



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

CARE FOR CREATION





CARE FOR CREATION



Caring for the environment we live in is to extend justice to all of creation including both human and non-human. We should also understand that our place on earth is interdependent on all other life as it is the natural world which provides us with food, medicines, resources and clothing. Jesus inspires Catholics to address issues to reverse the destruction of God's creation.

The SVP response

We can see that climate change is having a devastating effect on our communities. It is always the poorest who suffer the hardest and we are determined to do all we can to use the resources available to us in the best way we can. Many of our projects support community allotments and the SVP also has over 40 shops across England and Wales. These community shops help the society to support more people who are in need. We also run St Vincent's furniture stores and depots across England and Wales with free deliveries of donated furniture and household items to those most in need. Helping them to turn their houses into homes and keeping good furniture out of landfill.

Patron Thought

"Nature makes trees put down deep roots before having them bear fruit, and even this is done gradually."

- St. Vincent de Paul -



Psalm 65:9

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.



Case Study: Recycled furniture & fresh starts

'Some years ago I found myself in hospital. The doctor told me. "Give up the drink, or you will be dead within three months." I went into the rehab clinic. I had lost my partner, my friends and my self-esteem, but was still supported by my family. On leaving rehab I had got a flat, but needed some furniture. I was told about the St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store in Sheffield and made an application. At the time I had only a two-seater and my bits and pieces and was looking at four walls. I felt the need, after some time, to give back to society. I approached the Coordinator at the Furniture Store and volunteered my services. I had reservations as to whether I'd be suitable, but she told me to come along for a day and try it out. On my first day I told the senior driver a little about my history. He said, "Nobody is judgemental here mate, just do your best. You've even got your first promotion, you are number one tea maker!" I now do two days a week. I keep the warehouse tidy, stack furniture and load the vans. Having been given a house or a flat, people often need the basics. The Furniture Store gives them a start, just as they did for me. The opportunity of working for the SVP Furniture Store was a Godsend. I'm finally putting something back into the community.'

A client & volunteer, Sheffield Furniture Store



"Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness."
Pope Francis, Laudato Si (#230)

Question Point

In your own community and country, are there any examples of climate change affecting vulnerable people?

- What attitudes need to change in our society to safeguard our environment? How do we play a role in that?



CARE FOR CREATION NOTES

DEFINE CARE FOR CREATION:

Caring for the environment we live in is to **extend justice to all of creation** including both human and non-human. We should also understand that our place on earth is **interdependent on all other life** as it is the natural world which provides us with food, medicines, resources and clothing. Jesus inspires Catholics to address issues to reverse the destruction of God's creation.

QUOTE:

'Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books... but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel...' - **Blessed Frederic Ozanam**

THE SVP RESPONSE:

We can see that **climate change** is having a devastating effect **on our communities. It is always the poorest who suffer the hardest** and we are determined to do all we can to use the resources available to us in the best way we can. Many of our projects support **community allotments** and **the SVP has over 40 shops** across England and Wales. These community shops and online forums help the society to support more people who are in need. We also run St Vincent's furniture stores and depots across England and Wales with free deliveries of donated furniture and household items to those most in need. Helping them to turn their houses into homes and keeping good furniture out of landfill.

BIT OF BIBLE:



Psalm 65:9
'You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.'



CASE STUDY: Recycled furniture & fresh starts

One of our benefactors had just left rehab, and was in need of some help and support getting back on their feet. They had lost a number of relationships, and were moving into a new flat to start over, but no money or help to do that. They were told about the St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store on Queens Road, Sheffield and made a request for help. They were greeted with beautiful new furniture for their flat, as well as a community that was eager to help and support them. The benefactor later commented that they "felt the need, after some time, to give back to society." They joined the SVP Shop in Sheffield as a volunteer, and said that "The opportunity of working for the SVP Furniture Store was a Godsend. I'm finally putting something back into the community."

CONCLUSION:

The SVP demonstrate the principle of 'Care for Creation' in manifold ways: through its use of green spaces, its respect of the Earth's resources, as well as a comprehensive policy that tackles waste.

In the Case Study above we are shown the SVP's demonstration of that principle of caring for creation, through its reusing of quality resources, for people who are in need. This is as well as their other programmes that involve community gardens, community kitchens, and other shops that encourage recycling unwanted goods.