

April 2020

# Ozanam

## News



# 175 years strong!

Our anniversary celebrations begin

## Human Trafficking - *becoming a local issue*

New Kids on the Block  
– Meet our Spiritual  
Director and Youth  
Coordinator

Corona Crisis  
Response – SSVP  
across the globe

Latest News from  
our Conferences  
across Scotland



## Council of Scotland

**Sr Maria Robb, DC**  
National Spiritual Adviser

**Daniel Collins**  
National President Trustee

**James Heneaghan**  
National Treasurer Trustee

**Richard Steinbach**  
Vice-President / Trustee -  
St Andrews & Edinburgh

**Elizabeth Herlihy**  
Trustee - Aberdeen

**John Joyce**  
Trustee - Dunkeld

**Pat Snee**  
Trustee - Galloway

**Joe Maguire**  
Trustee - Glasgow

**Pat Carr**  
Trustee - Motherwell

**Joe Hendry**  
Trustee - Paisley

**Kate Kelley**  
Twinning & Projects

**Patricia McCartney**  
Social Justice Coordinator

## Letter from National President

My warmest regards to our brothers, sisters, friends and volunteers of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Scotland).

2020 - A year of celebrations for SSVP having reached the 175th Anniversary of the First Conference, founded in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1845.

To commemorate this special milestone in the historical journey of the Society, a programme of events has been formalised.

Our aim is to capture these celebrations in pictures, video and journalistic records. We are also producing a historical booklet about SSVP in Scotland, from its origins in 1845 to the present day.

These visual and written records will be shared with our members, friends and volunteers and could be used to encourage and recruit new members in order to secure the long term future of SSVP.

I invite all members, friends and volunteers to participate in the 2020 Events Programme. Let's take the time to reflect on our past, present and most importantly the future of SSVP Scotland, to enable us to continue to serve those in need.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Holy Easter Season, and a successful Year of Celebration.

Yours in St. Vincent de Paul & Blessed Frederic Ozanam

*Danny Collins*  
12th National President



**Next submission deadline is  
Thursday 20th August 2020!**

The *Ozanam News* relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (jpg or png format only, no PDFs) to [communication@ssvpScotland.com](mailto:communication@ssvpScotland.com). Please provide full caption details for photos. We are unable to accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word document.

### Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which will be issued three times per year, April, September and December. To facilitate this, a publications committee has been formed and a member of the National Council has been made responsible for its operation. The publications committee will normally meet two months before going to the printer. As at present, the actual putting together of the magazine will be the responsibility of the National Office staff, who will select the printer and liaise and coordinate with all preproduction functions. 2. In accordance with National Council requirements, the intention will be not to feature 'editorial' pieces. Any material deemed to detract from the Society's broader aims will be approved by the National Council prior to publication. Hopefully these arrangements will help the new Ozanam News develop into a more humorous, educational and spiritual publication which will concentrate on bringing the Society, its Members and Associates closer together. With this Togetherness in mind, National Council Agenda business could well become a regular feature in the magazine. In the main, letters for publication will normally be from twinning parties- regarded as reports. Other letters will be accepted for publication with an added footnote or returned for discussion by the respective council and/or president if thought to be more appropriate.

# Dates for your Diary 2020

## 175th

### ANNIVERSARY YEAR

• Events to be confirmed due to  
Coronavirus, please refer to our website  
for updates

**\*Mon. 25th May 2020**  
**5pm**

**175th Anniversary Mass**  
Annual Mass

St Patrick's, Edinburgh

*Celebrant: Archbishop Leo Cushley*

**\*Sat. 13th June 2020**  
**1pm**

**Annual Mass**

St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow  
Celebrant Archbishop Tartaglia

**Sat. 29th August 2020**  
**10am-4pm**

**Annual Meeting**

Corn Exchange, Edinburgh

**\*Sat. 31st October 2020**  
**National SSVP Annual Retreat**  
**10am-4pm**

St Mirren's Cathedral Hall, Paisley

**National Council Meeting:**  
**50th anniversary year**  
Saturday 10.30am

13/06/2020

08/08/2020

10/10/2020

05/12/2020

*\*Advanced booking would be  
appreciated to assist catering*



## Design the next SSVP International Logo

All members of the international Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) are invited to create and submit design ideas for a new international SSVP logo. Go to [www.ssvpglobal.org](http://www.ssvpglobal.org) for the information you need to create a design that will be considered for International SSVP use around the world.

