# Twin Talk

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Edition 12 Quarter 2, 2026 - 2027




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## Conference Small Projects - Small project, big impact!

By sponsoring 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 upon confirmation of sponsorship, the amount is sent in full so the Conference can begin their project as soon as possible. However, you can repay over 2-3 years, leaving your Conference with sufficient time to fundraise and promote within the Parish.

Examples of small projects in need of sponsorship include:

- 26-001 House maintenance £675
- 26-006 Computer training £780
- 26-009 Milking cows £760
- 26-011 House repair £800




Thanks to the support of Padley Martyrs Conference in Chesterfield, Bala Maria Conference in Vadlapudi, Tamil Nadu, India, was able to start a petty business project.

Their project is now successfully supporting 10 families in various small businesses including push carts (for street selling of snacks, fruit and vegetables), wet grinders (for preparing chutneys and other food), sewing machines and even mobile welding equipment. These families are able to generate an income for themselves, promoting self-sufficiency and empowerment through oppurtunity.

The SVP India Conference President wrote:

**"On behalf of our beneficiaries, I offer sincere thanks. Because of your kind financial assistance, they are now able to earn their daily bread through the livelihood items provided. I have personally encouraged them to remember each member of the Padley Martyrs Conference in their prayers".**

If your Conference, or yourself as an individual, would like to sponsor a small project, please contact John Wild at wildjohn300@gmail.com.



## South Sudan Appeal

On the 1st of October 2026, we launched our annual South Sudan Appeal to continue supporting the projects run by SVP South Sudan. These projects are essential to the lives of many, who are already facing real and life-threatening poverty, and they include; infant feeding centres, the Be in Hope Home, the Vocational Training Centre, the Healthcare Centre, and supporting the Internally Displaced Persons.

### The Infant Feeding Centres

Thanks to your donations and support from the last appeal, SVP South Sudan has been able to ensure 1,000 children facing malnutrition across the three feeding centres in Lologo, Rajaf, and Nyarjwa are currently receiving nutritious meals three times each week.

With your donations, at the beginning of the year, SVP South Sudan was able to calculate how many children they can support, run health assessments, and prepare to meet their nutritional needs. The programme focuses on children aged 1-5 and scientifically assessed to be at risk of malnutrition and adverse childhood developmental challenges.

The program addresses childhood malnutrition by providing nutritious meals, monitoring child growth, educating caregivers on proper nutrition and hygiene, and promoting community participation in child health and nutrition. An important addition to the program in 2026 was the introduction of a Kitchen Gardening Initiative involving 20 mothers from Lologo, which aimed to improve household food security and ensure sustainable access to nutritious foods through home vegetable production.



Hana (pictured, left) was at risk of severe malnutrition at just age two.

However, thanks to the SVP Infant Feeding programme she began to gain weight, smile brighter, and is now able to play with her siblings again.



Above: Infants during the health assessments and selections of those in need in January 2026.

Click here to donate.




## The Healthcare Centre

The Nyarjwa Primary Health Care Center provides essential primary health care services to the surrounding community, ensuring that vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, have access to quality medical care regardless of their ability to pay.

Thanks to Conference support, the solar panels have been upgraded and the centre continues to see and treat patients.




The most frequently treated conditions included:

- Malaria, particularly among children, which remained the leading cause of attendance at the health facility.
- Respiratory tract infections.
- Skin infections, including both bacterial and fungal diseases.
- Enteric fever (typhoid).

## Internally Displaced Persons



With over 3000 IDPs at the Kworijik settlement camp, SVP South Sudan provide limited food rations. However, to ensure future sustainability and self-sustenance, SVP South Sudan launched an agricultural training project early 2026.

This training is supporting 115 beneficiaries with the skills and knowledge to grow their own food, such as maize and vegetables.

To donate, you can:

- Donate online here
- Cheque - Send to CC Twinning Officer or Twinning Finance. Addressed to “SVP Twinning” and with the reference “SSD” on the reverse.
- BACS - Account no: 46084975, Sort code: 606004, Ref is “SSD”




## The Vocational Training Centre

During the last two weeks of October 2026, trainees had their final exams and finished their training for the year. A graduation ceremony is planned for 23rd November.



