

# Twin Talk



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Edition 9: (Quarter 2, 2025 – 2026)



## In this edition:

### Country updates

Conference activity in our twinned countries  
The impact of small projects  
Romania summer camp  
Our annual South Sudan Appeal  
Supporting Sudanese refugees

### Getting involved

We want to hear your Twinning stories  
Would you like to Twin?

### Important information

Setting up your standing order  
Paying your twinning commitments



## 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 who 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 story below illustrates 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.

### Karaikudi Parish Conference in Sekkalai

Celebrating 32 years of activity, Karaikudi Sekkalai Conference in Tamil Nadu continues to thrive.

Conference Members meet every Sunday after Mass, a time dedicated to fostering their Vincentian spirituality and discuss their activities for the week. Most weeks, they take the time to visit patients in hospitals and in their homes.

The Conference also celebrated the Blessed Frederic Ozanam Feast Day (9th September) with high Mass in Church.

Gifts were given to their adopted families, the poor, church staff, and cemetery staff. Items included new dresses and sweets as a thank you for supporting the Conference for 32 years whilst also offering a chance to bring joy to the local community.



Pictured: Conference Members providing a dress to a local community member and in a meeting.

### Twin-Twin Communications

For communications support, please contact [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk) or your CC Twinning Officer.





## The India Fund

With 100% of your donation going to SVP India, the India Fund is integral to supporting India with its works. Such works vary and support many, however below are the main Fund objectives.

### Student Support

SVP India supports students at 3 different levels, Primary School, Higher Education (Undergraduate level) and Technical & Vocational Training.

Local SVP Conferences work in the community to identify students most in need of support. With such high demand for student support, SVP India can only support students from the most deprived homes and regions.

With your support to the India Fund, £15 can help a school child remain in school for a year, covering their fees, uniforms and books. £70 could contribute to the cost of vocational training for one year and £120 could contribute to the cost of a student's higher education fees for 1 year.

The pictures to the right show certificates of support being gifted to primary school students.



### India Community Projects

Community projects run by SVP India have ranged from supporting micro-financing projects, which have empowered the lives of many through trust and opportunity,

Another recent community project has been the funding of the mobile mortuary project, which will help families grieve with dignity.

You can find out more [here](#). To donate via cheque, write "India Fund" on the reverse and send to your CC Twinning Officer or the Finance Team.



## India Small Projects

By supporting a Conference-run small projects, you can help deliver direct and tangible support at community level. Local Conferences work hand-in-hand with those they serve to identify needs, design meaningful projects, and ensure successful outcomes.

### The impact of Small Projects

In a remote area of Odisha, India, students from poor families travel long and difficult distances varying from 5 to 13 kms to access education.

This negatively impacts their ability to access education, and the quality of education they receive after the long journeys in hilly forest areas has been evident.

As a result, the local Conference designed a small-project to assist 14 students, aged 10 - 17, by providing them with bicycles to ease their journey to school.

Thanks to the Small Projects scheme and to the sponsoring Conference, the local Conference was able to receive the necessary funding to purchase and distribute the bicycles to the students, which were gratefully received.



Pictured: Students receiving their bicycles from the local Conference in 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](mailto:wildjohn300@gmail.com)





## Grenada

### SVP E&W visit SVP Grenada

In October 2025, Rebecca Montgomery (International Projects Manager) and Patrick Greenidge (SVP E&W Country Ambassador for Grenada) had the pleasure of visiting SVP Grenada for one week.

The visit had several key aims: to meet with the new SVP Grenada President, Sherma Charles, engage with members and conference activities, view the relief efforts on Carriacou following hurricane Beryl, assess project progress, build relationships, and discuss the challenges and strategic priorities ahead for SVP Grenada.

The trip proved deeply insightful, offering a clearer understanding of the realities facing communities in Grenada and how the SVP continues to adapt its work to meet these needs. It was inspiring to meet so many adult and youth members, and witness the true Vincentian spirit which shines in every member.

A full report will be made available shortly and shared with all members for their information.

### The Grans Scheme

Eiffel (pictured to the right with President Sherma and an SVP Member) has been on the Grans scheme for the past few years. The members visit him each month to take him grocery shopping – an outing he eagerly looks forward to – and share quality time with him. The monthly Grans stipend also helps cover the cost of his utility bills and medicine.

Fifteen months after Hurricane Beryl completely destroyed his home, half of it has now been rebuilt and is once again livable. When Rebecca & Patrick visited him in October, his warm smile and gracious welcome reflected the strong bond he shares with the SVP members.



You can [find out more and support the scheme here](#). To donate via cheque, write GRANS on the reverse and send to the Finance Team or your CC Twinning Officer.



