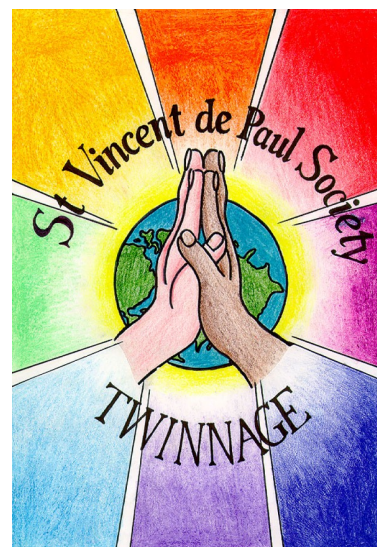


# TWINNAGE COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER No 115

September 2006



**FUNDING CRISIS IN SUDAN:** Over the last few years we have managed to send £168,000 each year to Sudan and this has provided significant funding to support the work of the SVP in Sudan. As everyone knows by now what sets the SVP in Sudan apart from other charitable organisations is that they are playing a major part in helping huge numbers of people to regain their dignity and provide for themselves in the future. The projects for which we are seeking sponsorship are adult training, medical treatments, children's' education and feeding and support for baby feeding centres.

Our brothers and sisters in Sudan are looking to us to at least maintain our contributions in line with the last 2 years; whilst we in England & Wales are especially looking for commitments from members and from people outside the SVP to contribute on a regular basis.

The SVP in Sudan are trying to help themselves as much as possible and have developed some income generating projects themselves but they will be reliant on us for significant support for the foreseeable future. If we can't continue to provide support for them some of the projects will have to be cancelled.

Whilst we are trying to find other sources of grant funding, the sponsorship scheme we have developed is designed to take the pressure and burden of administration off Twinnage reps; but we do need your help in promoting the Sudan sponsorship appeal. We've tried to make it as easy as possible and we plan to mail a poster and supply of leaflets to each conference. We will also be able to provide reps with further supplies of leaflets and leaflets will also be obtainable by anyone contacting head office. They are also available by downloading them from the link below.

<http://www.twinnage.org.uk/html/leaflets.html>

Rough copies of the poster and leaflet are enclosed. The leaflet will be printed on A5 double sided and folded.

Further information is available from the Twinnage Office, Ian Mawdsley or David Wiles.

**INDIA** – At the excellent regional meeting in Tyne I had some cards which were handmade by handicapped children in an SVP home in Baripada, Orissa. These went like the proverbial hot cakes and I therefore asked Joseph Pandian (National President) if he could get some more sent over – he is now sending 600!!

The cards are hand stitched designs and of very good quality. At Ushaw they were selling for at least £1.50 each (I did also try three for £5?!) despite the fact that there were no envelopes.

Doubtless there will be a lot available at next year's Reps' meeting but if anyone would like some to be going on with please let me know.

The originals came with a formal request to see if we could provide a minibus for the home. We are trying Trust Funds and other outside sources as the sum needed is far too large for a project, any thoughts on potential sources of funds would be most welcome.

**DISASTER FUND: Lebanon** – a donation of £10,000 has been sent through Council General to help the rebuilding work in Lebanon and surrounding countries. The web site [www.ozanet.org](http://www.ozanet.org) gives details of the relief work being carried out by the Society both in Lebanon and with Lebanese refugees in Syria.

**Sudan – Khartoum** – following recent flooding which has badly affected the displaced persons camps around Khartoum a donation of £10,000 has been sent to assist with this additional work. The money will be used to meet urgent needs at the El Fath camp, the SVP has a strong presence there.

**Sudan – El Obeid** – a donation of £8500 has also been sent to Sr Jean in El Obeid in response to an appeal for help following flash flooding in the Ben Jedid camp, which we helped construct, Sr Jean writes:

*“... During a day of very heavy rain, the dam adjoining our land broke down, and all the contents came pouring out into the property and the surrounding houses and surfaces.*

*The dam had been "repaired" last year, and we were hoping it would increase the supply of water in the area, but when we visited the dam after the flooding, we saw nothing but flows of sand: the whole of the containing structure had been built, seemingly, uniquely of sand!!! And the sand and water flooded the whole of the garden. The container, next to the outhouses, which no longer exist, was lifted from its position and replaced some meters away. The three out-houses were reduced to rubble, and the wall of one of the standing rooms collapsed. The donkey was nearly drowned, but, Thank God, none of the people were injured. Their rooms were higher up than the land. By some sort of miracle, the cows were also alright, and in fact we have had three (female) births since.*

*The boundary fencing on two sides was uprooted and the vegetable fields destroyed. Several lemon trees were also uprooted.*