Applications for 2027 opened on the 19th of October, with plans for 60% of places to go to women and those with special needs.

Applicants are prioritised based on their living and financial circumstances, prioritising those in need of skills training to be able to become self-sufficient.

Thank you to all members, Conferences, and donors for their continued support of SVP South Sudan.

## The Be in Hope Home



The Be in Hope Home (BiH) continues to provide a safe, stable and nurturing environment for 25 vulnerable boys, who were previously living on the streets. The home has a particular emphasis on education, spiritual formation, family reunification and preparation for an independent and responsible adulthood.

This year, 5 new boys were welcomed into the Home, replacing those who had earlier been successfully reunited with their families. All 25 boys are enrolled in primary education, with 3 boys completing their primary education this year.

Furthermore, 4 boys who arrived at the Home without having been baptized received the Sacrament of Baptism, while 18 boys received their First Holy Communion following appropriate preparation. Several of the boys have also become actively involved in parish life, including serving as altar boys. These activities are helping them develop a stronger sense of faith, responsibility, and belonging to the community.



## Romania

### 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. Nearly 70% 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. We are repeating this support again in 2026.



An example of the impact of your donations include Saint Teresa Conference, which provided support for a single parent family, one mother and two children, and 2 elderly individuals, who suffer from chronic illnesses.

The households received wood for heating, basic food, educational items for the children, and funds for medicine for the elderly for 6 months during the cold months. SVP Romania found that beyond the material aid, the winter relief support gave hope and trust, and ensured community members previously marginalised, felt seen and supported.

**With just 30% of the needed funds raised, we need your help in bringing warmth to families this winter.**

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, please visit the webpage: Romania Winter Appeal



The Turt Art workshop project

After the SVP Conference, Our Lady of Tenderness, Turt, in Romania noticed that the local teenagers seemed lost and needed a new purpose, the Conference devised a proposal to remodel the parish garage into a welcoming art studio for children that do not have the possibility to attend such classes.

The programme is designed to start with 24 local children, and they will be organised into 4 groups of six, with some attending sessions on Fridays and others on Saturdays. The art sessions will be held four times a month, lasting two hours each session, and the SVP Romania President, Ana, will be running these sessions, as she is a qualified art teacher. Ana, knowing the children through school and the community, is aware of their familial backgrounds and needs, and this is how the art workshop students will be selected. The programme is planned to run for 3 years, with chances for extension depending on success.

How the programme will benefit the children:

- From boosting creativity to improving academic performance, art plays a crucial role in helping children grow emotionally, socially and intellectually.
- Providing children with a healthy mode for self-expression and imagination.
- Encourages creativity and innovation
- Builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Fosters social and emotional growth
- Promotes empathy and cultural awareness
- Enhances school engagement and community involvement
- Develops valuable life and career skills.

The remodel will require quite a lot of work including new walls, flooring, heating, and a glass door entrance. Costs to get the project up and running are £6000.





Pictures- the before of the garage and the project vision after the remodel.

We are pleased to share that following a legacy and general donations towards Romania Projects, we have been able to fund this project in full in October 2026 and support its young beneficiaries.



## India

With thanks to your support, the SVP India Fund continues to be an essential funding pot in assisting SVP India conduct its projects and support their Beneficiaries, who would otherwise go without.

The India Fund helps with grants towards:



- Supporting the running costs of the Assam Clinic - a rural clinic providing affordable and essential healthcare to the local community.
- Ongoing operational costs of the Jeevan Jyoti home - a home which was established in 2000 for young disabled girls without family or social support.
- Supporting students with scholarships across the VJES, HES, and the TVTS schemes. In 2025, SVP India provided grants to 1,409 students, with England & Wales donations supporting nearly 600 students. Students receive support for the duration of their courses. VJES students receive material support for their primary education in stationery items, school bags, uniforms, and other essential schooling items. HES and TVTS students, with courses lasting between 3-4 years, recieve contributions towards school fees, materials, and living costs.

