

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 8th January 2024 by Zoom

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer, thinking of the recently deceased: Fr Chris Greaney and Roger Elson's daughter Jacqueline, may they Rest in Peace.

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

Apologies David Burton, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Mary Holden, Jean Feely, Jackie Rabone, Clemency Jarvis.

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

Matters arising: None.

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

- General Christmas greetings from **CORD, Aid to the Church in Need, MIND** in South Warwickshire, Kidogo Kids re **Hope House Babies Home, Young People First, House of Light and Hope, Friends of the Holy Land, Justice and Peace** at Catholic Leamington, **Jesuit Refugee Service, Brian and Janice Austin**.
- **Barry, Pieter Lagaay (Chair), Trustees and the EACP Team – East Africa Children's Project ***, dated 11th December 2023. "Thank you so much for your generous support of EACP, including your recent donation in September 2023. To keep you updated on our work that you have supported we attach our latest EACP Newsletter."
- **Emma Hancock, Family Support Worker, Children and Families adolescent support team**, dated 12th December 2023. "I am supporting a single mum. ... Her washing machine has broken and she unable to afford a new one. She has a 12-year-old daughter ..." [*Committee agreed £ 300 for a washing machine.*]
- **Beatrice Sher (Bea), Social Worker, Warwick District – Safeguarding Team**, dated 14th December 2023. "The family are on a child protection plan following domestic violence ... struggling financially and is in a lot of debt. ... very poor mental health ... I need to see if there is anything available that could support them as the children are often telling professionals they feel very cold ... The children don't have trainers, blankets or much bedding." [*Committee agreed £ 100 of vouchers.*]
- **Hannah Mansfield, Daylight Christian Prison Trust**, dated 15th December 2023. "Thank you very much for the kind gift of £200 from St Peter's Aid for the Needy. It will make a real difference helping us to continue to share the Gospel with prisoners and support them during their sentences and after release."
- **Penny Sewell, Ghana School Aid**, dated 18th December 2023. "I have received your letter and the enclosed cheque for £300. Your request that the grant go towards a sanitation project is noted and will be honoured. Please accept warm Season's greetings from Ghana School Aid."
- **Sam Townsend, Social Worker, Family and Adolescent Support Team**, dated 18th December 2023. "I work with the xx family. x has just turned 17-years old and having lived with her grandparents and been a Child in Care in supported accommodation, is now living with her mum. Positively, they are now in a permanent property of their own. The house is not furnished or equipped ... At the moment they do not have an oven. [*Committee agreed to fund cooker for £ 269.*]
- **Mark Aldrich, Trusts and Grants manager, Starfish Malawi ***, dated 19th December 2023. "I wish to thank each of your trustees for their support and continued trust in our work and am only too pleased to attach a formal letter of thanks and acknowledgement." Thanks for £ 300 donated.
- **Sue State, Friends of the Holy Land**, dated 20th December 2023. "Dear SPAN, I would like to thank you with all warmth and sincerity for your generous donation of £500 to support Christians in the Holy Land."
- **Jonathan Allen, Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf ***, dated 17th December 2023. Thanks for £ 300 donated with a Christmas greeting and card.
- **CAFOD ***, dated 21st December 2023. Thanks for £ 100 for Darfur.
- **JRS – Jesuit Refugee Service ***, dated December 2023. Christmas greetings and December newsletter. [*SPAN sent JRS £ 440 in May 2023.*]
- **Andy Bower, Warwick District Foodbank ***, dated 15th December 2023. Thanks for the £ 1,500 donation. [*The donation was part of SFG redistributed funds.*]
- **Yvonne Mckinnon, Service Manager, New Chapters ***, dated 18th December 2023. Thanks for the generous donation of £2000 to support New Chapters Work. [*The donation was part of SFG redistributed funds.*]
- **Chris Connors, Coco's Foundation ***, dated 5th January 2024. A short thank you video. An intro can be read on <https://www.cocosfoundation.org.uk/>. Also sending SPAN New Year wishes.

