



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Getting New Members

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Introduction

- Finding New Members
- Attracting New Members
- Holding on to New Members
- Persuading members to become Officers

Finding New Members 1

Chinese Proverb:

*“The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.”*

The best time to find new SVP members is 2 years ago.
Don't wait till you need them.

Finding New Members 2

Always be looking for new Members

Make regular pulpit appeals

Use Awareness Month – don't miss it!

Ask potential members to help with specific tasks or activities

Apply the 'Tap on the Shoulder'

Look outside of your Parish Church

Attracting New Members

- An active Conference is attractive to potential members
- So keep your Conference busy.
- Seek and find those who are in need
 - Network with foodbanks, CAB, CAP, FLOs, Social Prescribers
 - Social Services, Health Visitors, local Churches
- Make sure your Parish knows something about what you do
 - Newsletter, appeals, collections...
- Take a leading role in the life of the Parish

Holding on to New Members

- Explain the application process in advance
- Move the Application Process along swiftly
- Keep the new member busy while awaiting DBS
- Support new members in the first few Conference meetings
- Ease them in gently to visiting

Persuading members to be Officers

“I joined the SVP to visit people in need.”

- The SVP was there when we wanted to join it.
- We must ensure that the SVP continues into the future:
 - For those who will be in need
 - And for future members
- It is not enough to say that we joined, ‘just to visit’.