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## India

### Conference Twinning Activities

#### St John The Baptist's Conference

This thriving Conference has 25 members and, with thanks to its twin grants, it has been able to achieve so much over the last year. Below are just some examples of their activity:

- Conference members take the time to visit wealthier families within the parish boundaries to collect grains and financial donations, which are distributed to the Conference's adopted families.
- The Conference provides financial assistance to 10 primary school students, and supports 2 female students completing a general nursing course, covering their full tuition fees and expenses.
- Planning for the future, the Conference runs an ongoing appeal to support young people with grants for weddings and other important life events. Thanks to the generosity of donors, four young people—two boys and two girls—have already benefited. The Conference ensures that everyone can share in meaningful cultural and celebratory life moments.
- Committed to empowering more people through self-employment, the Conference offers interest-free loans for small business initiatives. Once a loan is repaid, the funds are reinvested into the scheme and provided to another beneficiary. So far, an incredible 55 people have been able to establish businesses through this programme, with a further 10 currently in receipt of a loan.



To twin in India, 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 overseas SVP Conference continue operating and reach those most in need.



## Our Lady of Grace Conference

Each year during the festive season, the Our Lady of Grace Conference organises a special meal for the poor - on boxing day in 2025, they welcomed more than 450 people from the local community.

Supported by generous donations from local residents - with financial contributions and supplies - the Conference is able to provide a meaningful and nourishing meal for those in need. Conference members themselves also donate, prepare, and serve the food, ensuring a truly personal act of service.

Photographed: Conference members (including Brother Norbert, the India SVP Twinning Officer) preparing and serving the locals, and the beneficiaries enjoying the meal.



## St Joseph Conference

This Conference has organised events designed to bring the community together in celebrating the joy of Christ's birth during December. Any funds raised were then used by the Conference to support those in need.

“ Regards from our beneficiaries along with their deepest gratitude. Your kindness provides more than just material support; it offers them hope and a sense of belonging.

1. Mini "Buon Natale": A 10km roadshow on wheels with live crib, music and dancing.
2. Star Making Competition: Parish Members put their creativity to use, crafting beautiful stars which were displayed for all on 23rd December.
3. Carol Competition: The air is filled with music as various groups practice their hymns and festive songs.



## Conference Christmas Messages

We were pleased to receive so many Christmas messages from Conferences across India for their twins in England & Wales this year. Here is just a sample of those messages...

“Your generous support has been a true blessing, empowering us to reach those in need with timely care and kindness. Over the past year, the Holy Trinity Conference, Kalamassery has been especially active in serving the needy. In addition to our regular outreach, we were able to extend special support to two families, offering them much-needed relief and hope. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. It strengthens our mission and brings light to the lives of those who are truly marginalized.” (Christ the King, Kalamassery)

“We visit our adopted families regularly. We also visit the old, sick and widows. We give them food materials and medicine and also meet their needs. We help few students to continue their higher education”. (TK 031)

“This Christmas, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your tireless commitment. You have brought the light of Christ to those living in the shadows of poverty and loneliness. May the joy you give so freely to others return to you and your loved ones a hundredfold. I pray that 2026 brings our Conference closer together in faith and strengthens our hands for the work ahead.” (Christ the King, Kerala)

## SVP India Governance Report

The Governance Report for SVP India, April 2025 – October 2025, will be available in the next TwinTalk.



## Women Empowerment Project

By providing capital to start or expand income-generating businesses for those struggling, the Women Empowerment Project (WEP) of Quilon Central Council aims to transform the lives of women through the dignity of labour, economic independence, and a sustainable livelihood.

The projects women have undertaken include fish vending, poultry and goat farming, garment making and other such livelihood activities. Projects are selected based on local feasibility, beneficiaries' skills, and market demand.

The WEP has been successfully running for a few years and it is currently supporting **168 direct beneficiaries** and **630 indirect beneficiaries**, benefiting families and communities across 15 conferences. The growing confidence of beneficiaries, timely repayments, and reinvestment of profits indicate that the project is progressing towards long-term self reliance for its beneficiaries.

## The Microfinance for Self-Help Group

Similar to the above project, Madras Central Council implemented this project to promote economic independence, social inclusion and the dignity of underprivileged individuals, many of them being young adults and women.

With many facing hardship, the programme was in high demand. By March 2025, a total of **850 beneficiaries** had benefitted from the project, with **412 benefitting indirectly**, including the family members of the beneficiaries. 71 beneficiaries were women, 33 men, and 1 transgender individual.



A Beneficiary from Vady Conference in Quilon CC, doing fish vending.



A beneficiary getting ready for her petty shop business in Madras CC.

