

Twin Talk



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Edition 11 Quarter 1, 2026 - 2027



In this edition:

Country highlights

- India Fund - 25/26 reporting and upcoming aims
- Small projects and their impact
- Romania Winter Appeal - we need your support
- South Sudan - IDP Agricultural project

Important information

- Setting up your standing order
- Country six-monthly Governance reports
- Team Updates

Getting involved

- Sponsor a small project
- Would you like to Twin?



India

Conference activities

Throughout the year, Conferences in India are committed to ensuring the community they serve and those in need remain at the heart of what they do. Alongside practical support, members regularly share prayers together for their adopted families and all those they are helping. They seek to form genuine bonds of friendship and Vincentian companionship. SVP India also share that Conferences pray for their overseas twins and thank you for your continued support.

“Please be assured that we are praying for your good health, happiness, and the well-being of your family.”



Pictured above are Conference activities (left to right): sharing of food in the community, a beneficiary visit, and a Conference blood-donation drive.

With your Twinning support, Conferences in India can continue on their mission of serving the poor and relieving poverty and suffering. To start a twinning relationship in India, please contact twinning@svp.org.uk



The impact of the SVP India Fund in 25/26

With thanks to your support, the SVP India Fund funded the following between April 2025 – March 2026:

Student support

SVP E&W supported nearly 600 students out of the total 1409 supported by SVP India in 25/26:

- 474 VJES students (£15 per student)
- 52 HES students (£120 per student)
- 72 TVTS (£70 per student)



Ongoing projects

- £1500 towards the running costs of the Assam Clinic – a rural clinic providing affordable and essential healthcare to the local community
- £1500 towards the ongoing costs of the Jeevan Jyoti home – a home which was established in 2000 for young disabled girls without family or social support.

Community projects

- Chengleput tailoring project (£3450) – Following success of a tailoring training to women programme at the Ozanam Centre since 2018, this expansion is providing 8 graduates with secure employment and a safe place to work.
- Jeevan Jyoti home (£4335.10) – the home housing 41 young disabled girls was in need of an overdue refurbishment to repair leaks and improve the comfort of the residents. Click [here for a detailed report](#) on the Jeevan Jyoti home renovation.





SVP India Fund 2026/2027 aims

Student support

SVP India would like to increase the number of students receiving support to 1550 total – 900 VJES, 150 HES and 500 TVTS. The preference amongst students to complete vocational training (TVTS) instead of a university degree (HES) continues to grow.

Community Projects

SVP India currently have two proposed projects they would like to support through the India Fund.



A microfinance project for 20 people to set up small-scale businesses which will generate an income to support their families and a proposal to restore clean water via a drilled borehole for a village of 200 families. Each project is an estimated £3000.

Click [here to read more information on both projects.](#)

You can donate to the SVP India Fund:

- Online – donate [here](#)
- Cheque – Send to CC Twinning Officer or Twinning Finance. Addressed to “SVP Twinning” and with the reference “INF” on the reverse.
- BACS – Account no: 46084975, Sort code: 606004, Ref is “INF”



Grenada

Conference activities

SVP Grenada Conferences are focused on activities that bring comfort, relieve suffering, and provide hope to those who are less fortunate and vulnerable. Common Conference activities include; home visits to the sick, visits to the elderly and lonely, visits to hospitals and senior care homes. Conferences also distribute food hampers, toiletries, school supplies and clothing to needy families and students.

Grenada Sewing Project

In January 2026, with thanks to donations from Conferences and members, we provided £1663.95 to fund the formation of a tailoring training programme by Beaulieu Conference. The 8 month programme provides training to 8 women with the end of goal of securing them employment.

Unemployment, especially among women and youth, remain high across Grenada, and the Conference wanted to bring meaningful change to the local community.

The project is now in progress, with the students acquiring new skills each week, progressing from pillowcases to dresses and skirts. Some of the produced items are being kept for an exhibition at the end of programme, allowing the women to showcase what they have made. Some clothes have even been worn out by the women, garnering compliments from across the town!





Projects update

Thanks to your generous donations and support from our appeal in the last TwinTalk, we successfully raised enough to fund both summer projects- the Youth Intervention Project and the Summer School Project.

The Summer School project offered: arts and crafts sessions which offered a creative outlet, cultural field trips to broaden cultural knowledge through visits to places that may otherwise be inaccessible or unaffordable, and supported the building of social skills gained through positive peer interaction

The Youth Intervention programme aimed to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour through early engagement: equipping students with the social and emotional skills to navigate the transition from primary to secondary school, improve online safety, and developing conflict resolution skills.



We look forward to sharing an update on how the projects went and their impact on the students. Thank you again for your continued support for such key projects.