Last year, a new international SSVP Commission was charged to form recommendations to the President General regarding a new SSVP international logo. To be clear, this new logo will not automatically become the new logo for each country's National Council. National Councils may choose to use chosen new SSVP logo as their own national symbol as well as the international symbol. The logo above is our new Scottish National Logo which has been redesigned and adopted. We will use the winning International logo alongside ours to show unity with the Society throughout the world.

## National Council of Scotland 1970-2020

As well as being our 175th Anniversary year, 2020 also marks fifty years since the establishment of our National Council of Scotland. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the members of the National Council through the years for their tireless commitment and endeavour for the good of the Society and ultimately for those we serve with love. We pay tribute in grateful thanks here to our past Presidents and in doing so, also remember every National Council member who has contributed their time and talents to SSVP.

1. John McLaughlin	June 1970 - December 1971
2. Dr A Brannan	December 1971 - March 1977
3. Buchan Chalmers	March 1977 - March 1981
4. Francis Cooney	March 1981 - March 1987
5. James T Robb	March 1987 - December 1991
6. Hugh Scott	December 1991 - June 1996
7. John Murphy	August 1996 - March 1999
8. Ian McTurk	March 1999 - April 2005
9. Jim Delahunt	April 2005 - August 2008
10. Michael Balfour	August 2008 - February 2014
11. Jim McKendrick	February 2014 - February 2019

# Twinning News

## Reaching out across the Nations



### Vital lifeline support supplied through Goat project

*Joe McGuire of SSVp St Ninians Knightswood writes with news of his Conference twin in Kerala, India.*

All Saints Conference is based in Arayathuruthy, Chirayinkil S.Kerala. The President is Xavier Antony and currently they have eleven active members with six supporting members. They attend to 6 cases presently, four people have cancer and two with kidney complaints. I am not sure if these people are having their hospital fees paid or are simply being visited at home or in hospital.

They are involved in two projects locally that are supported by their Central Council. One provides thirteen goats to thirteen families to assist in their quality of life and the other offers financial support in terms of a loan to six families to help them stay above

the 'poverty line'. Over Easter and Christmas further small amounts of financial support was given to more families in the same poverty situation.

The area was heavily damaged due to a monsoon that struck the coastal towns of the region leaving many homeless. Additionally the monsoon has left behind disease in the form of malaria, dengue fever and other vector borne illnesses.

Certainly we have our own poor in Scotland but I don't remember ever having to buy a goat for someone in order to stave away starvation. So when saying our Vincentian prayers at a Conference meeting, and we come to the part where we offer a Hail Mary to our twin conference(s) we will try and pause to let the above sink in a little more.

**PHOTO: The great gift of a goat**

### Chinese Province during COVID-19: Long-distance Solidarity in Action

It is actually from a distance that actions are taking place to help the people affected by the deadly new Coronavirus.

Thanks to the General Curia and other provinces that responded to the appeal of the Chinese Province, a number of people have been provided with protective masks and supplies and thus are protected from the

deadly virus. Local people are touched by how generous the response is to their appeal. The money received from abroad was sent to Germany to buy protective masks and supplies for first responders and for poor people in the countryside. The demand for such materials inside China is so high that money is of no use in this time of emergency.

Despite the distance, we find ways to help in this time of emergency.

We should mention Father Joseph Lin, a Chinese confrere based in Queens, New York. His efforts to be in solidarity with the sufferings of the Chinese people did not end only with prayers, but with concrete actions to do something for the poor. He tirelessly organized the immigrant Chinese community to donate protective masks and supplies for China. He took the path of action from a distance in offering solidarity to the affected.

Although this new coronavirus has restricted and confined many, our charity knows no bounds. The Congregation of the Mission showed it – from a distance.