Next year, **SVP India hopes to support 1,550 students and your support is crucial.**

- The India Fund also supports community projects as and when they arise. These are specially designed community projects that are initiated by the Conference, based on needs of the local community. See the next page for more information.

You can donate to the SVP India Fund:

- Online - donate here
- BACS - Account no: 46084975, Sort code: 606004, Ref is "INF"
- Cheque - Addressed to "SVP Twinning", reference INF on the reverse. Post to Finance or your CC Twinning Officer



## Restoration of Clean Water in Pedagudumotu Village

In the previous TwinTalk, information was shared regarding 2 Community Projects as part of the India Fund. We are pleased to share that thanks to the kind generosity of one Conference, the Water Provision project in Pedagudumotu has been funded in full.

We continue to fundraise for Microfinance project (outlined below) as part of the India Fund. If you would like to donate to support the Microfinance project and other similar projects in the future, you can donate to the India Fund.

## Microfinance loans – investing in independence

After the successes of the microfinance schemes in Quillon and Madras Central Councils, Guntur CC would like to follow in their footsteps and set up a microfinance scheme for 20 individuals and their families, reaching a total of 85 people.

A microfinance loan gives an individual the means to start a small business, with a very low, secure interest rate that keeps repayments realistic. Within the SVP, these loans also come with a built-in system of support, local Conference members work alongside each recipient to help set up the business, ensure it is sustainable, and is operating successfully, generating enough income to support their family as well as repay the loan during the agreed time period.

The project has four aims:

- to empower women through financial independence
- promote financial literacy and responsible money management
- to encourage savings among low-income families
- to improve the social wellbeing of communities.





## India - St Vincent's Feast Day Celebrations

### Dialysis centre inauguration



On 27th September, St Thomas Conference at the Angamaly Basilica celebrated the inauguration of their Jose Devassy Manjaly Memorial Blessed Ozanam Dialysis Centre. The centre provides free dialysis treatment to kidney patients who are struggling to meet the high treatment and travel costs. A conference in Nottingham CC generously funded the purchase of one dialysis machine increasing the reach of the centre.

The image at the top of this page shows the Archbishop blessing the centre alongside National President Jude Mangalraj and local Conference members. Photos were included in the local newspaper report. Image to the right is the outside of the centre.

### Celebrations across India (as shared by SVP India Member, Brother Norbert)

- Holy Masses were offered in the respective churches for deceased members.
- Conferences came together to share breakfast after holy mass and lunch with the families they support. There was games and entertainment.
- One invited family, previously supported by the Holy Family Conference, shared that all three of their children have special-needs. The SVP helped them to set up a small shop, funded by E&W, in the space available in front of their home. Today, the family are financially self-sufficient and their children are thriving in a suitable school.
- Some conferences distributed blankets (image to the right), bed sheets, dresses for children, mixed packages of provisions, and other essentials.





## Grenada



### The Grans Scheme

The GRANs scheme continues to support elderly individuals financially, spiritually, and socially. A monthly contribution of 100 ECD (estimated £30) contributes towards essential living costs, whilst members also provide the GRANs with companionship through regular visits and prayer.

SVP E&W grants £750 per quarter towards this scheme.

Please do read the SVP Grenada visit report (linked here) 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 Communications

The Twinning Officer for East Anglia Central Council, Tony King, kindly shared his observation on the usefulness of utilising WhatsApp for twin communications, after re-uniting a Conference in his CC with its Grenadian twin:

> "Once telephone number details are shared, direct encrypted online communication is possible immediately to converse, just as one might do in a normal phone call. Also one can send messages to include photographs, videos, PDF documents as attachments & voicemail. This usage can further be extended to groups, both small and large, with transmissions occurring very quickly, depending on the strength of the email signals for each user.
>
> Thus, in order to establish a direct link with a SVP Twin in Grenada, it needs only one member to volunteer a personal phone number and SVP Twinning can do the needful to establish communication. It's probably best to go through the SVP Conference President, in the first instance. Although any single member who is willing could take on the role and report back to the conference. "



Projects update

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

**The Summer School project** offered young students a creative outlet through arts and crafts sessions. Students were also taken on cultural field trips to broaden their cultural knowledge, with visits to places that may otherwise be inaccessible or unaffordable to their families. The students were supported with building social skills, and these were gained through positive peer interaction.

