

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 12th February 2024 by Zoom

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Sandie Tansey, Anne and Roger Elson, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Clare Burdett, Jeanette Davison, Patrick Reddin.

Apologies David Burton, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jean Feely.

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

Matters arising: 1. A breakdown of the Christmas Appeal funding was distributed; £ 210 of vouchers was left for ongoing requests.

2. Richard Gordon of SVP has sent an update re the Right to Remain appeal *“on the generous donation you made last month. Mainly thanks to your very prompt payment the application went in a few hours before the price increase was applied. The family is waiting now for a response from the Home Office, which is never certain, but we will inform you of the outcome.”* As there were several benefactors, SPAN should receive around £ 1,800 back from the figure advanced.

3. The Secretary had had no feedback re a Kindaid and SPAN Sunday Tea Dance. Previous attempts to organise dance events e.g. Giovanna 2/3 years ago had not had much interest– other than a ceilidh or had the involvement of dance groups outside the parish e.g. Sean O'Rourke's event. Please contact secretary with any other thoughts.

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

- **Nikki Stevens, Family support Worker with the early help team in Warwick**, dated 8th January 2024. *“... signposted to SPAN ... to provide some new toys for a young person aged 5 with autism needing sensory toys. [SPAN suggested trying the Lillington Pantry and the toy library in Warwick.]*
- **House of Light and Hope, Beirut ***, dated 14th January 2024. Prayer requests.
House of Light and Hope, Beirut *, dated 21st January 2024. *“Dear brothers and sisters at SPAN, and dear parishioners, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus-Christ, Further to and in addition to our brief report mailed around December [Secretary adds: which didn't arrive until this weekend - to be distributed next month], please find a detailed narrative report on the activities and work we accomplished at Beit-el-Nour (House of Light and Hope). [See attached.]*
- **Fr. Gabriel Ukwong Mayele, Uganda**, dated 29th January 2024. *“In regards to my last communication, I would like to kindly inform you that the new academic year 2024/2025 begins on 05/01/2024. Hopefully your assistance will come on time to enable smooth continuity of the children's studies, Kind regards.” [Earmarked sums will be sent soon]*
- **Brian Taylor, Guys Gift ***, dated 9th January 2024. *“I must also congratulate you on your 50th Anniversary: ...Your support is ever welcome, 2023 saw us increase the number of children and young people we supported through their bereavement to our highest-ever number.”*
- **CAFOD ***, dated 18th Jan 2024. Thanks: £ 700 - the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal and £ 100 for Darfur.
- **Peter Rand, Friends of the Holy Land**, several emails thanking SPAN and parishioners for the support given to FHL, raising over £ 3,300 across Catholic Leamington.
- **Shona Hickey, Temwa, Malawi ***, dated 8th February 2024. *“I am delighted to share [Temwa's Impact Report for 2023](#). Temwa continues to make significant strides in improving the lives of thousands of individuals in Nkhata Bay North. [A beneficiary of the Frank Garvey legacy.]*
- **Sam Townsend**, Social Worker, Family and Adolescent Support Team, Warwickshire Justice Centre, dated 5th February 2024. *“I am social worker for a young person who was assaulted / stabbed in the community. The young man has been hospitalised for a few weeks. I have just learned from his mum that he will need a new bed and mattress. [SPAN Committee agreed £ 206.95 for this appeal].*

Finance - Comments by Michael on the January 2024 Accounts

In the month we have **£ 979 available for appeals** due a healthy month collected from standing orders and cash collected through the churches. Currently the Night Shelter have not cashed their cheques regarding the payments from the Saturday Friendship Group which totals £2,300.

The appeal for the Friends of the Holy Land produced a fantastic response with a total collected of £1,620 in

cash which was forwarded to Peter Rand for Friends of the Holy Land. Further payments were made electronically which produced a total appeal collection of £3,300. Parishioners, in many cases completed the GA envelopes too.

The Frank Garvey legacy money has been split (on our accounts summary) between the three beneficiaries, Coco's, Temwa and Global Care, indicating the future balances to be paid to them.

Transfers to Friends of the Holy Land and Fr Mayele should happen this month. Standing orders to Young People First and Hope Baby Clinic are also being set up.

[£ 164.50 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals at Nyenga, Uganda and Ortum, Kenya.]

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

- **Jesuit Refugee Service ***. **Agreed not to support.**
- **SPICMA *** “SPICMA has received over 100 urgent requests from priests and sisters in Kenya following severe flooding. They're asking for funds to purchase essential food for the people living around them, many of whom are displaced and sheltering in schools and church buildings.” **£ 330 Agreed.**
- **Malaika Kids, Tanzania ***. “Participants of the Relatives Support Programme bring their children twice a month to collect packages of staple foods, toiletries, school necessities and clothing. The RSP is at the heart of our mission, supporting and resettling children within their wider family. We support 115 children in this way at a cost of £350 per child per year.” **£ 330 Agreed for RSP.**
- **Empowering Kids in Kenya NEW ***. **Agreed not to support.**
- **AMREF Flying Doctor NEW ***. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Let the Children Hear, Uganda NEW *** “Relieve deaf, hearing impaired, poor children(0-16 years) and their families Educate deaf or hearing impaired children by provision of specialist facilities and health care specialists. Supplying hearing aids.” **£ 330 Agreed for hearing aids.**
- **Scion Trust NEW ***. **Agreed not to support.**
- **£ 500 to Kiirua Mission Hospital** from the Frank Garvey legacy.
- **Darfur, Sudan via CAFOD. £ 100 Agreed** from Frank's legacy.

Liaison Groups and Any Other Business

SPAN Quiz night A great success, a good social evening and informative. A few sound issues. £ 1,000 raised for Friends of the Holy Land. Thanks to all who enabled it to happen – the quiz master, bar, ticket sellers, door staffing, setting up, clearing up, raffle sellers, raffle prizes, projection, publicity, acquiring a card reading. Peter Rand very grateful. Chris Connors thanks us for making him welcome and our continued interest in Coco's Foundation.

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington Stations of the Cross from Jesuit Refugee Service 10.30am on Mondays at SP's during Lent.

New Chapters It is hoped that one of their Trustees is close to buying a house.

Lenten Alms Gold Gift Aid envelopes will be distributed. We will support our local primary schools (and SVP nominated) families with vouchers and also collect for **the House of Light and Hope** in Beirut, Lebanon. Some notices will be in churches later this week.

We will try to get some promotion after Masses. CAFOD appeal this weekend and Cathedral Maintenance *[on March 3rd]*. A publicity article appeared in Feb EXTRA *[which has been published later than usual as the parish does not have a webmaster.]*

SP's and OL's Visitation – Jenny and Paul represented SPAN meeting with reps from SVP, CAFOD, Kindaid, Justice and Peace and others. We handed Canon Paul a summary of our Catholic Leamington activities.

SJ's Visitation is next month. We offered help to Fr David. Clare to find out what was being planned.

SPAN continuing to celebrate 50 years Friday 7th June World Food Event. Ideas still wanted. Jenny to hold a zoom meeting to move forward on ideas. **Please contact her if you can help.** Jenarmstrong@talktalk.net

The meeting finished with a prayer from the House of Light and Hope prayer requests.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 11th March 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter's Hall.