

Twin Talk



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Edition 8: (Quarter 1, 2025 – 2026)

Welcome to the Quarter 1 (25-26) edition of Twin Talk. Thank you to Members, our Central Council Twinning Officers & the Country Ambassadors for your commitment to Twinning.

The second-last page contains additional links to each country's governance report.

India

Conference twinning grants in India are primarily used to assist the Conference's "adopted families". The support each conference provides is wide-ranging and flexible.

An "adopted family" can refer to anyone in need and is supported by the Conference – whether an individual, a single parent, an elderly couple, or a large household. The duration of support also varies: some families may receive one-time assistance, while others benefit from long-term, ongoing help tailored to their circumstances.

The stories below illustrate how an SVP India Conference may use your twinning contribution to support the local community and advance the Vincentian mission of tackling poverty in all its forms.

Christ the King Conference

Christ the King Conference in Neyyattinkara CC has 14 Members and supports around 700 families in the local area.

The Conference has been running for 10 years, with meetings every Sunday after Holy Mass. Your Twinning contributions have allowed for regular visits to the homes of those facing destitution, visiting the poorly in hospitals, supporting the adopted families and regularly giving food packets to the nearby home for the homeless.

Additionally, the Conference has been trying to empower the local community by providing career guidance sessions, lessons on personal hygiene and raising awareness on environmental protection.



Pictured from top to bottom: Christ the King Conference Members and Members providing a voucher to a Beneficiary



Lourdu Annai Women's Conference

Lourdu Annai Women's Conference in Pallipatty CC has been supporting children with school fees, providing medical fees and medicines to the poorly, giving food items to the poor, and helping with home renovation projects for the destitute.

The Conference Parish Priest shared "We greatly appreciate your generous support."



St Sebastian's Church Conference

In June, St Sebastian's Church Conference in Thrissur CC celebrated their 40th Anniversary and World Environment Day.

To celebrate and simultaneously support the environment, Members distributed over 150 jackfruit plants to households in the Parish.

The Conference President shared:

"These activities, along with our ongoing work to assist those in need, are a testament to the spirit of Vincent de Paul and the love and care of our parish. We remain deeply grateful for your kindness and contributions, which continue to support us in our mission. We want you to know that we always remember you in our prayers, and we are thankful for the bond of faith and fellowship that we share."

Twin-Twin Communications

For communications support, please contact twinning@svp.org.uk or your CC Twinning Officer.



SVP India Fund – The Mobile Mortuary Project

Active since 1955, St Francis Xavier's Conference in Eramalloor CC has long served a community facing high levels of unemployment. Much of its work involves providing food and essential support to families struggling to meet basic needs.

An urgent issue the Conference identified was the lack of access to dignified mortuary services. After the loss of a loved one, many families are unable to afford cemetery fees or transportation to hospital mortuaries. Due to a law prohibiting the use of public transport for transporting the deceased, some families have had no choice but to walk 6–7 km with the body—a heartbreaking journey.

Recognizing this need, the Conference applied for a grant to purchase a mobile mortuary unit. It will be shared with nearby Conferences and offered free of charge to anyone in need. The initiative is expected to benefit approximately 430 families, reaching around 1,560 individuals.

We would like to thank Blackburn & Burnley DC whose generous donation supported the project in full and made this possible.

"With hearts full of gratitude, we, the members of St. Francis Xavier's Conference, Eramalloor, wish to express our sincere thanks to you for graciously financial help for procurement of mobile freezer."

Your continued support and encouragement strengthen our mission and inspire us to serve with even greater commitment. This gesture is not only a financial help but a true reflection of the values we uphold in the Society, love, compassion, and service to those in need."



Pictured: Conference Members with the newly purchased mortuary freezer.

The India Fund covers a variety of support including student support, purchasing of medicine for the Assam Clinic, contributing to running costs of the Jeevan Jyoti home for disabled girls, and the funding of community projects (as above).

If you would like to donate to the India Fund, [please visit here](#).



India Small Projects

Small Projects are managed at Conference level in India and provide direct support to an individual or a family in the local community, with the goal of promoting self-sufficiency and dignity.