**Father Ferdinand Labitag, CM**  
**Source: [www.famvin.org](http://www.famvin.org)**



**PHOTO: Our Vincentian volunteers overcoming isolation**

**If your Conference would like to support a Twinning project, please send a cheque payable to "SSVP Scotland" to the National Office.**



# Spirituality –

*Meet our new Spiritual Director –*

*Sr Maria Robb DC*

*Interview by Matt Meade*



**What are you most looking forward to in the role?** I just enjoy being with other members of the Vincentian Family. There are so many branches of the family and each is unique, but together we can do so much. For me having the chance to work closely with the SSVP on a practical and spiritual level is a gift!

**What's the purpose of a spiritual director?**

I guess my role as Spiritual director/advisor is to offer support to the National Council, particularly in spiritual matters.

**How important is prayer in the life of a Vincentian?**

I made a Retreat a few years ago with a Vincentian priest who kept using the phrase, "For you alone God I...." For me this sums up our whole Vincentian charism. Whatever we do, we do it to and for God and for this to happen prayer is central. As Vincentians God calls us to walk alongside our sisters and brothers who are the most marginalised. You can only do this if you allow God to walk with you.

**You're leading the SSVP annual retreat this year. What can members expect?**

I'm hoping that together we can deepen our understanding of our Vincentian call and what that invites us to today.

**What do you think are the main challenges facing the SSVP and its members?**

I think the main challenge that faces the SSVP is to remain true to our identity and yet be bold enough to address today's poverties aware of our own realities. We need to believe in our relevance in today's world.

**What one piece of advice would you give SSVP members on becoming better Vincentians?**

I would echo St Vincent who simply said, "Kindness is the key to hearts."

**Can you tell us a bit about your vocation story?**

I've been a Daughter of Charity for almost 40 years now! After I left school and graduated as a teacher I realised something was still missing. I loved my job and was happy but there just seemed to be a 'hole' that I wasn't

filling. That's when God steps in....and I said, 'Oh no Lord"! Not me!! All my brothers and sisters are better than me!' in the end I gave in and told God I would join the Daughters of Charity and stay for two weeks to prove Him wrong! As I say...that was almost 40 years ago. I don't regret a day. I have had many and varied experiences, met people, been challenged and supported in my faith in ways that I could never have imagined.



**What is your role as a Daughter of Charity of St Vincent de Paul?**

Over the years I have had many and varied ministries. I've worked in parishes, set up a catechetical service for deaf children in main stream schools, and been on our Provincial Team. Recently I was living in Hull working with the Daughters of Charity supporting Evangelisation across the city. Hull sits at the bottom of the European Table for faith practice. It was a great challenge!

Since the end of January I have been in Glasgow. The Daughters of Charity are in the process of doing some research and discernment so we can set up a 'Mission Heart'. We're trying to see where the greatest unmet needs are and how we might address some of these needs. It's exciting....and unknown, but God will lead us wherever He needs us, with our realities today.

# Our Circular Letter for the year of Clave

*The President General gives his conclusion to an informative letter outlining the year ahead for SSVP*

For my final words, I would like to talk about the importance of joy among us, and the Vincentian smile. The smile is the doorway into the soul. So no matter what is involved, the ideal attitude is always to be positive, warm, flexible, friendly, and smiling. A smile opens doors. And for us Vincentians, this advice is important in three ways. We may never undertake any charitable act or work with a bitter, sad or discouraged heart. The smile is the first step we have to take to allow communication to flow, because it contributes to the effectiveness of charity. “Rejoice with those who rejoice” (Romans 12:15). A smile is the key to good communications. The second reason to smile is that it neutralizes any antipathy, unnecessary conflict, unwanted breakdowns, bitterness and falsehood, because it disarms the other person who certainly did not expect such kindness and warmth. “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy” (Psalm 126:2). It is well-known

that smiles are contagious. In the third place, the Vincentian smile is essential to create a friendly atmosphere among members of our Society at Conference meetings and events, in our work and in Councils. A smile is also essential when welcoming new members, visitors and priests, and above all in personal contact with those in need (during home visits for instance). The smile is the essential feature of a good welcome. The world is still bitter, hard, ungrateful and unjust. So a light smile, simple but honest, is enough to break the ice and cope with sorrow. A real smile builds bridges and brings hearts together. The smile destroys evil; overcomes indifference; curbs disdain; buries prejudice; brings about reconciliation; calms suffering hearts; and satisfies fully those who use it. A smile is a sign of joy. A smile is the trademark of a Christian. Quoting from a piece written recently by a Portuguese member, I ask everyone to reflect on her poem in their Conferences:

