

Saint Vincent DePaul Society (SVP) at Our Lady of the Crays, St Mary Cray, Orpington

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society was founded in 1833 by a group of students in Paris led by Blessed Frederic Ozanam. They were challenged to serve the poor of the city and went out into the streets and with the help of Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity (A religious order founded by St Vincent De Paul and St Louise de Marillac), they served the local population face to face, brought material assistance and listened to the needs of those living in poverty as part of their spiritual formation. In 1844 a branch of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society was started in London.

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society works in communities across England and Wales offering support to those facing poverty in all its forms, friendship when loneliness seems inevitable and kindness when the world feels unfair. Our mission is to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, empowering individuals to succeed. The SVP seeks community responses to need in a non-judgemental and often empowering way. The cost-of-living crisis challenges us to invite people into community where it exists, create it where it does not and for those who for their own reasons cannot unite into communal responses to know that they are cared for and will not be forgotten.

We may give a moment or a lifetime of support but whatever the case that connection through compassion will always be as individual and unique as a fingerprint.

Our Vision Mission and Values

Our Vision which is inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is for individuals and families who are in need to have hope, together with a sense of dignity, worth, wellbeing and peace of mind.

Our Mission is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Our Values

- Christ Centred - We acknowledge the presence of Christ everywhere.
- Compassionate - We aim to show a compassion that is non-judgemental towards those with whom we work.
- Respectful - We respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal before God.
- Generous - We aim to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in the service of others.
- Responsive - We aim to be alert to the ever-changing needs of the communities in which we work and to respond accordingly, in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms as well as we can.
- Accountable - We recognise our accountability to God and to those who seek to help, whilst acting within the limits of our own knowledge and skills.
- Confidential - We respect the confidentiality of those we help, while recognising that the physical and mental well-being of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

We strive to achieve these values through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, Prayer, Friendship, Mutual Support and Encouragement.

As you will be all too aware, the current economic crisis is pushing more people into poverty. Inflation, increases in energy bills, spiralling food prices and the raising of interest and mortgage rates means that everyone is affected, but those who were already struggling and those with fewer

financial reserves will be especially impacted in the months ahead. Sadly, more people than ever will be falling into poverty.

The Trustees of the SVP Society have agreed that the Society needs to act and respond accordingly. The alleviation of poverty is our mission and now, more than ever, we need to take action to meet what need we can. For that reason, the Trustees of the SVP Society have agreed to release funds from the society's reserves to create A Cost Of Living Support Fund to help those in need locally.

If you are a family or an individual in need, we may be able to assist you. We can discuss privately and confidentially exactly what your needs are and see how best we can assist you. We must let you know that not everyone would be offered support based on their circumstances.

If we can assist, decisions must be made by a review panel at the National Office of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. If successful, proof of identity will be required.

For further information, please contact

Please contact our conference on mobile: 07958 369383 or email: presidenta190213@svp.org.uk