

St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales)
Members' Annual Report 2007/8



Who is my
neighbour?

National President's Report



Dear fellow Vincentians,

I am pleased to be able to present a summary of the work undertaken by the Society in 2007-2008. As ever, you the members of the SVP, have continued to give generously of your selves and your time to meet the needs of other people. Over 589,276 visits have been made to approximately 92,444 people in need. These visits were supplemented by material assistance on 96,015 occasions.

The Special Works of the Society continue to provide specialist services to a diverse range of people in need and I urge you to support Special Works across England and Wales in whatever way you can.

The Society continues to achieve great things as this report testifies but in the current economic climate, more and more people are likely to seek our help. Over the past year the Society has been considering the question, "Who is my neighbour?"

In this report you will see that SVP Conferences are predominantly involved in working with the elderly. At our national meetings this year we heard from a range of speakers representing other groups in need and my hope is that over the next year we can reach out to a broader spectrum of people, seeing all of them as our neighbour and recognising God in each of them.

In order to respond adequately to the ever growing need it is vital that we continue to focus our energies on recruitment. To serve Christ in our neighbour is a privilege and one that we should share with as many as possible.

Yours in St Vincent and Blessed Frederic,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mike Worthington".

Mike Worthington, National President

Who did Conferences help last year?

People Visited/Assisted by members in 2008

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Elderly | 75,398 | 81% |
| Families | 7,151 | 8% |
| Homeless | 2,973 | 3% |
| Asylum Seekers/Refugees | 919 | 1% |
| Prison/Secure | 2,011 | 2% |
| Other | 5,112 | 5% |
| Total | 92,444 | |

A total of 92,444 visits were carried out by SVP members during 2007/2008. The majority of these visits were to the elderly, but members made thousands of visits to homeless people, prisoners, asylum seekers, families and others in need during the year.

Material assistance was also given in a variety of ways. The largest portion of assistance was help with transport but assistance was provided to those in need of financial help, as well as with food, clothing, household appliances, furniture and fuel.

Material Assistance Given in 2008

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----|
| Transport | 64,468 | 67% |
| Food | 11,678 | 12% |
| Money | 13,561 | 14% |
| Furniture | 2,390 | 3% |
| Clothes | 2,318 | 2% |
| Appliances | 773 | 1% |
| Fuel | 917 | 1% |
| Total | 96,105 | |

