

The Vincentians in Partnership



VINCENTIANS IN PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2015

**Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 04852510
(England & Wales)**

Charity Registration Number 1103442

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COMPANIES HOUSE

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

The dedication of Paul Southgate, Director of Vincentians in Partnership (VIP) our network for the Vincentian Family in England, Scotland and Wales, and Pat Southern, Administrator and the Trustees who work so well together, ensures the continuing success of VIP. During this Vincentian Year of collaboration - locally, nationally and globally - VIP's Annual Report will demonstrate how much we have worked at harnessing the ability of the Vincentian Family in Great Britain to serve the needs of those most in need.

During this year, we have had frank discussions with partner organisations, as VIP seeks to review how best to represent you and to keep our relationship fresh and vibrant in the cause of social justice and the spiritual life of our Vincentian Family. As a subscription only organisation, our Director has worked hard to supplement our income with grants which have been utilised to their fullest. Both our Director and Administrator have cheerfully shown how much can be accomplished despite the reduction of their working hours. I am very grateful for their loyalty and determination to persist in delivering a premier service for all of us. Of great pride to me, is how we harnessed the last grant of the Vincentian Systemic Change Commission to work so effectively in the service of prisoners' needs.

The work of all our partners is astounding and I feel privileged to witness much of it, while realising that most of their work goes on 'beneath the radar'. Two quick but not insignificant examples serve to illustrate my point. First, in the forthcoming pontifical Year of Mercy the Vincentian charism and way of working, combining corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, will be seen as a key formula for all to emulate. The youth dimension of these works of mercy should be acknowledged and promoted, and the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) have worked particularly hard in this area refreshing and revamping the four youth Apostolates: Mini Vinnies, Young Vincentians, B-Attitudes and the 18-33 group. Let us all embrace these programmes and examine how best we can promote them within each branch, and in collaboration, with each other.

Secondly, in my introduction to VIP's 2013's Annual Report, I wrote of the Millennium Development Goals and how their aims were our aims. These have now been superseded by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals also known as Global Goals, and such is the rigorous success of Depaul International's work in the area of homelessness, and the establishment of the Global Homelessness Institute, the Chief Executive Officer, Mark McGreevy, has been co-opted to an advisory role in the United Nations relating to 11.1 of the 17 Global Goals. Let me take this opportunity, too, to congratulate Mark for being awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours.

In the forthcoming pontifical Year of Mercy, VIP has been recognised internationally as an excellent network which, during this year of Vincentian Collaboration, has been held up as an exemplar. Our current collaborative work relating to the refugee crisis is a case in point. As one of our partner's said to me "If VIP didn't exist, we would have to invent it"! This Voltaire-like statement buoys me up to consider further how best to nurture and amplify this special set of connections, as Vincentians, we hold dear. Let us consider how to gather together and celebrate this unique association we have.

Together, we are ever more effective in the service of those living in poverty. So, beginning with the Annual General Meeting at 12 noon on Tuesday, 27th October – see www.vip-gb.org for details, make your presence felt! We need everyone to be fully involved to achieve our aims. I look forward to seeing you soon.



.....
Mrs Dee Mansi (Chair)

Date: 27th October 2015

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Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Report

We are pleased to present our report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2015.

Legal and administrative information

Directors and Trustees

Patron

Adrian Abel (SVP Eng & Wales)
Rev Eamon Devlin (CM)
Sr Marie Raw (DC)
Suzanne McCarthy (Depaul UK)
Deirdre Mansi (AIC)
Fr Beresford Skelton (CMP)
Jim McKendrick (SSVP Scotland)
Mark McGreevy (Depaul International) OBE
Mike Kelly (The Passage)
Sr Clare Kelly (Srs of Our Lady of Evron)

Trustees

(Management Committee)

Deirdre Mansi (AIC) - Chair
Ingrid Phillips (SVP England & Wales) – Treasurer
Fr Noel Travers (CM)
Joe MacEachen (SSVP Scotland)
Sr Kathleen Page (DC)
Fr Beresford Skelton (CMP)
Sr Susan Molloy (VV) retired 16 October 2014
Andrew Hollingsworth (The Passage)
Sr Phyllis Hughes (Srs of Our Lady of Evron)
Roxanne Pirlea (VV) appointed 16 October 2014

Company Secretary

Paul Southgate

Registered Office

Vincentians in Partnership
Depaul UK Youth Resource Centre
Oxford Street
Whitley Bay
Tyne & Wear
NE26 1AD
Tel 0191 253 6161

Company Registration No.

