

Camino Group Meeting Notes (July 2025)

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. This document provides a summary of the discussions from both meetings.

Each meeting began with a prayer, followed by introductions from all participants. We are fortunate to have a diverse group joining us from across England and Wales, including SVP members, their families, and friends. Our group range from seasoned hikers to complete beginners, and from experienced fundraisers to those embarking on their first fundraising effort. Some have been part of the SVP for decades, while others are newly involved.

The motivations for joining the trip vary widely - from ticking off a bucket list item, to a love of walking, to returning to the Camino after many years. As the journey progresses, you'll have the opportunity to get to know your fellow walkers and learn more about the stories and inspirations that brought each of you here.

Fundraising ideas

Ongoing fundraising

- JustGiving and GiveStar pages
- Cash4Coins
- EasyFundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>)
- Secret bag within the Conference or other groups you belong to

Events

- Coffee morning with cakes (parishioners could contribute cakes for sale or have a donation plate on display)
- Host a cream tea afternoon
- Danceathon
- Masquerade ball – dinner and dance, silent auction, raffles (tickets being sold with a donation link for those who cannot join)
- Cake sales
- Golf competitions
- Quiz night
- Silent auction
- Games night
- Music performance (utilise the talents of parishioners or conference members, who may offer to perform for free!)
- Cheese and wine nights
- Sponsored piano performance

Community partnerships

- Work with local Mini Vinnies, SVP Youth, or other local youth groups to help with the fundraising
- Partnering with a nearby school and holding a Christmas Jumper fundraiser day
- Partnering with Catenian's
- Work with other local community groups, for example the Welsh Club, to fundraise and collect donations
- Sponsorships from businesses

Other

- Knitted nativity scene – a friend is knitting the nativity scene and it will then be auctioned off within the Parish
- Selling handpicked fruits or homemade items (jam, biscuits, etc.)
- Donations instead of gifts for your birthday or Christmas
- WhatsApp broadcast to friends and family with your donation page link
- Chocolate bingo

Additional fundraising tips

- Make it clear to donors that all donations will go to the SVP and **not** towards covering the costs of your trip
- Increase the target on your online giving pages beyond £1500 to encourage more donations
- See the fundraising pack and other walkers online giving pages for inspiration on what to write and how to promote the SVP.
- Through GiveStar and G2, you can use your phone to take contactless card payments simply by downloading an app. Utilise this.
- Concerns raised over “competing” with existing fundraising events in the Church, whether they are already for the SVP or for another organisation. This may require you to become creative with reaching more donors or how you fundraise. Alternatively, work with your Conference members and Parish Priest to see if there is any flexibility.
- Be aware of JustGiving and GiveStar additional page costs. The donors is charged a fee to cover the costs of running the site, plus an additional request for donation towards the host site – your donors can choose if they wish to pay it or not.

Flights

- Flights are currently expensive with not all flight options released
- Recommended to book flights around 6 months beforehand.
- Rebecca Montgomery has set up a google flight alert and will advise if flights drop in price, but please do keep an eye on it yourself.

- Your best option may be best to book a return flight to Santiago as the closer airports can be difficult to reach (an airport transfer upon arrival is included in your trip costs)
- One member has advised they will likely be getting the ferry to Northern Spain and will meet us at the starting point
- Another member may start the walk at a further point and meet us at the starting point

Training and increasing your fitness

- You could contact others attending from your CC, or neighbouring CC's, for practice walks together
- Practice walking multiple days in a row and with your small day backpack
- Use the training plan provided on the attendee webpage for more information
- Purchase your shoes with plenty of time to break them in
- Purchase proper blister plasters and comfortable socks
- Start deciding what shoes might be appropriate for you – trainers or boots. Some attendees recommended taking two different pairs of shoes on the trip which you can swap between; it also means that if you do get blisters, the second pair of shoes may not rub in the same place

Other questions

- T shirts – an SVP-Camino t shirt is included in your trip costs and this will be provided for the walk. If you would like an SVP t-shirt before then, an enquiry has been sent to the Trading team and you will be advised asap.
- Money boxes – RM has enquired with the fundraising team and will let you know if these are available (a member of staff is understood to have stock remaining from an event, but they are on annual leave for 2 weeks).

Resources

- Attendee webpage can be found here: <https://svp.org.uk/camino-de-santiago-2026-attendee-page>
- Please do send any online giving pages, posters, leaflets, event posters, etc. that you create with Camino@svp.org.uk so that it can be added for the attendee webpage to help inspire others.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be arranged for towards the end of September. Please complete this poll of your availability: <https://forms.office.com/e/X6vx5wBsA9?origin=lprLink>

We will try to find one date that is suitable for all – if not, two sessions will be arranged.