



Annual Report 2014-15

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales)



■ Frédéric Ozanam campaigning for social justice

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St Vincent de Paul Society

Befriending people in need is at the heart of what we do. Volunteer members, motivated by their Christian faith, seek and find those in need, and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them in their homes, in hospital and in care homes on a regular basis, sometimes for many years, and offer additional practical support such as food, furniture or financial help when this is needed.

Community Support Projects

Community Support Projects (CSP) is the collective term we use to describe the project work we do in the community and includes our Community Shops, Furniture Stores, Advice and Support Centres, Supported Accommodation and our contract with the Home Office to manage and run two local Approved Premises.

Overseas Aid

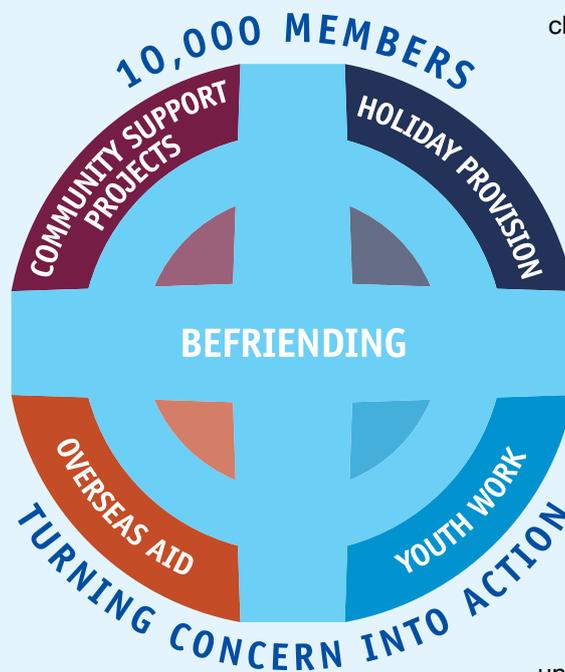
Through 'twinning' groups in England and Wales with SVP groups in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Guyana, Grenada and Romania, we aim to create a unique worldwide community of love and solidarity, dedicated to sharing the necessities of life with as many of the world's poor as possible.

Holiday Provision

Each year our holiday homes and children's camps provide holidays to about 1600 adults and children who, in the current economic climate, find it hard to afford a break. The camps are run by teams of enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom return year after year to help as leaders.

Youth Work

Our youth programme takes our Vincentian values, especially the befriending of others, into primary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities, inspiring young people to give their time to volunteer, and sowing the seeds for a lifetime of service.



History

The SVP was founded in Paris in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam.

The organisation grew rapidly, arriving in England in 1844 and then spreading across the world. It is now one of the largest Catholic lay organisations in the world with an established presence in 150 countries, and a total membership of over 800,000.

Following the example of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and his companions, our practical service is inspired and guided by our Christian faith. Our spirituality is the mainstay and principal support of everything we do, moving us to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

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Chairman's statement

Any annual report will tell you the hard facts - in pounds and pence, in statistics and graphs.



My scientific training makes me look for trends but figures rarely give the whole picture. In a year when direct material assistance given by our members to people in need increased by a massive **39%**, let us not forget that our work is not about numbers but about individuals. At our heart we are an organisation dedicated to personal and practical help, given face to face. Looking back over the year, I'd like to

highlight just a few of the lives we have touched.

One woman in Highbury, aged 101, who had outlived her children and grandchildren, told us that everyone had forgotten her – except the SVP. We cannot reduce our efforts to make more visits. This of course means we need to recruit more members, and our recruitment efforts are starting to pay off. Most visits made by members are to older people and there has been no reduction in need. Yet support services provided by NHS and local authorities are being squeezed. It is not uncommon for our members to visit families who huddle in blankets in the dark because they cannot afford the energy bills. Although the numbers of people in need are increasing, they don't always know of our existence! Historically, families in need were referred to the SVP by priests or schools. Such

referrals are fewer now, because the numbers of priests have declined, and data protection legislation impacts schools' ability to refer names to us. Social workers sometimes appeal for help to our National Office when their clients have had benefits suspended or withdrawn. These are then referred to Conferences who are often able to respond positively.

An alternative, and increasingly successful, route to seeking assistance from the SVP is through our Community Shop network. These community shops are more than charity shops; they encourage people to go in for a chat or sometimes a cuppa. Staff and volunteers try to offer a listening ear, extending the SVP's caring arm. They are able to offer practical help and can refer people to local members for visits where this is requested.

In addition to shops, we have furniture stores which can provide free furniture to those who have nothing, or low cost furniture in other cases. Stores in Leeds and Bradford have extended into Support Centres, offering debt advice, job skills training and more, a model which we hope to reproduce elsewhere. Many people are helped by these stores and support centres, including many of the volunteers. One of the year's highlights for me was an awards ceremony we held in Leeds where we recognised the outstanding work of our volunteers. Our two Approved Premises in Newcastle

■ Delivering furniture in Kenton





“At our heart we are an organisation **dedicated to personal and practical help,** given face to face”

continue to be leaders of provision of accommodation for people on licence. Their Vincentian ethos clearly makes a difference. Even I was a bit surprised, while attending a meeting that was not directly connected to the Society, to hear a discharged offender describe how his stay at one of our premises had hugely helped his rehabilitation.

Children’s camps run by dedicated volunteers provide a week away for youngsters. On a visit to one of the camps, I spoke to a 13 year old boy from London’s East End. Towering above me, he described how he loved the camp and enjoyed the chance to watch wild and domesticated animals around him. Even one week away from their troubled backgrounds can make a remarkable difference to these young lives. Significant progress has been made in developing structures and resources for Young Vincentians, especially Mini Vinnies, who are aged between 7 and 11. One little girl reported that when she notices another child in the playground who appears lonely, she goes up to them and says: ‘Don’t worry, I’m a Mini Vinnie! Let’s play together’.

Lack of space prevents my going further, but these are some of the lives touched that make the job of Chairing the Trustee Board worthwhile. I conclude by thanking all those who have played a role, trustees, members, volunteers, staff and benefactors. Your work, prayers and support make a great difference to the lives of many.

Adrian Abel,
President, Chair of Trustees

Our Vision

Our Vision, which is inspired by Christ’s message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is for individuals and families who are in need to have hope together with a sense of dignity, worth, well-being and peace of mind.

Our Mission

To seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Our Values

- **Christ Centred**
We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.
- **Compassionate**
We aim to show a compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom we work.
- **Respectful**
We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.
- **Generous**
We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.
- **Responsive**
We aim to be alert to the ever changing needs in the communities in which we work and to respond accordingly in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms as well as we can.
- **Accountable**
We recognise our accountability to God and to those we seek to help; whilst acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.
- **Confidential**
We respect the confidentiality of those we help, whilst recognising that the physical and mental wellbeing of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

We strive to achieve these values through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, through prayer, friendship, mutual support and encouragement.





Strategic Report



2014-15 saw an increase in demand for our services across England and Wales.

The economic situation combined with benefit sanctions saw more people requesting help with food, heating and other needs. Spending on material assistance from our members to

those in need rose by **39%** to **£1.41m**.

Overall income has increased in the year by **£1.1m** to **£9.54m**, while overall expenditure increased by **£944k** to **£9.14m**.

In 2014-15 SVP members supported **57,867** individuals and families. Conference members provided **498,025** hours of voluntary service. **8,029** full members made **445,527** visits, giving material assistance such as food or transport on **97,665** occasions. (These figures are based on data collected from **88%** of our Conferences as of November 6th 2015). Comparable figures for last year would be 7,647 full members making 443,370 visits, giving material assistance on 89,518 occasions.

Meanwhile, our community shops saw an increase in income, both in sales and voluntary income, due in part through our restructuring and investment in performance management.

We made the difficult decision to end our long-standing project in Nottingham, transferring the women's hostel to another charity.

We provided holidays for over **1,600** disadvantaged people, and over **300** young people gained invaluable leadership training by

working as helpers at our camps.

Our youth programme continued to take our Vincentian values into primary and secondary schools as well as universities. The number of Mini Vinnies groups rose to over **160**, while youth groups for older children remained stable at around **80**.

Internationally, we worked with local SVP members to provide poverty relief in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Guyana, Grenada and Romania, to thousands of people who otherwise would not have had their needs met. A total of **£838k** was transferred to SVP partners overseas.

While legacy income remained fairly stable, we did update our legacy marketing. We also campaigned on behalf of those affected by poverty so that their voices were heard by policy makers and politicians empowered to bring about social change.

Oxera Consulting LLP, one of Europe's foremost economics consultancies, undertook an analysis of the economic effects of the SVP's activities, and concluded that 'the SVP's visiting and befriending activities have substantial economic effects, with the benefits significantly exceeding the costs, with a benefit-cost ratio of **2.9**.'

“Our **youth programme** continued to take our Vincentian values into **primary and secondary schools**”

■ SVP members step out against poverty





Friends for life

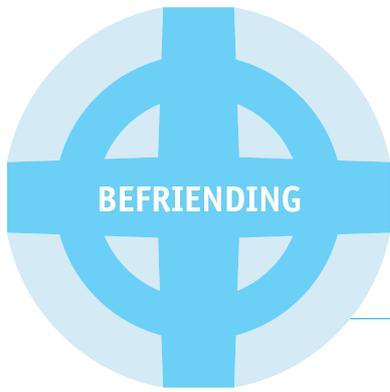
Risks and Uncertainties

Looking ahead to 2015-16, we anticipate the following risks and uncertainties which may impact on funding and on other areas of our work.