4852510 (England & Wales)

Charity Registration No.

1103442

Reporting Accountant

S M Robinson ACA
Champion Chartered Accountants
4 Nile Close
Nelson Court Business Centre
Riversway
Preston
PR2 2XU

Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Bankers

HSBC
89 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 0QL

Solicitors

Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3LH

Insurance Broker

D. E. Ford
Registered Office:
Poppleton Grange
Low Poppleton Lane
York
North Yorkshire
YO26 6GZ

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Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 31st July 2003 and registered as a charity on 27th April 2004. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The trustees listed at the front of this Annual Report are representatives of the ten Partner Organisations listed below. These are:

- ◆ International Association of Charities (AIC)
- ◆ Company of Mission Priests (CMP)
- ◆ Congregation of the Mission (CM)
- ◆ Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul (DC)
- ◆ Depaul UK
- ◆ The Passage
- ◆ Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Evron
- ◆ Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)
- ◆ Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP Scotland)
- ◆ Vincentian Volunteers (VV)

In addition to the above Partners, there are a number of other groups associated with the Partnership who are not represented by trustees on the VIP Governing Body and these include:

- ◆ Anglican Sisters of Charity
- ◆ Brothers of Charity (BOC)
- ◆ Catholic Blind Institute (Christopher Grange & St Vincent's School)
- ◆ Ladies of Charity (LC)
- ◆ Out There
- ◆ Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of Mercy
- ◆ Sisters of Charity of St Jeanne Antide
- ◆ St Joseph's Service, Rosewell
- ◆ St Vincent's Family Project
- ◆ St Wilfrid's Drop-In Centre, Sheffield
- ◆ The Marillac Hospital, Warley
- ◆ Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
- ◆ Vincentian Care Plus
- ◆ Youth SVP (England & Wales)

Recruitment & Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. They form the Management Committee and run the Company. The VIP currently has its full complement of trustees less one (Depaul UK). Requirements for new trustees are identified and appointed by the Partner Organisations.

Trustees Induction & Training

Trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity. The Company Secretary, who is the Director of the VIP, is responsible for the induction of new trustees, which involves awareness of a trustee's responsibilities, the governing document and the work of the charity.

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Risk management

The VIP functions by having two paid employees (including one who is part-time), and a network of contacts and volunteers. It has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed with DE Ford Insurance brokers and taken out a combined all risks insurance policy. It operates a comprehensive health and safety policy.

Organisational Structure

The VIP has a Management Committee of 10 members who meet every three months and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. They are nominated to serve on the Management Committee by the specific organisations within the partnership which they represent. They come from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The secretary also sits on the Committee but has no voting rights.

Objectives of the Charity

The Vincentians in Partnership (VIP) 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 ethos of the VIP is rooted in the Gospel and may be best summed up by those words of Jesus taken from St Matthew's Gospel:

"Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters – you do it to me"

The main objectives of the Vincentians in Partnership are:

- to foster a sense of belonging to the Vincentian Family here in Britain
- to foster communication and collaboration between the organisations within the partnership and their associates
- to deepen the underlying spirituality and ethos of its members
- to support and empower those trapped in poverty
- to oppose structural injustice and lobby for justice
- to work together on practical projects which support those in need

This annual report is being written deep into the 'Vincentian Year of Collaboration' announced by Fr Gregory Gay CM as beginning at Pentecost 2015. Collaboration is the *raison d'être* of the Vincentians in Partnership (VIP), as we hope this report will demonstrate through its recorded activities during a full and busy year in which our Partnership:

- supported and empowered those trapped in poverty;
- worked for justice and oppose structural injustice;
- deepened the spirituality of its members;
- encouraged collaboration and networking; and
- worked together on practical projects which enhanced the quality of life of those in need.

