



SVP1833



SVP 1833

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 Young Vincentians (England & Wales)



Welcome and Introduction: SVP1833

Overview:

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is an international volunteer organisation whose members work with anyone in need in their local community – the homeless, the elderly, prisoners, struggling families, people who are sick and lonely. Young adults are an important part of the Vincentian family. We are all called to be like Jesus by helping people, becoming their friend and working with others to make a difference. When an SVP group is formed the SVP call it a conference; this goes back to our foundation in France where members were considered confreres – being like brothers and sisters!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in England and Wales runs programmes for young people in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities and parishes. These conferences (groups) meet weekly or fortnightly to pray together, talk about the needs they see in their communities and to put positive action in place. All groups need at least one adult mentor to get the conference started and then it's up to the young adults to lead and take responsibility. This mentor is the main point of contact between the young adults in the group and the wider Society. Young adults flourish in their Vincentian groups by benefiting from the example of their peers. SVP1833 Conferences are an essential and highly valued part of the SVP family, as they encourage the nurturing of faith and increase the possibilities for young adults to carry out charitable works in a Vincentian spirit, within a supportive community.

Why engage with SVP1833 :

For young adults, it's a brilliant opportunity to:

- make a real difference to the lives of people in their community
- meet like-minded people wanting to make a difference
- put faith into action
- gain a better understanding of Catholic Social Teaching
- participate in fun activities
- be a role model for others
- develop leadership skills which will prepare them for life
- step out of their comfort zone
- become part of the worldwide network of Vincentians

**Worldwide
network of
charity**

**Over 700,000
members across
the world**



**Network of
support centres
and grassroots
action, that
young adults can
engage with and
support**

**A Mission and
Vision rooted in
growing and
supporting
young leaders**





Where we are working:

Befriending

Home visiting is the core work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in England & Wales. Home visits are mainly carried out in pairs, with conference members providing support to people experiencing hardships by offering them practical help. More importantly, our members offer emotional support to allow people to take control of their lives and continue the tradition established by Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Advocacy

When the voice of the poor calls, we listen. Our grassroots approach to advocacy engages individuals, communities, organisations, faith groups and government. Our extensive network of SVP groups creates a safe and supportive environment for those who feel powerless, left behind or not listened to, where they are empowered to find a better and more fulfilling life. We apply the messages of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) to our work by placing human dignity, fairness and the collective good of society at the centre of our work. We seek to enable people, through on-the-ground support as well as our social justice work, to become their own spokespeople and hold those in power accountable.

Young Vincentians

All over England and Wales children, young people and young adults are taking up the invitation to join the Vincentian family and turn their concern into real action! These groups are based in schools, universities, youth hubs and parishes. The energy they bring is hugely important to the greater work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Community Support Projects

Community Support Projects (CSP) is the collective term we use to describe all the project work we do in the community. Community Support Projects includes our furniture stores, support centres, supported accommodation and our contract with the Home Office to manage and run local Approved Premises. SVP members are also involved with holiday camps and the running of local soup runs and food banks.

Camps

SVP Vinnie Camps have a wonderful heritage: for 100 years they have provided safe, inclusive and caring holidays for children in need of a break. Vinnie Camps are staffed by dedicated and caring volunteers, offering a high ratio of adult-to-child supervision. This means that each and every child receives a great deal of time and positive attention, perhaps more than some have ever known before. Summer holidays offer, first and foremost, fun and enjoyment. But they also provide an opportunity for respite, new learning experiences and personal growth.

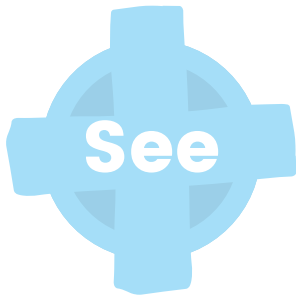
Retail

We have a number of St Vincent's community shops all around England and Wales. The primary role of our shops is to help raise vital funds to support our work and mission. Every purchase made in our shops helps someone in need. Our shops are full of sustainable, ethically sourced and recycled products. By giving opportunities to shop sustainably, we are also doing our bit to reduce our impact on the environment and increase the life-span of a product that may otherwise go to a landfill.