The impact of Small Projects

The remote village of Khandamal in Odisha, India, faces multiple challenges, including poverty, limited infrastructure, and religious persecution—particularly against its Christian community. One critical issue has been the lack of access to a usable toilet, which has had serious consequences for health, safety, and dignity.

Without proper sanitation, villagers—especially women and girls—suffer from reduced privacy and increased vulnerability, and the community faces higher rates of illness due to poor hygiene.

But thanks to the Small Projects scheme, the local conference was able to receive the necessary funding to construct a toilet for the village.

SVP India shared “Moreover, it is a facilitated initiative for women and girls to reclaim privacy and dignity through sanitation improvements. Now, we have lessened their struggle and stood as a sign with this bright initiative to direct others to help the villagers.”



Pictured: A woman and child in Khandamal village, Odisha, India.

If you or your Conference would like to support a small project, please contact John Wild for more information at wildjohn300@gmail.com

SVP India Governance Report

[Click here to read](#) SVP India's governance report for 1st October 2024 – 31st March 2025 (quarter 3 & quarter 4).

This governance report is submitted by each twinned country every 6 months to ensure accountability and transparency.





Grenada

Hurricane Beryl

The Hurricane Beryl relief programme continues to support the largely affected islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

The recovery efforts are now focused on long-term recovery implementations, including the provision of psychological support sessions for affected children and the rebuilding of housing and work structures.

Thank you for your donations to the Grenada Disaster Fund, which allowed for prompt support to our partner country during a difficult time.

Read our report '[Hurricane Beryl: A Year On](#)' for more information on the impact of your donations.

"Hurricane Beryl: One Year On"



Mini Vinnies

A key focus of the new SVP Grenada National President, Sherma Charles, is to continuing supporting the growth of the Mini Vinnies across Grenada and its sister Islands.

Currently, there are two Mini Vinnie groups, with the children conducting weekly meetings and carrying out acts of charity at their schools and in their local communities.

The Mini Vinnie mantra is 'SEE: THINK: DO' to supporting their communities.

The images to the right show just some of their activities, including tree planting and preparing breakfast for students in need at the school Breakfast Club.





The School Intervention Program

This programme at the J.W. Fletcher Catholic School continues to support high-risk students, prone to delinquent behaviour and truancy, with soft and technical skills to better manage life challenges.

The programme instils a sense of purpose and pride in the students' lives, and encourages a positive approach to their school, home and community lives.

Image to the right: An in-progress school intervention workshop.



The Granny Scheme (GRANs)

The GRANs scheme continues to support 11 GRANs with a weekly donation used for accommodation, food, and medicine. Additional GRANs support includes SVP Members providing friendship and spiritual connection.

You can find out more and [support the scheme by donating here](#). For cheque donations, please address them to SVP Twinning, write GRANs on the reverse and send to the Finance Team or your CC Twinning Officer.



Pictured: SVP Members visiting an elderly community member.

Twin-Twin Communications

For communications support, please contact twinning@svp.org.uk or your CC Twinning Officer.

SVP Grenada Governance Report

[Click here to read](#) SVP Grenada's governance report for 1st October 2024 – 31st March 2025 (quarter 3 & quarter 4).

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Guyana

Visit to Guyana Region 1

In April 2025, Susan English, the new SVP National President for Guyana visited Region 1 for three days, alongside two other members of the Superior Council.

Region 1 (image to the right) is located in the northwest of the country and is a very remote and difficult area for the Council Members to visit. The journey consists of multiple flights, car journeys and boat trips. As a result, this visit was long-overdue for all parties. It is with thanks to the SVP E&W quarterly contribution towards Guyana National Council that this visit was made possible.



The visit included meetings with all four Conferences in the region, giving Sister Susan the opportunity to connect with members, assess the effectiveness of each Conference, and identify areas where additional support is needed. She also visited both active and dormant projects to better understand their progress and challenges.

On the third and final day, a regional gathering brought all members together to discuss what it means to be an SVP member, upcoming festival meetings, refresher training on the Internal Statutes, the use of funds, different styles of leadership for Presidents, and more. The seminar also allowed for all members to feel heard, valued, and supported by the Superior Council.