Prison Project

Among the poorest and most deprived in society we must count people who are in prison and their families. Encouraged by funding which VIP received from the Vincentian Commission for Promoting Systemic Change, VIP looked into the issues surrounding prisons in Britain and ways of supporting those affected by them. We called the project, begun in early 2014, "Inside and Outside – People and Prisons". By December 2014 we had formed a partnership with Church Action on Poverty and organised a conference at Newcastle Civic Centre. Our key speakers were Ms Juliet Lyon CBE, Director of The Prison Reform Trust, and Mr Matthew Devlin, Chair of The Community Chaplaincy Network.

"Thank you so much for inviting me to the Conference on Saturday. It was both an informative and a stimulating occasion - I was delighted to be included and welcomed the opportunity to discuss such important issues with others." Judge Paul Sloan QC

Our thanks are also due to Mr Guy Opperman, MP, who maintained contact with us and was our go-between with the Minister of Justice.

Four areas were the foci of our concern at the conference:

- a. **Information and knowledge.** The conference and workshops raised a greater awareness and understanding of issues and concerns relating to the prison and criminal justice system which is undergoing significant change. Specific challenges facing work with people in prison were constructively highlighted through sharing stories and viewing illustrated case studies. Discussion groups provided the opportunity for misperceptions to be challenged.
- b. **Prison policy and practice development.** The need for visioning a new custodial system was emphasised. The quality of life in prison is an urgent issue for attention and should be promoted. Initiatives and schemes such as social enterprise developments involving prisoners and external networks are important to encourage and expand. Alternative responses to offending behaviour need to be reviewed. Bridge building between prisons and external social networks are essential.
- c. **Communications and networking.** Networking opportunities for those working in this field could be improved. The workshops, such as the thought-provoking session led by Mrs Irene Ward from VIP Partner "Out There" from Greater Manchester, provided networking and enhanced local connections. Exchange of information illustrated potential resources for churches and faith groups. Conference organisers were requested to develop a database of contacts. The importance of the 'voice' of people in prison contributing to development proposals and service provision at all levels was emphasised.
- d. **Churches and faith organisations.** Faith groups have an important advocacy role in policy and practice engagement. Opportunities for volunteering and social action need to be further developed. Chaplains play distinctive roles in prisons and supporting prisoners and their families. Prison reform and advocacy should be sustained with Church leaders and politicians. Raising awareness and responding to the needs and concerns of people in prison need further development in churches and across faith groups. Churches and faith groups have a role to play in nurturing more sustainable communities; focusing on preventative measures and support systems for vulnerable young people and their families.
- e.

VIP commissioned a filming of the event and Premier Radio, with which VIP is closely associated and with a weekly audience of 1.4 million, also attended the conference and interviewed both Juliet and Matthew.

"Congratulations on a successful Conference on Saturday. You must feel very pleased that it went so well. Thanks for making me so welcome... It was useful to meet so many interesting people and to hear so much that is of relevance to 'Out There'." (Mrs Irene Ward, Chair of Vincentian charity 'Out There')

A direct result of this project was an SVP event at Darlington on prison-related concerns to which Ozanam House contributed. A further strand of the "Inside and Outside" project has involved VIP piloting interactive courses for parishes interested in pastoral work with prisoners, and these will continue during the next year. VIP engaged with SVP projects at Ozanam House and St Christopher's to hold a workshop-style meeting with participants from the respective houses to explore (a) peer research and (b) the prospect of social action volunteering linked to faith-based community projects. Our project is continuing and we hope to secure further funding for future work.

