



**St Vincent de Paul Society  
St Thomas More Conference, Towcester**

**SVP Bulletin No 2 - January 2023**

SVP Towcester wish you all a very happy and holy new year.

This, our second edition of *The SVP Bulletin*, contains a little for everyone – advice, information and a small party; also some sad news about Polokong. If you would like to see a colour version then please visit the Parish web site where it appears in glorious technicolour. You can also opt to receive future Bulletins (in colour) by email from the Webmaster - just sign up to receive the Hub newsletter – see <http://www.stthomasmore.org/NL+Events.htm>

**Afternoon Social 2 Feb 23.** The SVP is organising a social event in the Lombard Room. There will be **Candlemass Mass at 2.30** followed by refreshments in the Lombard Room. To help catering, please let any SVP member know you are coming, or add your name to the list in the Lombard Room. If you need a lift please contact any SVP member as soon as possible.



The feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, the end of the Christmas season, is called 'Candlemas' after the blessing of church candles on that day. In many European countries, pancakes or crêpes are traditionally eaten, and in the Americas it's tamales (a kind of rolled up and stuffed corn masa pancake.) Whilst pancakes aren't traditional at Candlemas in England, we thought a cup of tea and a piece of cake in the Lombard room would go down well.

**Polokong Update.** The latest news from Polokong is not good. Financially they continue to struggle, and many difficult decisions have had to be made. A more detailed report will appear on the parish web site later in January. Meanwhile our next donation, due this month, will certainly help.

**Food bank support.** A number of SVP members helped Towcester Foodbank collect shopping items at the Tesco Christmas special support event in early December. In thanking the Conference for our support, the Food Bank organiser commented: *"I am always so amazed by people's generosity and the 3 day event successful. As a result we will be able to give every person who needs to come to plus a "Christmas hamper"*



**Local Support Organisations.** Should you, or anyone you know, need support during these hard times, then one of the agencies below may be able to help.

-  **Towcester Foodbank.** Based in St John's Ambulance Garage, Islington Rd. Open Tuesdays 12-2pm, Fridays 10.30-12.30. Tel 07724 832043. See <https://towcester.foodbank.org.uk> for full details including emergency contact arrangements.
- **Snvb Community Larder.** Based at Towcester Town Football Supporters Club on Islington Road. Subscription based, aimed at rescuing surplus food from supermarkets and other shops. Visit <https://www.snvb.org.uk/projects-and-services/snvb-community-larders/> for full details of opening hours etc.

- West Northants Council (WNC) has a **Cost of Living Support website** (<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support>) with a comprehensive menu of support for different people (e.g. pensioners, council tenants, those with a disability). Well worth a look.
- WNC are also compiling a **directory of warm spaces** throughout the area. See <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support/looking-warm-spaces>. The site is dynamic, but places shown at present are in Brackley, Bugbrook, Deanshanger, Tiffield, and Towcester.

**Scam Awareness Briefing** by PC Neal Mackenzie – 8 Dec 22. Some feedback:

- *“... very informative and covered all aspects of how people allow themselves to be scammed. The literature explains it all and gave me more confidence in being able to recognise if someone was trying to scam me.”*
- *“... informative and gave practical tips on how to recognise scams. Attendees asked many questions and gave examples of scams they have come across online or on the phone. All who attended received a free booklet with information on various types of scams and how to act when contacted by scammers. Also, some very useful flyers on cyber safety, online shopping and so called “romance*



*fraud” were handed out.”*

- Contact **Action Fraud** to report any suspicious phone calls on 0300 123 2040. Forward any suspicious emails that come into your INBOX to Report@phishing.gov.uk Text messages should be forwarded to 7726.

**Some Suggested Podcasts for the New Year.**

- **The Bible in a Year, with Fr Mike Schmitz.** If you’ve struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension’s *Bible in a Year Podcast*, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz, and a guided prayer to help you hear God’s voice in his Word. See [https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration?utm\\_campaign=gs-2020-10-16&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=smart\\_campaign&gclid=Cj0KCQiAqOucBhDrARIsAPCQL1ZzmmKQSM1EExAgcVqtwso2J8cwprNL4Ern9oN\\_nVB2uCbiY4N71zEaApO1EALw\\_wcB](https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration?utm_campaign=gs-2020-10-16&utm_source=google&utm_medium=smart_campaign&gclid=Cj0KCQiAqOucBhDrARIsAPCQL1ZzmmKQSM1EExAgcVqtwso2J8cwprNL4Ern9oN_nVB2uCbiY4N71zEaApO1EALw_wcB) or Google Ascensionpress.
- **A Catholic Priest Talks About – with Fr Jack.** Various podcasts on diverse subjects. See <https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/acatholicpriesttalks>

**A Nativity Video.** While we are still in the Christmas season, you might like to watch this short Nativity video, and also the description of its making which follows the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXWoKi5x3lw>

**PARISH CONTACT**

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