- **More pressure on our services due to government's austerity measures**
- **Impact of reduced availability of statutory external funding**
- **Declining public trust in charities following recent events in the sector**

“The economic situation combined with benefit sanctions saw more people requesting help with food, heating and other needs”





Visits and Assistance by Members

All across England and Wales, our volunteer members in over 1000 Conferences are involved in a wide range of activities that help and support the sick, the disabled, the housebound, the isolated and anyone identified as 'in need'.

They do everything from visiting for a cup of coffee and chat to providing food, or organising trips, walks and visits for individuals and groups. Our goal is through effective recruitment and training to develop a body of members able to progress the Society's work of charity. Progress towards our objectives in our 2013-14 report:

- **Monitor the impact of our two new Membership Officers as part of our drive to increase recruitment.**

We saw some good returns in terms of **15** new Conferences started.

- **Continue the development of recruitment teams in Central Councils.**

We encouraged Central Councils to set up a recruitment team and have made some progress towards achieving this. We worked closely with our Safeguarding Officer to review and make clearer our 'Recruitment Procedures'. This essential task was completed and the revised procedures are now distributed to all Conferences.

- **Consider the revision and simplification of our members' induction programme.**

The process of reviewing and simplifying Induction training material is continuing and will reach fruition in 2016.

- **Continue with the training of Trainers, District and Central Council Presidents and Youth Co-ordinators.**

In addition to the many Information Sessions and Induction Courses provided across the country, the following National training was achieved: We trained: **7** new trainers in November 2014; **7** District Presidents in July 2014 and **6** new Central Council Presidents in May 2014. In general, all training opportunities are well received by the participants but encouraging members to commit the time to take part is difficult and some courses are set up but have to be cancelled due to lack of take-up.

In the year ahead we will:

- **Launch a major recruitment drive**
- **Update the development programme for members and officers**
- **Ensure the organisation of the Society is effective and efficient at helping those in need**

■ Befriending is at the heart of what we do





■ An SVP lunch for older people in Watford

MICHAEL, a retired merchant seaman living in a residential home, found it difficult to build lasting friendships. When Ray, a local SVP member, visited the home he noticed Michael on the side lines, shy and awkward. Ray introduced himself and after a brief conversation, suggested that Michael may like to be visited. The initial response was not favourable. Michael had grown wary of human contact and been hardened by the loss of a family member. But Ray didn't give up. Over the coming weeks, Michael agreed to accept a visit, and little by little became more involved in the social life of the community.



“They do everything from visiting for a cup of coffee and chat to providing food, or organising trips, walks and visits for individuals and groups.





Community Support Projects

All across England and Wales, our volunteer members in over 1000 Conferences are involved in a wide range of activities that help and support the sick, the disabled, the housebound, the isolated and anyone identified as 'in need'.

Community Support Projects (CSP) is the collective term we use to describe the project work we do in the community and includes our Community Shops, Furniture Stores, Advice and Support Centres. In addition we run Supported Accommodation and have a contract with the Home Office to manage and run two local Approved Premises.

These projects, whilst unique in their make-up, all serve a single purpose which is to provide a Christian and Vincentian practical response to serve those in need in the local community that complements the work of the Conferences. They help provide for the multiple material, emotional and practical needs of people in less affluent communities. The community shops may resemble charity shops, but their purpose is not just to raise money for the charity. They provide affordable goods to the community, offer local employment and volunteering opportunities, are a visible presence of Christian concern and reduce wastage of materials that would otherwise finish up in landfill. These projects extend the work of our members into the local community in a very visible way. Many of the shops are associated with local SVP furniture stores, where goods are made available free of charge to families in need through a referral process. In our advice and support centres we are able to offer additional services such as:

- Debt advice and general counselling
- Adult community learning opportunities
- Housing advice, advocacy and tenant support
- Welfare benefits advice
- General advice and support
- Vocational training and employment support
- Café and healthy eating facilities
- Supported volunteering programmes for adults

Our three supported accommodation centres provide for the needs of homeless people. Our two approved premises care primarily for offenders released from prison on licence. Our support is not just about relieving physical need; it's also about providing a listening ear and emotional support for the vulnerable and marginalised.

Progress towards our objectives in our 2013-14 report:

- **Grow shops and furniture stores where there is an existing SVP infrastructure.**
Although we did not open any new shops, we re-located our Birkenhead shop, increased its performance and enabled it to offer more to people in the local area.
- **Increase gift aid sign-ups on donated goods.**
We have grown our gift aid sign ups by 50.4% in 2014/15.
- **Develop support services, expanding the services we offer in Leeds and Bradford.**
We have continued to expand our services in West Yorkshire through trials in expanding our debt and advice support with local probation services and expanding our community learning support in Bradford. We have also continued to integrate our project support so that we can act as a "one stop shop" for those who need not only advice and support but also practical help through providing furniture and white goods to these people in need.
- **Source more second hand furniture and white goods, and support the re-use agenda.**
We have developed new and existing partnerships with local authorities to source more re-usable goods through collections of furniture and household goods and electrical goods from Household Waste and Recycling sites and social housing providers; this year we have also built relationships with the Furniture Re-Use Network to access more essential goods from manufacturers, suppliers and businesses.

"They help provide for the multiple material, emotional and practical needs of people in less affluent communities.



STUART lived in Manhattan for 10 years working as a barman and an artist. A few years ago, after moving back to London, he found himself in a hostel in Shoreditch, before he was eventually rehoused to a flat. At that time all he had was a deck chair and a portable television. He found the SVP shop in Hackney where he was able to get sheets, pots and pans at a really low price. Because of the kindness showed to him, Stuart kept coming into the shop to say hello and to have a chat and to buy things he needed. He then started volunteering at the shop and helped out full time for around 14 months. When the assistant manager left, he took on his duties whilst still a volunteer and when the job came up, he was hired. This kind of journey is not unusual in the SVP.

- **Develop new revenue streams and new opportunities to grow income.**

We have developed a successful operation to access re-usable white goods via a commercial partner; also we have grown the volume of goods supplied to local authorities using the welfare fund to supply referral clients. This year we have increased the funds successfully applied for on behalf of clients to help access goods needed for furnishing their homes. Improved retail standards, staff training and development and a focus on managing stock are starting to show increased revenue through our shops.

- **Having integrated CHAS Bradford into the West Yorkshire region we will look at restructuring the area to improve efficiencies.**

Following the investment in developing a new structure and tackling the key issues in West

Yorkshire CSP, we are now working at utilising the infrastructure more effectively by our vans working evenings and weekends and shops opening for full days on Saturdays, alongside improved scheduling of work and increased responsibilities of the team.

- **A review of our supported accommodation project in Nottingham is planned for 2014-15.**

In 2014/15 we rationalised some of our projects, and our Nottingham Supported Accommodation project has been re-housed from SVP to NCHA in Nottingham where we believe the project will gain more support and be able to expand locally. We have expanded our supported accommodation projects in Tyne with an additional 3 self-contained flats, giving us a total of 21 flats, supporting an average of 42 homeless people (both men and women) per year.

We are focused on strengthening the infrastructure of this organisation by revisiting the strategic plan, the governance that surrounds all of our projects and ensuring that we have robust internal systems and processes in place to deliver our strategic objectives.

In the year ahead we will:

- **Open an additional 3 shops**
- **Create a development fund for investment and growth from a variety of sources**
- **Develop the St Vincent's helping locally brand and establish consistency across all units**
- **Develop a national training plan for all staff**





Holidays and Camps

Our 7 holiday homes and 6 children's camps provide a much needed break for families and children many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds and who, except for the SVP, might not have a holiday at all.

Many children attending camp are sponsored by local Conferences as well as Central and District Councils. For example, a single-parent family of five children who had lived most of their young lives in a squalid refugee camp was sponsored by a local Conference. With their support, the three eldest children were sent on their first ever holiday to the Welsh countryside where in addition to abseiling, crabbing and forest walking, they saw a live cow for the first time. Another sponsored thirteen year old with behavioural and mental health problems came to camp after having spent eighteen months excluded from the classroom on account of her disruptive behaviour. At the end of camp, she said, "this is the first time anyone has liked me enough to put up with me and not just lock me away when I gave them a hard time." And an eight year old, a far too world weary child, who reported at the beginning of his week that he expected camp "would be as rotten as everything else in my life" went home wearing a huge smile, clutching an armful of camp awards and vowing that he would come back every year until we threw him out.

The camps, including one for deaf children, offer an enormous range of activities, from seal watching and mini marathons on Holy Island to rafting and gorge walking in the Welsh mountains. Children get involved in sports, crafts, and talent shows, as well as having excursions to swimming pools or the beach. This year, over **1,300** children attended camp.

Progress towards our objectives in our 2013-14 report:

- **Continue to develop the training for camp personnel, paying special attention to safeguarding, health and safety and Vincentian ethos.**
- **Explore how SVP Camps could develop in future years to best meet the needs of the young people attending and to enable more Central Councils to participate.**
- **Source funding to develop and enhance existing SVP campsites and buildings.**

In 2014/2015

Other than improving training in safeguarding and health and safety for all camp volunteers, little progress was made towards these goals; we identified the lack of a camps coordinator as the main reason for this, and plan to address this.

