

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 11th December 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

Before the meeting we toasted founder and previous members of SPAN, cutting a birthday cake with other refreshments 50 years after SPAN's first meeting (*first meeting was 12th December 1973*). Maria Murphy, Jean and Wilf Feely joined us. Maria and Jim cut the cake celebrating their and SPAN's first meeting.

Caroline and Paul Manning were thanked for their work in designing and getting a SPAN banner produced.

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer, thinking of former members and the recently deceased: David Grayling and Boi Kaipumoh, may they Rest in Peace.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Anne and Roger Elson, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Clare Burdett, Jeanette Davison, Toni Reszka, Jenny Toutoungi.

Apologies David Burton, Patrick Reddin, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Michael Barker (Treasurer).

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

Matters arising: None.

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

- **Miss F Armstrong (Reception Class Teacher) and the Faith Leaders St Anthony's Primary School**, dated 16th November 2023. "Thank you both so much for your time yesterday, it was a really valuable experience for both myself and the children."
- **Ms Nazlie Chan-Wing-Yen, World Medical Fund**, dated 20th November 2023. "My sincerest thanks to everyone at SPAN for the £500 donation and for your support; it is deeply appreciated."
- **Fr. Gabriel Ukwong Mayele**, dated 21st November 2023. "We would like to express our gratefulness to you the staff of SPAN and the people who generously contribute to assist the vulnerable children to study. Concerning retirement, I wish to seek your advice on how I can transfer my responsibility."
- **Tim Martin, Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf ***, dated 21st November 2023. "I'm very pleased to be able to now send you our Autumn newsletter from the Institute in Salt."
- Brian Austin regarding **Joseph Kaipumoh in Bo**, dated 25th November 2023. "Dear Paul, This is to inform SPAN that, following a fall earlier this year, Joseph Kaipumoh's wife Boi had an operation in October, from which she has not recovered. She died at Connaught Hospital, Freetown last Wednesday and will be buried in Bo tomorrow, Sunday November 26th. Joseph has asked me to let you know. In an earlier email he also said: "Tell them that our pump machine is still serving us with safe drinking water." and to "Extend our regards to the brethren at St Peter's and SPAN." [*The Secretary has sent our condolences to Joseph.*]
- **Brendan Metcalfe, CEO, Friends of the Holy Land ***, dated 4th December 2023. 'December update' attached as well as 'a reflection from the Holy Land' dated 20th November 2023.
- **CAFOD ***, dated 22nd November 2023. "Thank you for your donation of £ 200 for Darfur."
- **Chris Connors, Coco's Foundation ***, dated 11th November. "Thank you, for the recent donation, certificate attached." [*A short video of thanks was shown at the meeting.*]
- **Kieran McGerty Young People First**, dated 6th December 2023. "This is a very kind and amazing level of support being given - thank you and all the trustees for believing in what we do and why we do it."
- **Rosaline Knobbs, Marketing Manager, Hope House Babies Home, Nairobi**, dated 6th December 2023. "Congratulations to SPAN on your 50th anniversary! Thank you so much for your willingness to support Hope House on a monthly basis. I can forward the most recent newsletter to you."
- **Magdelin [alias Peggy] O'Neill IBVM, [Clare Burdett's sister]**, dated 6th December 2023. "I was thrilled to hear that SPAN are going to support Hope House financially every month. It will be such a help to them. I am sure they will be delighted. I spent some months in the summer of 2005 as a volunteer in Nairobi. I used to love going to Hope House and looking after the small babies. They were so beautiful and mercifully unaware of where they had come from - latrines, garbage bins or abandoned by their mothers in hospitals after birth. They were very well looked after despite lack of funds. Please thank the people in SPAN for such generosity. With all good wishes, Magdalen."
- **Finance - Comments sent by Michael on the November 2023 Accounts**
In the month we have **£ 1,469 available for appeals** due to the receipt of our quarterly investment income and slightly higher standard order receipts due to the receipt of some quarterly receipts.