The India Fund is key to supporting community projects.  
You can find out more and donate [here](#).



## India Small Projects

By supporting a Conference-run small project, 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. Small projects cost up to £1000 and are payable over 3 years.

### The impact of Small Projects

In an area of high poverty, where most people end up working in hard labour without a regular income, St Don Bosco Conference wanted to offer an alternative career route. The conference identified 10 most-deserving families and gifted the women with brand new sewing machines. Training was delivered on how to tailor shirts, blouses, pants, frocks, school uniforms, sari falls, and repair work.

There is a strong local demand for tailoring, especially during festival seasons, ensuring a good regular income for the families. Upon completion, SVP India shared “We see longevity in this [project]... it will sustain the families for a very long time. Thank you sincerely and wholeheartedly”

Thank you to all Conferences and donors who support a small project. It is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference.



The beneficiaries of the sewing machines and the training classes.

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 to SVP Grenada - Read the report now!](#)

In September 2025, two representatives from SVP England & Wales had the privilege of visiting SVP Grenada.

Highlights include:

- Hearing from the Mini Vinnies about why they joined the SVP. One shared: “A kindness that you show into the world, always has a way of coming back to you. So always be kind!”
- After realising some of their peers attend school hungry, the Mini Vinnies set up a breakfast club. They arrive at school early each morning to prepare and serve breakfast, ensuring no student has to learn on an empty stomach.
- Visiting Carriacou to witness the damage of Hurricane Beryl in July 2024 and seeing how SVP Grenada is continuing to offer recovery relief.
- Meeting beneficiaries on the Grans scheme and hearing directly how important the initiative is to their daily lives.
- Attending St Vincent’s Feast Day Mass alongside 150 SVP members from across Grenada, celebrating faith, fellowship, and service together.

[Read the report by clicking here!](#)



### **SVP Grenada Governance Report**

[Click here to read](#) SVP Grenada’s governance report for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025.



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



## The Grans Scheme

The Grans scheme was launched by SVP Grenada in 2010, through the vision and compassion of the late Bishop Vincent Darius, with the aim of providing regular support to elderly vulnerable individuals.

There are currently 12 beneficiaries on the scheme, each receiving a monthly stipend to contribute towards food, medicine, or household bills. As part of the Grans scheme, local members make regular visits to offer practical support as well as friendship.



SVP England & Wales currently contributes £750 per quarter (£3000 per year) towards the Grans scheme. However, funds are running low. As the global cost-of-living crisis continues to take its toll, SVP Grenada are increasing their stipend from \$75 ECD to \$100 ECD per month (estimated £30).

In order to maintain our regular contribution, and ensure SVP Grenada can continue to run the scheme, we are appealing to Conferences and Members for their support.

Please do read the SVP Grenada visit report ([linked here again](#)) to get to know some of the Grans better and understand how big a difference the scheme makes in their lives.

You can [find out more about the Gran's scheme here](#).

To donate via cheque, write GRANS on the reverse and send to the Twinning Finance Team or your CC Twinning Officer.



## Guyana

### Conference Christmas activities

Thanks to Twinning support and Sacred Heart Conference in Georgetown, the two SVP Guyana Care Homes – St Thomas More and St Nazareth – were able to host a Christmas lunch for 20 of their residents.

The menu included fried rice, chicken, baked macaroni, stuffed macaroni shells, bread and pepper pit, fresh fruit, sweets, and Danish cookies.

It was a joyous occasion for the residents who look forward to this event each year!



St Ignatius Conference, following receipt of the Twinning grants, assembled and distributed 100 baskets to residents of the St Nazareth Care Home and those in need within the Parish.

Basket items included basic staples like; rice, sugar, flour, salt, cooking oil, margarine, curry powder, spices, biscuits, some tinned goods, and fruits.

The baskets are given with the vision of beneficiaries preparing meals for their families and friends over the holidays.

### **SVP Guyana Governance Report**

[Click here to read](#) SVP Guyana's governance report for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025.

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





## Romania

### Conference activities over Christmas

Many Conferences in SVP Romania choose to use their twinning grants to ensure Christmas is a special time for all families, through a variety of Conference activities.

This includes attending mass over the holidays to offer prayers, visiting families and elderly individuals over the festive period, delivering celebratory foods, and providing 'goody' bags to a range of beneficiaries.

The pictures displayed are from a Conference in Baltati.



### **SVP Romania Governance Report**

[Click here to read](#) SVP Romania's governance report for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025.