Starting a Conference

The 3 point process of the SVP1833 conference is based around a method developed by Joseph Cardijn. His method of 'See, Judge, Act' is where we take our inspiration from for the process outlined below.



Where is the need in our own communities?

Young adults are given the space and time to express their own concerns and reflections on the world they live in and experience.



What would Christ do, and how would he do it in modern society?

This time to reflect on the Gospel and example of Jesus is a key for the Vincentian family. We believe deeply that our responsibility is to preach the Gospel by our words and work.



Act in support of those in need!

The SVP is a family built on action. After action there is time to reflect upon how we have been Christlike, where we have seen Christ, and how to go about spreading the word and getting others involved.





Ways to connect:

We recognise how busy life can get and how budgets don't stretch far, so we've worked to offer new ways to connect!

1. Become an SVP1833 affiliated Conference.
2. Become an SVP1833 Conference.
3. Become an SVP1833 individual member.

There is not a financial cost to an SVP1833 Conference/individual membership.



1. Become an SVP1833 affiliated Conference– this means that you receive our resources, funding towards places on the Catholic Student Network Leadership conference and a newsletter termly with opportunities for young adults. As well as connection to local service projects without a need to do paperwork.

2. Become an SVP1833 Conference – In the model of conference groups such as those set up by Blessed Frederic Ozanam at the start of the SVP, you'll get all the benefits of the affiliated groups, but we will also enable you to take on regulated activity like working in schools, prisons or visiting people in their own homes – this involves organizing DBS checks and we'll support you through the paperwork.

3. Become an SVP1833 individual member– Individual membership offers the opportunity for young adults to connect and get involved in social action even if having a Conference is not possible. We can connect them to activities such as supporting the local SVP shop, collecting for SVP foodbanks, and campaigning for social justice. As individual members we will also send them resources to support their prayer life and connect them to other young adults who want to put their faith into action.



SVP1833 operates within university chaplaincies and parishes. Conference meetings and voluntary activity can happen weekly or as a termly project, and during times which don't conflict with studies/work. In all our conferences, it should be the young adults who identify the needs in their local community and come up with ideas of how to help and make decisions about service activities and fundraising.

Whilst SVP1833s do not have a Vincentian Coordinator (VC) like Mini Vinnies and Youth SVP it is often helpful to have the support of the university chaplain/parish council. It is likely that they will know the university/parish area better and can point to local volunteering opportunities or needs within the community. This mentor is the main point of contact between the young adults in the Conference and the wider Society.

Someone from the local adult SVP Conference may be able to advise on charitable actions that could be done in the community and may offer help to a Conference mentor in the early stages of setting up a conference.

All groups need at least one adult conference mentor to get the Conference started and then it's up to the young adults to lead and take responsibility. Young adults flourish in their Vincentian groups by benefiting from the example of their peers.

Key tasks:

- Setting up the group with the support of the SVP1833 Officer.
- Archiving meeting minutes in conjunction with the group Secretary.
- Ensuring service actions are within the realm of possibilities in accordance with Health and Safety policies and Safeguarding (duty of care).
- Ensuring the President has organised an election so that officer roles in the Conference are filled and maintained year-on-year **(SVP Conference only)**.
- Ensuring the officers of the group are fulfilling their roles and motivating members without office **(SVP Conference only)**.
- Updating the SVP1833 Officer at the end of the academic year with statistics and a short summary report (to include testimonies of some of the members) of the Conferences activities within the year.





SVP1833 Conference

Overview:

An SVP Conference is a formal group of committed young adults who undertake regular social action in the community and gather weekly to pray. You will need to appoint officers – President, Secretary and Treasurer – role descriptions will be provided. Your young adults get full membership of the wider SVP and can move to a local adult Conference without repeating the membership process.

