

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 17th April 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

**Attendance** Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Mary and Jonathan Holden, Patrick Reddin, Jim Murphy, Jenny Toutoungi

**Apologies**, David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Fr Stephen Day, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Clare Burdett, Jeanette Davison, Francis Vaz, Anne Elson, Caroline Manning (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning.

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

### Matters arising:

Jim Murphy reported that Pastimes is now officially a 'Warm Hub' having passed all the stipulated conditions set by the District Council. They have been allocated a sum of £2,452 for use – for food, heating and extras (such as entertainment in the way of puzzles etc) They needed Span to act as the charity who can keep the money in an account and a letter needed to go to the council to confirm the relationship between Span and Pastimes. Michael agreed to do this. A set amount will be released each month for running expenses. Jim has arranged publicity to be sent out to schools and supermarkets to encourage those in need to come. *(letter sent as per request)*

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

- **Sr Prexadis Muthuka, Ortum Mission Hospital, Kenya, dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** "We are doing well. We remain thankful for your continued support. We will buy drugs and submit the receipts to you."
- **Nial Watson, on behalf of Kidogo Kids and Hope House Babies Home, dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** "I would like to thank you very much for your kind donation towards the home."
- **Mrs Rachel Heath, Assistant Headteacher, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** "I have a young family ... the little girl ... is currently sleeping in a cot bed...she needs to move into a single bed." *[SPAN committee agreed £ 200 for a single Divan bed from Argos].*
- **Sr Monicah Nassiwa, Hospital Administrator St. Francis Hospital Nyenga, Uganda, dated 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.** "Dear SPAN. Greetings. Our account received Ugx **9,233,752** We are greatly indebted to you for your constant generosity to us. May God Bless you abundantly."
- **Matt Thomson, Legs4Africa, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.** "Thank you for your recent donation for £500. This will go a long way to supporting our work. Please find attached a receipt. Warm regards."
- **Margaret Moore and Chris Johnson, founders of Leamington Night Shelter \***. Dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. "Dear All. Attached is our final letter with an update of the recent events. "
- **Jean Feely, dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** "I am delighted to let you know that 38 vouchers were delivered to our local Catholic Primary Schools today and gratefully received by admin staff. Breakdown: St Peter's - 7 vouchers @ £50 each = £350 St Patrick's- 7 vouchers @ £50 each = £350 OLST - 6 vouchers @ £50 and 1 voucher @ £60 = £360 St Anthony's- 4 vouchers @ £50 and 3 vouchers @ £60 = £380 St Joseph's - 7 vouchers @ £50 and 3 vouchers @ £60 = £530 Total amount given in vouchers = £1970. **Leaving vouchers to the value of £530.** Make up: 19 x £10 and 17 x £ 20 = £530."
- **Robbie Buchanon, Lepira, dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 \***.
- **Forbes Chikobvu, Coordinating Director, ROSA CARE ORGANISATION, Weydon Centre, 12 Kwame Nkurume, Harare, Zimbabwe** "We do have 2023 O level examination students who are supposed to sit for their exams this year November. Their examination fees are Due by the 07 April 2023. We are failing to meet the cost.
- **"CAFOD, dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** Thanks for £ 100 Darfur, Sudan.
- **Deki, Thank you for supporting Deki – Impact report available at meeting. [Impact-Report-2022.pdf](#) ([deki.org.uk](http://deki.org.uk))** SPAN sent £ 380 to support their work in Togo in May 2022.

## Finance - Comments on March 2023 Accounts from Michael

Jonathan raised the issue of Lenten Alms as the Committee had decided to go ahead and order the Tesco vouchers to the sum of £2,500 before the money was all collected in. We are also committed to sending a sum to Zoe's Place and to Kindaid for the mission hospital in Kenya. (last year was £1000 each)  
The money for Lenten Alms is still coming in but the Committee wanted to make sure that the families at the schools were able to access funds before Easter and we have Gift Aid money in reserve for this eventuality.  
We also discussed putting the Legacy money in an interest bearing account, possibly in COIF which is where the investment income is already, as interest rates have risen recently.