## Guyana

In September, Maurice Heneghan (SVP E&W Country Ambassador for Guyana) in collaboration with SVP Guyana National President, Susan English and Treasurer, Duane Lopez, produced an information sheet on the SVP in Guyana. The profile includes key facts on the country, a message from National President Susan, and how SVP Guyana operates in supporting their beneficiaries.

If you are twinned with Guyana, your Conference will have already received a copy of this. You can also read the profile [here](#).

*"Please accept our deepest thanks for the support we receive from SVP England and Wales – it means so much to our members and those who they help"*

Sister Susan English (SVP Guyana National President)

### Care homes

The SVP run Care Homes are running well, with high demand due to the high-costs at the other facilities, at nearly \$2000 monthly, which is unaffordable for many, especially those without families.

This is where the SVP enters to support those less fortunate, by asking for contributions at just \$90 monthly. SVP Guyana sees the value and impact such Homes have on the local community, and are committed to keeping costs low for their residents.

Thanks to the hard work of SVP Guyana and local fundraising initiatives, this project continues to be a success.



Pictured above: The outside of the homes. Each resident has their own unit.

### Twin-Twin Communications

For contact with your twin in Guyana, please include your twin codes and contact Duane Lopes, SVP Guyana Treasurer, on [duanelopes4@yahoo.com](mailto:duanelopes4@yahoo.com)





## Romania

Conference twinning grants in Romania are primarily used to assist with food hampers and essential goods to those in need across the community.

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

### Personalised care packages

Conferences across Romania use the twinning grants to provide personalised packages to individuals and families, tailored to what they need.

An SVP Conference in Iasi devoted one full weekend to delivering packages to 35 families.

The day included visiting the homeless, helping repair a makeshift home to protect them from rain, delivering groceries, and visiting the lonely and those facing poverty.

"The St. Teresa of the Child Jesus community is one full of kindness and responsiveness, where the 16 Vincentians who are asked for support, come to the aid of the lonely, needy and homeless."

Pictured to the right: Care packages being delivered.



### Summer Camps

SVP Conference in Bocsă helped run a mini summer camp for 14 children from disadvantaged families.

The theme of the camp was "Letter to the Heavenly Father" with the motto "Let's overcome our fear".

It was a lovely few days away, providing children with the chance to experience a fun-filled holiday full of activities and making new friends.



## Local community visits

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Conference, SVP Romania's new Conference, has ten active members who are committed to living the Vincentian mission of sharing God's love with the poorest.

The Conference members use their twinning grants to prepare food hampers for home and hospital visits.

Pictured to the right: The conference preparing boxes and bags of food.



## Tackling food insecurity

In September, the St Teresa of the Child Jesus in Iasi wanted to start combating restaurant food waste.

They collaborated with a local restaurant, who agreed to donate any unsold food to the SVP Conference for distribution.

The Conference collects fresh food that would have been wasted, and delivers it around the community to those in need – from elderly individuals to large families.

Pictures to the right: A bag of food containers and a delivery to a beneficiary.



## [Twin-Twin Communications](#)

For communications support, please contact [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk) or your CC Twinning Officer.





## South Sudan

### The South Sudan Appeal

With over half of the population facing acute food insecurity and 80% of the population living below the national poverty line, SVP South Sudan is an essential beacon of hope.

The annual appeal hopes to raise £100,000 to continue our support of SVP South Sudan's essential projects, focused on poverty relief and empowerment.

100% of your donation goes to the vital works of SVP South Sudan. For more information and to donate, please visit <https://svp.org.uk/twinning-and-overseas-aid/south-sudan>.

### The Infant Feeding Centres

Thanks to your donations, the Infant feeding programme can continue operating in three locations, feeding over 700 infants 3 meals weekly.

Pictured to the right is 3 year old Joseph, being carried by his older brother to the feeding centre in Nyarjwa, on meal days.

Joseph is the fifth child in his family; his father is blind and unable to work and his mother struggles as the sole earner. She works hard to sell water and in the rainy season, she works on a small farm producing vegetables for sale in the local market.

The centres are life-saving for many, including Joseph, who often relies on this meal to carry him through to the evening, depending on how much his mother earned that day.

Thanks to your donations and the infant feeding programme, and the loving care of his older brother, Joseph is no longer suffering from malnutrition and is able to enjoy his childhood again.







## Supporting Internally Displaced Persons

Nearly a decade after the 2016 internal conflicts, the camp in Kworijik is home to internally displaced persons, with an estimated 3000 children and 900 adults.

SVP South Sudan has been a key source of support to the camp, providing regular distributions of food and other basic needs like tarpaulin sheets for shelter.



Thanks to your donations, SVP South Sudan can continue offering relief to the poverty experienced in the camp. The picture above shows the distribution of care packages, by National President Jino, to 60 vulnerable women in the camp for the Feast of St Vincent de Paul day at the end of August 2025.