CSAN's (Caritas Social Action Network) Criminal Justice Forum provides another valuable platform for VIP to engage in this collaborative work. This Forum brings together CSAN's members who work in the criminal justice field, providing a strong Catholic voice on criminal justice, and helps to form the basis of CSAN's advocacy work in this vital area. VIP has the privilege of chairing this Forum which contributed significantly to the Catholic Church's Submission to the House of Commons Justice Select

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Committee Enquiry on “*Prisons – Planning and Policy*” which was written by Mr William Garnier of CBCEW (Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales). The four key areas of concern for CBCEW and CSAN raised in the Submission were:

- I. Limiting of access of prisoners to worship and chaplaincy
- II. Lack of opportunity for family contact for prisoners
- III. The integration of young offenders into the main prison estate
- IV. The reform of the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme

A short debate took place in the House of Commons on 30 April on Prison Education and Welfare Services. Both CBCEW and CSAN were mentioned along with prison chaplaincy by both Mark Pritchard MP and the Minister. The following is a link to the Hansard extract of the debate:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140430/halltext/140430h0002.htm>

“A blanket ban on prisoner voting is disproportionate. The continued decision to flout the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights also undermines the Rule of Law... We should seek to reform and rehabilitate offenders rather than cutting them off from activities that contribute to the re-forging of a prisoner’s link to society.” Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop for Prisons and member of CSAN Criminal Justice Forum, in CSAN’s Report on the work of the Forum).

The forum felt that as a Church forum we should be highlighting the impact of under-resourcing and privatisation of prisons and probation, combined with a culture in prisons which lacks care and support, leading to increasing instances of suicide, self-harm and a lack of safety in prisons. Therefore, during 2015, priority areas for the Criminal Justice Forum are:

1. Under-resourcing of prisons
2. Privatisation of probation
3. Women in prisons
4. Families of prisoners
5. Suicide and Self-harm
6. Safety in Prisons

VIP was delighted this year to be invited to take part in three conferences: The Community Chaplains Conference held at Newbold Revel Prison Service College; the Rehabilitation and Reducing Re-offending Conference attended in London by VIP trustee Mrs Ingrid Phillips and Fr Patrick Cope; and Social Enterprise in Prisons, at Durham University.

Prior to the May 2015 General Election, the evidence for penal reform so far gathered during the course of “Inside and Outside” project activity allowed VIP/CAP to write to some Labour MPs asking them to recognise, should their Party accede to power:

- A) that there is a 57.8% rate of adult recidivism for people released after a sentence of less than twelve months, and a 67.4% rate for released young offenders (Ministry of Justice figures for July 2011 to June 2012),
- B) that more than 70% of people in prison have at least two diagnosable mental health conditions, many of them having been abused as children,
- C) that the number of people in prison was 85,681 in week ending 27th March 2015 compared with about 36,000 (adults) in 1991, while it is not obvious that we have become a more criminally-minded people in the last twenty four years,
- D) that we imprison 154 people per hundred thousand of the population, compared, for instance, with Germany 96, France 90 and Finland 58,

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- E) that according to the Crime Survey of England and Wales, in 2013 the crime rate fell 15% to its lowest level since the peak year of 1995, since which year it has fallen 60%, and that authorities on these matters do not attribute the changes to an increased use of prison,
- F) that it costs up to £60,000 to keep someone in prison for a year, not counting, eg, Probation, some drug rehabilitation or land revaluation expenditure,
- G) that many people in prison begin using drugs there,
- H) that health care in prisons is of inconsistent and not always high quality,
- I) that on several counts ours is a less successful penal system than those of some other European countries, which have more constructive imprisonment, better diversionary and preventative approaches and therefore a safer general public,
- J) that at least some commercially run prisons are frightening, dangerous and unhealthy places for inmates and staff because priority is given to making money, and that the shortage of staff in all prisons is detrimental to the safety of staff and residents, and to the effective rehabilitation of offenders,
- K) that support of the families of people in prison, and of people released from prison, is widely regarded as being inadequate,
- L) that there is a conflict of interest in criminal trials if people who have shares in commercial prison operators are allowed to serve as jurors,

We asked them to set up a Royal Commission or some more appropriate body to examine all aspects of our penal system, take advice from academic experts, practitioners and people who are or have been in prison, consider alternatives to the way things are and propose improvements. In the meantime, we believe that there should be an end to prison commercialisation (privatisation), if possible by ending existing contracts, and certainly by entering no more.