Finance - Comments by Michael on the December 2023 Accounts

In the month we have a healthy **£ 985 available for appeals.**

£ 5,000 of Christmas vouchers were ordered and distributed. Thanks again to Jean Feely for her communications with schools and agencies. £ 3,400 was collected £ 1,300 had already been set aside and the balance will be covered by our Gift Aid refunds. £ 212 came via JustGiving in Dec.

Some of the Saturday Friendship Group reallocations are awaiting banking by beneficiaries.

It was suggested that the amounts left in the Frank Garvey Legacy pots allocated to Coco's, Global Care, Temwa, Darfur should be seen in the accounts each month.

[£ 188.91 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,

- **Joy of Nation Harvest Ministries * - NEW.** “a church plant in the tribal village of Jangamgudem. Reaching out to the Yandi tribe, one of the most neglected and despised groups in India.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Sylvia McKenzie, Family Support Worker, Early Help and Targeted Support,** dated 4th January 2024. “ ... a request for a new washing machine for a family ... their washing machine has broken. The mother is a single parent, who is pregnant, and has 2 teenage children. She is relying on state benefits and does not have any funds to buy a new one. The family reside in Bishops Tachbrook.” **[Secretary to enquire if repair has been considered, referencing Sydni centre and Lillington Pantry.]**
- **CAFOD *.** “Time is running out for families in Afghanistan ... drought, bitter cold winter -25C in mountains”. **£ 700 Agreed.**
- **Richard Gordon – SVP *.** “I am writing to ask for your support for an application for further leave to remain in the UK by a Nigerian father of two UK-born children.” Richard presented confidential information shared before the meeting and clarified some questions raised. An initial suggestion was to give £ 1,000. Contributions were being sought from other sources. As the time to submit and pay for the application was critical to possibly avoid even higher costs, it was agreed to make the **£ 3,315** immediately available to use with the promise of a refund depending upon other donations.
- **Darfur, Sudan via CAFOD. £ 100 Agreed** from Frank's legacy.

Liaison Groups and Any Other Business

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington. No additional info.

New Chapters. It is hoped that a new property has been found, but early days at present.

SPAN Quiz

1. Friends of the Holy Land are to be the beneficiaries of the quiz. SPAN (with the agreement of our clergy) has invited FoHL to talk at Masses on weekend 20th/21st January to raise awareness of the Gaza situation. Peter Rand will talk at SP (5pm 20th), OL (9.15am 21st), SJ (10am 21st), SP (11.15 21st) and SJ (5.30 21st) he will bring literature and Gift Aid envelopes. We will need to hold back the 2nd collection until after he has spoken. SPAN will process the monies afterwards. Please offer help to Peter on the day, he will be rather busy!

2. Quiz preparations Patrick will coordinate the bar, Paul to print tickets, Caroline and Paul posters or leaflets, Jenny has the bar licence, Michael has the quiz in hand. Setting up might start at 3pm (Paul there from 5).

3. Raffle prizes. Offers of prizes to Jenny please.

4. Selling tickets. Help needed on weekend of 28th January and 4th February after Masses.

5. Coco's Foundation. Chris Connors to have 10min in the interval to keep us up to date.

6. When is it happening? Friday 9th February, doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start. Adults £ 5 (Youth £ 1).

Lenten Alms

We will have gold Gift Aid envelopes. This time 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.

We want to continue to give our support to Kindaid's Kiirua Mission Hospital (which was done in recent years in Lenten Alms) and hoping to give between £ 1,000 and £ 1,200 a year through our monthly appeals.

Service for Christian Unity 2024 This will be held at 6.30pm on 21st January in the Life Community Church in Charlotte Street, CV31 3EB.

KindAid + SPAN Sunday Tea dance This was suggested by Kindaid at a recent meeting. Any thoughts about this please get in touch with paulhayden444@gmail.com – this item came too late for any discussion.

We finished with a prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 12th February 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom, but first we have the SPAN Quiz night on February 9th.