Seminar for all SVP members in Region 1



Visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Conference

Twin-Twin Communications

For contact with your twin in Guyana, please include your twin codes and contact Duane Lopes, the SVP Guyana Treasurer, on duanelopes4@yahoo.com



St Joseph Husband of Mary Conference

St Joseph Husband of Mary Conference (Region 1) has 11 active members and runs three projects; the Ozanam Shop, the Ozanam Coffee Snackette, and Juice & Ice. All 3 projects are housed in the same building (images to the right). The projects sell items ranging from toiletries, snacks, juices and ice. The visiting Council Members were pleased with the organised and well-operated projects.

During the visit, the Conference Members were able to request support for roof and interior repairs for the building housing the projects.

Additionally, the Members shared with the Council Members news of a local elderly resident, living alone with no access to a bathroom in his current accommodation. With support from the Council, the Conference hosted a Bingo fundraiser in June to assist with the building of a washroom.



Pictured from left to right:

- 4 SVP Conference Members
- Kerry Ward (SVP Conference President)
- Sis. Susan English (SVP Guyana National President)
- Sis. Devi Diaram (SSVP General Secretary)
- Bro. Winston Player (SSVP Advisor)

SVP Guyana Governance Report

[Click here to read](#) SVP Guyana's governance report for 1st October 2024 - 31st March 2025 (quarter 3 & quarter 4).

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Romania

The Don Bosco Project Update

Thanks to your generous donations, the programme was able to remain open until the end of the school year. To close the project, the children, the teachers and children's parents celebrated with a farewell party (image to the right).

One Ukrainian mother wrote to the Ukrainian teacher: "Dear teacher, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and support. Your guidance, patience, and encouragement have made a profound impact on my son's growth and development. You have not only imparted knowledge but also inspired a love for learning that will last a lifetime."



Images of the children on their excursions in Helesteni.



The Children's Day Trip

The day trip project was an SVP Romania Conference initiative that aimed to provide 40 children (aged 6-14 years old) from the local community with a day of fun and learning. This project was funded with thanks by donations from SVP E&W.

The children come from very poor family backgrounds, often living without running water or electricity. As a result, this outing to Helesteni-Suceava was a rare opportunity for such an outing with a cultural and historic focus. The children visited the Bucovinean Village Museum, the Wooden Church monument, and the Dendrological Park.

One of the children who went out for the first time said he made new friends, played on the swings, and fed a friendly duck. Returning home, he excitedly shared his adventure with his mom and he realized the world was full of amazing experiences, and he couldn't wait for more.



A day trip for the elderly.

The project, funded by SVP E&W members, provided 20 isolated elderly members of the community with a day trip, with the aims of spiritual renewal, cultural lessons, recreation, and friendship-building.

The day trip included visits to Cacica Church, a beautiful and historic place of worship, a salt mine, and a group lunch. The SVP conference shared the purpose of this project as “to give them a piece of hope to strengthen their power to continue their life.”



The poultry project



Each Easter, SVP Adjudeeni supports families with food hampers. In 2025, the Conference introduced a new initiative: providing six families with chicks to help them begin producing their own food. This not only promotes self-sufficiency but also offers a healthier alternative to store-bought meat.

Following the successful rearing of the chicks, they will be shared with 35 further families for egg production and food. By reducing the amount of funds spent on food aid, the project frees up funds that can be redirected to other urgent needs, such as purchasing medicine for elderly individuals.

With thanks to donations from SVP E&W, this project was funded and the chicks were disbursed to the initial 6 families in May 2025.

SVP Romania Governance Report

[Click here to read](#) SVP Romania's governance report for 1st October 2024 - 31st March 2025 (quarter 3 & quarter 4).

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South Sudan

Conference Updates

Since his election as National President in April 2025, Brother Jino has conducted visits to 39 of the 53 currently active Conferences.

His visits have focused on building rapport with the Conference Members, listening to local needs and offering support, explaining twinning and SVP values, and increasing the number of active Conferences in South Sudan. See two images below from the meetings of Assumption Conference (left image) and Holy Trinity Conference (right image).

Brother Jino has also been collecting contact details for Conference focal members to improve our twin-to-twin communications. However, these visits have also highlighted the challenges Conferences face in not having reliable access to smart-phones or internet connection, so please keep this in mind.



St Joseph Conference, Juba

Thanks to the twinning contributions, St Joseph Conference operates a feeding programme every Sunday. In conjunction with the Parish, food is prepared by the Conference and offered to those in need (image to the right). This includes vulnerable people, young homeless children, and individuals with special needs.