Highlights:

- Over 1,300 children attended camp and had a great holiday
- Over 300 young people gained invaluable leadership training by working as helpers at our camps
- Over 300 people enjoyed a break at one of our holiday homes

In the year ahead we will:

- **Create a new position of Camps Coordinator in order to ensure all camps are run to a consistently high standard in line with SVP policies and to provide a safe, enjoyable and affordable holiday experience for children and their families**
- **Continue to develop training programmes for camp personnel, paying special attention to safeguarding, health and safety and Vincentian ethos**
- **Explore the development of a more formal young leaders programme to ensure future sustainability and to protect and honour an enviable camps heritage**
- **Introduce standard form budgeting and reporting tools for all camps**
- **Re-open one long running camp which had gone into abeyance due to lack of volunteers**





■ Enjoying the beach at an SVP camp

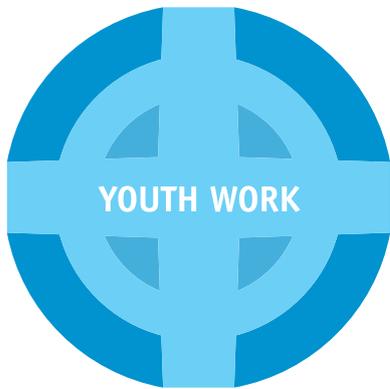
SVP SUMMER CAMPS give children from disadvantaged households new experiences; sometimes they struggle, sometimes they shine.

Jimmy from inner city Liverpool was the oldest of five siblings. When his father died suddenly, he found himself trying to fill his dad's shoes. At 14, he was caring for the younger ones and helping his mother in all kinds of ways. The pressure and responsibility mounted up until his mother realised he was suffering from stress.

She decided to send him on an SVP camp for a rest, and he spent a week on an Outward Bound camp in Snowdonia, organised by SVP volunteers. He loved the exciting activities: canoeing, gorge walking, rock climbing. But even at camp his natural sense of responsibility prompted him to comfort a homesick boy and to help the younger ones in the more challenging activities. His leadership skills did not go unnoticed by the Outward Bound team, and at the end of the week they offered him a Skills for Life Award Scholarship!



“this is the **first** time anyone has liked me enough to put up with me and not just lock me away”



Youth Development

We have continued to develop a youth programme which takes our Vincentian values, especially the befriending of others, into primary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities.

'Mini Vinnies' using child friendly resources, gives primary school children an introduction to the Vincentian life-style. Mini Vinnies have their own special pledge, prayer and song and are locally run by a trained and safeguarded Mini Vinnie Coordinator. The Mini Vinnie programme continued to grow, reaching a total of **168** groups. Youth SVP provides 11-18 year olds with an opportunity to engage in voluntary work in their local community whilst developing their faith and spirituality. We currently have around **80** active Youth SVP Conferences. Some of these are based in parishes, but the majority operate in schools where members meet either at lunch time or as an after school club. Youth SVP members may engage in "buddying" schemes in which, for example, they befriend and look after younger children in their school. Other activities include visiting the elderly in nursing homes, reading schemes in neighbouring primary schools or arranging gardening or parties for the elderly. Youth members meet regularly to pray, plan and discuss Christian issues, and are overseen by an adult Vincentian Coordinator.

SVP 1833, whose name recalls the year in which the Society was started, is aimed at young adults between 18 and 30-something. It provides opportunities to link with other Conferences in the Society.

Progress towards our objectives in our 2013-14 report:

- **Raise the profile of Young Vincentians in the wider Catholic community.**

The expansion of the Minnie Vinnies has been widely reported in the Catholic press and has brought much praise from the hierarchy.

- **Develop the national Young Vincentian Development Officer structure to support proactive youth recruitment across England and Wales.**

We re-defined and co-ordinated the administrative process, including charging strategy, to support Mini Vinnies development; furthermore, we trained 9 new local YVDOs.

- **Enhance the links between Young Vincentians and mainstream SVP.**

We encouraged all youth SVP groups to liaise with their local Conferences and Conference Presidents to facilitate youth groups in feeling part of the local SVP family.

In the year ahead we will:

- **Contact all Catholic primary and secondary schools and universities with information about Young Vincentians, including the newly branded B-attitude section, advertising our resources and inviting them to express further interest**

- **Continue to recruit and train Young Vincentian Development Officers**

- **Continue to expand Mini Vinnies across England and Wales**

- **Review all resources for the 11 – 18 age-range and conduct research to identify drawbacks in setting up new groups**

- **Write and publish 'Liturgical Year C' resource for Youth SVP**

- **Establish regular communication with all participating groups, including improving the Young Vincentians website and begin to develop an e-communications strategy**





OUR MINI VINNIES, aged from 7 to 11, are encouraged to put their faith into action by looking out for other children who are in need, and then helping them. At a meeting of the group in St. Mary’s School, Whitstable, the Mini Vinnies coordinator asked the children if they had done anything during the week to help others. One of the girls, Sophie, aged 8, said that during her lunchtime play, she noticed a younger child sitting all by herself and looking very lonely. She went over to her and said, ‘Hi! I’m a Mini Vinnie, and I am here to help you’. She then spent the breaktime with the little girl until they went back to class. These children are learning from an early age to take care of others.



“The Mini Vinnie programme continued to grow, reaching a total of 168 groups”



SVP International - Twinnage

Twinnage was established in 1961 in response to a plea from the Pope for the laity in the developed countries to help those less fortunate.



Through linking Conferences in England and Wales with their counterparts overseas we aim to create a unique worldwide community of love and solidarity, dedicated to sharing the necessities of life with as many of the world's poor as possible. Whether it's SVP Conferences in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Guyana, Grenada or Romania we provide practical support to assist our fellow members in those

countries in their work with those suffering from often desperate poverty in their communities. Progress towards our objectives in our 2013-14 report:

- **Undertake a 'root and branch' review of the entire Twinnage operation.**

We undertook a 'root and branch' review. From this a strategic plan has been developed to enable us to develop the work of Twinnage and enhance its role as a core activity of the wider Society.

- **Continue to track Twinnage payments and ensure the legal demands relating to preventing money laundering are fully satisfied.**

We have maintained detailed records of all receipts, reports and other evidence received for remittances sent. In addition, the National Twinnage Officer personally visited Grenada and Guyana with two other members to see at first hand projects being funded from England and Wales, and to develop project applications to use some legacy funds which were designated to be spent in these areas.

“we aim to **create a unique worldwide community of love and solidarity**”

- **Extend our support to the Society in South Sudan to assist them in their work with refugees whilst seeking to keep the ongoing programmes fully operational.**

Our Disaster relief work sent a total of **£18,100** to assist our members in Juba (South Sudan) provide regular food supplies to refugees displaced by the fighting in their country.

- **Maintain our work in support of our members in our other five twin countries through Twinnage, projects, student sponsorship, baby feeding, street children homes and other works.**

A total of **1,788** Conferences in our twinned countries were directly supported by our Conferences in England and Wales. Of these **1,532** Conferences were in India, **151** in Sudan, **25** in South Sudan, **31** in Grenada, **33** in Romania and **16** in Guyana.

- **Respond to situations of immediate need throughout the world from our Disaster Fund.**

Our Disaster relief work sent £11,419 to Uganda (for the refugee relief work with displaced South Sudanese). £8,100 was sent to the International Council General to assist their work with refugees in the Middle East.

Highlights:

- **£838,305** of grants made to our Twinned Societies in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Guyana, Grenada and Romania and to disaster relief elsewhere.
- Our Sudan appeal funded medical treatment for over **27,000** people, clean water for **30,000** people in Khartoum, regular meals for **4,000** as part of the Baby Feeding programme and provided homes for **25** street children in Khartoum and vocational training for over **400** young people at the Lulugo Centre in Juba.
- Our small project scheme funded **77** local Conference based projects in India.
- Our student sponsorship scheme gave valuable support to **1016** students in schools colleges and universities throughout India.



The year ahead we aim to increase our help to developing countries. We will:

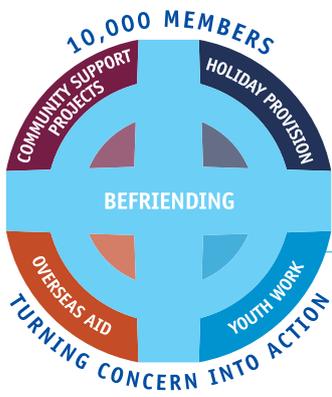
- **Improve governance and management in order to secure the future of Twinnage as a core activity of the SVP for England and Wales**
- **Minimise the impact of Conferences going into abeyance and the resultant discontinuation of Twinnage agreements**
- **Clarify the scope and sustainability of the Twinnage programme and its content and balance over time**
- **Promote the activities of Twinnage and improve the balance between public subscriptions and Society generated funds**
- **Benefit the SVP (E&W) through the promotion of Twinnage activities**

CISLEY is a sixty five year old woman living alone in the village of Vendome in Grenada. She has been farming for most of her life growing crops like chives, thyme and cabbages to support herself.

Twelve years ago she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a mastectomy. Her illness made it very difficult for her to continue farming, resulting in a shortage of both food and medication. This was when the SVP Beaulieu Conference intervened and began providing her with food and medicine from monies received from the Twinnage programme. This support, along with the regular visits from Conference members, has made a significant difference to her ability to meet her basic needs and to continue her battle against cancer.



“A total of **1,788** Conferences in our twinned countries were directly supported by our Conferences in England and Wales.



Financial Summary

We have grown considerably this year in response to increased demand for the services of our Conference members and improvements in the performance of our shops and furniture stores.



Overall income has increased in the year by **£1.1m** to **£9.54m**. This was predominantly driven by an increase in income at our shops and furniture stores – both as sales and voluntary income received as donations and grants to provide services.