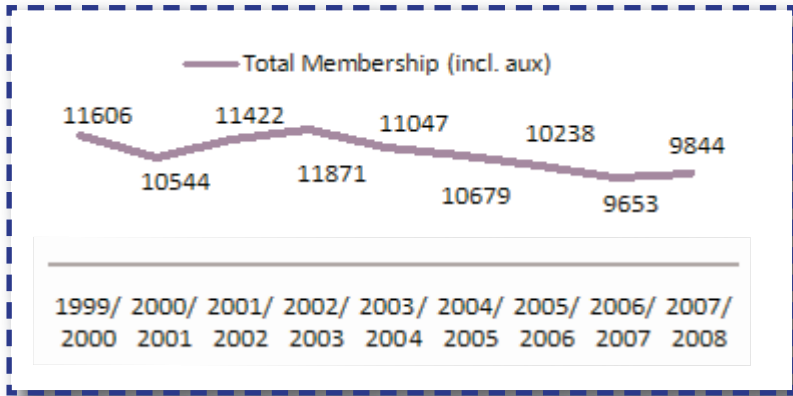
Membership & visits by CC

| Central Council | Number of Members | Number of Visits |
|--------------------|--|------------------|
| Arundel & Brighton | 471 (405 full, 66 auxiliaries) | 24,325 |
| Birmingham | 840 (700 full, 140 auxiliaries) | 64,023 |
| Brentwood | 538 (454 full, 84 auxiliaries) | 23,419 |
| Bristol | 280 (203 full, 77 auxiliaries) | 13,231 |
| Cardiff | 344 (295 full, 49 auxiliaries) | 25,486 |
| East Anglia | 215 (180 full, 25 auxiliaries) | 12,097 |
| Hallam | 183 (142 full, 41 auxiliaries) | 12,335 |
| Lancaster | 383 (335 full, 48 auxiliaries) | 23,530 |
| Leeds | 548 (415 full, 133 auxiliaries) | 28,669 |
| Liverpool | 282 (246 full, 36 auxiliaries) | 11,259 |
| Manchester | 613 (530 full, 83 auxiliaries) | 39,666 |
| Menevia | 200 (158 full, 42 auxiliaries) | 5460 |
| Middlesbrough | 346 (295 full, 51 auxiliaries) | 19,279 |
| Northampton | 512 (369 full, 143 auxiliaries) | 28,568 |
| Nottingham | 326 (282 full, 44 auxiliaries) | 18,593 |
| Plymouth | 170 (145 full, 25 auxiliaries) | 5,995 |
| Portsmouth | 375 (296 full, 79 auxiliaries) | 21,203 |
| Shrewsbury | 809 (653 full, 156 auxiliaries) | 65,000 |
| Southwark | 590 (484 full, 106 auxiliaries) | 29,218 |
| SW Lincs | 243 (212 full, 31 auxiliaries) | 16,446 |
| Tyne | 675 (575 full, 100 auxiliaries) | 59,161 |
| Westminster | 746 (581 full, 165 auxiliaries) | 34,327 |
| Wrexham | 155 (117 full, 38 auxiliaries) | 7,626 |
| Total | 9844 (8072 full, 1772 auxiliaries) | 589,276 |

The statistics in this report have been extracted from Conference Secretarial and Special Works returns for 2007-2008 received by October 2008. This year there was an 87.8% rate of returns.

Membership Profile

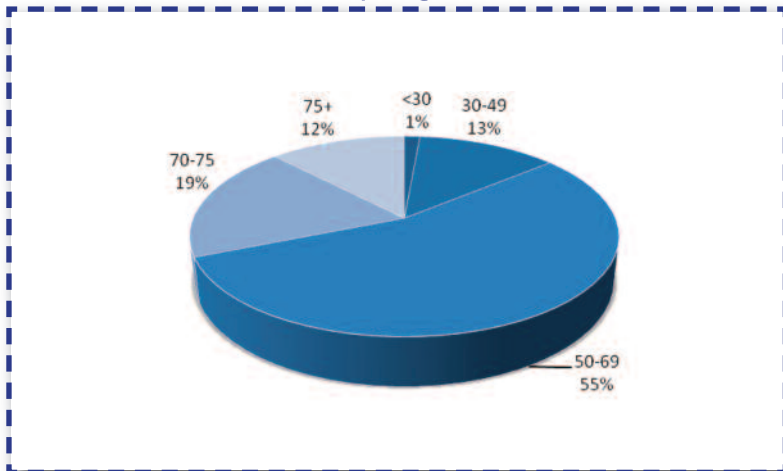
Total Membership figures 1999-2008



Conferences

In 2007/2008 **24 Conferences** went into abeyance but over the course of the year **30 new Conferences** were formed.

Membership Age Profile 2007/2008



For further information please contact Olga Sandu olgas@svp.org.uk

Special Works services 2007/2008

Holiday Provision



The SVP's 8 holiday caravans gave **133 families** the opportunity for a one week break at a seaside location around the country that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The SVP also ran six summer camps for disadvantaged children, providing a much needed holiday for **2,075 young people**. These were supported by **705 volunteers** giving around **2,955 hours** of their time. Over **1,366** people benefited from a holiday at the Society's Ozanam Centre in North Wales.

Furniture Projects and Community

Last year, the SVP operated **14 furniture projects** providing good quality second hand furniture and household goods at little or no cost to **6,729** individuals and families. A total of **9,173 collections** and **6,453 deliveries** were made. **299 volunteers** put in **5,477 hours** work over the year. The Probation service worked in partnership with the Society in shops and furniture projects in the Leeds and Manchester areas. The SVP's **24 community shops** located in areas of deprivation offered affordable clothes and household items to low income families and individuals.



Soup Runs

The SVP ran **3 soup runs** in London, Brighton and Clacton on Sea, offering a sympathetic ear to **32,384 homeless and disadvantaged people** and signposting clients to other services and agencies. These were supported by **170 volunteers** committing an average of **518 hours** each week to the projects.



Special Works services 2007/2008



Youth Development

The Youth SVP programme gave approximately **2,600 young people**, between the ages of 11 and 18, the opportunity to volunteer in their local communities through **120 groups** based in parishes and schools. The SVP 1833 programme for young adults has now been set up in **14 Universities and one parish**.

Disability Projects

The SVP ran 5 special projects for **378 disabled people**, including a social club and signed Masses, as well as a 'Talking Newspaper' service for the visually impaired which was used by 88 beneficiaries. **66 volunteers** committed **5980 hours** to the projects over the course of the year.



