

The St Justin Society

**Helping the parish of St Vincent, Sheffield
to support people in developing countries**



**St Justin de Jacobis
worked as a Vincentian missionary in
Ethiopia and Eritrea in the nineteenth century**

What does St Justin Society do?

It can be said in a few words:

- to look beyond ourselves
- to work with others

We raise awareness in the parish about parts of the world in need and then raise money to support people living there. The money is used where the need is greatest. We use personal contacts so that we know the money will be used to the greatest effect. Occasionally money is sent to larger aid organisations in response to humanitarian disasters.

When did it start?

The Society was started in 1976 by Fr Frank MacMorrow as one of the ways in which St Vincent's parish seeks to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, bringing the news that justice and peace are what really matter to God. It is named after a Vincentian saint who worked in Africa in the nineteenth century at about the same time as members of the Vincentian Order first came to work in Sheffield and started our parish.

When does the Society meet?

Members meet once every two months on a Friday evening at the church. Events are organised throughout the year which raise, on average, around £500 a month. The meetings are announced in the parish newsletter and every effort is made to tell people in the parish how the money has been used. The Society distributes the money raised as soon as possible so that it gets to those in need rather than sitting in a bank.

Look on the back page for ways to get involved

Some recent events

- themed evenings with international food, drink and music
- classical music concerts
- illustrated talks on topical issues
- coffee mornings and afternoon teas
- book sales
- the parish Christmas bazaar

Many other parish groups donate their own fund-raising proceeds to the work of the Society.

Where has the money gone?

In the last year money has been sent directly to:

***Ethiopia:** where the Daughters of Charity are working with street children and **Kenya:** where the Medical Missionaries of Mary provide basic health care services through a central dispensary to 600,000 people who live where there are no roads, drainage systems, or rubbish collection. They also have an HIV/AIDS programme which supports orphans, vulnerable children and caregivers.*

*We have sent money over the last few years to **Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana and Southern Sudan.** It has bought a microscope, for example, for Sr Marie Therese in Ghana to assist her work on tropical diseases. In the past, we have sent money to **North Korea, Burma, India, El Salvador, Kosovo and Turkey.** Everywhere the basic and urgent need is for money to provide, food, medicines, clothing and educational material.*

**We work mainly but not exclusively with missionary Religious Orders.
We receive and publish reports about how our money has been used.**

Ways to get you involved!

Just turn up to a meeting

Look in the parish newsletter and see when the next meeting is taking place. You will be warmly welcomed.

Find out more

Marie Miller, the Society's Secretary, will be pleased to answer any questions you have about the work of the Society and how you can offer practical support (e.g. organising an event).

E-mail: millerbolehills@gmail.com Tel: (0114) 268 3202

Marcelle Mattli, who chairs the meetings, will also be happy to answer enquiries you have about the Society. Tel: (0114) 275 9348

Make a donation

Steve Foley, the Society's Treasurer, will be pleased to answer any questions you have about ways of giving financial support:

*one-off donation * legacy * regular contribution*

E-mail: spfoley@tiscali.co.uk Tel: (0114) 230 5254

Pray

Use this prayer, on your own or with a group:

Blessed are you, God of all creation,
and blessed are those who know they need you.

We bring you our world: with all its beauty, its sorrow and its surprises.
We bring you its people: with all their goodness, their failures and their hope.

We bring you our promise:

to be gentle of spirit, but to hunger and thirst for what is right;
to seek peace in the midst of conflict, but to protect the innocent and the weak
to love the Earth and all it gives us, but to demand less,
that we may give more.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.