The Refugee Crisis

The worst refugee crisis in living memory has erupted in the Middle East and beyond. At VIP's 2014 AGM, partners agreed to mobilise members for a British response. Citizens UK, a powerful campaigning organisation, was already in the field gathering evidence, organising meetings, training and events, and VIP partners agreed to collaborate with them. Mr Neil Jameson (Citizens UK's CEO) and project coordinator Ms Carina Crawford-Holt came to speak to VIP's Justice Committee, calling VIP *"one of the most effective networks we know"*.

Together, we hoped to increase the number of UN refugees allowed to resettle in the UK from a paltry 750 to at least 1500. This involved writing letters and organising meetings with local authority leaders asking each to take 50 refugees, taking into account housing, educational and health needs, and offering welcome and support to new arrivals. We enjoyed only modest success with eight councils signing up but events have since overtaken us as the crisis has worsened across Europe and the British Government has now committed to taking in 20,000 UN refugees over the next 5 years. VIP was in the right place at the right time, and CSAN is now endeavouring to coordinate a whole-Church response to the new situation. VIP stands ready to be part of this collective strategic response and so is flying with two wings – Citizens UK and CSAN. Meanwhile VIP has attended assemblies, a civil society summit organised by Citizens UK, sits on a Citizens UK Advisory Group, and led constructive meetings with the Minister for Immigration and some local authority leaders.

Our Justice Committee members Mrs Marlene Burt and Mrs Dee Mansi, both AIC members, aided by Sr Margaret Brady DC, have been instrumental in all this and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their energy and enthusiasm. Further, in response to a worldwide appeal by Dr Michael Thio, the SVP International President, for prayers and support in aid of Syrian and Iraqi people, including some SVP members, caught up in the crisis, VIP quickly produced a well-received prayer service that could be used within the Vincentian Family in Britain.

Support for Ukraine

The ubiquitous nature of the Vincentian Family was further demonstrated in the face of the crisis in Ukraine. VIP wanted to express support to Ukrainians in their darkest hour and helped to organise an event at Newcastle which asked “What can the churches do to help?” with the aid of AIC and Depaul International who contributed examples of how they were practically supporting those caught up in the troubles. A highlight of the evening was a skyping session between event participants (including Ukrainians) and those in the trouble-zone itself. A report is available.

National Justice and Peace

This year the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) invited VIP to help organise its 2014 annual weekend conference at Swanwick in July. The conference theme was “*Called to Life in All its Fullness*”. The inspiring conference, attended by hundreds, aimed to empower lay people to accept the responsibility of their baptism; provide an opportunity to bring our life experiences and relate them to our baptismal call; and be a celebration of life and a renewal of vision. Speakers explored how lay people can live out their mission as priests, prophets and kings in today’s world. Promoting the conference, *The Tablet* noted the salient role women would play:

Women at the helm

While the upcoming Vatican synod on the family will be dominated by male clerics, another church gathering shows it is possible to achieve the opposite. Every keynote speaker at this year’s annual conference for the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales is a woman and, to top it all, the three-day event will be chaired by the president of the Methodist Conference, Ruth Gee. Speakers include Sarah Teather MP, Heythrop College’s Sr Gemma Simmonds, broadcaster Mary Colwell and Cafod’s Clare Dixon.

VIP looks forward to further collaboration with NJPN in the coming year.

A 2020 vision of society

As the 2015 General Election approached, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) wanted to stimulate a national debate about what constitutes “the common good”. They convened a group to produce a vision for society, a statement drawn from our common desire to see a society that works for all – in which each of us is valued and which respects the Earth. VIP was invited to belong to this group, represented by Mrs Rose Hickman (The Passage) and Mrs Alison Gelder (Housing Justice), both members of VIP’s Justice Committee. They looked at some of the fundamental challenges facing our society and the next government - rising levels of poverty and inequality, declining social mobility, squeezes on both personal and government budgets, the prospect of climate crisis. The statement outlines a vision of society by 2020 in five key areas – wealth and inequality, home, children and young people, livelihoods, and the environment and climate - and invites all involved in the political process in the run up to May 2015 to work towards realising it. Thus, our hope and vision for 2020 is:

