



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Our Lady and the Apostles with St Ambrose Conference

A life is empty when it is only focused on one's own needs and is "blind to the needs of others. Today, in these times of uncertainty, in these times of instability, let us not waste our lives thinking only of ourselves, indifferent to others or deluding ourselves into thinking, 'peace and security!'" Pope Francis, November 2020.

What is the St Vincent de Paul Society?

The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international Christian voluntary organisation working in 150 countries and with more than 8,000 members in England & Wales. The Society seeks, in the spirit of justice and charity, to help those who are suffering poverty in whatever form and provides assistance to people in need irrespective of their faith, ethnicity, age or gender. The Society has a wide variety of projects including community shops, furniture projects, holidays for people in need, support centres, prison ministry and disability projects. The society is organised into 'conferences' at parish level and these are locally grouped into the Stockport and Hyde District, within the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Our Lady's and St Ambrose have combined our resources and are now working as one conference. Click here to visit our web site at www.svp.org.uk

What do we offer?

Offering friendship and support, is at the heart of what we do. SVP volunteers seek and find people in need and we offer them sincere friendship in their own homes and in care homes or hospital. You can expect that we will show them kindness, respect and acceptance. If people wish this, we can also provide practical help and connect them to other services that might be of assistance. During the pandemic we've been offering a telephone befriending service, which we'll carry on if there is a need when we come out of restrictions.

We can also offer additional support such as food, furniture or short-term financial help when this is needed. Our conference also supports local, national and international projects. We have a good link with the Olive Branch project in Edgeley and contribute each year to the SVP Stockport and Hyde Summer Camp for young people.

Our international work. We are 'twinned' with three conferences in South Sudan and one in India

South Sudan has been devastated by civil war. A combination of political violence and failing harvests has led to over 2.4 million people displaced from their homes and about 6.2 million other people in urgent need of help. Although direct communication is extremely difficult, we are "twinned" with three parishes. Our financial support helps to fund SVP projects providing baby feeding, clean water, medical help and vocational training. A longstanding "twinning" relationship with St Thomas, Chowwanur, Kerala, India continues.

Membership

There is a longstanding tradition of SVP work in both parishes and we are pleased to be taking this forward. Our membership has grown and there are now 12 members, most of whom are able to carry out regular visits to people in their own homes and in care homes.

All members receive training in their role, we take confidentiality and data protection very seriously, and all our members have an Enhanced DBS Clearance.

Also in the area, Our Lady's primary school has a "Mini Vinnies" group for primary age children.

Why not join us?

We could do so much more if we had more members. Even a couple of hours a week is valuable. We'll be pleased to hear from you if you wanted to know more about what we do.

Thank you for your support and for your prayers

Our parish families have always been very generous in their financial support. We are very appreciative of all the donations you make and the encouragement that you give us.

Donations can be made by cheque, made payable to Our Lady and the Apostles SVP Stockport.

Alternatively, by bank transfer to National Westminster Bank, Account No 46078134, sort code 60-60-04. You can also contact one of the Conference members. See below for contact details.

Most of all, we are grateful for your prayers, both for the work that we do and for the people we support. We regularly pray together for God's help 'never to claim that our work springs from ourselves alone' and we ask for God's help to become 'visible signs of Christ' in our parish and community.

If you would like us to make contact with you, if you know of anyone who might benefit from visits or needs support or if you are interested in joining us - please contact Dennis Clark on 0161 485 1256 or Janine Murphy on 07546 426570, who will take your request forward.