Thanks to your support, the project was a success, and it was run in 3 different Particular Councils (PCs is the same as Central Council here), supporting late teens and early 20s students. At one PC- St Davids, students received psychological support as part of their summer programme sessions too, and at another, some of the teens developed their carpentry skills. We hope to share more updates after reciept of the completion report.





The **Youth Intervention programme aims** 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.

Unfortunately, this project had to be postponed. However, SVP Grenada are looking at how this project can be run either early next year or next Summer. Rest-assured, funds raised for this project have been ring-fenced and will be used to support the Youth Intervention Programme.

Thank you to all project donors for your generous support.



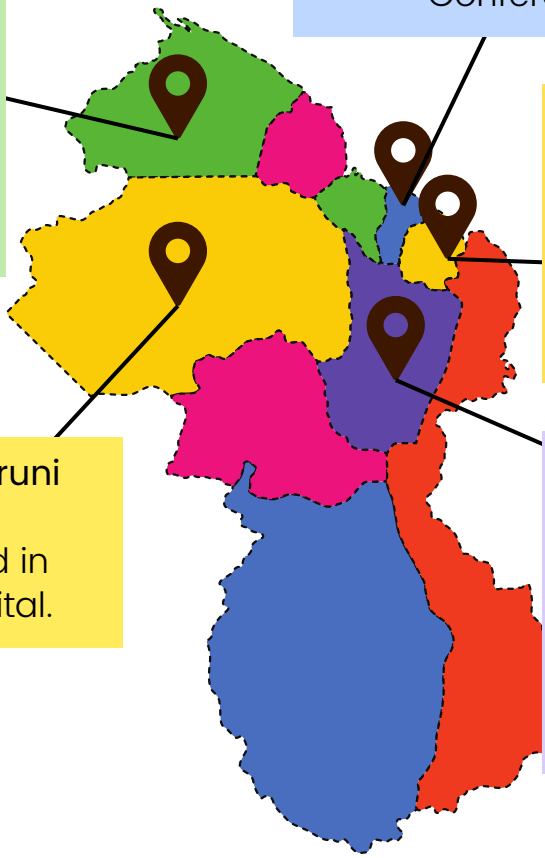

## Guyana

The SVP in Guyana has 13 Conferences, 2 of which are twinned with Canada due to long-running historical relationships. The other 11 Conferences are twinned with E&W.

- There are currently 25 Parishes across Guyana.
- An estimated 7% of the population is Catholic.
- The Roman Catholic Church in Guyana operates under the single Diocese of Georgetown.
- Guyana is 214,969 sq km (the UK is an estimated 13% larger)
- Guyana population is an estimated 850,000 (the UK is an estimated 69 million).
- Guyana as a nation is divided into 11 administrative regions.
- The north of the country is costal. It is bordered by Venezeula to the West, Brazil to the South, and Suirname to the East.

**Region 1 - Barima Waini**
**3 SVP Conferences**
This region is the most remote and cut-off from the county. Access is via flight, or more commonly, by boat. Region 1 is where the current SVP Guyana President, Sister Susan English, is from.

**Region 4 - Demerara-Mahaica**
**5 SVP Conferences**
This region is the location of Georgetown, the capital of Guyana, and where the majority of SVP Conferences are based.



**Region 5 - Mahaica-Berbice**
**1 SVP Conference**
The Conference is based in Hopetown, next to the regional capital of Fort Wellington.

**Region 7 - Cuyuni-Mazaruni**
**1 SVP Conference**
The Conference is based in Bartica, the regional capital.

**Region 10 - Upper Demerara-Berbice**
**1 SVP Conference**
The Conference is based in Linden, regional capital and second largest city in Guyana.



## The Sudan & South Sudan Support Fund

Sudan and South Sudan seperated in December 2011 to form independent nations. 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 in Sudan 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.