Voluntary income increased **6%** to **£3.63m**. This was helped by an increase in legacy income of **38%** which brought the total amount we received from legacies to **£682k**. The

Society is very grateful to the people who choose to leave a gift in their will to ensure that the SVP can continue to serve people in need in the future. There was an increase in donations to International Twinnage of **£14k** bringing the total International Twinnage income to **£854k** (2014: £840k), including internal grants received from Conferences. This resulted in grants of **£838k** in the year to our overseas partners.

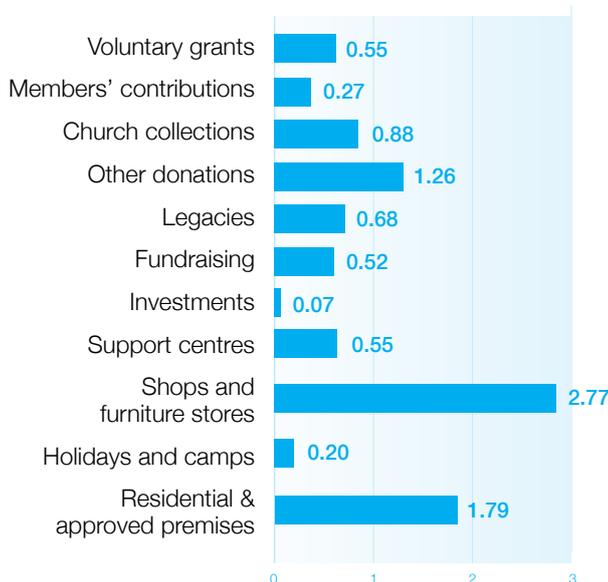
Overall expenditure increased by **£944k** to **£9.14m** (2014: £8.20m). A large part of this increase was direct spending on visits and material assistance given to individuals and families. The vast majority of this spending is by Conferences and their spending on material assistance increased **39%** to **£1.41m**. Increases in the expenditure of shops

and furniture stores and support centres were also recorded as expected.

Net movement of funds after investment gains and transfers was a surplus of **£514k**, compared with the previous year's surplus of £231k. Our cash position increased by **£391k**, from £4.28m to **£4.67m**, as a result of the cash inflow from operating activities and the sale of property. Free reserves levels have increased by **£546k** from £3.93m to **£4.47m**. This level of reserve represents five months' worth of anticipated future spending. Of these free reserves, **59%** are under the control of local Conferences. The remaining free reserves are spread between our projects and funds held nationally.

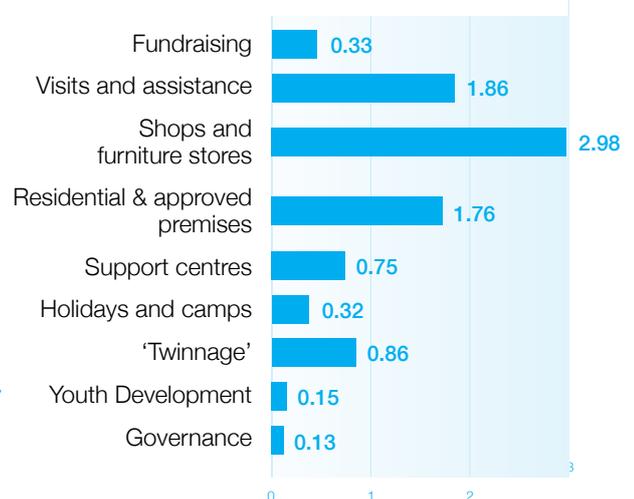
During the year we brought the accounting for shops and furniture stores back in house and this has proved a great success. We anticipate further benefits to shops and furniture stores in the coming year from reliable and timely management accounts. Over the next year we plan to review our Society wide financial systems and procedures. The structure of the Society means that creating the accounts is a complicated exercise in consolidation and this is unlikely to change. We do however hope that going forward we will be able to simplify some of our financial processes to help the dedicated volunteers who serve as treasurers.

Income



Total income - £9.54million

Expenditure



Total expenditure - £9.14million

Structure, governance and management



The charity's objective is:

To relieve poverty, both material and emotional, in England and Wales and abroad, without differentiation on the grounds of race, colour, creed, ideology or gender.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of a minimum of nine and a maximum of thirteen persons, including the Chair. The Board is responsible for the overall governance of the St Vincent de Paul Society. On the election of a new President, seven Trustees are nominated by the President. They include a Vice-President, an honorary Treasurer, and at least three current Central Council Presidents. The Board must be formally approved by the National Council to serve for a period of five years. Up to five new Trustees are selected halfway through the President's five year term to act as continuation Trustees. These continuation Trustees remain in post until the next President's mid-term. Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive, who is supported by a group of senior managers. The Chief Executive attends all Board meetings, and other senior managers attend as required. The selection of new Trustees should seek to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities. An induction programme is offered to all new Trustees to ensure they are briefed on the charity's objectives, strategy and activities. The Trustees meet at least four times a year to review the performance of the charity, both financially and in meeting its charitable objectives. To discharge its governance responsibilities effectively, the Board has created a number of Sub Committees formed of Trustees and operational managers.

“The selection of new Trustees should seek to maintain a balance of skills and experience appropriate to the charity's activities”

Sub-Committees of the Board

These committees, with delegated powers from the main Board of Trustees, are:

- **Finance, Admin and Resources** (*quarterly*)
 - reviews and approves financial results, budgets and other financial governance matters.
- **Community Support Projects** (*quarterly*)
 - supports and develops sustainable community projects in appropriate areas.
- **Membership** (*quarterly*) - reviews membership issues, including communications, internal relationships, the structure of the Society, recruitment, training at all levels and oversight of youth matters.
- **Audit** (*half yearly*) - oversees financial risks and reviews control systems.
- **Health and Safety** - monitors SVP compliance with latest statutory requirements.
- **Twinnage** (*quarterly*) - reviews overseas activities from local funding to international grant applications.
- **Social Justice** (*quarterly*) - explores opportunities for SVP contributions to the poverty agenda, both within and outside the Society.
- **Communications** (*quarterly*) - supports internal and external communications.



■ SVP delegation after CSAN meeting with Parliamentarians





Structure, governance and management

Governance, risk management and internal controls

The Trustees regularly review the risks faced by the charity to develop appropriate controls and deliver on the charity's strategic aims. The main risks monitored include:

- Delivery of safe, effective and personalised poverty relief especially in the context of charitable activities involving children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial sustainability, especially in the context of the current economic situation.

The SVP has three subsidiary undertakings:

- The David Young Charity was originally set up in 1860 to aid poor relatives of the Young family. Under a new scheme (1978) the charity aims to assist, in addition to Young family relatives, those who are in financial difficulties and who, because they are members of the Society, are not eligible to seek support from the Society itself.
- The Pen-y-Pound House Fund was formed in 1973 to alleviate poverty in the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff.
- The TB Hunt Fund was established with funds left to the SVP by Thomas Bernard Hunt, who died in 1928. His desire was to alleviate poverty among the Catholic poor in the areas of Leicester and Market Harborough. The SVP distributes grants on a quarterly basis to people in need.

Investments

The Board of Trustees sets the overall performance and ethical parameters within which our investment managers operate. The investment managers report quarterly. Each year they meet with the Finance, Administration and Resources Committee to review performance and outlook. Performance is measured against the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers balanced index.

The primary objectives of our investment portfolio are to:

- generate income to fund operational costs.
- provide capital growth to fund new activities.
- offer diversity across asset classes including fixed interest investments and medium risk equities.

Investment Restrictions

The Trustees have adopted an ethical investment policy in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Reserves

The Trustees annually review the level of reserves to be held by the charity to ensure they are adequate. Free reserves of the charity are considered to be its unrestricted funds not designated for specific spending, less any fixed assets held within unrestricted funds. Our reserves target is to hold a minimum of three months' spending in free reserves. Free reserves of the charity were **£4.47m** at 31 March 2015 which represents five months of expenditure. We are currently holding five months spending in free reserves as we plan to invest further in our systems infrastructure such as our database and website, expand our community support operations, and develop our youth programmes. Our free reserves are held across a range of projects and do not represent funds available centrally at National Office.

“The Trustees **regularly review the risks** faced by the charity to **develop appropriate controls**”



Management and Policies

Grant making

The St Vincent de Paul Society is not primarily a grant making organisation but does make limited grants to individuals in need through the work of local Conferences. In addition, some grants are made to organisations where members are directly involved in volunteering. As well as this, grants are made to overseas SVP Conferences (Twinnage). All such grants are approved, in advance, by the Trustees who ensure that appropriate controls and reporting frameworks are in place.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that Kingston Smith be appointed as auditors of the charitable company was passed at the annual general meeting. The Trustees confirm, so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware. They have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to ensure they are aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees who are also directors of the St Vincent de Paul Society for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice.
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in England and Wales governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

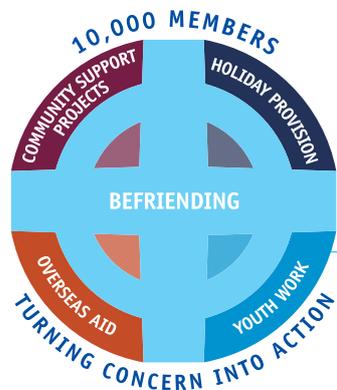
Public Benefit

The Board of Trustees has given regard to the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public. The Board of Trustees has complied with the duties set out in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This report outlines how our achievements during 2014 - 15 have benefitted the public, either directly or indirectly.

The Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) was approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees (in their capacity as company directors) on 27th November 2015 and signed on their behalf by Adrian Abel, National President & Chair of Trustees.

