

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 9th March 2026 held in Davenport Room, St Peter's.
The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Clare Burdett, Anne and Roger Elson.

Apologies: Francis Vaz, Allan Mulholland, Jeanette Davison, Stella Lucey, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Fr Stephen Day, Canon David Hartley, Patrick Reddin.

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

Matters arising: None.

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

- **Paddy Boyle, African Mission**, dated 17th February 2026. "Thank you for SPAN's **£600** donation to African Mission. Your donation will cover the costs of one year's education and living costs for one of the 22 special needs young people living at Fatima Mission, Zimbabwe. Of these 22 young people; 11 are deaf and mute, 3 are completely blind, 3 are visually impaired, 3 have Down Syndrome and 2 are physically handicapped. All come from poor households. Thanks to the education they are receiving and the fact that they are living in community with others, their confidence and ability to relate with others is growing."
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope**, dated 17th February 2026. Prayer request.
- **Brendan Metcalfe, Friends of the Holy Land**, dated 18th February 2026. Prayer request.
- **Barry Harper, EACP East Africa Children's Project ***, dated 18th February 2026. "Your support has directly improved the lives of 50 children who are extremely vulnerable but well supported by the Christian family environment at Faith School. The report is attached along with a short profile on Faith School, which you kingly supported."
- **Sr Susan Namuliika, St Francis Leprosy Hospital ***, dated 19th February 2026. "Hope this email finds you well. Thank you for the continued support given to Nyenga Hospital especially for the lepers and marginalized. Kindly find our accountability for last year's 2025 contribution. The Hospital Management team wishes you a blessed and fruitful Lenten period ahead."
- **Katy Bird, Deki ***, dated 25th February 2026. "I would like to sincerely thank you for your kind and generous donations to Deki over the past few years. As a small charity, we truly appreciate your continued and dedicated support. I have attached a copy of our 2025 Impact Report. I have also **enclosed a letter of consideration to kindly request your support again in 2026.**"
- **Jo Hook, Temwa ***, dated 26th February 2026. Covering letter and Impact report supplied.

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the February 2026 Accounts

We have £ 1,281 available for appeals which is largely due to the receipt of investment income of £ 1,037. This is slightly higher than usual so maybe we have received the first return on our recent investment of £ 20,000. I will need to confirm about this with CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited).

I want to thank everyone who assisted with the recent quiz. Generated nearly £ 1,200 which allowed us to contribute £500 each to New Chapters and Young People First and contribute £100 to St Peters for the use of the hall.

We have received a further £ 360 from the Catenian President for a raffle and sweepstake proceeds, bringing the total received to just over £ 1,900, which is a great achievement.

I need to start giving consideration to the annual accounts for 2025.

[£ 284.36 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals at Nyenga in Uganda and Ortum in Kenya.]

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

- **Mrs S Christy, JONG ***, dated 13th February 2026, Not registered with CC. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Lamis Jamil, appealing to several agencies**, latest correspondence 17th February 2026. A local post graduate seeking hardship funding while completing studies. *SPAN committee have made several suggestions for support and sent some food vouchers.*
- **Zoe Hauser, Medair ***, dated 23rd February 2026. “I’m reaching out with urgent news about powerful Cyclone Gezani which struck Madagascar’s East coast on 10th February, affecting over 400,000 people, taking lives, and causing widespread destruction to Madagascar’s second largest city, main port, and surrounding areas. People need urgent humanitarian assistance. Medair was on the ground within 48 hours, meeting people’s critical needs and ensuring they have access to clean water and essential items.” **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Kevin Gerrie, New Ways ***, dated 24th February 2026. “On behalf of New Ways, please find attached a covering letter and a supporting document requesting the support of SPAN for a borehole to provide clean water at Benga in Malawi.” **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Katy Bird, Deki ***, dated 25th February 2026. See correspondence. **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **CAFOD for Darfur £ 100 Agreed. £ 300 so far this year – target £ 1,200. From FG Legacy funds.**

Any Other Business:

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DCfZ4yYgP/> please share and follow.

SPAN Quiz Night 2026 held on **Friday 13th Feb.** A successful evening. The proceeds of the quiz night went to **Young People First and New Chapters.** £ 500 each.

SPAN Quiz Night 2027. Ash Wednesday will be on Wed 10th February 2027 – even earlier than this year. We will look to hold a SPAN Quiz night on **Friday 5th February 2027.**

Lenten Alms. Gold-coloured envelopes have been distributed at Masses. Thanks to all who have / are promoted the appeal. Envelopes will be available and Facebook shares / likes are helpful. Does anyone know who to contact so that Caroline’s Facebook posts can be seen on Catholic Leamington, Our Lady’s or St Joseph’s Facebook pages?

Supermarket food vouchers. Clare reported receiving thanks from the refugee families she had sent vouchers to.

Justice & Peace: Stations of the Cross PowerPoint is being used on Mondays in Lent in SP’s Hall after Mass.

CAFOD soup lunch for Family Fast Day was a lovely event raising £ 245.

The meeting finished with a prayer for peace.

The next meeting will be on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Davenport Room at St Peter’s.