*While there is one person who cannot have a dignified life,  
While there is a single hungry child,  
While there is one person without work,  
While there is one person who thinks suicide is their only choice,  
While there is only one lonely, elderly person,  
Whenever there is a single patient without medical care,  
While there is a single person who is a victim of injustice,  
The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, with its Conferences and members, has  
a reason for being.  
Because for us, poverty has so many faces!*

Member Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Information from the Council General
  - 2.1 Youth
  - 2.2 United Nations
  - 2.3 Achievements in Communication
  - 2.4 Special Working Committees
  - 2.5 Expansion of SSVP – SSVP Plus Project
  - 2.6 Role of Superior Councils
- 3. Recommendations to Vincentians
  - 3.1 Joys and Disappointments
  - 3.2 Our Own Problems
  - 3.3 We are Always Church
  - 3.4 Evils of Bureaucracy
  - 3.5 The electoral dilemma
  - 3.6 Unjustifiable closure of our Conferences
  - 3.7 Aggregation is Essential
  - 3.8 Role of Vincentian Leaders
  - 3.9 True Systemic Change
  - 3.10 Conference Meetings
  - 3.11 Defence of Life
  - 3.12 Social Networks
  - 3.13 Correction within the Family
  - 3.14 Current Problems
  - 3.15 The Value of Former Leaders
  - 3.16 Prayer and Spirituality
  - 3.17 Centenary of Independence
- 4. International year of Felix Clave
  - 4.1 Literary Competition
  - 4.2 Who was Felix Clave?
- 5. Conclusion



# Who was Felix Clavé?

## *Abridged extract from Circular letter*

Pierre-Emmanuel-Félix Clavé was born on 8 July 1811 in the south of France. He was a very cultured and studious man, multi-lingual and belonging to social circles which included French notables, celebrities and authorities.

At this point he fell in love with a girl who could not reciprocate his affection, as she considered Clavé was socially beneath her. This rejection of his love caused great heartache.

Clavé was a close friend of Bailly de Surcy, Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam and the other students who belonged to the Conferences of History and

Charity, and who shortly after founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. He also founded a Vincentian Conference in the district where he lived in Paris (St Philippe du Roule).



**Felix Clave**

Clavé's reputation and personal life were seriously tarnished by the famous "Case of Mme Lafarge", which was widely reported in the media at the time. Madame Lafarge was an unfaithful Frenchwoman, who poisoned her husband to inherit his money, and stole valuable jewels which belonged to a friend. In attempting to prove herself innocent, Marie Lafarge invented various fantastic stories which involved several people including Félix Clavé, whose name was mistakenly included in the criminal proceedings. He was never accused of anything, but Mme Lafarge's defence lawyer took advantage of Clavé's humble position by making aggressive speeches and false accusations which affected his credibility. Although he had nothing to

do with the criminal action, from which the judge in the case absolved him entirely, Clavé's reputation was damaged and his life seriously affected by this. His physical and mental health deteriorated and were seriously harmed by the "Madame Lafarge case".

He married Marie-Louise Sorg on 11 February 1847, in Paris, at the church of Notre Dame de Loreto at 19 rue Châteaudun (Paris 9e). The couple had no children.

In the last years of his life, given his mental state, Clavé's wife had to place him in a rehabilitation clinic in the Pyrenees for treatment of his nervous problems. He died in the city of Pau at 42 years of age, on 9 November 1853, the same year that the SSVP lost another of its seven founders: Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam, age 40. Clavé was buried in Pau, in the south of France, near Lourdes.

Félix Clavé was an honourable person, and never abandoned his faith, despite all the insults and slander he suffered. He will always be remembered in the history of the SSVP as one of its seven founders. Without him, the SSVP would not be the same. Today's Vincentians will be surprised at the biography of Félix Clavé, because of the great distress he experienced, and the many crosses he had to bear at various times in his life, in this false, selfish, unjust and throwaway world.

He was a worthy man who offered his suffering to God for the honour of the Lord.