The conference are committed to helping all those in need in their local community.



We currently have **4 new conferences** in South Sudan awaiting their first twinning relationship. The annual commitment is £200 per year. If you are interested, please contact twinning@svp.org.uk or your CC Twinning Officer.



Solar panel project – funding request

St Vincent's Healthcare Centre provides affordable healthcare to the local population in a very poor rural area. It is one of the very few clinics which offers facilities and services of a standard with private healthcare providers.

The project to add solar panels to the clinic roof, in order to secure the electricity supply, was completed about 18 months ago.



A secure electricity supply is very important for maintaining the safety of any vaccinations and other medication which need to be temperature controlled.

However, some of the components used were locally sources and are unfortunately proving to be of poor quality and unreliable. The SVDP's trusted provider has now identified more reliable equipment which is being used very effectively on the new school building and will shortly be installed on the Vocational Training site in Lologu.

The project to upgrade the equipment has been identified as around £3,000.

You can view the location of the clinic on [this map](#) – use the menu on the left hand side to click on the St Vincent's Healthcare Centre.

If you would to donate, you can either:

- Cheque: addressed to "SVP Twinning" with the code "SSD - HCC 25-26" written on the reverse of the cheque. Send to your CC Twinning Officer or to Twinning Finance.
- Bank Transfer: Account No: 46084975 / Sort code: 606004 / Reference: "SSD - HCC-25-26"





Project Update

The Vocational Training Centre

With a commitment to fighting poverty and providing opportunities all, the SVP Vocational Training Centre in South Sudan offers high-quality and affordable qualifications in building and construction, welding, first aid & nursing, mechanics, tailoring, refrigeration & cooling, and engineering.



In April 2025, SVP South Sudan celebrated the graduation of 526 students. This year marked the highest number of graduates and the largest proportion of female graduates.

The event was filled with joy, pride, and hope for both the graduates and their families.

Over 100 top-performing students were gifted with relevant equipment to start their businesses after graduation, this equipment is funded by ASASE, with hopes of graduates funding equipment purchases for future graduates and providing employment opportunities.

The Projects Lead, Betram Kohl, described the graduation as “a colourful event which softened our hearts”.

You can donate to the South Sudan Appeal and continue supporting Vocational Training here: <https://svp.org.uk/twinning/can-you-help-bring-peace>.

SVP South Sudan Governance Report

[Click here to read](#) SVP South Sudan's governance report for 1st October 2024 – 31st March 2025 (quarter 3 & quarter 4).

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The Sudan Support Fund

The Sudan Support Fund continues to provide grants to Conferences who are supporting Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers living in England & Wales.

Since December 2024, the Fund has supported 44 individuals and families. With support requests ranging from food vouchers, clothing, nappies for babies, toiletry kits, transport fares to school, interviews, English lessons, and the encouragement of hobbies.

Please contact twinning@syp.org.uk to request an application form or to find out more.

Acorn Football Club

St John of Beverly Conference in Hull works closely in the community to support Migrants and Refugees. Following conversations with some of the young boys attending their "Corner Store", the Acorn Football Team was formed.

Following application to the Sudan Support Fund, the Conference received a grant to help them team with their boots, equipment, and running costs.



In April 2025, a friendly match game against another refugee team trained by Sheffield Wednesday was arranged. The Sudan Support Fund grant meant bus fare could be provided and the players did not have to walk 3 miles each way. The players were each given £10 to spend at the stalls around the Sheffield ground. A Conference Member shared "This, to our boys, was like Christmas Day as the majority of them live on £8 a week."

After the match, the team were invited to watch Sheffield Wednesday vs Hull City.

A Conference Member shared: "It was a wonderful football family outing. This family is the only one many have. Before the young men went into the ground, they had to sign a form giving next of kin and emergency contact. Most of the boys had no one to name. Thank you SVP for making this day special".



In Memoriam: David Wiles

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of David Wiles in June 2025. A long-standing and dedicated member of the SVP, David was a tireless advocate for the Twinning programme, playing a pivotal role in its growth and impact over many years.

