



Members of the St Anthony of Padua SVP conference beside their display for the Isle of Man Flower Festival

SVP puts on a blooming good show for Manx flower festival

Isle of Man: Manx members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) put their green fingers to good use when they took part in the island's annual flower festival.

St Anthony of Padua's parish was one of 19 churches and heritage buildings which took part, staging displays over a seven-day period for the festival.

This year the Catholic Deanery Church of St Mary of the Isle decided to join in and the two sister churches of St Joseph's and St Anthony's were encouraged to take part as well.

Organisers chose the theme of Supporting Achievement and the SVP group – or conference as they are officially known – of St Anthony's

decided to adopt "Only through God can we Achieve Great Things" as their slogan.

St Anthony's SVP member Ellen Murray said members considered "how we could describe in flowers a few areas of our day to day parish work". So floral arrangements were made for each of the four core areas of SVP charitable work.

The main area of SVP work is visiting lonely and isolated people at home for a cup of tea and a chat. To represent this area of SVP work, a tea table was dressed with flowers.

Next was fuel support, where a log basket and coal scuttle amongst the flowers represented the help SVP members give to lonely older people

and poor families who are often confined to their homes for long hours, without sufficient money to heat their homes.

A third area was family support, illustrated by a basket of groceries, and the final area was twinning with SVP conferences in developing countries. It consisted of a beautiful Indian sari and a lamp.

Ellen added: "The display was very well received and was described as being "alive with colour". I wish to congratulate everyone at St Anthony's SVP parish for their hard work".

To learn more about the SVP, or to pledge support, visit www.svp.org.uk, telephone 020 7703 3030 or email info@svp.org.uk.

Expert helps train teachers in Tanzania

A researcher at Leeds Trinity University is training teachers in Tanzania to help special needs students.

Dr Jonathan Glazzard spent a week in Tanzania with higher education experts from the University of Dar es Salaam to develop curriculum materials for primary school teachers.

He said: "It's been extremely well received with representatives from Tanzanian government emphasising the importance of education and teacher training."

The project, funded by UNICEF, was established following the Tanzanian government's Strategy for Inclusive Education released in 2013, which emphasised the need for schools to develop inclusive practices.



Dr Glazzard, left, during his week spent helping out in Tanzania

IN BRIEF...

Former FA chairman and director general of the BBC Greg Dyke, right, has been appointed as a visiting professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham. Mr Dyke, whose three-year term at the helm of the Football Association came to an end last month, will work with students and staff from St Mary's Schools of Sport, Health and Applied Science (SHAS) and the School of Arts and Humanities.



"I am delighted that Greg Dyke has been appointed as he brings a wealth of high-level experience in the fields of sport, journalism and business that impact on many of our students and programmes," said SHAS head Professor John Brewer.

"Greg has already inspired our sports journalism students when he visited the University earlier in the year. I am certain that many more of our students will benefit ... now that he is a Visiting Professor."

Mr Dyke is the current Chairman of ATG, Britain's largest theatre Group.

He runs several businesses of his own including golf clubs and hotels.

He said: "As I live nearby I have known of St Mary's for a long time and seen it expand over the years so I am very pleased to have been asked to be involved more directly in its future."



The Diocese of Salford says it is delighted to welcome Catholic lay evangelist teacher Derek

Williams, pictured, to lead a series of talks on Consoling the Heart of Jesus.

The diocese hopes the talks will prove to be a real blessing in Pope Francis' Year of Mercy.

They form a Do-It-Yourself Retreat inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius.

Mr Williams will be presenting the talks at Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church Raby St in Moss Side, Manchester between 22nd and 24th September.