## Conference update

The St. Martin de Porres Conference makes regular visits to the local leprosy centre, delivering essential items such as rice, powdered soap, salt, and sauces.

Through their friendship and generous gift of time, the conference members remind those affected by leprosy – often isolated by lingering social stigma – that they are valued, remembered, and cared for.



To support the South Sudan Appeal, please visit:  
<https://svp.org.uk/twinning-and-overseas-aid/south-sudan>





## The Sudan Support Fund

In April 2023, conflict broke out in the capital of Khartoum (Sudan) before escalating to other areas of the country. This ongoing civil war that has left behind a trail of destruction of unimaginable proportions and human misery. Today, it is estimated that more 12.7 million people has been forced to flee their homes, with nine million people living in or on the brink of famine and over 30 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. We keep the people of Sudan in our prayers and thoughts, as the war rages on.

In England & Wales, the SVP Sudan Support Fund continues to provide grants to Conferences and CSPs who are supporting Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers who now live here.

Since the fund launched in December 2024, the Fund has supported 75 individuals and families.

Conferences and CSPs can apply for grants of up to £500 to support individuals or families with essential living items, education support, and improving physical and/or mental wellbeing.

Examples of past grant requests include:

- Food vouchers
- Clothing
- Nappies
- Toiletry kits
- Sleeping bag
- Mattress
- Phone sim
- Bus fare for school transport
- Bikes



Picture above: A young boy was gifted a bike, thanks to the Sudan Support Fund, which brings him joy and freedom to explore his new area.

Please contact [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk)  
to request an application form or to find out more.

# Get involved

## TwinTalk highlights – we want to hear from you!

If you have any Twinning related stories to share, we would love to hear from you and highlight them in future TwinTalk editions.

This may be about a long-standing twinning relationship, shared communications, stories you have learnt, fundraising events or Twinning awareness-raising events in your parish, and more!

Whether you are an individual sponsor, a Conference, District Council, or Central Council Member, please get in touch at [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk).



## Call for Contributions: Twinning Promotional Video

We are creating a new promotional video to celebrate and raise awareness of Twinning with the SVP – and we'd love for you to be part of it!

We're inviting members and Conferences to share their experiences of Twinning:

- What have you gained from being involved?
- How have you seen acts of hope expressed through your Twinning relationships?



Content will be in the form a short video (no more than 30 seconds) – either talking about your Twinning experience or showing examples of Twinning support within your Parish.

If you or your Conference would like to take part, please contact [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk) for more information and before submitting any content.





## Would you or your Conference like to Twin?

If your Conference/DC/CC, 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](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk).

From as little as £12.50 a month, you can make a huge difference in helping an SVP Conference overseas continue to operate and reach those most in need.

You can view the twinning information leaflet [here](#). We currently have twins available in Romania, South Sudan, and India.



## Twinning Communications

An important part of twin-twin relationships is communication. However, we recognise that there can be obstacles to efficient communications. These include lack of internet connection, language barrier, lack of access to digital devices or slow postal services, and more. Increasingly, we are seeing Twins communicate via WhatsApp which has helped improve comms.

Please do get in touch with [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk) if you have any communication issues with your Twin. We are constantly collaborating with the Overseas Twinning Officers on ways to strengthen these ties.





## Finance – Standing Orders

To change from cheque payments to standing order, and join the 45% of Conferences who have already done so, please contact your CC Twinning Officer or email [twinningfinance@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinningfinance@svp.org.uk) for support.

### **Standing orders benefit both yourself and the overseas Conference:**

- They ensure no payments are missed as the E&W Conference/Council does not have to remember to make payment.
- Reduces the costs of processing cheques
- The overseas twin can know when their grant is due which helps them plan their conference activity accordingly
- Increases accuracy of ensuring funds are allocated to the correct twin
- More efficient and streamlined process overall

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](mailto: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.

## 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 about paying your annual commitment. Efforts such as a parish appeal, tea & cake after Mass, Cash4Coins, or a Secret Bag can help with fundraising your commitment.

100% of your twinning contribution goes to your twin and we work closely with each overseas team to ensure donations are allocated correctly.

Governance reports are provided twice a year and shared in TwinTalk for your information.

If you are unsure whether you have a twin, or who they might be, please contact [twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk) or your CC Twinning Officer.

We thank you for your continued support of our fellow SVP members and Conferences overseas.





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

## Useful contacts

**General enquiries:** [Twinning@svp.org.uk](mailto:Twinning@svp.org.uk) / 07857622599

**Finance enquiries:** [TwinningFinance@svp.org.uk](mailto: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.

### SVP E&W Country Ambassadors

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

## Get in touch

Thank you, we hope you enjoyed this edition of Twin Talk. All editions of Twin Talk can be found [here](#).

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](mailto:Twinning@svp.org.uk).