**For details on our literary competition titled "The First Conference - Félix Clavé", see [www.ssvpglobal.org](http://www.ssvpglobal.org)**



# Social Justice –

## A global problem is a local problem – very possibly on the doorstep of our parishes

*Patricia McCartney hears from Alister Bull, Hope for Justice, Training and Development Officer. Alister works with communities, statutory agencies and businesses to build a safer future for those affected by trafficking*



**HOPE FOR JUSTICE**

Change lives. End slavery.



PHOTO: Young lives ended through exploitation

“It is hard to believe that the most significant impact of human trafficking in Scotland stems from Vietnam. In 2019, 39 Vietnamese suffocated in the back of an articulated lorry where their last act was to text their goodbyes to their loved ones. It marked one of the most saddening human trafficking tragedies in the UK. Through subsequent news footage, it became known that these young people came from Catholic homes.

Slavery is still a problem today in Scotland and the numbers are rapidly rising. It has seen nearly a 75% increase in the last year with the numbers of Vietnamese victims of human trafficking having tripled. Scotland does not just top the figures for this nationally in the UK, but also has the highest figures in Europe.

A perfect storm wreaks havoc as marginalised, pressurised and persecuted youth of certain sectors of Vietnam opt for the deceptively dangerous journey to seek a better way of life in the UK. What a desperate choice, when unaware

of the pitfalls, they are exposed and vulnerable to the cruel hands of serious organised crime groups who have the pretence to offer a helping hand promising a better life. The sad reality for these young people is that their dreams are fueled by lies and they only discover this until it is too late.”



PHOTO: Behind closed doors – the hidden slavery

*In a previous feature in the Scottish Catholic Observer, Alister highlighted how close to home this global problem of human trafficking has become for the Scottish Catholic Church. Unaware to us they might attend our local church. Traumatized by their experience, they may be looking for solace and comfort through the mass. If so, the onus is on us to offer help. How can we do this? The obvious answer is to help in our true Vincentian manner but to be able to respond more effectively Hope for Justice offers free training which can be requested via [alister.bull@hopeforjustice.org](mailto:alister.bull@hopeforjustice.org) / 07921454596 so that together we can protect those most in need.*







**HELLO!!  
IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE**



PHOTO Pauline Bonnar -

Youth Development Coordinator

I'm Pauline Bonnar, the new Youth Development Coordinator at SSVP. It's a real privilege to work with our young Vincentians and be inspired by their enthusiasm.

My first aim is to ensure our Mini Vinnie and Youth groups know I am here for support and visits.

I also hope to connect schools with local conference members. Our members have such valuable life experience and sharing this with our young Vincentians is vital in passing on the baton for our future.

The role is substantial but is one which I am relishing. We are a Society all working together and I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to become involved in supporting the work of Youth Development.

**St Margaret's Primary in Cowie, near Stirling, is planning to make the first year of the new decade an extra special one.**

They had a Christmas-cracking appeal and collected Christmas food, books and gifts. The 7 pupils (pictured) presented the donations to SSVP conference Our Lady and St Ninian's, Bannockburn.



PHOTO St Margaret's Primary, Cowie

**Saint Augustine's 18-33 Youth Conference in Coatbridge marked the start of Lent with Pancakes and Prayer in the Parish.**

This was a chance for their conference to serve those in the Parish. Pancakes and Prayer was also a time to come together and start Lent in a prayerful way, with an added sugar fix in the mix! Parish Priest, Fr Michael Kane popped in too!



PHOTO Pancakes and prayer at St Augustine's, Coatbridge

**St Andrew's Academy Youth along with teacher Nicole O'Neill were astounded by the generosity of their school community when they asked for donations of toiletries and chocolates to include in their annual food parcels.**

Collection and distribution was by SSVP groups from the Paisley area. The Caritas pupils found making up the food parcels a very rewarding experience with Roisin Deighan saying, "I was glad that I had the opportunity to help with this appeal. It was a very worthwhile thing to do and I'm pleased that so many food parcels were able to be delivered to so many people in need at Christmas time".



