



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (ENGLAND & WALES)



Twinnage Information for Conferences and Members



***“I would like to encircle the whole world
in a network of charity”
(Blessed Frederic Ozanam)***

***“We should love one another now and ever,
far and near, from conference to another, from
town to town, from nation to nation.”
(Original Rule 1835)***

What is Twinnage?

Over 50 years ago, Inspired by a plea from the Holy Father that the laity in the developed world should become more active in their support for those in the less developed countries, the International Twinnage scheme was instigated. In 1979 a plenary meeting of the Society declared that “all monies collected in the name of the Society anywhere belong, in principle, to the poor of the world”

The vision of the International Society is “That all councils and conferences be twinned thus creating a unique worldwide community of love and solidarity, dedicated to sharing the necessities of life with as many of Christ’s poor as possible”

In England & Wales we have developed strong links with our designated countries: India, Sudan, South Sudan, Grenada, Guyana and Romania, enabling us to support our members in those countries with their work for the poorest and most needy in their communities and bringing to life the fact that we are all Brothers & Sisters as members of the St Vincent de Paul Society.



Why Twin?

The St Vincent de Paul Society was established to help Christians act on their need to serve and help their neighbour. Jesus told us how we would be judged: “I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink; was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.” (Mt 25: 35-36)



Every member follows this when they make a visit or carry out other tasks in the name of the Society. Twinnage enables each conference to extend this service beyond the confines of their own Parish Community.

What does it involve?

There are three parts to a successful Twinning:

◆The need for a prayerful and spiritually based link: it is important that the members of the Twin Conference and those they work to support are prayed for regularly. This will include prayers at every Conference meeting, but can include other prayer and most especially having a Mass offered for the Twin Conference. There may also be times when specific events at the Twin Conference call for some form of extra or special prayers.

◆The need for real contact: where possible it is important to exchange letters (or e-mails if available) at least twice a year to maintain contact, share information and learn. It is also important that messages received are shared with all members of the Conference so that every member is involved and feels part of the world-wide Vincentian family.

◆The need for financial support: Twinning generally require a regular commitment to send financial support to help the regular activities of the twin, specifically the support of the adopted families of the twinned conference.

How long does a Twin last?

There is no defined period for such a link. When the Twin Conference overseas has financial self-sufficiency, or should they cease to function for any reason, an alternative twin will always be offered.

Should the financial Twinning link be ended, for example when the receiving conference is financially self sufficient, it is hoped that the friendship and spiritual bonds will not be lost. Conferences and members are encouraged to maintain contact with and to continue to pray for the Twin.

How do I get involved?

Please make contact with your Central Council Twinnage Officer, there is an application form to complete at the back of this leaflet. An individual or family can also sponsor a Twin, but this must be done in the name of a conference or council.

For more information.

More information on all aspects of Twinnage can be found at www.twinnage.org.uk.

APPLICATION TO BE TWINNED WITH AN OVERSEAS CONFERENCE

(Block Capitals & Dark Ink only, please)

Conference Name:

Town:

District Council:

Central Council:

Correspondent's Name:

Correspondent's Address:

Post Code (essential):

We, the members of this Conference, hereby promise to:

Pray for our Twinned Conference at each meeting

Write letters to them at least twice a year

Send £ every year to our Twin in

via our Central Council Twinnage Officer

Conference President: Date:



Twinnage Officer
contact details:

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) Registered Charity Number: 1053992
Registered Office: 9 Larcom Street, Walworth, London SE17 1RX (020 7703 3030)