Twinnage and Overseas Aid

Over the past year (NB year ending 31st March 2008) conferences in England and Wales supported **1720 twins in India, Grenada, Guyana, Sudan and Romania** and **£210,000** was sent in twin-to-twin payments. **1513 students** were sponsored in India through the vocational and technical training schemes and **£86000** was sent to support over **100 small community projects in India and Guyana**. Our support of **2960 children orphaned by the tsunami** continued. We also continued our support of vital feeding, training, medical and other projects through the Sudan Appeal which raised over **£216,000**. All of this work is making a real difference to peoples' lives.



Special Works 2007/2008

Community Transport



"Accessibility to transport is crucial if older people are to be able to keep in touch with friends and family and to get necessary goods and services that mean they can continue to live independently".

Age Concern

SVP community minibuses in Rushden and Jarrow provided essential transport to **4,570 elderly, housebound or disabled people**.

Residential Homes

In the last year, the SVP has run **three residential homes** for homeless people and those with mental illness and **two Home Office approved premises** for offenders on probation, offering support and skills to **218 clients**.



Support Centres & Debt Counselling

The SVP ran **three Support Centres in Leeds, Newcastle and Westminster** through which it served communities in some of the most deprived areas in the UK. Last year, over **10,799** individuals visited the centres and accessed a range of services including basic numeracy and literacy skills training, help with job-seeking and form-filling, information and advice, access to affordable hot food, clothes, household items and travel vouchers. Alongside paid staff, a total of **55 volunteers** gave an average of **208 hours** each week to ensure a high-quality service at these centres.

In addition, in Leeds and Newcastle the debt and general counselling service helped many individuals to deal not only with the practical side of debt, but also with the wide spectrum of psychological issues associated with it.

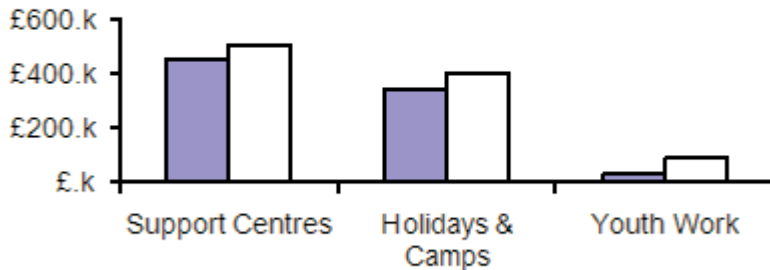
For further information please contact Adam Shah adams@svp.org.uk

SVP Income & Expenditure

SVP Income and Expenditure 2007/2008
in £ millions



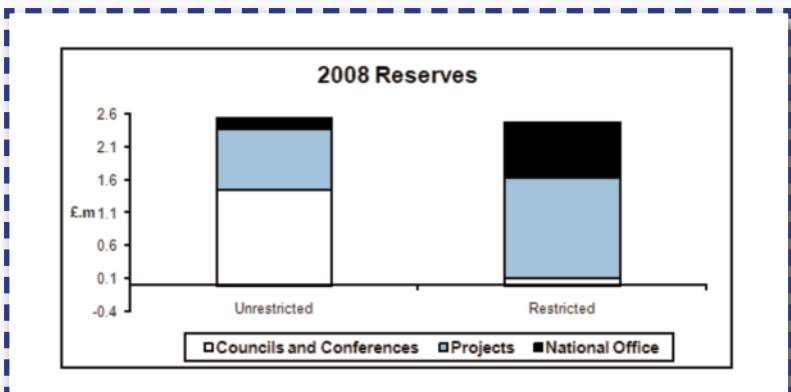
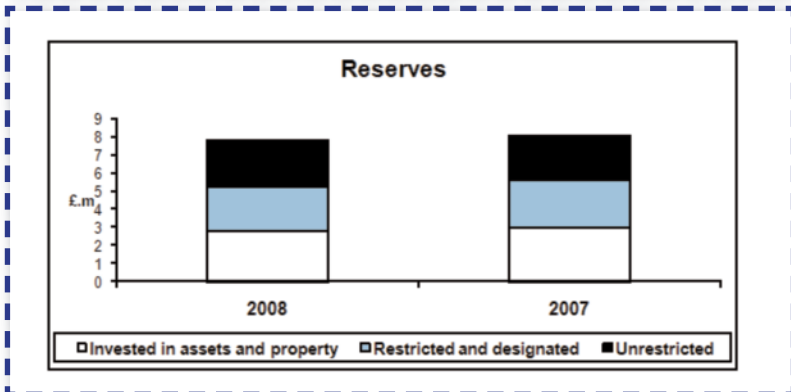
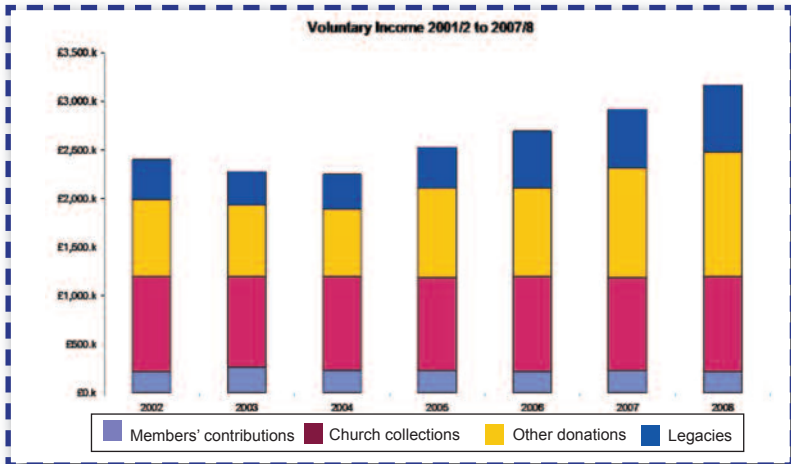
SVP Income and Expenditure 2007/2008
£ thousands