1. That all citizens have access to a secure livelihood and sufficient income, enabling them to live with dignity. For the majority this comes from secure work, regular hours, paid at least a Living Wage. For those on the lowest incomes, including people unable to work, the social safety net guarantees a secure income, enabling people to live free from fear of destitution or the stigma of poverty.
2. That reasonably priced homes where people can flourish are available for everyone who needs them. House prices are stable and speculative investment for short term gain has been replaced by long-term investment in affordable housing. Good quality rental properties are found at fair rents and there is a reliable safety net for all homeless people.
3. That all children and young people are enabled to live fulfilling lives, to flourish in their friendships, families and local communities; their contributions are respected and valued, and they are allowed and enabled to grow and achieve their potential

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4. Of an economy that is in service to every human being irrespective of their wealth or the market value of their labour. An economy that is as responsive to the knowledge and experience of the poorest communities as it is to the wealth and power of the richest.
5. That greenhouse gas emissions are falling rapidly in the UK; the Government has shown leadership in helping to agree a global climate deal which limits global temperature rises to two degrees centigrade in a way which is fair for the poorest; and people are taking their own personal responsibility seriously, by seeking to reduce their own emissions as part of the overall solution.

Premier Radio

As mentioned above, VIP is closely associated with Premier Radio and sits on a “reference committee” supported by Mrs Sylvia Waters, PR’s Manager for Scotland and Northern England. VIP regularly gets called upon to support some of Premier’s projects. For example, distributing free radio sets, tuned to Premier, to isolated or housebound people. This involvement enables VIP to arrange Premier interviews with members of the Vincentian Family and to highlight issues of concern to us all. At Premier’s invitation, VIP has given several presentations this year on the work of Premier and VIP.

Promoting Vincentian Spirituality

VFCAP – Vincentian Family Collaborative Action Programme. Created by the Vincentian Family Collaboration Commission, the program responds to the need for more innovative ways to engage the branches of the Vincentian family and encourage them to work together on global, regional, and local levels to transform the lives of those living in poverty. - See more at: <http://www.stjohns.edu/about/news/2014-07-16/st-johns-university-helps-create-foundation-vincentian-family-collaboration#sthash.Ule7qacy.dpuf>

Mrs Dee Mansi, AIC and VIP Chair was one of a team of five trainers who delivered the programme in Ethiopia in March. Ranging through modules on Vincentian heritage to project work in asset mapping and community, It was the first time that the Ethiopian Vincentian Family had gathered together. In the preparation for this historic gathering, AIC Ethiopia was founded with a group of women in Addis Ababa and men were recruited for an SVP Conference.

Together the Daughters of Charity, Sisters of St Jeanne Antide, Brothers of Charity and Congregation of the Mission priests were encouraged in their future collaboration by visiting Vincentian Bishop Varghese Thottamkara CM.

VIP will be represented at the Vincentian Leaders biennial meeting in Rome 2016 and on the Vincentian Family Advisory Group by Mrs Mansi.

VIP depends upon our partners for core funding so it is always good when we, in turn, can find funding for some of their projects. Depaul UK asked us if we could help to organise a second Space4Spirit residential retreat for 17 of its homeless or vulnerable young people together with 6 staff members. Our excellent sponsors, LD Rope, felt able to support this venture which took place in September 2014, and we are most grateful to them. Over the 4 days, the young people learned raft-building and rafting, abseiling 90ft caves, night-lining and canoeing among other activities such as gorge-walking and jumping off waterfalls!