Adrian Abel,
National President & Chair of Trustees





Independent Auditors Report

to the members of St Vincent de Paul Society

We have audited the financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society for the year ended 31 March 2015 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement, and the related notes.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. In addition we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to

identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures or trustees' remunerations specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Kingston Smith LLP

Neil Finlayson, Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Kingston Smith LLP,
Statutory Auditor: Devonshire House, 60 Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7AD

21st December 2015

Kingston Smith is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Kingston Smith is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales

Legal and Administrative details



Status

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 March 1996 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1996.

Governing document

The St Vincent de Paul Society was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the organisation and is governed under its articles of association dated 13 March 1996.

Company Number: 3174679

Charity Number: 1053992

Registered and Principal Office

9, Larcom Street, London, SE17 1RX
Administrative Details

Trustees

Adrian Abel (*National President*)
Ann Harris (*Senior Vice President*)
Greg Pelham (*Vice President*)
Patrick Greenidge (*National Treasurer*)
Dominic Ion
Ian Mawdsley
Helen O'Shea
Richard Palmi
Mick Reynolds
Raymond Daley (*from 5th Sept 2015*)
Michael Willcock (*from 5th Sept 2015*)
Jo Regan (*from 5th Sept 2015*)
Ingrid Phillips (*until 27th Nov. 2015*)
Mike Walmsley (*until 5th Sept 2015*)
Mike Brady (*until 5th Sept 2015*)

The Senior Management Team

Chief Executive Officer: **Elizabeth Palmer**
Deputy CEO: **Kate Nightingale**
Head of Finance: **Clare Dalton** (*from Oct 2014*)
(*June 2013 - August 2014: Henry Broadbent*)
Administration and Membership Manager:
Matthew Stockton
Communications, Marketing and Fundraising
Manager: **Bryan Allen**

Patrons

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Ann Widdecombe
John Battle

Auditors

Kingston Smith LLP,
Devonshire House,
60 Goswell Road,
London EC1M 7AD

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, 80
Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ

Solicitors

Vincents, 10 Camden Place,
Preston, Lancashire PR1 3JHL

Investment Advisers

Investec Wealth & Investment
2 Castlefield Court, Church Street,
Reigate, Surrey RH2 0AH



In 2007, frustrated with not having the capacity to help people in need in Camberley, John set up an SVP group. Soon after this, a man approached the group as he needed a bed. From then on word spread and demand for furniture rocketed. Tragically, many of those seeking help were victims of domestic abuse (both men and women) and asylum seekers being placed in temporary accommodation. The SVP group started out with a trailer to deliver furniture, but was then given a van. Over the years the small project grew and grew, and now has a furniture depot that provides white goods and furniture to those who need it and can't afford to pay for it. Many of the people who have been helped support the SVP in return by volunteering, and along the way find friends, confidence and sometimes even paid employment. The Camberley depot supports around 21 families a month – that's 252 families a year.

**CASE
STUDY**

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales)

Consolidated statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2015

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2015 Total £	2014 Total £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	2	3,204,161	423,971	-	3,628,132	3,412,624
Activities for generating funds	3	516,470	5,935	-	522,405	517,579
Investment income		51,548	20,988	-	72,536	74,170
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Shops & furniture stores		2,491,536	276,120	-	2,767,656	2,196,180
Holidays & camps		153,733	50,000	-	203,733	126,132
Residential provision & approved premises		260,562	1,529,372	-	1,789,934	1,752,997
Support centres		28,223	523,355	-	551,578	360,409
Total incoming resources	4	6,706,233	2,829,741	-	9,535,974	8,440,091
Resources expended						
Costs of generating funds						
	5	331,341	735	-	332,076	204,182
Charitable activities						
Visits & assistance to individuals & families		1,662,080	201,113	-	1,863,193	1,554,306
Shops & furniture stores		2,398,486	585,810	-	2,984,296	2,830,865
Residential provision & approved premises		344,297	1,416,816	-	1,761,113	1,787,935
Support centres		248,074	498,409	-	746,483	572,553
Holidays & camps		309,711	7,619	-	317,330	264,096
Twinnage		729,611	131,549	-	861,160	779,645
Youth development programme		112,455	31,651	-	144,106	68,356
Governance costs		134,519	-	-	134,519	138,271
Total resources expended	6	6,270,574	2,873,702	-	9,144,276	8,200,209
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains & transfers						
	7	435,659	(43,961)	-	391,698	239,882
Transfers between funds						
	21	93,575	(93,575)	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals						
		529,234	(137,536)	-	391,698	239,882
Realised gains						
		4,346	-	-	4,346	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year						
		533,580	(137,536)	-	396,044	239,882
Unrealised gains/(losses)						
Deficit on revaluation of fixed assets		63,011	20,212	34,817	118,040	96,362
Surplus/(Deficit) on revaluation of assets for sale		-	-	-	-	(85,000)
		95	-	-	95	(20,000)
Net movement in funds	21	596,686	(117,324)	34,817	514,179	231,244
Funds at the start of the year		6,747,029	1,571,886	431,154	8,750,069	8,518,825
Funds at the end of the year		7,343,715	1,454,562	465,971	9,264,248	8,750,069

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 21 to the financial statements.

Balance Sheets

31 March 2015

	Note	The group		The charity	
		2015 £	2014 £	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	12	2,177,456	2,287,618	2,177,456	2,287,618
Investments	13	1,805,214	1,662,975	1,239,318	1,156,478
Housing associations	14	6	6	6	6
Investments in subsidiaries	15	-	-	1	1
		<u>3,982,676</u>	<u>3,950,599</u>	<u>3,416,781</u>	<u>3,444,103</u>
Current assets					
Assets held for sale	17	612,000	615,000	612,000	615,000
Stock		11,801	18,347	6,347	16,141
Debtors	18	495,014	286,385	581,129	346,873
Short term deposits		1,077,347	1,036,900	1,014,494	974,312
Cash at bank and in hand		3,594,344	3,243,334	3,507,806	3,150,912
		<u>5,790,506</u>	<u>5,199,966</u>	<u>5,721,776</u>	<u>5,103,238</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	19	<u>508,934</u>	<u>400,496</u>	<u>544,986</u>	<u>398,817</u>
Net current assets		<u>5,281,572</u>	<u>4,799,470</u>	<u>5,176,790</u>	<u>4,704,421</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>9,264,248</u>	<u>8,750,069</u>	<u>8,593,571</u>	<u>8,148,524</u>
Net assets	20	<u>9,264,248</u>	<u>8,750,069</u>	<u>8,593,571</u>	<u>8,148,524</u>
Funds	21				
Endowment funds		465,971	431,154	146,188	139,226
Restricted funds		1,454,562	1,571,886	1,324,705	1,454,969
Unrestricted funds					
Revaluation reserve		509,570	509,475	509,570	509,475
Designated funds		2,362,550	2,312,420	2,362,550	2,312,420
General funds		4,471,595	3,925,134	4,250,558	3,732,434
Total funds		<u>9,264,248</u>	<u>8,750,069</u>	<u>8,593,571</u>	<u>8,148,524</u>

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 27th November 2015 and signed on their behalf by



Adrian Abel
National President

Consolidated cashflow statement

For the year ended 31 March 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	a	483,506	209,468
Returns on investment		72,536	74,170
Capital expenditure and financial investment	b	(164,585)	(226,107)
Management of liquid resources	c	(40,447)	(587,268)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash for the year		351,010	(529,737)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Increase/(Decrease) in cash for the year		351,010	(529,737)
Cash inflow/(outflow) from a decrease in liquid resources	c	40,447	587,268
Movement in net funds for the year		391,457	57,531
Net funds at beginning of year		4,280,234	4,222,699
Net funds at end of year	d	4,671,691	4,280,230

Notes to the Cashflow Statement

	2015 £	2014 £
a. Reconciliation of net incoming/(outgoing) resources to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		
Net incoming resources before revaluations	391,698	239,882
Investment income	(72,536)	(74,170)
Depreciation	214,541	199,217
Loss on disposal of assets held for sale	43,448	13,122
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	108,438	(359,077)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(208,629)	189,211
Decrease in stocks	6,546	1,283
Net cash inflow from operating activities	483,506	209,468
b. Capital expenditure and financial investment		
Proceeds from sale of listed investments	44,446	-
Purchase of investments	(28,145)	(6,000)
Increase in cash held	(36,154)	-
Proceeds from disposal of assets held for sale	130,970	5,269
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(275,702)	(225,376)
	(164,585)	(226,107)
c. Management of liquid resources		
Net deposit to/(withdrawal from) short term deposits	40,447	587,268
d. Analysis of Net funds		

	As at 1 April 2014 £	Cash flows £	As at 31 March 2015 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,243,334	351,010	3,594,344
Short term deposits	1,036,900	40,447	1,077,347
	<u>4,280,234</u>	<u>391,457</u>	<u>4,671,691</u>

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2015

1 Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006. They follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, The Friends of St. Vincent de Paul Limited, Society of St Vincent de Paul (England and Wales) Trading Limited and the David Young's Charity on a line by line basis. The Society also holds a controlling interest in the Pen Y Pound House Fund. These are included within the group accounts. The results of the charity comprise the results of the National Office, Conferences and Special Works of the Society. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented because it has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of SORP 2005.

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis after taking into account future budgets and cash forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the date of this report. As a result, the Trustees have identified no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt about the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources

- b) Voluntary income received by way of donations to the Society is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods are recognised in the accounts in the period in which they are realised. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- c) Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.
- d) Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which entitlement is notified, and there is adequate certainty of receipt and where the amount can be reliably ascertained.

Resources expended

- e) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants payable are recognised when authorised for payment.

