

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 13th February 2023 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), Anne Elson, Jeanette Davison, Patrick Reddin, Clare Burdett.

**Apologies**, David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Fr Stephen Day, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Sandie Tansy.

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

**Matters arising** Warm Hub. Pastimes are applying for a grant towards heating costs, food, board games etc. WDC will publicise. SPAN have agreed that our charity account can be used to receive any grant with monies passed monthly to Pastimes to administer. SPAN supportive of this community initiative and will financially assist at least until real costings are known.

SMILE charity donations from Amazon are to cease this month.

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

- **Shona Hickey, Temwa** – “We are pleased to share a final report detailing the successes this project has brought to the community within this past year. We are incredibly grateful for your support.”
- **Fr Gabriel Ukwong Mayele in Uganda;** dated 12 January 2023 and dated 12 January 2023. Re-establishing contact with us. Also, dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023: “Following your emails, we wish to kindly inform you that term one for academic year 2023 will begin on Monday 6th February 2023 and pupils/students are expected to report to school on Sunday 5th February 2023. We are thus hopeful that your assistance will come timely enough so that the vulnerable children who are beneficiaries of your support will report back to school on time. May the lord grant you health and support in whatever you do in his name and for his people.”
- **Imelda Poole, Mary Ward Loreto Albania.** “Firstly I want to thank your amazing organisation for inviting me to write to you...We have a website at present for both Foundations, it is [www.marywardloreto.net](http://www.marywardloreto.net) This website is in process of renewal. Please let me know if you would like any further information. With best wishes and thanks for your interest.”
- **Nuisha Russo, Tools for Self Reliance;** dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023. “I hope you are having a good week. Last July St Peter’s Aid for the Needy generously donated £300 to Tools for Self Reliance towards our work. I attach an update so you can see the difference your donation has made.”
- *From Jonathan regarding the discussions at the last meeting* - I have found an article from 2014 at <https://www.educaid.org.uk/miriam-mason-sesay-angel-of-freetown-2/> . Googling her name shows she is still in post (see, e.g., a local news website <https://sierraloaded.sl/feature/meet-miriam-mason-sesay-sierraloaded-woman-crush-wednesday/> ), and EducAid still needs funds. [www.educaid.org.uk](http://www.educaid.org.uk)

Also The trafficked women's refuge I was thinking of, called Bakhita House in London, though it provides some national referral services. The Birmingham Archdiocese website, if you search the News archive, mentions a 6-year partnership with the Medaille Trust, signed on St Bakhita's Day 2019, but there is no evidence of a refuge in Birmingham.

Sr Imelda Poole IBVM, MBE heads RENATE ([www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)) which also accepts donations.

[David Burton let us know that the Archdiocese do support Fatima House, a refuge for single lady asylum seekers in Digbeth -<https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/community-projects/fatima-house/149.htm> NB: The SVP does support this project with visits and finance.]

- **CAFOD \*\***, dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022; thanks for £ 100 to Sudan.
- **CAFOD \*\***, dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022; thanks for £ 300 to World Food Crisis Appeal.
- **Guy’s Gift \*\***, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023; thanks for £ 350 giving support for bereaved families.
- **House of Light and Hope \*\***, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022m received by post 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 3 docs attached: Cover letter, 4 Case Histories, Photo Album 2022
- **Starfish Malawi \*\***, dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023; “Thanks for £ 400 for Hope Clinic.”

## Finance - Comments on January 2023 Accounts

A regular month in terms of standing orders received and cash received through the church has resulted in **£992 being available for appeals** at the meeting.

This was boosted by the £175 proceeds for SPAN from the Christmas carol concert. This was a very kind gesture and the choir was thanked formally.

We have actioned the new regular monthly payment of £100 to New Chapters and are reserving the £200

payable to the SFG. There are some large balances due to Nyenga, Ortum and House of Light and Hope which Michael will process this month. Similarly the payment to Fr Mayele can be made, now he has been in touch. The HSBC safeguarding process has also been resolved.

Work has started on the 2022 Annual Accounts.

*[£ 137.62 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,

- **Hope House Babies Home Nairobi Kenya** \* “a home for abandoned babies and babies whose mothers have offered them for adoption.” **£ 250 Agreed.**
- **Rosa Care Zimbabwe NEW** “A mission of assisting orphans and vulnerable children, also aimed at preventing and responding to violence against girl child and women with disabilities, prisoners and community development.” **£ 250 Agreed.**
- **Educaid Sierra Leone** “Educaid promotes and provides high quality, holistic education among the underprivileged young people of Sierra Leone. Our vision is a democratic, dignified and globally-engaged Sierra Leone, where poverty is eliminated by educated citizens who are able to develop their personal, social and economic wellbeing. **£ 250 Agreed.**
- **Nalgonda NEW** \***“Womens Organisation For Rural Leadership Development.** We are a small nonprofit organisation based in India working for the upliftment of vulnerable women, children, young people, homeless and Dalits.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Achieved Dreams** \* **“Our Mission** To optimise the mental and physical wellbeing in young people. **Our Vision** Our vision is that all children have an opportunity and financial security to develop all of their potential: in sport, recreation, life and community.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Ruby Ogoh, Student Social Worker (Front Line) Children’s Safeguarding & Support Service – Warwick District Children and Families**  
“a referral on behalf of XXX, whose grandparents have elected to home-school following some negative experiences at school. However, grandmother YYY not able to purchase a computer and printer. She is very keen on XXX having an education despite all the challenges experienced.  
*[Following follow up conversations the SPAN committee agreed to fund £ 240.]*  
*Email of 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb: “I am very pleased to say that the family are now in receipt of the laptop and printer. XXX was really happy and his grandparents were ever so grateful.”*
- **CAFOD – Syria and Turkey earthquake appeal. £ 1,000 Agreed.**

## **Liaison Groups**

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

This year the CAFOD Stations of the Cross will be used on Friday morning after the morning Mass (probably 10am Mass). Volunteer readers requested. Minutes of last meeting attached.

**Saturday Friendship Group.** No change – i.e. Still no closer to appointing staff member to coordinate the Saturday opening. A time of change at present but still very busy during the week.

### **SPAN Quiz night – this Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 for 8pm start.**

Hoping to set up the room from 3pm. Secretary to confirm this urgently with Royce.

Any more raffle / hamper goods or other prizes, please confirm with Jenny [jenarmstrong@talktalk.net](mailto:jenarmstrong@talktalk.net)

Patrick is organising bar refreshments, Jenny has the drinks licence, Michael has planned the Quiz. Caroline produced some lovely posters; Jenny sent an article to January EXTRA referencing New Chapters. SPAN will contribute to the heating costs of the hall.

**Any Other Business.** Caroline and Paul have a list of suggestions both new and old to us regarding Frank’s legacy. We are focussing on basic food and health provision. CAFOD works in several African countries, we could look at some of their projects. At our next meeting Jane Knight will tell us about One World Link and possible ways we could engage in this long-standing connection with Sierra Leone.

World Women’s Day of Prayer – Dale Street Church 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

We finished with a prayer.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30 p.m. in person at St Peter’s Church Hall.**