“Depaul helps young people and doesn’t judge them on their situation.” (young person’s evaluation)
“The best thing about the activities was they helped motivate me and overcome my fears.” (young person’s evaluation)

Depaul UK has a ‘Values in Action’ Group and, following Space4Spirit, VIP was invited by Depaul UK to give a presentation to this group on the work of VIP and the meaning and purpose of Retreats. In addition to Space4Spirit aimed at disadvantaged young people, VIP held a weekend residential Retreat at the stunning Foxhill Retreat and Conference Centre at Frodsham, Cheshire in September 2014. This attracted mostly clients, carers and families served by the Brothers of Charity Services but

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also members of the SVP. Our theme was “We found a treasure hidden in a field” inspired by one of Jesus’ parables, and was a great success, enabling participants to return to service inspired and refreshed.

We also ran, with great support from SSVSP Scotland, a Day of Apostolic Reflection at the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge, Scotland, attended by 30 members of SSVSP and AIC. Apostolic reflection is a foundational part of Vincentian spirituality focusing upon how evangelisation happens through Vincentian service of the poor. Everyone was moved and motivated by the stories shared by the retreatants. A further Day of Reflection took place for SVP and AIC members at Darlington.

VIP Scotland held their annual Vincentian celebration at Carfin shrine of Our Lady in Scotland. Several hundreds of Scotland’s Vincentians turned up for this magnificent pilgrimage of devotion, with the Eucharist led by Bishop John Mone who signed throughout, listened to Fr Padraig Regan CM preach an inspiring homily, and joined in the singing led by the Deaf Choir with Liz Ann O’Hare.

The Company of Mission Priests (CMP), an Anglican Vincentian dispersed community of about 40 priests who minister to some of the most deprived parishes in Britain, held their Chapter at Walsingham. The Company invited VIP to take part and give two talks to their members at the beginning of their Chapter. Our trustee, Fr Beresford Skelton, was re-elected as their Warden. VIP Justice Committee member, Fr Andrew Hammond CMP, has also been appointed Chaplain at Kings College, Cambridge University. Fr Philip North CMP was also present following his appointment as Bishop of Burnley.

Inter-Faith and the world of Work are two aspects of British society that VIP feels we should be attentive to although they do not appear to impact immediately on our work. Inter-faith will be increasingly relevant as thousands of refugees arrive in Britain and Vincentians seek to welcome and support them. VIP stands ready to support our partners in any way. We have cultivated strong connections to regional inter-faith bodies and with the UK Inter-Faith Network.

In the world of work, also, workplace engagement – often called ‘Industrial Mission’ – was a ministry close to the hearts of St Vincent and Blessed Frederic. Most people spend the major part of their lives at work so this is where the Church needs to be if its voice is to be listened to when evangelising, or on such things as unemployment, campaigning for a Living Wage, or tackling child poverty, for example. VIP serves as Chair of Northumbrian Industrial Mission with its 40+ workplace chaplains who serve international airports, seaports, retail outlets, television centre, public sector organisations such as Fire & Rescue and the DWP, private companies, and many others. Through NIM we are connected to the national Industrial Mission Association. This year we have organised events on “Humanising Work”, “Sustainable Employment” and Bible studies.

The Daughters of Charity have established a new organisation called Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Services (DC Services, for short) comprising those services originally initiated and staffed by the Daughters. To ensure that Vincentian values remain at the very centre of these services, the Daughters have set up a programme, or process, of embedding these values, called VIVAT (Vincentian Values Today). VIP has been delighted to be part of this inspirational programme by serving on its core group and one of its 3 task groups.

News of all these activities and events are regularly reported upon in our newsletters. Mrs Pat Southern, VIP’s Administrator, unfailingly and expertly continues to keep our members updated and informed by means of VIP’s Justice monthly newsletter, which has an increasing number of subscribers, and the quarterly VIP Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter. For those wishing to make use of social media but wondering how to start, VIP produced a useful introductory course which can be easily accessed on our website.

The trustees and staff of VIP are enormously grateful to those who have generously donated funding to VIP this year, especially LD Rope Third Charitable Settlement, the Vincentian Commission for

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Promoting Systemic Change, and the Sir Harold Hood Charitable Trust. We would like to thank all our partners for the funding and support they provide during these straitened times, and without which we could not have achieved all that we have.

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

Company law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The management committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The management committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

Members of the Management Committee

All the members of the management committee, who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2014 was 10.