Allocation of support costs incurred at the Society's administrative centres

- f) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where relevant, the salary, office and premises costs of the administrative centres which represent the charity's support costs, are apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Visits & assistance to individuals & families	46%
Shops & furniture stores	14%
Holidays & camps	1%
Residential care & approved premises	6%
Twinnage	1%
Youth development programme	8%
Support centres	3%
Governance	10%
Cost of generating funds	11%
	<u>100%</u>

- g) Governance costs relate to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- h) The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the group and Society in raising funds for the charitable work.

Fixed assets

- i) Assets are capitalised at cost, except properties which are stated at valuation as detailed in note 12.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% straight line
Leasehold buildings	over the period of the lease
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and equipment	20% straight line
Minibuses and caravans	20% straight line

Land is not depreciated.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Funds

- j) Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the fund.
- k) Designated funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the Trustees of the Society.
- l) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.
- m) Endowment funds: these represent two permanent endowment funds for which the assets must be held permanently by the Society. Further details of these funds are shown in note 21.

Operating leases

- n) Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

Investments

- o) Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gains or losses on revaluation or disposal for the period are taken to the statement of financial activities. The Trustees consider short term deposits to be liquid resources.

Assets held for sale

- p) Surplus property which is in the process of being sold at the year end is taken out of the fixed assets and included at valuation.

Stocks

- q) Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. In general, cost is determined on a first in first out basis and includes transport and handling costs. Net realisable value is the price at which stocks can be sold in the normal course of business after allowing for the costs of realisation. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

Pensions

- r) The Society operates a stakeholder group personal pension plan. In addition, the Society contributes to the personal pension schemes of a number of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the schemes by the Society to the funds. The Society has no liability under the schemes other than for the payment of those contributions.

2. Voluntary income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2015 Total	2014 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Members' contributions	265,346	-	-	265,346	261,296
Church collections	876,317	-	-	876,317	830,070
Legacies	574,911	106,883	-	681,794	492,408
Other donations and voluntary grants	1,487,587	317,088	-	1,804,675	1,828,850
	<u>3,204,161</u>	<u>423,971</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,628,132</u>	<u>3,412,624</u>

Voluntary income received covers a number of different charitable activities.

3. Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2015 Total	2014 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading activities	15,874	-	-	15,874	18,089
Income from national raffle	53,965	-	-	53,965	51,514
Other fundraising activities	314,090	5,935	-	320,025	324,790
Rental and other income	132,541	-	-	132,541	123,186
	<u>516,470</u>	<u>5,935</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>522,405</u>	<u>517,579</u>

Income from activities for generating funds finances a number of different charitable activities.

4. Total incoming resources for the year

This is stated after including the following restricted grants:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Visits & assistance to individuals and families		
Porta Pia	35,000	35,000
Terra Firma	30,000	30,000
Other grants received (under £10,000)	2,300	-
Shops & furniture stores		
Bradford City Council - Furniture provision	24,930	27,423
Bradford City Council - Advice and support	89,093	98,002
The Cloth Workers Foundation	10,000	-
Other grants received (under £10,000)	28,950	18,827
Residential provision & approved premises		
Supporting People Grant to Ozanam House, Nottingham	122,884	153,785
Supporting People Grant to St Vincent de Paul Society Homeless Project, Tyne	85,560	98,118
Ministry of Justice Grant to St Christopher Hostel, Newcastle	597,188	581,313
Ministry of Justice Grant to Ozanam House, Newcastle	649,568	632,341
Support Centres		
Reaching Communities (RC/2/010288388)	59,173	63,051

DTI Financial Inclusion Fund	85,840	54,085
Leeds City Council-Welfare Rights	17,402	12,937
Jimbos - Leeds Community Foundation	10,000	60,000
Henry Smith Funding - Community Foundation	19,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000	-
Other grants received (Under £10,000)	17,105	27,500

5. Costs of generating funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2015 Total £	2014 Total £
Trading activities	10,332	-	-	10,332	4,433
Investment manager's fees	6,686	-	-	6,686	979
Fundraising expenses	80,290	735	-	81,025	64,132
Property expenses	70,985	-	-	70,985	4,638
Support costs (note 6)	163,048	-	-	163,048	130,000
	331,341	735	-	332,076	204,182

6. Resources expended

	Year ended 31 March 2015				2014 £
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	
Cost of generating funds (note 5)	-	-	169,028	163,048	332,076
Charitable activities					
Visits & assistance to individuals & families	47,916	-	1,451,725	363,552	1,863,193
Shops & furniture stores	1,542,260	-	1,316,716	125,320	2,984,296
Residential provision & approved premises	1,278,821	-	429,118	53,174	1,761,113
Support centres	513,019	-	204,729	28,735	746,483
Holidays & camps	-	-	301,172	16,158	317,330
Twinnage	3,654	838,305	9,733	9,468	861,160
Youth development programme	31,651	-	73,208	39,247	144,106
Governance costs	-	-	45,896	88,623	134,519
Sub-total	3,417,321	838,305	4,001,325	887,325	9,144,276
Support costs	449,598	27,045	-	(476,643)	-
	3,866,919	865,350	4,001,325	410,682	9,144,276

	Year ended 31 March 2014				2014 £
	Staff costs (note 8)	Grants (note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (note 10)	
Cost of generating funds (note 5)	-	-	74,182	130,000	204,182
Charitable activities					
Visits & assistance to individuals & families	13,336	-	1,170,378	370,592	1,554,306
Shops & furniture stores	1,509,502	-	1,263,007	58,356	2,830,865
Residential provision & approved premises	1,261,556	-	499,559	26,820	1,787,935
Support centres	319,892	-	222,904	29,757	572,553
Holidays & camps	5,352	-	254,945	3,799	264,096
Twinnage	4,240	756,653	6,229	12,523	779,645
Youth development programme	-	-	44,560	23,796	68,356
Governance costs	-	-	37,182	101,089	138,271
Sub-total	3,113,878	756,653	3,572,946	756,732	8,200,209
Support costs	420,686	5,000	-	(425,686)	-
	3,534,564	761,653	3,572,946	331,046	8,200,209

7. Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2015 £	2014 £
Depreciation	214,541	199,217
Trustees' indemnity insurance	582	250
Trustees' remuneration	nil	nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	12,772	10,370
Auditor's remuneration:		
§ Statutory audit	29,733	29,733
§ Non audit services	15,113	11,517
Operating lease rentals:		
§ Property	233,381	345,877

During the year 10 (2014: 10) trustees were reimbursed expenses. This totalled £12,772 (2014: £10,370). In addition £nil (2014: £6,300) was paid to trustees directly to third parties. Expenses related to reimbursement for travel and accommodation, subsistence, telephone, postage and stationery.

In accordance with the memorandum and articles of association, the Society paid a premium of £582 (2014: £250) for trustee indemnity insurance to the value of £5 million (2014: £5 million).

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2015 £	2014 £
Salaries and wages	3,387,227	3,109,069
Social security costs	225,653	216,550
Pension contributions	254,039	208,945
	<u>3,866,919</u>	<u>3,534,564</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments for the year were in the following bands was:

£60,000 to £69,999

This salary is financed through statutory funding

	2015 No.	2014 No.
	1	0

The average weekly number of employees (full-time equivalent) during the year was as follows:

Visits & assistance to individuals & families
Shops & furniture stores
Holidays & camps
Residential care & approved premises
Youth programme
Support centres
Twinning
Fundraising & publicity
Support staff
Governance

	2015 No.	2014 No.
	2	1
	87	80
	0	0
	44	49
	2	0
	20	17
	1	1
	4	2
	10	10
	2	2
	<u>172</u>	<u>162</u>

The Society relies substantially on voluntary services provided by its members across the country. It is not possible to quantify the value of these services to the Society.

9. Grants programme

During the year, the Society paid out grants to a number of organisations. The majority of the grants were paid to SVP societies in other countries.

	2015 No.	2014 No.
SVP India	221,205	216,336
Student scholarships programme	32,770	41,040
SVP Sudan	24,743	19,448
SVP Romania	8,000	8,250
SVP Grenada	6,300	6,000
SVP Guyana	2,172	1,740
Payments from disaster fund:		
• Sudan	340,737	305,085
• Council General International	27,029	7,588
• Philippines	-	33,878
• India	1,622	15,515
Twinning projects	55,165	71,767
South America	97,172	9,273
South Africa	7,570	8,525
Vincentians in Partnership	5,000	5,000
Vincentian Volunteers	2,000	-
Council General International	20,045	-
Other grants	13,820	12,208
	<u>865,350</u>	<u>761,653</u>

10. Support Costs

	2015 £	2014 £
Support Staff costs	418,756	420,686
Other Staff costs	74,738	99,991
Office costs	129,394	83,810
Premises costs	37,165	46,402
Bank charges	39,806	37,252
Depreciation	36,513	9,153
Other costs	48,575	43,359
Legal and professional fees	73,110	16,079
	858,057	756,732

11. Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

12. Tangible fixed assets - the group and the charity

	Freehold properties £	Leasehold property & improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles and caravans £	Totals £
Cost or valuation					
At the start of the year	1,094,804	1,207,684	1,158,797	375,901	3,837,186
Additions in year	-	84,297	157,983	33,422	275,702
Disposals in year	(2,654)	-	(143,196)	(27,548)	(173,398)
Transfer to assets held for sale	(137,150)	-	-	-	(137,150)
At the end of the year	<u>955,000</u>	<u>1,291,981</u>	<u>1,173,584</u>	<u>381,775</u>	<u>3,802,340</u>
Depreciation					
At the start of the year	92,377	217,306	899,134	340,751	1,549,568
Charge for the year	26,290	44,498	124,930	18,823	214,541
Disposals in year	-	-	(102,188)	(26,792)	(128,980)
Transfer to assets held for sale	(10,245)	-	-	-	(10,245)
At the end of the year	<u>108,422</u>	<u>261,804</u>	<u>921,876</u>	<u>332,782</u>	<u>1,624,884</u>
Net book value at 31 March 2015	<u>846,578</u>	<u>1,030,177</u>	<u>251,708</u>	<u>48,993</u>	<u>2,177,456</u>
Long Leasehold		216,000			
Short Leasehold		814,176			
		<u>1,030,176</u>			
At 31 March 2014	<u>1,002,427</u>	<u>990,378</u>	<u>259,663</u>	<u>35,150</u>	<u>2,287,618</u>
Long Leasehold		224,000			
Short Leasehold		780,437			
		<u>1,004,437</u>			

The Society's properties were valued on an existing use basis by a number of estate agents and chartered surveyors. The properties are included at 31 March 2015 at their revalued amount. The previous full valuation was in March 2007.