Through his unwavering commitment, David helped Twinning flourish – reaching countless people in need across the world and fostering lasting international relationships. David visited India 6 times between 1994 and 2013, and each time returned to the UK a mission to improve the lives of those in need.



David became the Southwark Central Council Twinning Officer, promoting Twinning throughout the diocese. It is a tribute to David's energy and powers of persuasion that single-handedly, he built the Twinning portfolio in Southwark up to an incredible 150 twins. David also joined the National Twinning Committee.

Following the terrible earthquake and Tsunami which hit India in December 2004, David visited the impacted coastal villages and led the campaign which raised £300k to help the families who had been affected.

David believed that the way out of poverty was through education. He headed up the Student Sponsorship Scheme which allowed people to sponsor a child or young person for either one year of school, three years of technical and vocational study, or four years to train as an engineer, doctor or dentist. This scheme has helped to assist many thousands of young Indians to escape poverty, support their families and get a decent start in life.

Bro Joseph Pandian, former National President of India and Vice President of the Council General International (CGI), and a close friend of David's, shared this reflection following his passing:

"Brother David and myself were known to each other for more than thirty years. Thirty years of constant, cordial and constructive relationship. Among many other things, what comes upper most in my mind is, David's committed love of India... I should mention his journey from Guwahati to Nagarjuli. The local Vincentians tried to discourage him, but David insisted. Now there is a dispensary project is functioning there. There was no road at all.

He knows not only the Vincentians but every member of their family. Sometimes I do not know them so closely. Every Vincentian in India considered David as his own family member".

David's legacy is one of compassion, faith, and global solidarity. He will be deeply missed. May he rest in Peace.



Finance – Standing Orders

To change from cheque payments to standing order, and join the 40% of Conferences who have already done so, please contact your CC Twinning Officer or email twinningfinance@svp.org.uk for support.

Standing orders benefit both yourself and the overseas Conference. They ensure no payments are missed, reduce administrative costs, increase efficiency, and advise when the overseas conference will receive their twinning grants, which helps them plan accordingly.

You can download a copy of the part completed Standing Order form [here](#).

- Simply fill in the remaining information (ie. Conference code and Twin code reference, have two signatories sign it, and then return to twinningfinance@svp.org.uk. You can choose whether your Conference would like to pay quarterly or annually.
- We ask that you set up a separate standing order for each Twin.

Finance – Meeting your Twinning Commitments

In the year 2024/2025, **24% of conference twinning commitments were not paid** by Conferences in England & Wales. If the twinning commitment is not paid, the overseas twin does not receive their grant. Please contact your CC Twinning Officer or the twinning team if you have any concerns in paying the annual commitment.

Governance Reports (Oct 2024 – March 2025)- read them below

Each twinned country receiving funds from SVP England & Wales does so with the agreement that they must submit governance reports every 2 quarters (every 6 months).

These reports request information on Conference twinning, project updates, safeguarding, and financial reporting. You can view a summary of each country's governance report by clicking on the country link below (also linked on each country page). If you have any questions, please contact the Country Ambassador or twinning@svp.org.uk.

[Grenada](#) [Guyana](#) [India](#) [Romania](#) [South Sudan](#)



Would you or your Conference like to Twin?

If your Conference, or yourself as an individual, would like to twin with an overseas Conferences, please contact your Central Council Twinning Officer or email twinning@svp.org.uk.



The Twinning Team would like to thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Useful contacts

General enquiries: Twinning@svp.org.uk / 07857622599

Finance enquiries: TwinningFinance@svp.org.uk / 01274 513045

Central Council Twinning Officer: If you are unsure who your CC Twinning Officer is, please contact the general enquiries inbox to find out

Country Ambassadors

- South Sudan – Dee Davey, TwinningSudan@svp.org.uk
- Guyana – Maurice Heneghan, TwinningFI8@svp.org.uk
- India – Mac Fernandes, TwinningIndia@svp.org.uk
- Romania – Nick Jarvis, nick.jarvis@live.co.uk
- Grenada – Patrick Greenidge, TwinningA19@svp.org.uk
- Small Projects Officer – John Wild, wildjohn300@gmail.com

Get in touch

Thank you, we hope you enjoyed this edition of Twin Talk.

If you have any feedback for improving the newsletter, or you would like something to be featured in the next edition, please email Twinning@svp.org.uk.