

SVP Awareness Month 2021

These past 18 months we have been living through unprecedented times where human nature and the human spirit have been tested. We have all been affected in some way, financially, socially or emotionally and will all have our own experiences to shape our memories of this time.

What is true is the extent and range of need highlighted by the situation, where people have found themselves in desperate need of support to stay safe, well and able to cope with loneliness, hunger, paying bills, keeping the children clothed and maintaining as normal a life as possible.

What is also true is that many individuals and organisations have stepped up to help in whatever way they can. One such organisation that has been performing extraordinary work is the St Vincent de Paul Society, the SVP. Here in this parish and across the country, quietly and without fanfare, the volunteer membership of SVP has risen to the challenge, supporting families and individuals enduring the hardest of times. Well before this pandemic, SVP members have been giving their time, compassion and practical help to those in need.

The driving force of the SVP is carrying out Christ's instruction to love God and love your neighbour. There can be no better model for this than offering your time, skills, talents and love to those in need in whatever ways you can. This framework by which to live the gospel values enables its members to reflect the Vincentian values of organisation, collaboration, innovation and generosity.

We are offering you an invitation to help those in need by joining us in your parish SVP group. Whatever you can do to help – whether it's helping to deliver food, phoning up lonely people for a chat, helping to fundraise – please consider joining us and giving us any assistance, you can. We would love to make you welcome, to support and help those in need and to extend the love of this parish to some of the many who have been impacted during this challenging period.

The members of our conference, Michael Boon, Patrick Grimley, Maeve Guly, Michael Prout, Tomas Savage and Gillian Mill (Tavistock based), would be very happy to talk with you. Also, look out for our poster at the back – our phone number and email address are on it so contact us that way if you prefer. However, whichever way you prefer, please talk to us.

If you are not able to offer your time you might consider supporting us with a donation to help provide the resources to assist those in need.

Thank you for giving this appeal your attention.