

# TWINNAGE COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER No 136

November 2014

### **Ebola Crisis:**

In response to a request from National Office help with the response to phone calls requesting information we have produced the following:



*“There are small SVP presences in the three worst affected countries, 14 conferences in Sierra Leone, 8 in Liberia and just 1 in Guinea. There are no indications that our members are directly involved with the immediate relief work but they will no doubt be picking up the pieces and providing assistance to widows and orphans.*

*At present there is no international initiative and we can only suggest that money is donated, through Twinnage, to the Disaster Fund and a donation will be made through Council General as and when an appeal is received.*

*Alternatively we would like to remind members of the great and continuing needs in Sudan and South Sudan. With so much else going on in the world the refugee situation in South Sudan is getting little publicity but our members there and across the border into Uganda remain active in providing assistance for these displaced people. The Vocational Training and Baby Feeding programmes continue and there is also a new initiative to establish a home for orphans and street children.*

*In Sudan our members are under increasing pressure from the Government authorities and also from a drop in funding being received from sources outside the SVP. The Baby Feeding, Medical Clinic and Water Provision programmes are continuing but the Street Children Homes are facing closure and this will inevitably have some effect on the vocational training programmes.*

*Please note that Conferences should not be using Conference funds to donate money through Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) or any of the participating charities”*

### **Disaster Fund:**

With so much else going on in the world the refugee situation in South Sudan is getting little publicity but our members in Juba and across the border into Uganda remain active in providing assistance for these displaced people. So far this year we have sent £18,000 to support the refugee relief work being carried out by our members in Juba and a further £8,000 to SVP Uganda to support their work in the Kirondongo camp, which has seen a great influx of refugees fleeing from the fighting in South Sudan.

We have also sent £8,000 from the Disaster Fund to support the international appeal to assist the work the SVP in Lebanon is undertaking with refugees from the war-torn Middle East

### **Clarification of codes for yellow sheets:**

Due to the need to make accurate claims for SVPS refunds could I please ask, using A&B as an example:

Where there is an AB Twinnage code issued please use this for all remittances from DC and CC and from conferences where they will have paid SVP support charge (SVPS).

For un-twinned DC and CC remittances please use AB000

From un-twinned conferences sending support, where they will have paid SVPS, please ask Helen for a number or use one in a sequence starting AB201 and advise Helen when you send the yellow sheet so we can set it up. The same number can then be used for subsequent remittances.

For gift-aided donations from benefactors please get a reference number from David or use one he has issued as long as it is not too old. If in doubt please check with David.

For donations from benefactors not gift aided please use AB999, this should also be used for church collections where the conference has not paid SVPS, ideally they should get a cheque from the church and not use an SVP one.

Sorry it is all so complicated - I blame accountants.

### **Annual Twinnage Officers Meeting:**

Following the success of last year's venue we have booked the same Grimshaw Room at St Chad's for Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>. Our preferred date was April 18<sup>th</sup> but St Chad's cannot confirm whether or not the room is available. One possibility is to check in the New Year and move the date if possible, this should enable us to have year-end figures. If you have any strong feelings about either date please let me know.

To make a timely start it has been agreed not to delay the start to allow people to attend the morning mass but to assemble from 10.00 with a prompt 10.30 start. We aim to finish by 4.00 and, for those who would like to attend, there is a vigil mass in the Cathedral at 4.30.

We hope to see all Central Councils represented. Spouses, partners, CC Presidents, and interested members will all be welcome.

Any thoughts for topics for the day would be most welcome.

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your won lunch.