*[£ 128.95 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals in Nyenga, Uganda and Ortum in Kenya.]*

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

- **Help Madina NEW** “,,, improve the health and well being of the people living in the Madina district of Sierra Leone. Madina supports a feeding centre, provides out-reach medical clinics, eye care and cataract operations, the restoration and building of water wells, improvements to sanitation.” **Agreed £ 500**
- **SWIM ENGLAND \* NEW** “... the National Governing Body for aquatic sports, to pioneer projects with a health and wellbeing focus to support people to swim who might otherwise feel unable to and for whom other forms of activity might be difficult.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Liliya Nagornaya, Brokerage Officer, Homes For Ukraine scheme.** “2 families under the Homes for Ukraine... both have been allocated with Social Housing.1 Family: mother and 12 years old son. 2 Family: mother and 12 years old son. As properties come fully unfurnished, the families have a need in some goods Electric cooker (no gas in properties); Washing machine; Microwave; Iron; Vacuum cleaner; Electric kettle. *[Committee agreed to send £ 500 to cover some needs of both families.]*
- **BORAF \*** “next fundraiser event for the BORAF on the 28<sup>th</sup> April is to be held at St. Peter's Church Hall. The event will help us to initiate our next project and fund dance teaching in local schools with high levels of pupil premium children.” The meeting felt that this did not fulfil a ‘SPAN’ criteria although welcomed the project and hoped that the parish and individuals would support. **Agreed not to support.**
- **British Youth for Christ NEW** “To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world by promoting & encouraging the Christian evangelisation of young people & standards of behaviour which accord with the doctrines of the Christian faith providing or assisting in provision of education for young people who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by reason of social, physical or economic circumstances.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Make them Smile \* NEW** To relieve poverty and sickness and to preserve the health of children. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Viva network \* NEW** An international Christian charity, inspiring lasting change in children's lives through the power of collective action Viva believes that a network of churches and community organisations, locally focused and united in purpose. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Ginda Cohan, Family support worker, Children services, social care, Myton park centre.** “... supporting a single parent who has three young children 4rs, 5 and 1 to address the home conditions and so far the department has supported with a skip to get rid of a lot of clutter. The home has no storage. I have identified items that will help her and I feel she will benefit from two chests of drawers at the cost of £70 argos price and one heavy sturdy clothes rail at a cost of £60 I would appreciate if you can consider this family for financial support from your charity. **£ 130 Agreed**
- **One World Link with Sierra Leone** - Jane Knight who came to talk to SPAN last month was in touch with a request to help a medical member of staff from Bo to come to Warwick as there is now a partnership between Warwick and Bo hospitals. **Agreed £250**
- **From Stella Lucey working with ‘Welcome Here’** I wonder would you consider a grant for a refugee family from Afghanistan who have three children at Trinity school. There are also three other children in the family, they currently are in receipt of universal credit while the father gains English qualifications at college so he can look for work. Money is very tight.

The children need clothes and shoes, I have unsuccessfully tried another local charity. Would you be able to help? I can give you more details if you could consider them. If Richard Gordon is at the next meeting he may be able to give you some details too as he has visited the family on one occasion with me. **Agreed £100 Tesco vouchers from Lenten Alms**

### **Liaison Groups**

#### **Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington.**

The weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> April there will be cards to be signed for prisoners of conscience, as highlighted by ACAT. Diana O'Reilly is organising it at St Peter's and Our Lady's. Prisoners this year are from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

#### **Saturday Friendship Group.**

The Way ahead Project is closing, hopefully temporarily, as they recruit more staff for a changing service. The service will be three days per week only in the future and the Salvation Army church want to use the premises for alternative uses on other days. It means that the Saturday Friendship Group will no longer be in operation as Saturdays are not to be open for the homeless. This has been a very difficult time for the staff, volunteers and visitors to the project. The two remaining staff Yvonne MacKinnon and Fiona Penson will be leaving on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and there is a thank you party planned for all. The SFG have to meet to consider how to respond and to take stock of the volunteers and donor's wishes. We understand that there is a Church finance Committee meeting this week and it will be drawn to their attention that all donors need to be informed as some people are still sending standing orders. (this information has already been conveyed but not acted on as far as we know)

**Any Other Business. Frank Garvey's legacy – we hope to have a Span information event on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June** at the conference centre – to show possible recipients of the money and to discuss how to use it to best effect. We plan a Wine and cheese event and use publicity to encourage parishioners to come and engage. Mary Holden mentioned that Peter and Margaret Dimambro have some good photos of Frank which would add to the evening.

We finished with a prayer.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30 p.m. at St Peter's Church Hall**