

**SAINT COLUMBKILLE'S SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026**

Introduction

We would like to thank parishioners for your continued and generous financial support. Without this we would not be able to fund our work which has helped so many families who have been struggling to cope with the ongoing cost of living pressures. This report outlines how we are funded and how we spent our funds.

Income

Our income for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 is summarised in the table below.

INCOME SOURCES		
Description	Amount	Percentage
Box collections	£24,749	62.6
Bank Balance	£8,500	21.5
Donations	£5,160	13.1
Other	£1,108	2.8
Total	£39,517	100

Our main source of funding is from collections at the end of each mass. You will be familiar with the green SSVP box held by one of our members as you exit the church. Also, we had £8,500 in the bank at the start of the year. Additionally, we received individual donations from parishioners and other benefactors which totalled £5,160.

Expenditure

Our expenditure for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 is outlined in the table below.

EXPENDITURE		
Description	Amount	Percentage
Food bank	£8,861	25.1
Mini-bus hire (for mass)	£7,950	22.6
Support for families	£5,541	15.8
Dues	£4,230	12.0
Support to schools	£3,823	10.8
Other	£4,836	13.7
Total	£35,241	100

A brief commentary on the main items of expenditure is set out below:

- Our main item of expenditure was for stocking up our foodbank which amounted to £8,861. While we receive food donations from parishioners, we still need to maintain stocks of staples such as cereals, milk and tinned meats especially as we are seeing increasing numbers of people using our foodbank.
- We spent £7,950 on mini-bus hires for mass. This allows the elderly and less mobile to continue to come to mass and to participate in parish life.
- We provided support totalling £5,541 to families struggling with gas and electricity bills as well as helping them purchase reconditioned white goods.
- Some £4,230 was paid in dues in the year. This money was used to support the work undertaken by the SSVP's headquarters function based in Glasgow.
- We spent £3,823 providing support to schools. This was mainly to help pay for residential trips for children from families who would not otherwise afford the cost.
- Lastly, we spent £4,836 on various other worthy causes including the Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative, the Motherwell Diocesan Furniture Project which provides furniture to less well-off families and financial support to the Ozanam Centre which is a special SSVP conference that provides clothing and food to homeless people and refugees.

Christmas Gift Card Appeal

Last Christmas we carried out our Gift Card Appeal. This raised an incredible £5,695 which was made up of a £4,480 'bucket collection' plus additional donations of £1,215. This money was used to purchase £25 Primark gift cards for use in buying clothing including pyjamas and £25 Aldi gift cards (which could only be used to buy food items). In this way we were able to provide over 100 families with £50 worth of gift cards with each family receiving a Primark card and an Aldi card. Local primaries working in conjunction with social work helped us to identify those families who would benefit most from the gift cards. In addition, we donated £300 of the monies collected to Trinity High School who purchased Farm Food vouchers for those families who they considered would appreciate help at Christmas.

Teachers reported back to us that the gift card scheme was a great success and helped so many children have a good Christmas.

Contacting the SSVP

If you would like to find out more about or work or are interested in joining the SSVP or supporting our work (e.g. volunteering at the foodbank) you can contact us on **07935 359292**. Also, if you or someone you know might need help you can phone us in confidence or drop a note in the green box as you exit the church. If you are asking for help for someone else, please make sure you have their permission to pass on their details to us.

Finally, I would like to again thank parishioners for their support over the year and would ask that you keep the SSVP in your prayers.

Jim Rundell, President of St Columbkille's SSVP Conference.