The SVP Sudan & South Sudan Support Fund gives grants to Conferences and CSPs supporting Sudanese/South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in E&W.

Since the fund launched in December 2024, **the Fund has had 105 applications, 18 from Conferences and 87 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
- Clothing
- Sleeping bags
- Transport costs to ESOL lessons, or to access key services
- Household items- a bed, a mattress, bedding, curtains, and towels.



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

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

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



## Membership Webinar: Getting to know SVP Twinning

**Thursday 10th December 2026**
**6.30 - 7.30pm**
**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86017158509**

Join this webinar to explore the history and roots of Twinning, learn who SVP England and Wales is twinned with, hear about the work of our overseas Conferences and their projects, and discover how you and your Conference can get involved.

This session offers an overview and introduction to Twinning within the SVP. Whether you are new to Twinning, wish to re-engage with supporting our fellow Vincentians overseas, or would like an update on how our Twins are getting on, we warmly invite you to come along.

We hope to see you there!

## Give the gift of "A Better Future" this Christmas

This Christmas, why not give the give the gift of "A better future" to your friends and family. Your donation of £15 could be used in many different ways across our twinned countries, including but not limited to:

- Providing tool & seed kits to graduates on our agricultural training course for Internally Displaced Persons in South Sudan,
- Helping families through the cold winter in Romania
- Ensuring no Gran in Grenada is left alone through the Christmas period
- Supporting community projects in India such as income generation schemes




Upon purchase, you will receive an A5 certificate which can be neatly placed in Christmas Cards or wrapped up as a gift. These are a wonderful way to bring a moment of reflection to the busy festive period, and amongst all the gifts and joy we may share, a chance to remember others around the world. An ideal gift for both kids and adults!

Available here for purchase



## 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.




### Twinning Communications - send your Christmas message now!



An important part of twin-twin relationships is communication. Don't wait till the last minute to send your Christmas message to your twin(s).

Let your twin know how your Conference works in the local community over Christmas time, or share with them how your Parish celebrates the festive period.

**Please do get in touch with twinning@svp.org.uk if you have any communication issues with your Twin, especially ahead of the holidays to ensure you are connected before the busy periods.** We are constantly collaborating with the Overseas Twinning Officers on ways to strengthen these ties.



## Finance - Standing Orders

To ser up your 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.

As of Oct 2026, it was approved by the Board that all Conference twinning relationships should have a standing order in place. Your CC Twinning Officer will be in touch over the coming months to assist with this.

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

- They ensure no payments are missed as it automates the process for E&W Conferences/Councils.
- Reduces the costs of processing cheques (95p charge per cheque)
- 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.

**How to complete the standing order form:**

1. The form template (linked above) is part-completed
2. Fill in the remaining information - Conference code, Twin code reference. You can choose whether to pay quarterly or annually.
3. Have the form signed by two signatories
4. Email a copy/photo to twinningfinance@svp.org.uk.

See guidance document here. We ask that you set up a separate standing order for each Twin.

## TwinTalk - previous editions

You can view all previous editions of TwinTalk on the Twinning website here (scroll down the page).





# The Twinning Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we come together to celebrate the joyous birth of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we hold in our hearts our fellow Vincentian brothers and sisters in India, Grenada, Guyana, Romania, Sudan, and South Sudan.

We give thanks for their unwavering service to the Society, for their contributions over the past year, and for the challenges they have faced and overcome in their mission to serve those in need.

Lord, we ask that You watch over them, their families, and the communities they serve. May Your loving presence surround them this Christmas and may the joy of Christ's birth fill their hearts and homes with love.

We remember also those who are living in places torn apart by conflict, violence, and fear. May they be held in Your loving care and protection and given the strength to endure the great suffering and hardship inflicted on them.

This Christmas may the heavenly grace that encircled the Holy Family that first Christmas morning embrace all our families and fill our hearts with the love, joy and hope of Your new born son, Jesus, Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

St Joseph, Patron of Families. **Pray for us.**
St Vincent de Paul. **Pray for us.**
Blessed Frederic Ozanam. **Pray for us.**

Amen.





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, TwinningF18@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.