■ Income ■ Expenditure

Total Income 2007/2008 - £7.7million
Total Expenditure 2007/2008 - £7.7million
Central support costs - £595k (8% of income)
Fundraising Costs - £180k (2% of income)

Financial Summary



SVP Special Funds

Conferences can support the SVP Special Funds financially and apply for grants on behalf of clients:

Young Mums and Children Fund - Closing Balance: £12,592.95

During 2007/ 2008 £2,367 was distributed in grants via Conferences in Westminster, Northampton, Wrexham and Southwark Central Councils. The grants were used to provide household essentials, to support the victims of domestic abuse, to help with debt and to contribute towards holiday expenses.

Gilbert Cooper Fund - Closing Balance: £23,474.30

During 2007/ 2008 a total of £750 was distributed in grants via Conferences in Leeds and Shrewsbury Central Councils. The grants went towards the cost of higher education courses for students.

George Blount Trust Fund - Closing Balance: £ 3,345

During 2007/ 2008 £2,300 was distributed in grants via Conferences in Northampton and Tyne Central Councils and via the Vincentian Volunteers. Grants went towards payment of a full driving licence to join the police service and to fund various vocational experiences such as working with the sick and underprivileged children.

Lucy Fund - Closing Balance: £19,159

During 2007/ 2008 £650 was distributed in grants via Conferences in Westminster, Portsmouth and Southwark Central Councils. Funding contributed towards the cost of funding equipment for a photography course following release from prison; funding of catering materials for a course and the cost of a basic laptop required for university.

Lourdes Special Fund - Closing Balance: £4,378

During 2007/ 2008 £6,209 was distributed in grants via Conferences in Shrewsbury, Northampton, Manchester, Arundel & Brighton, Lancaster, Tyne, Liverpool, Birmingham, Plymouth and Westminster Central Councils. Grants enabled helpers and carers to accompany disabled individuals to Lourdes.

McLaughlin Holiday Fund - Closing Balance: £3,250

During 2007/2008 £1,750 was distributed in grants via Conferences in Shrewsbury, Wrexham, Menevia and Lancaster Central Councils. Funds were supplied to enable families to have a week's holiday.

The Offender Care Fund - Closing Balance: £4,900

During 2007/2008 £100 was distributed in a grant via a conference in Southwark Central Council. Funds were supplied to assist a young man to undertake a catering course.

For further information please contact Allison Pollock allisonp@svp.org.uk

A thank you from an SVP beneficiary



I'd just like to say a very big thank you to everyone at the St Vincent de Paul Society. We are very grateful at being given the chance to have a week's holiday in this beautiful caravan at Sandy Bay.

Everyone was brilliant and helpful and there was loads of stuff for the kids, who had a great time and didn't want to leave. We would love to come back again next year.

If it hadn't been for the SVP we wouldn't have had a holiday so once again we would like to say a very big **THANK YOU** so very much!!



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A colour version of this report can be found on the SVP website

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