

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 held in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

**Attendance** Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Anne and Roger Elson, Clare Burdett, Jim Murphy.

**Apologies** Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, David Burton, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jeanette Davison, Patrick Reddin, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Sandie Tansey.

**Minutes of the last meeting** were circulated, approved and signed.

**Matters arising:** 1. Appeal from Debbie Walden – Clare has sourced a Washing Machine (SPAN to give £ 70 and appealing for clothing for this family. 2. **Should SPAN change its name?** – ongoing discussion. It was noted that in SPAN's first meeting, 50 years ago "Service, People, Action and Now" was suggested. Last month "Supporting People Across the Nations" was mooted and tonight's gathering thought this more appropriate for today than "St Peter's Aid for the Needy".

**Pastimes:** Jim Murphy presented some information. Pastimes has re imagined as the St Peter's Community Warm Hub, serving people in our community. Open to anyone, showing our love in practical ways. Last year funding was received by the voluntary group, but this is hard to obtain, if you are not an audited charity. Jim has been seeking ways to fund this expansion where donations are NOT required of people who attend. The group has gone from an average size of 20 to over 40 and has functioned on around £ 200 a month for the past year. Noel Willis has helped by singing and there is a singing for mental health initiative. Four major reports recently have highlighted the benefits of people being part of a community when getting older, particularly those on their own, those without local family or in situation poverty.

Jim is hoping Everyone Active may give support to the chair exercise initiative.

*SPAN is being asked to consider giving support of £ 200 a month - Some extra Standing Orders with Gift Aid for example would make this easier to manage. How will this affect our ability to respond to appeals?*

**Summary of Correspondence:** NB\* means - attachment supplied for the meeting.

- **Robert Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Lebanon**, Dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. "Dear brothers and sisters at SPAN, and dear parishioners. Greetings in the name of the Lord. We hope that you are all well. Your donation of £ 1,481 has safely arrived."
- **Sally Harrison, Empowering Kids in Kenya \***, dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. "Thank you so very much for your super donation so that we can purchase solar lanterns for our children. This will make such a difference. I attach our office letter to confirm receipt for your files. Super project."
- **Debbie Warden, Brokerage Officer Tackling Social Inequalities for Warwickshire Family Information Service**, dated 21<sup>st</sup> March. "I am currently working in partnership with a social worker to support a family from Leamington. I would be grateful if the trustees would consider supporting this family to purchase a 60cm electric cooker." *[Clare has sourced a cooker and installation for £ 140]*
- **Anna Lyttle, Legs4Africa \***, dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. "Attached is our 12-month project impact report which your generous donation of £500.00 funded. Upon review, I would be extremely keen to discuss any aspects of the report's contents with you or the board at any time."
- **Debbie Walden, Brokerage Officer Tackling Social Inequalities for Warwickshire Family Information Service**, dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. "I have another family in need of a cooker and Kenilworth Lions advised they do not currently have any cookers available and so I have submitted an application to the pride of lions for funding (as the family are in Kenilworth) and like this application to yourselves I have included installation costs. I was not aware that Lillington Community pantry were able to help with grants for white goods - who should I contact at the pantry to request this support please? *[Contact details were provided]*
- **Clare Oliver, Global Care**, dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. "SPAN very generously donated to Global Care's work in Africa which was used to support a new vocational training centre in Uganda. My colleague Steve has just returned this week from visiting this exciting project and we would love the opportunity to come and share a report on the work at one of your meetings if this is possible. We will of course send a written update shortly which we can either send electronically or printed copies by post, but just wondered if you had any suggested dates for a verbal report? Have a Blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter." *[Either of the next 2 meetings will be suggested]*.
- **Hope House Babies Clinic, Nairobi \***, dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Newsletter sent.

- **Ray Botterell, Reach The Children \***, dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024. “We are pleased to share with you a complimentary pouch of dried pineapple from our grandmas' gardens.” – Feedback requested.
- **Paul Choudhury, Let the Children Hear**, dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. “I have received the cheque of £330 by post. We are very grateful for your kind donation, and this is highly appreciated. This will be allocated in our hearing aid programme. On behalf of LTCH, I would like to thank you for this.”

### **Finance - Comments on the March 2024 Accounts**

In the month we have **£ 810 available for appeals** due standing orders and cash collected through the churches. A figure of £ 1,500 has been donated which will be added to Lenten Alms appeals. The final figure for House of Light and Hope will be determined at the next committee meeting. We are awaiting the setting up of standing orders for Hope Baby Clinic and Young People First. Next month we will draw down the last of our Legacy funds given prior to the Frank Garvey Legacy. After that we will draw £ 500 a month from Frank's general legacy to SPAN appeals. This should last for around 3 years. Frank's specific legacy for 'Starving Africa' has already been allocated.

*[£ 104.58 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals at Nyenga, Uganda and Ortum, Kenya.]*

**Appeals** – \* indicates that attachments with further details were sent out ahead of the meeting,

- **Fr Stephen Oribdhogu, Nebbi diocese Uganda NEW** “I am inquiring whether it is possible to get some assistance from St. Peter's Aid for the Needy for some three young people (two girls and one boy) who are ready to go to school, but do not have any means to provide for their tuition. They have expressed interest in vocational training in the nearest Vocational school run by the Sisters of Daughters of Providence in the diocese. The tuition for these young people for the whole academic year is 500 pounds, an equivalent of Uganda shillings 2,455,000/-. This includes all their functional and hostel fees. My office has also received many orphans looking for some kind of support.” **Agreed to ask some questions like would this be an ongoing commitment of £ 500, what would we hear about the children, what / whose account would the funds be transferred to.**
- **Make them Smile \* NEW** “To relieve poverty and sickness and to preserve the health of children.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **IRT – International Refugee Trust \*** “Assisting Displaced Families in Jordan.” **£ 500 Agreed for the 2 Italian hospitals in Amman and Karak in Jordan** that we have supported in the past.
- **LAFF, Latin America Foundation for the Future in Peru \*** “We work with local partners to improve their long-term ability to provide quality education and personal development to children and young people in vulnerable conditions in Peru.” **£ 300 Agreed** for Casa Mantay supporting teenage mothers.

### **Liaison Groups and Any Other Business:**

**Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington** Post cards for Prisoners of Conscience to be encouraged at St Peter's on weekend 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> April and Our Lady's on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Non-religious postcards required.

**SPAN continuing to celebrate 50 years** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June World Food Event. Ideas still wanted.

Caroline and Jenny looking at information displays. Jenny to apply for bar license.

Paul to prepare 80 tickets for the event - £ 10each.

A social and celebration evening not designed as a fund raiser. Bar to be arranged by Patrick to cover its costs. Michael to provide a picture quiz. There will be a raffle.

Table settings? Hall layout? International bunting?

Clare to coordinate desserts. Jim to act as MC.

Entertainment – some Indian dancing, African drumming, hopefully 10 yr 6 pupils from St Joseph's singing, also, Mary Owen singing. Food – curries, samosas, ...

Jenny held a meeting earlier today with Anne Marie Insley and Clare Burdett to plan.

**Please contact her if you can help. [Jenarmstrong@talktalk.net](mailto:Jenarmstrong@talktalk.net)**

The meeting finished with a prayer.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter's Hall.**