

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 9th January 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, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Jeanette Davison, Sandie Tansy, Patrick Reddin, Clare Burdett.

**Apologies**, David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Fr Stephen Day,

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

**Matters arising** The confirmed date of the SPAN Quiz is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February with proceeds going to New Chapters. See last month's minutes for information about New Chapters. Have they found premises to use?

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

- Christmas greetings from various charities e.g. House of Light and Hope in Lebanon\*\*, CORD, LAFF, Children of the Dump, Aid to the Church in Need, UNICEF, Caudwell Children, Five Talents
- Dear all at the SPAN meetings, Wishing you a lovely, enjoyable and peaceful Christmas, with thanks for your efforts during the year for SPAN. You really do have something very special. Have yet another successful year in 2023; the need is so great. Keep up the Good Work. Best wishes, **Brian and Janice**.
- **Saturday Friendship Group from Fr Stephen \*\***, dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- **Paul Keeley, Sustainable Global Gardens**, dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023. "thank you very much for your donation of £300."
- **Emily Gamston, Afrikids \*\***, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. "I am delighted to confirm that we have received SPAN's very generous £300 cheque. Donations to AfriKids to make a transformative difference to communities in Ghana... you are helping us to ensure that thousands of vulnerable children are healthy, safe, and in school. With best wishes for a prosperous 2023."
- **House of Light and Hope in Lebanon\*\*** dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. A note from Fady Noun regarding Pope Benedict RIP.

## Finance - Comments on December 2022 Accounts

In the month we received £ 1,127 in gift aided standing orders which is slightly high as some donors make a one-off annual payment in December. This has resulted in **£ 929.32** being available **for appeals** tonight. The Christmas vouchers appeal has concluded and below is a total breakdown of money collected and spent:

Breakdown of all transactions: *[approx. 50% went via schools and 50% via SVP or Children's Centres.]*

Gift aided collection through churches	£ 2,465
Non gift aided collections	£ 620
Just Giving received to date	£ 328
Balances brought forward	£ 1,011
Total	£ 4,424
Purchase of vouchers	£(4,000)
Surplus to carry forward	£ 424

We have received £175 from St Peters Choir which is 25% of the proceeds of the Christmas concert. *[The meeting was grateful to the work of the choir supporting SPAN and the church heating.]*

The SFG payment has been cancelled but will be reserved from January.

Need to set up the SO for New Chapters: Sort Code: 30-91-91 Account number: 52519560

£ 100 will be sent from the Frank Garvey legacy via CAFOD to Darfur.

*[£ 149.62 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,

- **Starfish Malawi \*\***"We are committed to follow the example of Jesus Christ in his compassion for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised by alleviating poverty through education, vocational training and use of sustainable resources. We support a number of projects in Malawi, link schools in Malawi to

schools in the UK, sponsor secondary school students in Malawi among other activities.” **£ 400 Agreed.**

- **Daylight Christian Prison Trust. £ 200 Agreed.**
- **Guy’s Gift** a charity supporting bereaved young people in Coventry and Warwickshire. **£ 350 Agreed.**

There was discussion around appeals to support, some of which we will try to find out more about for next month.

*[Jonathan has supplied these references:*

*Clare referred to [www.hopehousebabieshome.org](http://www.hopehousebabieshome.org) Hope House acts as a halfway home where babies are loved and cared for until they can be placed into an adoptive family. All their babies are either abandoned or given up for adoption by their mothers.*

*Jonathan mentioned the work done supporting a trafficked women’s refuge called Bakhita House, which seems to exist only 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.]*

We haven’t heard any more about 3H, the house for trafficked women in Kenilworth which we supported.

SPAN has had little contact with groups in Sierra Leone in recent years. We had contacts through OWL (One World Link) and there were recollections of someone who spoke about their work whose parents were thought to be Vanessa and Martin Mason – perhaps more would be recalled before next month.

## **Liaison Groups**

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

There were no meetings in December. Peace Sunday is coming up this weekend, prayers should reflect this.

**Saturday Friendship Group.** No change – i.e. Still no closer to appointing staff member to coordinate the Saturday opening. It is hoped that a cooked breakfast might be available on a Monday.

**Any Other Business.** Caroline and Paul have identified 3 African charities which may be suitable as beneficiaries of part of Frank Garvey’s legacy. Initially information to be shared with Jenny. CAFOD works in several African countries, we could look at some of their projects. *[A CAFOD report on poverty can be found at [New pathways out of poverty in Africa.pdf](http://New%20pathways%20out%20of%20poverty%20in%20Africa.pdf) ([cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk))]*

A SPAN quiz night will be held in St Peter’s Church hall on the evening of **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February.**

Patrick Reddin will organise the bar, Jenny Armstrong has applied for a drinks licence, Paul Hayden is arranging for 80 tickets, Michael Barker is planning the Quiz. The hall was confirmed as booked by Royce. Publicity needed. Caroline is providing posters; Jenny sent an article to January EXTRA. There will be a raffle on the night. **Raffle prizes or hamper prizes are requested to go to Jenny.** £5 a ticket. Jonathan+Mary and Paul+Caroline offered to provide a couple of bottles as prizes. Sale of tickets should commence from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January (3 Sundays before the event). **Volunteers needed via Jenny.** Fr Stephen could be asked to mention the quiz and tickets for sale after Masses from 29<sup>th</sup> January. As part of the admin associated with the quiz night SPAN would contribute to the heating costs of the hall.

Anne mentioned that Churches Together are planning ‘warm spaces’ and a meeting this week may start to include St Peter’s on a Tuesday from 11 until 4 on the list.

See [Public spaces offer a warm welcome this winter – Warwickshire County Council](#)

Or [Leamington Winter Warm Hubs - WRCC](http://Leamington%20Winter%20Warm%20Hubs%20-%20WRCC) ([wrccrural.org.uk](http://wrccrural.org.uk))

In Christian Unity week there will be a service at St Paul’s on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan at 6.30.

Caroline and Paul described how when anyone uses Amazon they can select a charity to support. This alters the website to be displayed as SMILE Amazon. The Catenians and CAFOD are charities already listed. The option of adding SPAN to their lists is to be explored.

We finished with a prayer.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February starting at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom. Pre chat from 7.15.**