The Grans Scheme

Introduced in September 2010, the Grans Scheme continues to support 'Grannies & Grandads' across Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

The scheme supports 12 elderly individuals with financial and social. A monthly contribution of 100 ECD (estimated £30) contributes towards essential living costs, whilst the social support provides the beneficiaries with companionship through regular visits and check-in's. SVP England & Wales grants £750 per quarter towards the Grenada Grans.

Please do read the SVP Grenada visit report ([linked here again](#)) to get to know some of the Grans better and understand how essential the scheme is to their well-being.

Visit the webpage [here](#) or donate via cheque/BACs with the reference "GRANS".



Conference Small Projects – Small project, big impact!

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 their needs and then design meaningful projects, with successful outcomes. Small projects cost up to £1000 and are payable over 2–3 years, leaving your Conference with sufficient time to fundraise and promote within the Parish.

There are presently 20 small projects awaiting sponsorship with costs ranging from £675 to £870 (goats, sheep, cows, chickens, petty business and computer training).

In 2025, Kenilworth Conference sponsored a small project in Guntur CC which provided 5 families with a buffalo. The families were able to sell the buffaloes milk at the local market and to nearby hotels for income generation. They were also able to produce milk and curd for family consumption, providing a reliable source of healthy food.

The sponsoring Conference also gained a lot from getting involved and shared the following:



“Thanks for the [completion] report and we are so impressed with the supporting detailed documentation and photos. It’s really excellent that our Members are able to see and feel that close to the project and will also be very good publicity on our church notice boards. Keep up the good work and I am sure your future special projects with that follow through will be well funded”

Gerald Crawford, SVP Conference President, August 2026

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



Guyana

National Council

The geography of Guyana makes travel between Conferences challenging. With unreliable or limited internet access in the remote areas, the National Council opt to have in-person meetings which ensure all can fully partake. However, this does come at a cost.

On 8th August, an AGM was held for all Conference Presidents. A raffle with prizes was held as a fundraiser to help cover the costs of travel by members of the Superior Council. SVP England & Wales also contribute £500 per quarter towards the running costs of SVP Guyana National Council.

Conference activity

A conference recently hired someone to wash the home of a beneficiary of theirs. Upon arriving at the home to complete the job, the conference members came to learn the hired individual was from Venezuela and trying to create a life for himself in Guyana. Guyana has had a huge influx of migrants from Venezuela, driven by economic hardship and political instability. After paying him for his services, the Conference also gave the gentleman some new clothing and the offer of further support. The members shared he gratefully accepted with tears in his eyes.

Care home updates

SVP Guyana run 3 care homes in Georgetown. The residents are offered comfortable and safe lodging in private rooms, with access to shared communal spaces (image to the right). Local members and households across the community prepare food at home and deliver it to the residents on a regular basis.



Duane Lopez (Projects Officer) described this as a usual part of Guyanese culture. "If it was my birthday, I would prepare food and share it across my community. We celebrate events by helping others less fortunate than us".



Romania

Conference activities

Under the theme of “Faptele bune nu sunt în vacanță” (Good deeds do not take a vacation), a group of Vincentians from the St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus Conference (SVP Roman) organized a charitable visit to St. Joseph’s Home in Odorheiu Secuiesc.

During this visit, the members delivered food supplies and granted a generous donation to support the needs of the approximately 170 children under their care. The home is supervised by the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which provides ongoing care, education, and guidance to the children.

This initiative reflected the values of compassion, sharing, and solidarity that are central to the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It also demonstrated the importance of responding to local needs while fostering awareness among members about broader social challenges faced by vulnerable children and families.

In addition to direct charitable activities, Conferences continued to exchange information, prayer intentions, and encouragement through various communication channels. These contacts helped maintain a close relationship between twin partners and strengthened the sense of belonging to the international Vincentian family.

With your Twinning support, SVP Romania continue to care for those otherwise uncared for.



“Twinning partnerships have remained active and fruitful, promoting mutual understanding, spiritual growth, and concrete acts of service. Through ongoing collaboration and communication, we continue to support one another in living out our Vincentian vocation and bringing hope to those most in need”.

Marilena– SVP Romania Project Officer.



The SVP Romanian Winter Appeal

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 an emergency request in October 2025 from SVP Romania for funding to support families and elderly individuals, SVP E&W were able to provide a grant of over £7000. Over 50 individuals – families, children, and elderly individuals – received support from their local Conferences.

Examples of impact include [Oradea Conference](#), which supported 4 families (totalling 12 adults and 14 children) through the provision of basic food supplies and firewood. Families were saved from having to choose between paying for children's school supplies, warm clothing, or heating their home.

