

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 9th February 2026 held by Zoom.

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Caroline Manning (Vice Chair), Allan Mulholland, Anne-Marie and Patrick Reddin, Jeanette Davison, Mary Holden.

Apologies: Francis Vaz, Jonathan Holden, Paul Manning, Fr Stephen Day, Canon David Hartley, Clare Burdett, Anne and Roger Elson, Jenny Toutoungi, Aveena (Halwinder Basi).

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

Matters arising: No further news from Chris Connors and CoCo's Foundation.

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

- **Brian Taylor, Guy's Gift ***, twice dated 13th January 2026. "... on-going support, such as SPAN has given us over the last 5 years now, is so important to us. Having a local charity support is terrific, but you are also in a position within the community at St Peter's where you may be able to pass details of our work to members of your community who may need our support."
- **Sally Harrison, Empowering Kids in Kenya ***, dated 13th January 2026. "... your solar lanterns for our children is having a huge impact on their ability to read and do their homework while at home. As you know, our children do not have electricity at home as we only take in the poorest of kids. Those who are very needy indeed. We have a further 35 children starting this month as the Kenyan school year runs from January to December. Would you please consider funding solar lanterns for these new kids? The cost would be £ 245 in total." [Last supported July 2024 £ 200 books, March 24 70 lamps £ 440]
- **Hope House Babies Home**, dated 16th January 2026 sending their latest newsletter – it can be viewed at [Hope House Babies Home – Providing a safe haven for abandoned babies](#)
- **Nial, Hilary and Alice Watson, Kidogo Kids ***, dated 20th January 2026. "Thank you so much for the very generous donation from SPAN and is going to make such a difference towards ensuring all the children are able to continue their education and hopefully fulfil their aspirations."
- **Amy Dickerson, Transformation Through Education**, dated 25th January 2026. "Thank you so much for the generous donation of £ 300 from SPAN. We agree that buildings, though essential, are not where the emphasis should be. This year we are going to be providing extra support for the children of PIZZ School by funding some former students to undertake college courses. Your donation will enable 40 children at PIZZ School to have new school uniforms and no doubt some of these children will go on to achieve great things."
- **Robert Caracache, House of Light and Hope ***, dated 26th January 2026. "Dear brothers and sisters at SPAN, and dear parishioners. Salam el Masih/The Peace of Christ. We hope that you are all well. Your donation of 2700 U.S.\$ safely arrived."
- **Brendan Metcalfe, Friends of the Holy Land ***, dated 30th January 2026. Thanks for donations in 2025.
- **Michele Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 19th January 2026. Thanks for £ 100 for Darfur.

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the January 2026 Accounts

You will see we have £ 1,073 to spend in the month, which is a good month based upon some cash collected in church, together with healthy standing orders for the month.

You will see a posting of £ 20,000 which is the purchase of additional charity funds units, which hopefully should generate some investment income in the year. These funds will be sold in early 2027 to meet the obligations to be paid in 2027 and beyond.

A payment of £ 2,145 was made to the House of Light of Hope which is a combination of our regular payment and some special donations made by individual sponsors.

[£ 158.59 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,

- **Sally Harrison, Empowering Kids in Kenya ***, dated 13th January 2026. £ 245 for Solar Lanterns. See Correspondence. **£ 245 Agreed.**
- **Mugwanya Abdulmalik, Mifutaahu Charity Foundation ***, dated 13th January 2026. Correspondence attached since first appeal. **Agreed not to support this month but a worthwhile cause that could be followed up another time.**
- **Appeal via Jean Feely and Matt Pettle** for a family at OLST's - £ 100 vouchers delivered and support suggestions made. **Vouchers from Christmas Appeal used.**
- **Paddy Boyle, African Mission**, dated 3rd February 2026. "I have written to SPAN a number of times but without success [Feb 24 and Mar 25]. "... we are a small UK charity which supports a Catholic Doctor's work in a hospital in Uganda and a residential project run by the Franciscans for special needs children in Zimbabwe." **£ 600 Agreed.**
- **Kiirua Mission Hospital, Kenya £ 100 Agreed - so far this year £ 200 – target £ 1,200**
- **CAFOD for Darfur £ 100 Agreed - so far this year £ 200 – target £ 1,200. From FG Legacy funds.**

Any Other Business:

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

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

Drinks licence granted – Jenny applied.

Patrick and Anne-Marie to run the bar.

Jenny asked for raffle price donations – perhaps unwanted chocolates or drinks? Please contact Jenny with any donations to bring on quiz night or have collected – jenarmstrong@talktalk.net.

Tickets were sold after Masses on past 2 weekends. Thanks to those promoting the quiz.

Paul has updated SPAN booklet for 2025 which will be placed on tables.

Allan will be encouraging raffle ticket sales.

Caroline has produced posters and graphics for tickets and has created many Facebook posts.

Michael will be quizmaster and has finalised the quiz.

New Chapters (Yvonne) and Young People First (Naomi) will give some brief words at the interval.

AGM of Young People First: Attended by Jenny and Michael who were very impressed by their work.

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. Gold envelopes will be in our churches from the start of Lent.

Caroline to produce posters hopefully ready this Friday.

Justice & Peace: Stations of the Cross PowerPoint to be used on Mondays in Lent in SP's Hall after Mass.

Our Lady's BINGO night: Friday 20th February 7pm OL's Church Upper Hall.

Funeral service for Janice Austin. Friday 20th February 11am St Peter's.

The meeting finished with a prayer for the departed.

The next meeting will be on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Davenport Room at St Peter's.