- You will receive a welcome pack from SVP1833
- Your activities will be insured by the SVP.
- You will need to go through the DBS process.

Social action ideas:

- Visit care homes, hospitals and prisons
- Support your local SVP Shop
- Create a social justice podcast
- Pray for the work of the SVP
- Support refugees and asylum seekers
- Campaign for Social Justice
- Collect for SVP Foodbanks
- Host a clothing drive
- Knit squares for Dementia blankets
- Organise/take part in a soup run for the homeless
- Visit local Mini Vinnies and Youth SVP groups
- Restore local parishioner's gardens
- Fundraise for the SVP
- Take part in the SVP's reverse advent calendar
- Support your local SVP Community Support Project
- Connect to your local SVP Conference
- Volunteer on Vinnie Camps



What support you'll get from us:

- An invitation to attend the SVP National meeting with inspiring speakers and opportunities to network with other SVP1833 Conferences. Financial support for two young adults is available.
- You can apply for seed funding for new works of charity.
- You can apply for SVP internal funds to support your work eg. the cost of living fund
- An invitation to attend Catholic Student Network leadership conference. SVP1833 will subsidise two places.
- You will be provided with free resources to support your Conference in faith formation such as CST, Reverse Advent Calendar and Year of Jubilee 2025 (Pilgrimage of Hope) resources.
- You will receive our termly newsletter which includes stories from other SVP1833 Conferences, upcoming resources, and forthcoming events/opportunities.
- Your Conference will be part of a wider SVP1833 network and be added to our SVP1833 WhatsApp Community.
- We will support your Conference in any further opportunities. Opportunities of social action in your local area and nationally will be shared. This includes, work experience, service days, Vinnie Camps, retreats/pilgrimages and SVP1833 gatherings. These opportunities are often highly subsidised for young adults to be able to attend.
- There is no financial cost to being an SVP1833 Conference.





SVPI833 Affiliated Conference

Overview:

An affiliated SVPI833 Conference is a casual group of committed young adults who undertake ad hoc social action in the community and gather fortnightly/monthly to pray. As part of your ongoing chaplaincy/parish, you will be supporting those living in poverty.

- You will receive a welcome pack from SVPI833
- Your activities will not be insured by the SVP.
- You will not need to go through the DBS process.

Social action ideas:

- Support your local SVP Shop
- Create a social justice podcast
- Pray for the work of the SVP
- Support refugees and asylum seekers
- Campaign for Social Justice
- Collect for SVP Foodbanks
- Host a clothing drive
- Knit squares for Dementia blankets
- Organise/take part in a soup run for the homeless
- Restore local parishioner's gardens
- Fundraise for the SVP
- Take part in the SVP's reverse advent calendar
- Support your local SVP Community Support Project
- Connect to your local SVP Conference
- Volunteer on Vinnie Camps



What support you'll get from us:

- An invitation to attend the SVP National meeting with inspiring speakers and opportunities to network with other SVPI833 groups. Financial support for two young adults is available.
- An invitation to attend Catholic Student Network leadership conference. SVPI833 will subsidise two places for your Chaplaincy/Parish.
- You will be provided with free resources to support your Chaplaincy/Parish in faith formation such as CST, Reverse Advent Calendar and Year of Jubilee 2025 (Pilgrimage of Hope) resources.
- You will receive our termly newsletter which includes stories from other SVPI833 Conferences, upcoming resources, and forthcoming events/opportunities.
- Your Chaplaincy/Parish will be part of a wider SVPI833 network and be added to our SVPI833 WhatsApp Community.
- We will support your Conference in any further opportunities. Opportunities of social action in your local area and nationally will be shared. This includes, work experience, service days, Vinnie Camps, retreats/pilgrimages and SVPI833 gatherings. These opportunities are often highly subsidised for students to be able to attend.
- There is no financial cost to being a SVPI833 affiliated Conference.