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





## SVP Romania Winter relief projects

The winter across Romania can be harsh, especially for many families and elderly individuals living in rural areas, and it is a challenging and stressful time of year. Over 80% of homes in rural areas rely on firewood to heat their homes, which comes at a cost many cannot afford. Families with young children who have grown out of winter coats find themselves unable to replace them.

Following a request from SVP Romania for emergency funding to support families and elderly individuals, SVP E&W were able to provide an emergency grant of £7000 in October 2025. Over 50 individuals – families, children, and elderly individuals – are now receiving ongoing support from their local Conference and staying warm during the winter.

Below are just two examples of the seven fully funded projects. Please consider donating towards SVP Romania “Winter Relief” in preparation for next winter and to ensure we can provide urgent support as needed.

### SVP Conference - Ascendent of Holy Spirit Baltati

One of the recipients of this essential aid is an elderly and unwell man, living alone, with no family or income. He has spent past years without heating and now suffers from limited mobility in his right hand due to frostbite. Thanks to the winter relief grant, he will have guaranteed warmth throughout winter this year.

Another beneficiary is a family with three young children. With the family facing poverty, covering the costs of heating during the winter would have been unlikely. Thanks to the local Conference, the young family will not be facing the cold alone.

Left picture: The room where the elderly man lives and where his firewood was delivered by Conference Members. Right picture: Delivery of firewood for a family of 5.





## SVP Conference – St Anthony Iasi

In a small village near Iasi, a poor family with 6 children under the age of 12 are struggling to make it through the cold season with one income from the father. Despite their efforts, the family cannot afford firewood for heating, basic food supplies, clothing, or school materials for the children.

Thanks to the local Conference, SVP Romania are able to provide tailored support to the family. This includes firewood for heating, winter clothing for the children, essential food items, and school materials.



Photos of the SVP Conference members making deliveries to the family of 6.



“Because of your support, families who were struggling to survive the harsh winter now have warmth, food, and hope. You didn’t just provide firewood, clothing, and school supplies—you gave comfort, dignity, and the reassurance that they are not alone.

Every smile on a child’s face, every warm home, and every meal shared is a direct result of your care. You have made a real difference, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Thank you for standing with us and for bringing light and hope into the lives of those who needed it most. Together, we are building a future filled with compassion and solidarity.

SVP St Anthony, Iasi.



## South Sudan

### The South Sudan Appeal

We would like offer a heartfelt thank you to all Conferences and Members for their support of the South Sudan Appeal. We will provide a final figure raised in the next TwinTalk.

With 80% of the population living below the national poverty line, SVP South Sudan is an essential beacon of hope. 100% of your donation goes to supporting this beacon of hope. For more information and to donate, please visit <https://svp.org.uk/twinning-and-overseas-aid/south-sudan>.

### The Infant Feeding Centres

There are 3 infant feeding centres in South Sudan; Lologo, Rajaf, and in Nyarjwa. The centres provide targeted feeding, nutrition education, food hygiene promotion, and health screenings for the children. In 2025, at least 700 children between the ages of 1-5 years old were fed three times a week in all 3 centres. 180 mothers were trained on providing a balanced diet, good food hygiene and sanitation. In early 2026, the numbers of children needing feeding exceeded to 1000.

### Internally Displaced Peoples

On Christmas Eve, the SVP delivered food items to the internally displaced peoples of Kworijik Camp. The food supplied covers 120 households, however, it is common for the camp residents to further share the resources, with those most vulnerable prioritised.

The delivered food items included maize flour, beans, rice, cooking oil, and salt. These basic items enabled residents to enjoy meals over the Christmas holidays and ensured they knew they were not forgotten.



### **SVP South Sudan Governance Report**

The Governance Report for SVP South Sudan, April 2025 - December 2025, will be available in the next TwinTalk.



## The Vocational Training Centre

In Lologo, the VTC offers vocational training to people living in poverty who have few or no other opportunities. Many participants were unable to afford formal education, while others are young adults who once turned to crime to survive and are now working to rebuild their lives. For many, the VTC represents a final chance to create a better future, providing courses in fields such as mechanics, tailoring, nursing, and more.

In December 2025, 444 students graduated, with 186 women and 258 men completing training in various trades. Some trainees were recruited to help construct the SVP community hall and the fencing of the VTC centre.

### Anna's story

Having worked as a traditional midwife for many years, supporting numerous mothers through childbirth with dedication and care, Anna was not expecting life changes later in life. After suffering from injury, midwifery became too physically taxing. Following the passing of her husband, and left with 5 children to support, life became hard for Anna.

In early 2025, Anna, aged 55, enrolled into the sewing programme at the VTC. Enjoying her training, and strengthened with dignity and hope for herself and her children, Anna can now dream of an optimistic future.

