby@outlook.com) or 07710 156087 in the first instance. We hope to have a dedicated SVP contact number in the near future.

Finally, we wanted to share the wonderful thank you we received from the recent book appeal for our school... 😊