SVPI833 Individual Membership

Overview:

Individual membership offers the opportunity for young adults to connect and get involved in social action if a Conference would not work in their setting.

- You will receive a welcome pack from SVPI833
- Your activities will not be insured by the SVP.
- You will not need to go through the DBS process.

Social action ideas:

- Support your local SVP Shop
- Pray for the work of the SVP
- Support refugees and asylum seekers
- Campaign for Social Justice
- Collect for SVP Foodbanks
- Take part in a soup run for the homeless
- Fundraise for the SVP
- Take part in the SVP's reverse advent calendar
- Support your local SVP Community Support Project
- Participate in SVPI833 Service Days
- Volunteer on Vinnie Camps



What support you'll get from us:

- An invitation to attend the SVP Leadership Day with inspiring speakers and opportunities to network with other SVPI833 members. Financial support is available.
- An invitation to attend Catholic Student Network leadership conference. SVPI833 will subsidise your place.
- You will receive our termly newsletter which includes stories from other SVPI833 groups, upcoming resources, and forthcoming events/opportunities.
- You will be part of a wider SVPI833 network and be added to our SVPI833 WhatsApp Community.
- Opportunities of social action in your local area and nationally will be shared. This includes, work experience, service days, Vinnie Camps, retreats/pilgrimages and SVPI833 gatherings. These opportunities are often highly subsidised for you to be able to attend.
- There is no financial cost to being a SVPI833 member,





Vincentian Family:



Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

The St Vincent de Paul Society was started in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam, a 19 year old law student at the Sorbonne University. Responding to the great poverty in the Paris of his day, he and a group of friends began visiting the homes of the poor, bringing practical assistance of food and firewood, as well as something less tangible – empathy and love. Frederic and his friends began meeting regularly and formed the first conference. They decided to adopt the name of the St Vincent de Paul Society after the patron saint of charities.



Saint Vincent de Paul

Born into a poor family, Saint Vincent de Paul became a priest at the age of 19. He led an interesting life. At a young age, he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. During this time, it was claimed he witnessed the terrible conditions in which slaves were forced to live. Upon becoming free, he had the opportunity to preach to the wealthy, but instead, he focused on spreading the Good News to people who were sick, orphaned, elderly, starving or abandoned. He was canonised (declared a saint) in 1737 and named the universal patron of Catholic charities in 1885.



Saint Louise de Marillac

With St Vincent de Paul, Louise started the Daughters of Charity (an order of nuns) in 1642. The Daughters of Charity were a revolutionary order of the poor. They helped abandoned children, people who were poor and sick, wounded soldiers, slaves, people who were mentally ill and the elderly. Today, there are over 20,000 Daughters of Charity, and they continue to help people in need. Louise is the patron saint of sick people, widows and orphans, and in 1960, Pope John XXIII proclaimed her the Patroness of Social Workers.



Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

Was an active member of the SVP, and in his short life he sought a deep relationship with God, and expressed that in his humble service of others. Pier was known by all as the happiest of people, and until his very end he loved and served others with joy! He was an activist, a pioneer, and gave all he had to help others.



St. Catherine Labouré

Was a daughter of Charity and devoted her life to prayer and serving the poor. It was this humble servant that Our Lady decided to appear to, and there present the 'Miraculous Medal', which was to be struck and shared throughout the world for special graces.



Blessed Rosalie Rendu

Jeanne Marie Rendu grew up during the French Revolution in 1789. She faced some tough times at an early age when her father and baby sister died and was forced to help her mother care for her two younger sisters. Jeanne's mother sent her to boarding school soon after. It was here she discovered the Daughters of Charity and was given the name Rosalie. As a Daughter of Charity, she opened a pharmacy, a school, an orphanage, a home for the elderly and a youth club. She became the "Good Mother of All" and worked closely with Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to perform good works for the St Vincent de Paul Society.