



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

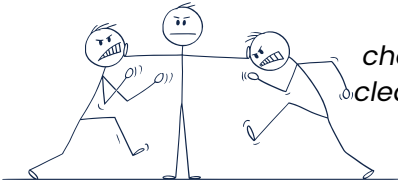
Turning Concern into Action

PEACE & RECONCILIATION





PEACE & RECONCILIATION



The Church teaches us that peace is central to the gospel and represents a challenge to many contemporary attitudes and assumptions. The Church's line is clear. we should all use non-violent methods to resolve conflicts. Pope Francis has also challenged Christians to be true peacemakers bringing forgiveness and non-violent solutions to situations of hurt and violence.

The SVP response

The SVP have two Approved Premises projects and have been involved in this work since 1947 with the opening of Ozanam House, followed by St Christopher's House in 1967. These premises in Tyneside accommodate high-risk offenders on statutory orders and engage with them in order to reduce their likelihood of re-offending. The ultimate aim is to resettle them safely back into community. The funding for these projects is provided entirely by the Ministry of Justice. As a result of this funding, the Approved Premises provide highly trained staff teams. These SVP projects do not just fulfil the aims and objectives the Ministry of Justice, they have far exceeded expectations with the help of the wider SVP network providing a full wrap around service giving those who find themselves here best chance to resettle safely back in the community.

Other projects include visiting those in prison, supporting those who are on probation and working on restorative justice opportunities for offenders, their families and their victims.

Patron's Thought

Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favourable light at all times and under all circumstances.
-St Vincent de Paul-



Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Case Study: Restorative Justice and becoming the person I can be

Connor from Cardiff came to the SVP Ely Bridge Centre whilst on probation. [Here](#) he tells his story in his own words.



"God's forgiveness is what we all need, and it is the greatest sign of His mercy. A gift that every forgiven sinner is called upon to share with every brother and sister he or she meets. It is beautiful to be forgiven, but you too, if you wish to be forgiven, forgive in turn. Forgive!"

Pope Francis, General audience, March 30, 2016

Question Point

- What is your experience of forgiveness?
- What can be the positive outcomes of forgiveness?
- Why might some people not want to show forgiveness?
- What does forgiveness mean to you?



PEACE & RECONCILIATION NOTES

DEFINE PEACE & HEALING:

The Church teaches us that peace is central to the gospel and represents a challenge to many contemporary attitudes and assumptions. **The Church's line is clear: we should all use non-violent methods to resolve conflicts.** Pope Francis has also challenged Christians to be true peacemakers bringing forgiveness and non-violent solutions to situations of hurt and violence.

QUOTE:

Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favourable light at all times and under all circumstances.
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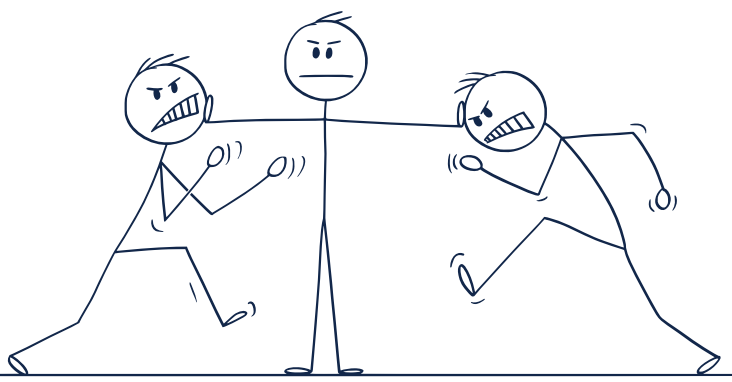
THE SVP RESPONSE:

The SVP have two Approved Premises projects in Tyneside. They accommodate high-risk offenders and engage with them to help reduce their likelihood of re-offending. The ultimate aim is to resettle them safely back into community. Other projects include visiting those in prison, supporting those who are on probation and working on restorative justice opportunities for offenders, their families and their victims.



CASE STUDY: Becoming the person I can be.

The work the SVP have been involved with in Cardiff has transformed how both practitioners and service users view probation. For young men like Connor and Raihan who have found themselves in trouble, the SVP Centre at Ely Bridge has given them a space to safe and a community to belong too.



CONCLUSION:

The SVP demonstrate the principle of 'peace and reconciliation' in their work with a number of people in the justice system, in areas of conflict around the world, as well as through prayer and solidarity.

We see in Connor's life that the SVP was an integral instrument in gaining peace, and not just about rehabilitation of offenders into society, but an opportunity to give back to the community that cared and supported him in his process of reconciliation.

BIT OF BIBLE:



Colossians 3:13

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