Anna plans to launch a sewing business close to Lologo market, producing custom clothing pieces and repairing clothes. Profits will be used to support her children's school fees and other household essentials.



**“This training will change my life. I will be able to earn a living, and care for my children.”**

You can support more people like Anna:

<https://svp.org.uk/twinning-and-overseas-aid/south-sudan>

## Lebanon

With Lebanon facing unprecedented economic hardship, armed conflict, and prolonged political instability, the need for the services of SVP Lebanon has become more urgent than ever. Twinning support is instrumental to strengthening the capacity of the SVP group in delivering essential services like food assistance, healthcare, and educational support.



SVP Lebanon's care programme supports residents with accommodation, nutritious meals, healthcare support, and social integration.

Tyne Central Council has been supporting SVP Lebanon for 38 years. Just recently, this support has enabled SVP Lebanon to invest in the rehabilitation of the Ozanam rest in Batroun and to purchase heating fuel for St Peter rest home in Chahtoul. Funding for these projects has enabled SVP Lebanon care homes to continue delivering holistic support to residents through their care homes.

By addressing root causes of poverty - including social isolation, lack of income, and limited access to public services - and by offering a dignified care environment, the homes reduce reliance on emergency assistance and provide essential long-term support to vulnerable individuals.

### The purchase of heating fuel for the St Peter Home

Access to heating is a necessity, especially for the elderly with fixed or no incomes. Through the twinning grant from Tyne CC, SVP Lebanon were able to purchase heating fuel for the residents in the St Peter home for the elderly.

This project is essential in guaranteeing the warmth and safety of the residents during the winter season, and reducing risks to their health from cold induced conditions like hypothermia and other illnesses.

Tyne CC and SVP Lebanon's support are essential to maintaining the well-being of the Home's residents. By helping to prevent medical complications and reduce healthcare-related expenses, the project has also directly contributed to addressing energy poverty among the elderly population.



Pictured is the St Peter rest home in Chahtoul.

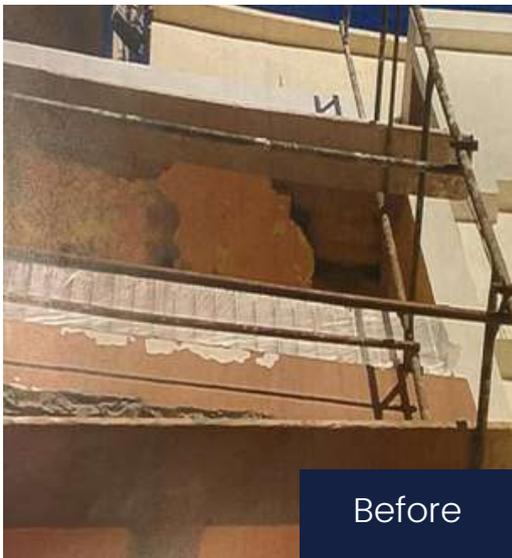
## Refurbishment of the Ozanam Elderly Rest Home, Batroun

With the support of Tyne CC, SVP Lebanon were able to fix the elevator in the home, and waterproof and paint the dilapidated outside. These improvements have resulted in a direct positive impact on the comfort of the elderly beneficiaries, their visitors, and the staff supporting them.

This project was in line with SVP Lebanon's strong commitment to improving the living conditions of the elderly by responding effectively to their immediate needs and enhancing their well-being.

Providing over half of the project cost, Tyne CC has been instrumental in ensuring the dignity and the quality of life of the residents in the Ozanam Home.

Photographs below show the before and after of the renovations..



'We are grateful for the grant funds provided by the St Vincent de Paul England & Wales, which have been helpful in supporting our projects.'

The success of these projects would not have been possible without the support of the St Vincent de Paul England & Wales, highlighting the crucial role of twinning in supporting development projects."

SVP Lebanon



## 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 have 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 82 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 recent requests include:

- Food vouchers
- Clothing
- Sleeping bags
- Warm clothing
- A phone with 6 months of data



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 operating and reach those most in need.

You can view the twinning information leaflet [here](#). We currently have conferences available for twinning in India.



### Easter 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 ahead of the upcoming holidays.** 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

If the twinning commitment is not paid by the SVP E&W Conference/donor, the overseas twin does not receive the grant. This greatly impacts their plans and work.

Please contact your CC Twinning Officer or the Twinning team if you have any concerns about paying your annual commitment.

## Governance Reports (April 2025 – December 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](mailto:twinning@svp.org.uk).

[Grenada](#)   [Guyana](#)   [Romania](#)

In the next TwinTalk:  
India & South Sudan





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 – Vacancy
- 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).