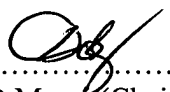
No trustee received any remuneration from the charity during the period and no expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the period. No trustee had any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity during the period.

Reporting Accountant

S M Robinson ACA of Champion Chartered Accountants was appointed as the charitable company's independent reporting accountant during the year and has expressed his willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the management committee on 27th October 2015 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mrs D Mansi (Chair)

Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Vincentians In Partnership

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2015, which are set out on pages 13 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

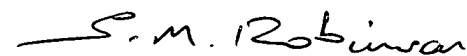
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S M Robinson ACA

Champion Accountants

4 Nile Close, Nelson Court Business Centre
Preston, PR2 2XU

Date: 27th October 2015

Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	
		2015 £	2014 £
Incoming resources			
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>			
Voluntary income – donations		25916	21571
Voluntary income – subscriptions		29600	34400
Investment income – interest received		30	39
Incoming resources from charitable activities		4328	3026
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources		59874	59036
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Resources expended			
<i>Costs of generating funds:</i>			
Charitable activities	2	54828	56035
Governance costs	2	8430	9774
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended		63258	65809
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net outgoing resources		(3384)	(6773)
Reconciliation of funds			
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2014		10759	17532
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2015		7375	10759
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The notes on page 15 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank		10359	12363
Cash in hand		14	25
Debtors	3	200	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		10573	12388
Current liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	4	(3198)	(1629)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		7375	10759
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by:			
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds		7375	10759
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 31 March 2015 the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act). No member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 393 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).


.....
Mrs D Mansi (Chair)

Date: 27th October 2015

The notes on pages 15 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the Charity's operations which are described in the Trustees' Report and all of which are continuing.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for charity accounts: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (the 2005 SORP).

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a small charity.

Income

Donations and legacies are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are received. Subscriptions from Founding Partners are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as and when they fall due, with subscriptions received in advance being treated as deferred income.

Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the Charity and, as such, is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Management and Administration Expenditure

Expenditure on management and administration of the Charity includes all expenditure not directly related to the charitable activities.

2 Total Resources Expended

	Charitable Activities	Governance	Total	Total
	Costs	Costs	Total	Total
	2015	2015	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	40489	7145	47634	55826
Computer costs	452	80	532	512
Printing, stationery and postage	46	-	46	25
Retreat costs	5473	-	5473	1785
Conference costs	2084	-	2084	-
Telephone	384	-	384	576
Subscriptions	288	-	288	193
Bank charges	-	72	72	74
Insurance costs	812	-	812	769
Professional fees	-	900	900	1000
Rent	4800	-	4800	4800
Sundry	-	233	233	249
	<u>54828</u>	<u>8430</u>	<u>63258</u>	<u>65809</u>

Vincentians in Partnership (a company limited by guarantee)

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015

Staff costs include the following:	2015	2014
	£	£
Salaries	41723	43600
Social security costs	1789	4007
Travel	4122	7949
Training	-	270
	<u>47634</u>	<u>55826</u>

No employee earned more than £50,000 p.a. There was one employee during the year whose work covered a dual function in both work in furtherance of the Charity's objectives and also work in the administration of the Charity.

None of the trustees received any emoluments during the year.

None of the trustees received reimbursement for any expenses in the year.

3 Debtors

	2015	2014
	£	£
Other debtors	200	-
	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>

4 Creditors falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	£	£
PAYE creditor	769	1095
Accruals and deferred income	2429	535
	<u>3198</u>	<u>1630</u>

5 Related party transactions

The charity has close working relationships with the organisations listed in the Trustees' report as Founding Partners and with the other groups informally associated with the charity.

The Founding Partners provide the charity with its main sources of income in the form of subscriptions and donations, as shown on the statement of financial activities. The subscriptions and donations are variable amounts, depending on the availability of funds within the individual organisations.

In addition to providing financial support the Depaul UK also provide office space and advice on a range of issues to the charity. These facilities are provided free of charge and the value has been reflected in the statement of financial activities as a donation.