Food for thought at St Andrew's Academy, Paisley

# Conference News:

**“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another.” St. Vincent de Paul**

## St Joseph's Kilmarnock SSVP Christmas Party

St Joseph's SSVP organised a Christmas party at their drop in centre with all the trimmings, including homemade mince pies! Special thanks to S2 pupil Joseph who crafted Christmas cards which were very much appreciated by all.



St Joseph's Kilmarnock

## New Furniture Van

New Furniture van for St. Andrews and Edinburgh. President, Richard Steinbach handing over the keys to Furniture Project coordinator David Hunter, with Moira McCrae waiting patiently at the depot, to get some much needed furniture to our clients.



Wagon's rolling!

## Obituaries - May they rest in peace

### John McIntyre

Active Member, Holy Family, Port Glasgow

### Frank Brannan

Secretary, St Joseph's, Blantyre

### James Gray

Active Member, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Dennistoun

### Tim Coyle

Active Member, St Gabriel's, Prestonpans

### Joe Symington

Former Member, Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride

### Charles Sharkey

Former President/Treasurer, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry

### Jim Healy

Former Vice-President, St Peter's, Livingston

### Tom Gouldson

Active Member, Sacred Heart, Grangemouth

### Ellen Martin

Secretary, St John Vianney's, Alva

### Elizabeth Strathie

Active Member, Christ the King, Grangemouth

### Frank Graham

Active Member, Holy Family, Port Glasgow

### Bernard Walsh

Diocesan & Conf Treasurer, St Winin's, Kilwinning

### John Patrick McManus

Former President/Active Member, St Machan's, Campsie

### Tom Noonan

Former President, Sacred Heart, Grangemouth

### Linda Kelly

Former Secretary, St Maria Goretti's, Cranhill

### Ann Crowe

Former President, St Francis, Dundee

### Chrissie Monaghan

Former Member, St Gabriel's, Glasgow

### Hugh Fullerton

Former Member, Sacred Heart, Bellshill

### Gordon Matheson

Former Member, St Francis, Port Glasgow

### James Corbett

Former Member, St Margaret's & St. Paul's, Ayr

### Sr. Carole

Mallock, Former Member, St Margaret's & St. Paul's, Ayr

### Sadie Melon

Vice-President, St Conval's, Linwood Rosemary Houston, Former Member, St Louise's, Arden

### Violet Donohoe

Former Member, Corpus Christi, Scotstounhill

### Thomas Brewerton

Former Member, St Michael's, Dumbarton

### John McCulloch

Former President, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock

### Catherine Robertson

Treasurer, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock

### Eddie Googans

Active Member, St Bride's, East Kilbride,



## Celebration for the feast of St Charles Borromeo



Promoting our Society

As part of their celebration for the feast of St Charles Borromeo in Paisley, parish groups were invited to promote themselves and hopefully gain new members. At the SSVP stand, many were amazed by the variety of people and organisations they support. They gained one new member, one potential, while sisters Allison and Patricia got to meet a VIP!



VIP photoshoot

## Mini Vinnie Group Visit

Here are the new Mini Vinnie group visiting the elderly citizens of Laurel Gardens, Chapelhall.

The Mini Vinnies sang Christmas carols for residents and handed out gifts. The residents of Laurel Gardens enjoyed the visit and they hope to do something similar in the future.



Mini Vinnies in fine voice

## Ladies lunch at Loch Lomond Shores

Ladies lunching at Loch Lomond Shores on a Saturday Social day out with St Laurence's SSVP Greenock. A special trip away from their usual tea, chat and bingo every month in the church hall.



Lunching ladies from St Laurence's

## Annual SSVP Dinner

Senior Parishioners from St. Ninian's and St. Cuthbert's Church, Hamilton, enjoyed each other's company, a delicious meal, refreshments and some excellent entertainment at their Annual SVDP Dinner. An enjoyable evening was had by all.



Christmas comes to St Ninian's and St Cuthbert's!





# Serving in Hope

*Since 1845*

**SSVP** members  
of all ages meet together  
in friendship and prayer.

We provide material,  
social & spiritual assistance  
to anyone in need.

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We are here to support individuals and  
families, as we would support a friend.

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**Find out more...**  
**Support our work...**  
**Volunteer!**



[www.ssvpscotland.com](http://www.ssvpscotland.com)

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