13. Investments

	Group 2015 £	Charity 2015 £	Group 2014 £	Charity 2014 £
Market value at the start of the year	1,662,975	1,156,478	1,560,613	1,117,912
Additions at historic cost	28,145	20,145	6,000	-
Disposals at market value	(44,446)	(44,446)	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	122,386	70,987	96,362	38,566
Market value at the end of the year	1,769,060	1,203,164	1,662,975	1,156,478
Cash held with investment managers	36,154	36,154	-	-
Total investment portfolio market value	1,805,214	1,239,318	1,662,975	1,156,478
Historic cost at the year end	1,261,385	858,542	1,251,273	837,430

All the investments are listed on the UK stock exchange and are intended to provide an investment return. Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio, as above, comprise:

	Group 2015 £	Charity 2015 £	Group 2014 £	Charity 2014 £
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	730,121	365,604	676,133	365,604
Reckitt Benck Group	-	65,250	-	-
Schroder Unit Trust	-	61,545	-	58,237

14. Housing Associations - Group & Charity

The Society, through its officers, has shareholdings in the following Housing Associations:

	Shareholding %	2015 £	2014 £
St. Vincent's Family Housing (London) Limited	35	6	6

The housing associations are governed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965-1978. Under the provisions of the Act, members cannot receive a distribution of either profit or assets. The extent of the Society's financial interest is restricted to the nominal value of the shares.

15. Investments in Subsidiaries - Charity

At 31 March 2015, the Charity held a controlling interest in the following entities registered in England and Wales:

- Friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Limited, company number 2955858.
A dormant company, 100% owned and incorporated in the United Kingdom
- St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) Trading Limited, company number 4373817
100% owned and incorporated in the United Kingdom
- David Young's Charity, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 238877.
The Society appoints the trustees, who are members of the Society.
- Pen-Y-Pound House Fund, a subsidiary charity registered in England and Wales, number 1053992-1.
The trustees of the Society are trustees of this charity.

These accounts do not include a Statement of Financial Activities for the parent Charity, as permitted under paragraph 397 of SORP 2005. The relevant figures for the year ended 31 March for the parent Charity were:

	Charity 2015 £	Charity 2014 £
Gross income	9,506,764	8,406,364
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	350,436	220,112

16. Subsidiary Undertakings

The charitable company holds a controlling interest in the Friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Limited, Pen-Y-Pound House Fund, which is a subsidiary charity, number 1053992-1, David Young's Charity, and St Vincent de Paul (England & Wales) Trading Limited. The Friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Limited has not traded during the year and continues to have nil assets. All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the statement of financial activities. Available taxable profits are Gift Aided to the Society by St Vincent de Paul (England & Wales) Trading Limited. A summary of the results of the subsidiaries is shown below:

Pen-Y-Pound House Fund (Capital and Income)

	2015 £	2014 £
Incoming resources	12,940	12,932
<i>Resources expended</i>		
Costs of generating funds	-	(79)
Net incoming resources for the year	12,940	12,853
Realised gains	-	-
Unrealised (losses)/gains	27,855	6,113
Net movement in funds	40,795	18,966
Funds brought forward	408,845	389,879
Funds at 31 March 2015	449,640	408,845

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Investments	338,384	310,529
Current assets	111,256	98,316
Funds at 31 March 2015	449,640	408,845
Endowment fund	319,783	291,928
Income fund	129,857	116,917
	449,640	408,845

David Young's Charity

	31 December 2014 £	31 December 2013 £
Incoming resources	15,398	14,318
<i>Resources expended</i>		
Charitable expenditure	10,036	9,448
Net incoming resources for the year	5,362	4,870
Realised gains on investments	23,543	51,683
Transfer out	-	-
Funds brought forward	204,442	147,889
Funds at 31 December 2014	233,347	204,442

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Investments	227,512	195,968
Net current assets	5,835	8,474
Funds at 31 December 2014	233,347	204,442
Restricted	-	-
Unrestricted	233,347	204,442
	233,347	204,442

Figures have been included for the year ended 31 December 2014 as these are the most recent audited accounts.

16. Subsidiary Undertakings (continued)

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) Trading Ltd.

	2015 £	2014 £
Turnover	22,168	18,090
Cost of sales	(5,492)	(4,433)
Gross profit	16,676	13,657
Administrative expenses	16,158	1,967
Operating (loss)/profit for the financial year	518	11,690
Interest payable	(1,083)	(1,218)
Gift aid to parent undertaking	-	-
Surplus for the financial year	(565)	10,472
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
Current assets	75,221	75,799
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(68,850)	(64,363)
Long term creditor repayable by March 2029	(58,680)	(63,180)
Funds at 31 March 2015	(52,309)	(51,744)

The trading company began trading in July 2003 and is based at the Society's National Office. Activity is centred around the sale of Christmas cards, Fairtrade goods and similar items.

17 Assets held for sale - the group and the charity

	Freehold properties £	Leasehold property & improvement £	Totals £
UK properties			
Cost or valuation			
At the start of the year	615,000	-	615,000
Transfer from Fixed Assets	126,905	-	126,905
Disposals	(130,000)	-	(130,000)
Revaluation adjustment	95	-	95
At the end of the year	612,000	-	612,000
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	-	-	-
Purchase of freehold in the year	-	-	-
Revaluation adjustment	-	-	-
At the end of the year	-	-	-
Net book value			
At 31 March 2015	612,000	-	612,000
At 31 March 2014	615,000	-	615,000

18. Debtors

	The group		The charity	
	2015 £	2014 £	2015 £	2014 £
Other debtors	260,778	164,571	260,778	139,861
Prepayments	234,236	121,814	234,236	121,814
Amounts due from subsidiaries	-	-	86,115	85,198
	495,014	286,385	581,129	346,873

Amounts due from subsidiaries include a loan of £27,680 (2014: £41,180) to St Vincent de Paul (England & Wales) Trading Limited that is due to be repaid by March 2029. Loan repayments are made yearly and the subsidiary pays interest at a rate of 1.5%. The subsidiary has given the Society a floating charge over its assets as security. Of the £27,680, £9,000 is due to be repaid within one year and £18,680 is due to be repaid beyond a period of one year from the balance sheet date.

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	The group		The charity	
	2015 £	2014 £	2015 £	2014 £
Other creditors	227,867	207,866	227,867	153,557
Accruals and deferred income	234,389	149,077	233,864	201,707
Tax and social security	46,678	43,553	45,794	43,553
Amounts due to subsidiaries	-	-	-	-
	508,934	400,496	544,986	398,817

Included within other creditors are outstanding pension contributions of £30,175.

20. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,935,523	241,933	-	2,177,456
Investments	784,921	565,345	454,954	1,805,220
Net current assets	4,623,271	647,284	11,017	5,281,572
Net assets at the end of the year	7,343,715	1,454,562	465,971	9,264,248

21. Movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Investment gains, losses & revaluation £	At the end of the year £
Endowment funds:						
Pen-Y-Pound House capital fund (note 16)	291,928	-	-	-	27,855	319,783
The Estate of Francis Thompson	139,226	-	-	-	6,962	146,188
Total endowment funds	431,154	-	-	-	34,817	465,971
Restricted funds:						
Subsidiaries:						
Pen-Y-Pound House income fund (note 16)	116,917	12,940	-	-	-	129,857
Charity:						
Restricted legacies	396,706	93,480	(163,534)	-	-	326,652
Furniture stores	262,739	104,950	(94,094)	-	-	273,595
Approved premises, Newcastle	122,006	1,336,361	(1,203,574)	(100,062)	-	154,731
Twinnage	161,207	47,154	(131,548)	-	-	76,813
Community projects	84,423	507,636	(449,478)	(43,037)	2,980	102,524
TB Hunt Trust	179,105	7,842	(7,050)	-	17,232	197,129
CHAS	133,646	581,274	(736,548)	21,628	-	-
Special restricted funds	49,360	-	(9,310)	27,090	-	67,140
Other restricted funds	65,777	138,104	(78,566)	806	-	126,121
Total restricted funds	1,571,886	2,829,741	(2,873,702)	(93,575)	20,212	1,454,562

21. Movement in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Investment gains, losses & revaluation £	At the end of the year £
Unrestricted funds:						
<i>Designated funds:</i>						
Fixed Asset Fund	1,533,953	-	-	(81,972)	-	1,451,981
Weidner Holiday Fund	134,763	2,272	(4,808)	7,168	-	139,395
Twinnage	394,600	242,885	(720,750)	550,203	-	466,938
Revive Leeds	-	-	-	-	29,754	29,754
Kathleen McHugh legacy	197,998	-	(5,400)	(10,166)	-	182,432
Special designated funds	51,106	100	-	11	-	51,217
Other designated funds	-	40,452	(2,244)	2,625	-	40,833
Total designated funds	2,312,420	285,709	(733,202)	467,869	29,754	2,362,550
Revaluation Reserve	509,475	-	-	-	95	509,570
General funds	3,925,134	6,420,524	(5,537,372)	(374,294)	37,603	4,471,595
Total unrestricted funds	6,747,029	6,706,233	(6,270,574)	93,575	(67,452)	7,343,715
Total funds	8,750,069	9,535,974	(9,144,276)	-	122,481	9,264,248

Details concerning the purposes of endowment, restricted and designated funds can be found on the following pages.