And [Onesti Conference](#) who shared: "For some, the help was more than a food package: it was a smile and a kind word! They were extremely happy with the assistance they received, but the greatest joy was that someone opened their door and took a moment for them. For a person living in isolation, a warm conversation is sometimes worth more than any material good. Loneliness weighs heavily, and through humanitarian actions we want to show them that they are not forgotten and that we care about them."

We need your help in repeating this support again in Winter 2026.

To donate, you can:

- Donate online [here](#)
- Cheque – Send to CC Twinning Officer or Twinning Finance. Addressed to "SVP Twinning" and with the reference "ROM-WINTER" on the reverse.
- BACS – Account no: 46084975, Sort code: 606004, Ref is "ROM-WINTER"

For more information and to donate: please visit the webpage on the [Romania Winter Appeal](#)



South Sudan

Youth Celebration

With a keen focus on engaging the youth and shaping SVP South Sudan's future leaders, the South Sudan National Team, especially Bro John—the Youth Coordinator, have developed a Youth Programme:

- The Youth Members are encouraged to conduct Conference visits and volunteer where possible, to strengthen their acts of charity, humility, and love for all humanity.
- The Youth Members are also to attend workshops to deepen their understanding of the SVP and their roles as Vincentians.
- Care for the environment is also encouraged, and the youth help clean hospitals, orphanages, and schools.

In further support of the Youth Members, on the 3rd and 4th of July, in celebration of Youth Day, all the Youth from the Central Councils were invited to stay at the SVP training centre in Lologo, and enjoy a feast together.

Activities over the two days included a cleaning campaign, the planting of trees, presentations on the SVP and celebrations of the youth, sports games, and a Holy Mass. Further youth activities will be carried out as the year progresses.



Bro John Ladu, the SVP South Sudan Youth Coordinator.



Internally Displaced Persons – Agricultural Project

As a result of years of internal armed conflict, in the North of Juba, the Kworijik settlement camp is inhabited by 3000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

With heavy reliance on humanitarian assistance, which fails to provide adequate support for all the IDPs, SVP South Sudan works hard to address this shortfall.

The agricultural project, which launched on 27th June 2026, delivers training to 200 participants from across 120 households, with priority given to women and youth. A few months in, the project is already a great success and first harvest is expected shortly.

Project aims:

- To train residents in improved and climate-smart agricultural production techniques.
- To increase household agricultural productivity and diversification for food and income.
- To strengthen participants' capacity in basic agribusiness, post-harvest handling, and market engagement.
- To promote self-reliance and reduce long-term dependency on humanitarian assistance.





The Sudan & South 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 than 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 continues.

In England & Wales, the SVP Sudan Support Fund gives grants to Conferences and CSPs supporting Sudanese/South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers.

Since the fund launched in December 2024, the Fund has had 96 applications, 12 from Conferences and 84 from CSPs.

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
- Clothes
- Sleeping bags
- Transport costs to schools and interviews
- Household items- a bed, a mattress, bedding, curtains, and towels.

If you are supporting Sudanese or South Sudanese refugees or asylum seekers, we encourage you to apply.



Picture above: An example of a clothing parcel granted to beneficiaries by the Newcastle Support Centre.

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



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.

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.



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 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 55% 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 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. 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.

Governance Reports

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).

The period of the report reflects the financial year of the twinned country.

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. If you have any questions, please contact the Country Ambassador or twinning@svp.org.uk.

[Grenada](#)

[Guyana](#)

[Romania](#)

[India](#)

[South Sudan](#)



THANK YOU



Team Updates

Goodbye to Justyna Badach-Malinowska

After 5 years as Twinning Finance Officer, we bid farewell to Justyna as she returns to Poland with her family. We thank her for her years of dedicated service, and we wish her the best!

Whilst we fill this vacancy, please continue to use twinningfinance@svp.org.uk.



Welcome to Julie Brown, our new Country Ambassador for Romania

“I was interested in the role of Ambassador of Romania because I feel it’s another way to show compassion to Our Brothers and Sisters overseas in whatever form is needed. I am looking forward to starting this role. God bless you all in the work you do.”

Julie can be reached at twinningromania@svp.org.uk.

Twinning Conference 2026

On the 20th June, CC Twinning Officers, Members of the National Twinning Committee, and SVP Staff came together for a Twinning-focused Conference.

The event included presentations from each of the country ambassadors, celebrating the success of twinning, and discussions on the future of Twinning.

It was a fruitful and successful event, offering the opportunity for the team to come together, and work as one to ensure Twinning is as impactful as possible for overseas partners.





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.

SVP E&W 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 – Julie Brown, TwinningRomania@svp.org.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. 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.