2026 REPORT FOR PARISH APM: SVP CHESS VALLEY ACTIVITIES

Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/rickmansworth/parish-groups/svp/

Contact: ChessValleySVP@gmail.com

Current Membership

Full members: 15 Auxiliary members: 3

Ongoing Local Work

Visits – Regular visits to the elderly or housebound take place where this is requested and needed in order to support their social and emotional needs.

Material financial assistance given through the year in the local area:

- Assistance to homeless gentleman. Paid for accommodation for short period and ongoing support given to source housing.
- Provided carpeting for beneficiary in social housing
- Paid winter fuel bill at Catholic Worker Farm
- Donation to help beneficiary with costs for new flooring. Double amputee.

We keep in touch with beneficiaries should they need further help.

Community Lunch

Our popular Community lunch has been very well attended. The lunch continues to be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Details in the Parish Newsletter. We host our lunch in the **Church Hall at St John the Evangelist** and we look forward to parishioners from the three parishes attending when they are able to do so.

Food Bank

SVP members coordinate the collection and delivery of needed food items for the Mill End Food Bank. We regularly update the list of what is needed in the Parish Newsletter. There are donation boxes in the church porch in each of the three parishes for parishioners to make their contributions.

Warm Space

We host our **Warm Space in the Church Hall at St John's Mill End** on a Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm from October to April each year. Our regular visitors enjoy the warmth, hot drinks, tea cakes and good company.

Chess Valley Twinning

The quarterly publication **TwinTalk** (click Here for the most recent issue) gives lots of interesting information about Twinning projects in India, Grenada, Guyana, Romania/ Ukraine, South Sudan, and, indirectly, Sudan.

E&W SVP Twinning links with **India** began 50 years ago. Now, over 1000 SVP India groups are 'twinned' with E&W SVP and other countries**.** We continue to support an SVP Conference in **Andhra Pradesh State**, on the east coast of India, through prayer, communication and an annual donation, distributed locally as grants to needy families and individuals.

We regularly support Indian families by donating to a **central India Fund** which redistributes student scholarships throughout India depending on need. This year SVP Chess Valley donated **£500** to their three **student support** schemes. To put it in context, in 2025 SVP India supported a total of 497 primary schoolchildren, 637 vocational training students and 255 higher education scholarships. However, there were 600 unmet applications illustrating the high demand for education at all levels.

We donated **£975** for a **tailoring project**, funding the purchase of 10 sewing machines in 2025. It enabled training of 10 women to make, among other items, school uniforms for the large number of school students in its area. This is now being developed into a commercial tailoring project.

The India Fund also supports the **Assam Clinic.** This clinic is in a rural village and provides essential healthcare to communities who would otherwise be without access to care. The doctors also make regular visits to different villages for outreach.

We made two **donations to Romania** totalling £500 for an after-school club for **Ukraine** children.

Sudan continues to be embroiled in conflict with the result that for the third year in a row, SVP donations for aid have been suspended. We have been advised that Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) https://msf.org.uk and the UN Refugee Agency (HCR) https://www.unhcr.org/uk/ have a significant presence in Sudan and to donate to either is a more reliable way to get funds there. However, we can still help Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in the UK through the **Sudan Support Fund** which, to date, has helped 15 Sudanese people.

In **South Sudan** their recently appointed SVP National President, Brother Jiino, has visited all the local Conferences and in March this year they successfully held their first annual meeting with 40 delegates representing about 30 Conferences. The main challenges continue to be influx of refugees from the war in Sudan, internal displacement of people and the impact of failed rains on crops.

The E&W SVP Annual South Sudan Appeal raised an incredible £170,000 for 2025-26. As a result, SVP E&W has been able to renew their support for SVDP South Sudan projects for another year, ensuring some of the most vulnerable and impoverished people in the world continue to receive essential help.

Last year Chess Valley SVP contributed £1000 to one project – the replacement of solar panels on the roof of **St Vincent's Health Centre** in Nyarjwa, on the outskirts of Juba. After administrative delays of several months we are glad to report that at last the panels have been installed. This provides a more reliable, cheaper and environmentally friendly electricity supply.

We highlight the most urgent of our Twinning appeals regularly in our Newsletter, and thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Finance:

Income: Member's donations and your regular donations via the SVP boxes and in other ways you donate, generate our income. The SVP National Raffle Summer 2026 raised £800 half of which will benefit Chess Valley Conference. We regularly host monthly coffee after the 8.30am Mass at OLHC and we receive donations from those who attend. For the period from April 2025 to August 2026 we were able to claim £1,628.08 in Gift Aid.

Our Expenditure: From April 2025 to August 2026 Chess Valley SVP spent a total of £8,747.94 on our ongoing projects and one-off financial aid assistance to those in need.

If you wish to make a donation towards the work we do this can be donated through the SVP boxes in each of the parishes, sending a cheque payable to Chess Valley SVP to The Treasurer, Chess Valley SVP c/o Our Lady Help of Christians or making an online donation. Details of our account are available on Our Lady Help of Christian's website, Parish Groups, Chess Valley SVP.

THANK YOU for all your prayers, donations and practical support that you give us enabling us to continue with our work. Please continue to pray for us and for the people whom we serve.