

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 12th June 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Jonathan Holden, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Clare Burdett, Jeanette Davison.

Apologies, Anne Allison, David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Anne and Roger Elson, Fr Stephen Day, Patrick Reddin, Mary Holden.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated, approved and signed. **Matters arising:** None.

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

- **Megan Knowles, Interim Deputy Director (Communications), Jesuit Refugee Service UK, dated 9th May 2023.** "Thank you very much for your donation to JRS' Syrian Earthquake appeal."
- **Shona Hickey, Temwa, dated 11th May 2023.** "I am emailing to confirm that we have received your letter and enclosed cheque of £300. We greatly appreciate the St Peter's Aid for the Needy's donation, which will have a huge impact on the lives of remote communities in Malawi"
- **Lucy Burman, Social Work Student, Strengthening Families, Warwickshire County Council, dated 15th May 2023.** "I am a student social worker ,, , regarding accessing funding for a skip for this family to assist in clearing the family home following a separation." *[Our Secretary replied " Paying for a skip is not an action we would take as our donors are usually hoping their help goes to relieve poverty ..."*
- Appeal letter from a man in Taunton seeking funding for a bed, dated 15th May 2023.. *[The committee contacted the SVP to see if they were aware of this man from Taunton. We are thankful to the SVP for making us aware of this serial fund requester.]*
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope, dated 16th May 2023.** * Prayer requests attached.
- **Fr. Gabriel Ukwong Mayele, Uganda, dated 18th May 2023.** "The pupils/students came for holidays on 02/05/2023 after the completion of first term and will be returning back to school on 29/05/2023 for the second term. Some of the pupils/students however could not pay their school dues in full as we ran short of funds". *[Our Treasurer is responding]*
- **Friends of the Holy Land Institute of the Deaf, dated 23rd May 2023.** * Newsletter attached.
- **Liliya Nagornaya, Brokerage Officer, Homes For Ukraine scheme, Children and Families, Warwickshire County Council, dated 2nd June 2023.** "Let me express my gratitude to SPAN for the help provided. Kind regards." **[£ 500 was sent for goods for 2 families]**
- **Prue Banks, Family Information Services, letter posted 23rd May 2023.** *[The letter returned a cheque for £ 340 towards a gas cooker]* A family friend has gifted the family with a new cooker. *[Clare asked - Could these requests for white goods be serviced by the Kenilworth Rotary?]*
- **Viviane Brockenbury, Help Madina. Dated 5th May 2023.** * "Thanks for £ 500 for Cataract programme in Sierra Leone"

Finance - Comments by Michael on May 2023 Accounts

We have a healthy £1,301 to spend in the month which is largely due to the receipt of our investment income of £963 in the month, together with the continued release of legacy payments of £500 per month. The Lenten Alms appeal has largely completed and we have made payments to Kindaid and Zoe's Place. The shortfall in the Lenten appeal has been offset from surplus Gift Aid monies.

I am currently undertaking completion of the 2022 accounts and will be claiming the Gift Aid monies for 2022.

[£ 298.11 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,

- **Friends of Vellore. NEW** * "Support for Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India and hospitals working in partnership with CMC Vellore. Friends of Vellore UK seek to help CMC to ensure that everyone can receive appropriate medical treatment regardless of their ability to pay.

We raise funds to support healthcare, education and development projects that benefit the poorest and most excluded communities.” **Agreed not to support. A new (to us) but established charity.**

- **Olotepesi Company Limited NEW *** /Olotepesi Company Limited was registered in November 2016 in Kenya as a nonprofit, non-partisan, and non-religious company limited by guarantee. It focuses on support for needy children, improving access to safe water, environmental conservation, and reduction of poverty as well. **Agreed not to support. A new small charity.**
- **Friends of Malawi Association (FOMA) NEW** “We fund Hospitals, Orphanages, homes for the elderly and bodies distributing relief to the needy and educational organisations, including schools, in Malawi.” **Agreed to seek further information.**
- **Malawi Association of Christian Support (MACS) NEW *** “to promote any charitable purpose in Malawi including the advancement of education, the relief of poverty, sickness and distress, the preservation and protection of health and the advancement of the Christian religion particularly by supporting the pastoral work of the churches and the support of charitable Christian institutions in that country. and such other charitable purposes.” **Agreed to seek further information.**
- **Hope House Babies Home Nairobi Kenya** “It is a project of a Christian mission called African Growth Ministries and is a home for abandoned babies and babies whose mothers have offered them for adoption.” Not registered in UK but linked to a NI registered charity. “... called Kidogo Kids, registered in the UK with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland (NIC108006).” £ 250 was agreed Feb 2023. **This was agreed should receive regular small donation from Frank’s legacy.**
- **IRT International Refugee Trust** Supporting the Italian Hospital in Karak. The hospital is managed by the Combonian Nuns who are deeply committed to helping all people in need, regardless of their religion. Since the onset of the Syria crisis, the hospital has become an invaluable centre for Syrian refugee families unable to access national health services. **£ 500 Agreed.**
- **Darfur, Sudan. £ 100 via CAFOD agreed.** Also **£ 300 via CAFOD** for humanitarian aid following the influx of refugees.
- **Coco’s Foundation. £ 500 Agreed.** As an immediate follow up to the Open evening.

Benemerenti medal presentation to Brian and Janice Austin is planned for Sunday 23rd July at 10.30 Mass at St Teresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, Filton, Bristol. Some representatives from SPAN hope to attend. *[Secretary note: Their daughter’s link to a feeding programme is worth considering in the legacy discussions.]*

SPAN Open evening with wine and cheese including suggestions for Frank’s legacy. Informal feedback suggested that the evening was well organised and informative, confirmed by the 18 feedback sheets. Paul Manning provided a summary: Overwhelming agreement to spend the money over a 5-year period. The committee offered / proposed all the companies and the 18 sheets supported: CoCo’s Foundation 16; CAFOD 14; Global Care 13; Temwa 6; One World Link 6; Sand Dams 5; Reach the Children 4.

No other charities were mentioned on feedback forms but Hope House Babies Home, Nairobi, Kenya was mentioned amongst recent SPAN beneficiaries.

It was also suggested that CoCo’s and Global care might receive monthly donations. A focus of food and water was mentioned in 2 feedback sheets, 1 thought that specific projects were better than general donations and that a larger one off donation might be appropriate for a large project.

An email from OWL was read outlining some projects that they would like to have funded – the meeting did not see that they would qualify for Frank’s legacy funding.

Liaison Groups

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington. No additional info.

Saturday Friendship Group. No additional info.

New Chapters are still in the process of having a property made available to them.

Any Other Business.

Kindaid. On Sunday 2nd July, at 3pm at OL’s there is Cream Tea and Musical entertainment provided by Kindaid, tickets are now available.

We finished with a prayer chosen from Dr Caracache’s prayer requests; prayers for Stephen Lee RIP, Eileen Lee’s grandson; for John Knight RIP, Jane Knight’s husband and their families.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 10th July starting at 7.30 p.m. at St Peter’s Church Hall.