We have had an excellent start to our Christmas voucher appeal with £1,068 received in the first two weeks. This is across all churches so thanks to everyone who made an appeal in the churches.

With the amounts carried forward we have currently £2,370 in the Voucher pot.

We have also banked a further £900 in December. [*£ 4,000 of vouchers have been ordered, we may order more later*]. This month we paid our auditors bill of £900.

We have issued the Saturday Friendship Group cheques to local charities [Helping Hands, LWS Night Shelter, New Chapters, Foodbank, Young People First] so the balance of £7,000 will disappear in the next month.

[*£ 413.08 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals in Nyenga in Uganda and Ortum in Kenya.*]

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

- **Friends of the Holy Land *** “Carrying out humanitarian support relating to housing, education and the prevention or relief of poverty and sickness to the Christian communities of all denominations in the areas in which we operate.” **£ 500 Agreed from Gift Aid rebates.**
- **Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf *** “Supporting the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf.” **£ 300 Agreed.**
- **Esther Graham *** “The objectives of the expedition are to undertake projects which raise the educational and living standards of developing communities in a rural district of Peru. This includes improving infrastructure and sanitation to provide safe and productive learning environments for local children and contributing to projects such plastering, painting and low-level construction alongside local skilled tradespeople.” **£ 100 Agreed.** Esther to be invited to give an update next year and to let us know how it went afterwards – the expedition is in 18 months.
- **Guy’s Gift *** “Support for bereaved children, young people and their families in Coventry and Warwickshire.” **£ 350 Agreed.**
- **Daylight Christian Prison Trust** “To advance the Christian faith and education, and to relieve persons in condition of need or hardship, particularly in prisons and the families of prisoners.” **£ 200 Agreed.**
- **Ghana School Aid * NEW** “Ghana School Aid supports the education of children, particular girls and young women, with a focus on rural areas by making grants to schools, vocational and teacher training centres in support of local efforts, for building materials, technical equipment, teaching and learning materials, books.” **£ 300 Agreed** for sanitation and access to water.
- **Starfish Malawi *** “We are committed to follow the example of Jesus Christ in his compassion for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised by alleviating poverty through education, vocational training and use of sustainable resources. We support a number of projects in Malawi, sponsor secondary school students in Malawi among other activities.” **£ 300 Agreed.**
- **Darfur, Sudan via CAFOD.** **£ 100 Agreed** from Frank’s legacy.

Liaison Groups

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington. No additional info.

New Chapters. Still on the lookout for a property to use. However, now operating a ‘Recovery Day’ out of an office at Dale Street Church to offer support one day a week.

Any Other Business.

Thanks to Jeanette and Mary for producing lovely **Christmas Cards** being delivered by SVP and others.

SPAN Quiz night Friday 9th February 2024. Chris Connors founder of CoCo’s Foundation plans to attend.

Early June SPAN open evening to mark the anniversary year with a special evening with a world food theme and updates on Frank’s legacy. Ideas for the gathering welcome.

The **next two meetings**, January 8th and February 12th will be by Zoom.

Next **Lent** being early, plans for Lenten Alms start soon. Secretary proposed changing our scheme of recent years of: support our local families with vouchers (via schools, SVP etc) and Kiirua Mission Hospital and another charity. Proposed focus on Local needs and the Holy Land. Inviting a speaker from Friends of the Holy Land to speak at Masses subject to clergy agreement between January and March, with Lenten Alms gold envelopes for a split between Local and Friends of the Holy Land. [*Secretary now wondering about a 3way split to include House of Light and Hope in Lebanon.*] To maintain support for Kindaid’s Kiirua Mission Hospital secretary suggested we add them to the 2 existing Mission Hospitals we support, adjusting %ages. We **finished with a prayer** and a number of reminiscences about SPAN’s evolution.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 8th January 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom.