

St Vincent De Paul (SVP) Briefing – Meeting held July 18th @ 7PM in St. Joseph's hall

Founded in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam in Paris whilst a student in response to criticism by non-Catholic students who challenged him by asking him, 'Show me your works'. Consequently, Frédéric started working with poor. The society was founded to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris.

SVP started in UK in 1844, has over 9000 members in England & Wales

SVP is involved in social justice for instance advocating for people by writing to the government officials on matters of concern eg rights for asylum seekers and migrants

SVP values based on the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching namely;

- ✚ Peace
- ✚ Dignity
- ✚ Solidarity
- ✚ Care of creation
- ✚ Dignity of workers
- ✚ Option for the poor
- ✚ Community and participation

Parishioners are invited to reflect on the needs in the parish

When meeting people its recommended meeting in pairs for safeguarding and also for the purpose of 2 views of the situation/matter

SVP is a volunteer group with bank account opened for each group

Funds can be raised through for example; 2nd collections, bake sales, fundraisers, voluntary member contributions, etc

Regular meetings – can be weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Conference – An SVP Group is called a 'Conference'

Office/Group/Conference structure:

- ❖ President
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Spiritual director – Priest
- ❖ District Council

No experience required to hold any of the office roles training is provided if needed

Worldwide structure:

- Council General - Paris
- National Council – England & Wales
- Central Council – Westminster – has 13 districts
- District Council (Deaneries) – St. Alban's – 6 parishes with SVP conferences

Westminster has 65 conferences – support is available from the district council

Process of joining:

Application form – online application available/hard copy also available

2 references required (can't be a priest) – can be a friend who knows you

Types of membership:

- ✓ Full membership – involves visiting the people in need
- Requires DBS check – if on DBS update service is transferrable
- ✓ Auxiliary membership – non-visiting

DBS not required

Can take on such roles as welcoming people to mass

SVP safeguarding course required for all members – offered online

Conference reports - quarterly

- Secretary report – visits, vouchers etc
- Financial report – balance sheet

All members are encouraged to claim expenses incurred and can donate and gift aid back to the organisation if so wish to. That way we get 25% add on from the government

Anyone willing to join can contact Siobhand via email: siobhand@svp.org.uk

Attendees on Tuesday provided their contact numbers and email addresses and were asked to consent to joining WhatsApp group for GDPR purposes.

Hemel West WhatsApp Group will be formed for our Hemel West Conference for onward communication.

Application forms will be emailed to those willing to join and DBS checks done (for full membership) in time for the next meeting in September

7 PPC members among those present in the meeting 😊

Next meeting September – date will be communicated through the WhatsApp wall