

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 11th March 2024 held in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer. We also prayed for Anne's brother Philip RIP and for the health of Peter Dimambro.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Anne and Roger Elson, Clare Burdett, Patrick Reddin.

Apologies Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, David Burton, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jeanette Davison.

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

Matters arising: None.

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

- **Carolyn, Global Care ***, dated 12th February 2024. "Welcome to our latest edition of Newsbrief. ... We have a firm belief that when you help mothers, their children will thrive...but our project in Ethiopia has been more successful in demonstrating this than we could ever have imagined. "
- **Joseph Gichoni, Scion Trust**, dated 15th February 2024. "Thank you very much for your response. We are supported by the UK Fund for Charities (<https://www.ukfundforcharities.org/members/>), a Charity registered in England and Wales number 1097462 to fundraise from UK Charities"
- **Shona Hickey, Temwa ***, dated 15th February 2024. "I wanted to share with you a copy of Temwa's final report from our first year of our new Farmer Field Schools project. We have included a section about our plans for this current project year, which started in January, which SPAN is generously supporting."
- **Cathy Forman, SPICMA**, dated 19th February 2024. "We are very grateful to all the members of SPAN for their generous support in response to SPICMA's urgent appeal for food aid in Kenya."
- **Sally Harrison, Empowering Kids in Kenya ***, dated 20th February 2024. "Thank you so much for your email. I am new to applying to charitable trusts and your email made me rethink our strategy. We have now changed our approach to talk about all the things that the school needs as well as the building work, which I was giving too much prominence to.
I have thus put together a schedule of what the children and the school actually need. These include some great projects like providing solar lamps so that the children are able to do their homework at home as none have any electricity."
- **CAFOD**, dated 26th February 2024. Thanks for recent donation for Darfur. The protracted conflict that started in 2003 has caused internal displacement of millions of families.

Finance - Comments by Michael on the February 2024 Accounts

In the month we have **£ 1,236 available for appeals** due to a healthy month collected from standing orders and cash collected through the churches, together with our quarterly investment income.

Currently the Night Shelter still have an uncashed cheque totalling £ 2,000 from the Saturday Friendship Group.

The Quiz proceeds totalled a net £ 1,010 for the Friends of the Holy Land, the cheque being cashed in March.

We have received a refund for approx. £ 1,800 from Richard Gordon regarding the recent payment made for the Right to Stay application by the SVP.

Lenten Alms has progressed steadily with £ 988 collected to date, with a further £ 1,000 collected in March.

The committee is pleased to report the successful launch of our Sum Up machine which will facilitate cashless payments in the future.

[£ 318.08 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals at Nyenga, Uganda and Ortum, Kenya.]

Appeals – * indicates that attachments with further details were sent out ahead of the meeting,

- **Reach the Children** * “Filtered springs for rural schools and villages in Uganda and Kenya. Funding construction of latrines for schools in Uganda and Kenya. Working with disability groups providing medical equipment to Uganda School for the Deaf. Supported Grandmas pineapple model gardens planting 15,000 suckers generating sustainable income for impoverished families in the rural environment.” **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **African Mission** * **NEW.** “Fighting disease and poverty in Africa by supporting educational and medical projects.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Bright Sight Mission** * **NEW.** “Bright Sight Mission (BSM) travels to Ghana every year to perform free cataract operation and treat other treatable eye conditions for people in the deprived community who otherwise cannot afford the cost of operation and other treatment that will help to improve their sight. In March 2020, a ten-day eye camp was organised at St Patrick’s Hospital at Offinso at which 225 operations were performed.” **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Scion Trust** **NEW** *. “A Kenyan incorporated public charity working with communities to improve health, support education, alleviate poverty and care for the Earth. We are working with smallholder farmers in Embu County in Kenya to help break the vicious cycle of high rate of food insecurity.” **Agreed not to support.**
- **Empowering Kids in Kenya** *. “Empowering Kids in Kenya provides secondary school education to the poorest of the poor children in the Bombolulu suburb of Mombasa, Kenya. Only children who cannot afford an education are accepted into the school.” **£ 400 Agreed to purchase solar lamps for children to study by.**
- **Darfur, Sudan via CAFOD.** **£ 100 Agreed** from Frank’s legacy.
- **Debbie Warden, Brokerage Officer Tackling Social Inequalities for Warwickshire Family Information Service.** “I am currently supporting xxx in Leamington with her 3 children age 10yrs, 6yrs & 1yr ... struggling to afford to replace her broken washing machine...” *[Members had suggestions for support e.g. Lillington Pantry or Kenilworth Lions - Clare to explore but the need was recognised and would be responded to.]*

Liaison Groups and Any Other Business:

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington Stations of the Cross from Jesuit Refugee Service 10.30am on Mondays at SP’s during Lent.

Lenten Alms Gold Gift Aid envelopes have been distributed and spoken about in our 3 churches. 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.

SPAN continuing to celebrate 50 years Friday 7th June World Food Event. Ideas still wanted.

Caroline and Jenny looking at information displays. Jenny to apply for bar license.

Paul to prepare 80 tickets for the event - £ 10each.

A social and celebration evening not designed as a fund raiser. Bar to be arranged by Patrick to cover its costs. Michael to provide a picture quiz. There will be a raffle.

Table settings? Hall layout? International bunting?

Clare to coordinate desserts.

An MC would be desirable.

Entertainment – some Indian dancing, African drumming, pupils singing, musicians and dancers.

Food – curries, samosas, ...

Jenny to hold a meeting shortly after Easter. Please contact her if you can help. Jenarmstrong@talktalk.net

Should SPAN change its name? – an ongoing discussion. ‘Aid for the Needy’ is perhaps condescending or a dated term. A suggestion - SPAN could stand for Supporting People Across the Nations.

The meeting finished with a prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 8th April 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter’s Hall.

March – Nov meetings to be held in person (excl August), Dec – Feb by zoom.