

## S V P

Quietly working away in St Francis is a very small group of brothers and sisters of St Vincent de Paul.

**“Befriending”** is at the core of what The St Vincent de Paul Society does. Our dedicated group is part of an interactional Catholic voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty by providing practical assistance to people in need. Its 10,000 member are motivated by their faith, and they visit vulnerable or isolated people across England and Wales and offer them friendship and practical support.

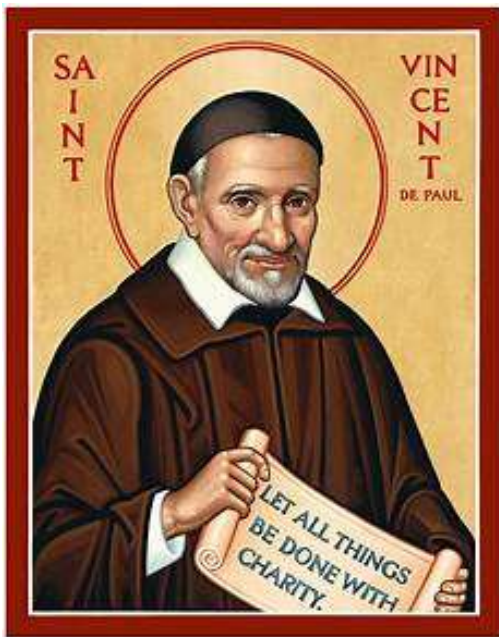
The **SVP's outreach is substantial:** last year, its 8,857 visiting members made 475,064 visits and spent 625,084 hours visiting people in need and gave out over 25,000 food parcels. The charity also runs two hostels for men on bail and released on parole or licence, helping them to move on to independent accommodation and reintegrate into the community.



**FREDERIC OZANAM**

**The SVP was founded** in 1833 by a group of students (Frederic Ozanam and his friends) in Paris, to serve the poor of the city. They were inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul.

**SVP was started in the UK** eleven years later, in 1844.



**The SVP in Stratford** has a long and wonderful history but always works quietly, humbly and simply in the background. The Covid-19 has meant that a lot of its activity has been curtailed including the meetings. It is also, at the moment, very lacking in numbers . We hope to get back to regular meeting in the New Year and also we want to have a recruitment drive in 2022. Meantime you can always register an interest by phoning the Parish Office. 0208 534 1964 Mon-Fri 9.30am to 3pm.

**The SVP is very grateful for the consistent generosity of the people of Strafford.**