Purposes of endowment funds

Pen-Y-Pound House fund

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The trustees' main objective is to further the work of the Roman Catholic Church in relieving the poor of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff. The fund comprises a permanent endowment fund which is invested on a recognised stock exchange to provide income for furthering the Trust's objectives.

The Estate of Francis Thompson

This is a permanent endowment fund arising from a legacy. The terms of the legacy are to invest the fund in quoted investments on a recognised stock exchange to provide an income for the Christ the King Conference in Waverley, Liverpool. The Francis Thompson Income Fund is included in Other Restricted Funds.

Purposes of restricted funds

Pen-Y-Pound Income fund

This fund is to be spent in relieving the poor of Cardiff. There are future plans to open further community shops in Cardiff.

David Young's Charity

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The trustee's main objective is to alleviate poverty amongst Catholics. SVP members are eligible to apply to this fund.

Restricted legacies

This fund is an amalgamation of legacies held by Conferences and at National Office. Following discussions with its professional advisors and the Charity Commission, the Society no longer considers legacies to be restricted merely by reason of having been donated for use in a particular geographic area.

Furniture stores

This fund is represented by properties acquired with the assistance of Community Fund grants and donations to provide low cost furniture to those in need.

Approved premises, Newcastle

This represents Ozanam House and St Christopher's Hostel, approved premises funded with the help of Ministry of Justice grants. Transfers out of this fund relate to moving fixed asset additions to designated funds.

Community projects

This fund is an amalgamation of specific grants and donations held by various projects and at National Office to fund support work in a number of areas. Transfers out of this fund relate to moving fixed asset additions to designated funds.

TB Hunt Trust

This is a separate charitable trust controlled by the Society. The trustees' main objective is to provide help to those in need in the Leicester and Market Harborough areas.

CHAS

On 1 April 2012, Catholic Housing Aid Society (Bradford) merged with the Society and became a project within the Society known as "CHAS @ St Vincent's". This project will continue to provide specialist legal advice and information to local people in the Bradford and Calderdale areas with housing and/or associated debt problems. It also operates a furniture store and shop. At the date of the merger, CHAS had net assets of £431,245 which were recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year ended 31 March 2013 as a transfer in.

Special restricted funds

These comprise:

George Blount trust fund

This fund offers financial assistance to young people up to the age of 20 to enable them to achieve an aim, hope or ambition, which will give direction to their life.

Lucy's fund

The fund has been set up from a grant made in memory of the late Lucy Doreen Rope. SVP Conferences may apply to this fund for individuals in need of financial help with travel and equipment costs to return to work.

Gilbert Cooper fund

The fund is used to award scholarships tenable to any educational establishment for persons under 25 years of age who are in the care of or guardianship of the SVP.

Young Mothers and Children fund

This fund was set up in 2006/2007 and exists to support young mothers and their children who are experiencing difficulties.

J McLaughlin Holiday fund

This fund was established in 2007 to assist disadvantaged individuals by helping to cover the costs of a holiday through one of the Society's Special Works.

Other restricted funds

Other restricted funds cover various projects for people in need.

Purposes of designated funds

Generally, designated funds are spent and replenished in a year. Members are encouraged to apply to certain of these funds.

Fixed Asset Fund

This fund shows the amount of the Society's funds invested in its unrestricted fixed assets net of any property revaluations. Depreciation relating to fixed assets is charged to the fund on an annual basis.

Weidner Holiday fund

This Fund is to be spent on the poor and those in need both in Newcastle and the other areas covered by Tyne Central Council over a period of between 15 and 20 years. The transfers to the Tyne Redevelopment Funds are to help develop the Blackfriars Care Centre and St Vincent New Bridges Hostel.

Twinnage

This represents funds contributed mainly by our Conferences specifically to support the activities of the Society's sister organisations overseas.

Revive Leeds

Revive Leeds is set up as a Community Interest Company in which we hold a minority interest. The project generates income by selling items donated from a site next to the Seacroft Household Waste Sorting Site. These items have been saved from going into landfill. This designated fund represents the Society's share of net assets.

Kathleen McHugh legacy

The Society received £200,000 under this legacy in 2007/2008. £100,000 of this has been set aside for the needs of named grandchildren of Kathleen McHugh, whose needs are considered to be within the Society's objectives. The requirement for this fund will end by 2021. The remaining money has been set aside to fund the Manchester Furniture Store and to cover a recruitment officer for Conferences.

Special designated funds

These comprise a number of funds to which local Conferences can contribute. Applications for grants can be made by Conferences to any of the funds with the exception of the Spiritual Formation fund. The Society expects to spend the current balances within five years. The funds are:

Holidays and Camps: used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils needing to purchase new equipment for the caravans or camps, as well as to Conferences/Councils wishing to send people on such a break.

Small Furniture Stores: used to provide grants to SVP furniture stores to improve their service or to kick start the founding of new furniture stores where appropriate.

Youth SVP development: used to help fund the Society's youth programme and to fund local youth activities which would otherwise not be able to take place.

Lourdes Fund: established to provide grants to Conferences and Councils wishing to send people to Lourdes.

Offender Care: used to help fund the Society's National Offender Care programme, which is yet to be established. In the meantime, funds may be used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils requiring funds for particular Offender needs.

Asylum Seeker Care: used to help fund the Society's National Asylum Seeker Care programme, which is yet to be established. In the meantime, funds may be used to provide grants to Conferences and Councils requiring funds for particular Asylum Seeker Care needs.

Debt Counselling: used to help support and develop debt counselling provision at the Society's Support Centres.

Spiritual Formation: used to support the work of the Society's Spiritual Development Co-ordinator, who assists Conferences with the Spiritual aspect of their work.

Other designated funds

Other designated funds cover various projects for people in need.

22. Operating lease commitments

The group had annual commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2015 Land and buildings	2014 Land and buildings
1 year	83,525	190,450
2 - 5 years	114,200	121,427
over 5 years	35,656	34,000
	<u>233,381</u>	<u>345,877</u>

23 Connected organisations

The Vincentians In Partnership (VIP) is a separately registered charity (number: 1103443) and is an umbrella organisation set up to foster collaboration among those organisations, groups, trusts, charities and Religious Congregations in Great Britain which are influenced by the spirit of St Vincent de Paul. The Society is a member of the VIP.

The Society gave VIP a grant of £5,000 for 2015 (2014: £5,000).

24 Related party transactions

Advantage is taken of the FRS8 Exemption from disclosure of certain intra group transactions between the charity and its wholly owned subsidiaries.

25 Capital commitments

Authorised capital expenditure which was contracted for but not provided in these accounts was as follows:

	2015 £	2014 £
Building work	-	-

26. Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events.



Special thanks

We are grateful to all those who have supported us in 2014-15:

- Ahrendts-Couch Family Foundation UK
- Albert Hunt Trust
- Anthony Scholefield Foundation
- Barnabas Charitable Trust
- Big Lottery Fund
- Bradford City Council
- Catherine Cookson
- Charity of Theresa Harriet Mary Delacour
- Charlotte Marshall Charitable Trust
- Church Burgesses Trust
- Clothworkers Foundation
- Crash
- Cutlers Company Charitable Trust
- Evan Cornish Foundation
- Freshgate Trust Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Give As You Rent Appeal
- Gripple in the Community
- Hallam Cash for Kids
- Henry Smith Community Foundation
- Jimbo's Fund, Leeds Community Foundation
- Jimmy Saville Charitable Trust
- Joan Beare Trust
- Leeds City Council
- Mrs L.D. Rope's Third Charitable Settlement
- OLST – Outreach
- Oxera Consulting LLP
- Porta Pia 2012 Foundation
- Pro Bono Economics
- Reaching Communities
- Sanctuary Housing
- Sheffield Students Rag
- Sir Cliff Richard Charitable Trust
- Sir Harold Hood's Charitable Trust
- Terra Firma Charitable Trust
- The Late Sir Pierce Lacy Charity Trust
- Wade's Charity
- West Yorkshire Police Community Trust

“Your work, prayers and support
make a great difference
to the lives of many”

Adrian Abel,
National President, Chair of Trustees



Thank You...

- To our members and volunteers: you give so much. Without you there is no Society.
- To our supporters: you enable the work to continue. We treasure your valuable contribution.
- To our staff: you work hard for the good of the Society. We are grateful for all that you do.
- To our beneficiaries: you teach us that, whatever our circumstances, we are all one family.

To all of you for your prayers, assistance and support behind the scenes.

Thank You.

If you would like to join the SVP and volunteer your time to befriend the lonely, to visit the sick and to assist those with practical needs, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us and we will link you up with a group in your area.

If you would like to offer regular financial support, you can become a Friend of the SVP or support us with one off donations.

A gift left in your will is a very effective way of ensuring the work of the SVP can continue long into the future.

The St Vincent de Paul Society

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