

Minutes of the SPAN meeting and Annual Review held on 8th December 2025 held in St Peter's – Davenport Room

The meeting started with a time for prayer and reflection for Peter Dimambro, a long-time supporter of SPAN, may he Rest in Peace.

[SPAN have asked for a Mass to be said for Peter, this will be at St Peter's on January 2nd.]

This was followed by the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Allan Mulholland, Anne Elson, Clare Burdett, Anne-Marie and Patrick Reddin, Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Mary Holden, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jeanette Davison, Roger Elson, Aveena (Halwinder Basi).

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

Matters arising:

1. News from CoCo's Foundation. No progress since last month, action in South Africa is very slow, still awaiting an assessor's report on the vehicle damage and insurance. CoCo's are hoping to extend a dormitory. Chris Connors has little voice control but is working to cover commitments through email.
2. A cheque to cover use of the Davenport Room by SPAN, September to December will be issued tonight.

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

- **Derrick Kidake, Bornstar ***, dated 12th November 2025. "Thank you so so much SPAN. I am so grateful for your kindness and generosity. It will be used for the better of the kids we are helping here at Bornstar." [£ 350 sent via Chaffinch Nov 2025]
- **Mrs Mahnoosh Mossadegh, Hands Around the World ***, dated 20th November 2025. "Thank you so much to SPAN for the support provided to St Lucy's Schools for the blind and visually impaired in Kenya to purchase musical instruments. The project has been a success, and your support has made a huge difference to the lives of these children, enriching their lives, boosting confidence and their passion for music." A video of students and staff playing the instruments was sent to us.
- **John Busby, Children of the Dump ***, dated 27th November 2025. "Thank you for your incredibly generous donation of £350 towards the work of the charity. Your support truly makes a meaningful difference to the children and families we serve."
- **Michelle Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 19th November 2025. Thanks for £ 200 for Darfur and £ 350 for the Sudan Crisis Appeal.
- **Ms Nazlie Chan Wing Yen, World Medical Fund for children – wmf ***, dated 17th November 2025. Thanks for £ 450 grant in November 2024, an overview of their work and an appeal.
- **Barry Harper, EACP – East Africa Children's Project in Malawi***, dated 1st December 2025. Update email and Newsletter. [£ 500 sent July 2025]
- **Five Talents**, received 8th December 2025. Christmas card from their team.

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the October 2025 Accounts

A healthy month for standing orders and the quarterly receipt of investment income means we have £ 1,432 available to allocate this month.

The Christmas appeal started well with £ 909 collected in the first weekend. With a carried forward balance of £ 825 from gift aid, we currently have a deficit of £ 1,265 following the purchase of £ 3,000 worth of vouchers, which have been distributed to local schools.

In December we have received a further £ 700 and today we received a receipt of £ 2,000 from a company towards the appeal. This will allow a further purchase of £2,000 vouchers for other local families.

We have also received a further £ 310 from the Leamington Catenian President, following a raffle at their recent dinner.

We will issue a cheque for £ 100 to St Peters for the last four months room hire of the Davenport Room.

[£ 336.05 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals at Nyenga in Uganda and Ortum in Kenya.]

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

- **Nasreen Mohamed, Zimbabwe Educational Trust (ZET) ***, dated 20th November 2025. “Today we are seeking support for our flagship programme, Rafiki Girls Centre, which empowers young women aged 18–25 who have left school due to poverty, orphanhood or gender bias. In Zimbabwe, young women face entrenched barriers of poverty, gender inequality, and unemployment. Fewer than 35% complete secondary school, while youth unemployment in some areas exceeds 80%. The programme consists of life skills training, vocational qualifications and work placements that help participants gain financial independence and build dignified futures.” **£ 500 Agreed.**
- **Lightness (or Laitness) Innocent - student**, dated 24th November 2025. “I am a university student, Pursuing a degree of Business Administration in Marketing Management, At the Kampala International university in Tanzania (KIUT). I was asking, for your contribution, whatever you have, so that I can continue my studies well, especially on fees and Accommodations. Thank you so much. I hope you will help me and God bless you so much.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Mugweri Trever Patrick, The Mugweri Foundation**, dated 24th November 2025. “... dedicated to transforming vulnerable livelihoods in Luuka District –Eastern Uganda. Through our various programs and initiatives, we strive to provide education, healthcare, and economic opportunities to those in need.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Ms Nazlie Chan Wing Yen, World Medical Fund for children – wmf ***, dated 17th November 2025. Thanks for £ 450 grant in November 2024, an overview of their work and an appeal for further support for their mobile clinics. **£ 500 Agreed.**
- **CAFOD Sri Lanka Cyclone Ditwa appeal. £ 500 Agreed.**
- **CAFOD Darfur appeal. £ 100 Agreed.**

Any Other Business:

SPAN Sunday allowed us to promote our Christmas voucher appeal. A joint SVP / SPAN leaflet was printed, green envelopes made available. A brief talk was given at most Masses. Caroline has provided some impressive leaflets and posters. This has been followed by a number of Facebook messages.

We have distributed £ 3,000 of supermarket vouchers via Jean Feely (thank you Jean) to our Primary Schools and are about to order a further £ 2,000 worth. We have been asked to support some refugee families, parish or SVP nominations and families through local family centres.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DCfZ4yYgP/> please share and follow.

Christmas Cards were completed by Jeanette and Mary. Thank you to both.

SPAN Quiz Night 2026 is in St Peter’s Hall for **Friday 13th Feb** – Lent starts Wed March 5th 2026. The proceeds of the Quiz night will be jointly **Young People First** and **New Chapters**.

Lenten Alms will be for Local families with vouchers and jointly **Friends of the Holy Land** in Gaza and **House of Light and Hope** in Lebanon seeing the continued need in Gaza and the link to Easter and the Holy Land in that season.

New Trustee for SPAN. Allan Mulholland has agreed to be a SPAN Trustee, starting today. Thank you, Allan.

Kindaid calendar: Family breakfast tba in early spring 2026, Spring social event: Saturday 25th April 2026,

Concert and cream tea: Sunday 28th June 2026

The meeting finished with a prayer and was followed by refreshments – mince pies and drinks.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 12th Jan 2026 at 7.30 pm. This will be held using Zoom with a link sent out the day before the meeting. January and February meetings are usually by Zoom.

A Zoom link will be sent out with meeting documents the day before the meeting.