

Twinning Guidelines



For about 45 years the Twinning Scheme has enabled the Society in developing countries to thrive and grow, strengthened by the spiritual, financial and moral support the members have received. What is a very small sum of money for a Conference in Scotland can make a vast difference in a poor country, where a poor person may earn about 50 pence per day (if they are fortunate); just enough for one day's food.

Whilst the major part of Twinning in terms of Conference to Conference Twinning is currently with India and South Africa, the link with Hungary is also growing. Each of these countries has its own unique problems and the Twinning scheme is tailored to each so that we can offer the best help within the resources available. The Society in each country shares the same Spirit that guides us in our work for the poor and each country benefits from the encouragement that Twinning offers.

Prayer is the key aspect of any successful Twinning. The promise to pray for the Twin is really what sets Twinning apart from a secular exercise.

It is impossible to really have a good relationship with a Twin without a closer link. **Correspondence** is the answer and letters should be exchanged at least three times each year. If you and your twin have access to the internet, email would greatly facilitate communication. In this way a true bond can be established. In many instances, language and literacy may be problems with our Twin Conferences and we should therefore try and be patient when replies are delayed.

Our **Financial Support** shows the tangible evidence of our sharing. This helps our overseas Sisters and Brothers to increase their efforts to overcome the poverty in their own Parishes.

Other Aspects of Twinning

Twining involves a commitment to a Conference overseas, which includes regular prayer, some correspondence and financial support to a Conference overseas. Please ask either the National Twinning Officer or the National Office for more details.

Projects the former system of funding twinning projects has been totally changed. Previously a project from an Indian Conference which had been recommended by the National Council of India was sent to the twinned Scottish Conference, requesting that they help to fund the particular project. However, often it was left to our National Council to fund these projects which, due to financial restraints, is no longer possible. It was decided to set up a Project Fund to which every Conference in Scotland could contribute and when enough money had been donated by the Conferences to this fund, it would allow us then to consider the funding of these projects. In other words, if sufficient donations are not provided by the Scottish Conferences, NO projects can be funded! If a Conference decides to offer a donation to the Project fund, all it needs to do is send a cheque to the National Office for the amount donated, indicating on the back of the cheque that it is for the Project Fund.

Student Sponsorship helps with the education of poor students in India. Students can be sponsored for 1 – 5 years depending on their course. It is generally hoped that Conferences will commit to sponsor for the duration of the course. Details of a student and course are sent annually to the sponsors. More details of this scheme are available from the National Twinning Officer and the National Office.

Disaster Fund is designed to meet the immediate needs of the poor anywhere when a disaster of any kind strikes. Almost as soon as it has reached the news, it is likely that a donation is on its way to the National Council of the affected country. This money will be used to buy items that are needed to alleviate the immediate suffering or to help with the long-term aid of those affected when immediate International Aid ceases.

For more information contact the National Twinning Officer or the National Office.

Writing Letters

If possible type letters. If this is not possible at least print the addresses. Use the full postal address of both the Indian/South African and the Scottish correspondent. It is important to include the **POST CODE**.

Involve the whole Conference in letter writing – only use one member's name and address as correspondent since otherwise it can confuse the Twin, but suggestions and discussion about items of news should come from members. **Please contact the National Office if the Twinning correspondent has changed.**

Initially give ideas and information about your Parish and area and mention any particular features. Gradually introduce the members of the Conference to give an idea of the group – photographs can be helpful. Try to avoid asking lots of questions otherwise your reply may consist of lots of questions! Ask for prayers for any special intention and share news of any special celebrations (e.g. jubilees, ordinations, etc.)

Respond to any item of news you receive from your Twin.

A card at Christmas can also be a good idea. Watch out for last posting dates, and remember that the rural post in India and South Africa can take several weeks!

Write regularly or email – make a commitment to correspond which is not dependent on receiving letters (three times per year is a good number to aim at). If no replies are forthcoming after 6-12 months (your Twin may have to wait for someone to translate your letter) contact the National Office.

Newly Twinned Conferences should consider the following:

Payments are sent quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) to all overseas Twins. Contributions should be made by Standing Order, on a quarterly basis.

All forms are issued by National Office.

Money **MUST NOT** be sent directly to the Twin, either for the guaranteed amounts or any extra that you may wish to send. Money for all aspects of Twinning (Disaster Fund, Projects, Student Sponsorship must pass through the National Office. It is also important to send a covering letter or note to explain what purpose(s) the money is intended to be used.

Please make ALL cheques payable to "SSVP Scotland".

If a Twin overseas asks you for money for a special Project, refer to the section on the back page – 'Projects'. If your Conference has spare money, you can make a special donation up to £250/year to your twin or contact the National Twinning Officer and ask for a Project!

A Conference should write at least three times each year to its Twin, even if no reply is received. This shows that you are anxious to have contact with them. If no reply is received within a reasonable time, see section on 'Writing Letters'. The above action should also be taken if an established contact is lost.

For more information, or if you have any queries, contact the National Twinning Officer.

15 years is the duration of a twin. If you have been twinned for more than 15 years please contact the Head Office.

**Application to be Twinned with An
Overseas Conference
(Block Capitals and Dark Ink only please)**

Conference Name: _____

Town: _____

Group Council _____

Diocesan Council _____

Contact's Name: _____

Contact's Address _____

Post Code (essential): _____

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

Pray for our Twinned Conference each week

Correspond at least three times each year

Send £120.00 every year to our Twin via the National Office by
Standing Order.

Conference President: _____ Date: _____

Name & Address to which details should be sent:

Post Code (essential): _____

Indian Student Sponsorship Scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to help suitably qualified students to continue and finish their studies. Whatever subjects they choose, the successful conclusion of their studies means that they are much more capable of finding a job and earning a living. In this way they can support their families for the future. We now have four different schemes for sponsorship:-

Vocational: 1 year course for auxiliary nursing, plumbing, commercial/secretarial practice etc.

Technical: 3 year course for nursing and some types of engineering.

Vidya Jothi: Each Indian Conference has adopted at least one poor school child in their area who, without guidance, motivation and assistance, would be unlikely to receive an education. National Council of Scotland has supported this scheme since 2004 but it is now open to Conferences.

Higher Educational: This new scholarship scheme helps engineering and medical students not covered by the Technical scheme. Their courses normally run for 5 years and involve huge costs for the students and their families.

Details of the sponsored student, including the course being studied, are given to the sponsor, generally on completion of their course. This takes the form of a 'certificate' each year, giving details of the progression through the course, which can be used for display purposes if desired. It is not possible to 'match' a particular student to a Conference in Scotland.

While the Sponsor can choose to sponsor either Technical or Vocational Students, they cannot specify the area of study for their supported student.

In the case of Technical and HE Students, while the sponsorship may be paid in one sum, it may also be paid annually, thereby spreading the cost over the three or five year period accordingly.

Please make ALL cheques payable to "SSVP Scotland".

**Application to Sponsor an Indian Student
(Block Capitals and Dark Ink only please)**

Conference Name: _____

Town: _____

Group Council _____

Diocesan Council _____

Contact's Name: _____

Contact's Address _____

I/We wish to sponsor _____ Vocational student(s) at a cost of £20 per student for the one year course.

I/We wish to sponsor _____ Technical student(s) for three years at a cost of £105 in total (£35 per student yearly).

I/We wish to sponsor _____ Vidya Jothi student(s) at a cost of £20 per school child yearly.

I/We wish to sponsor _____ Higher Educational student(s) for five years at a cost of £275 in total (£55 per student yearly).

Part Payment [] Paid In Full [] (Technical/HE Students Only)

Date:

Conference President: _____