

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 13th March 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

**Attendance** Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Anne Elson, Paul Manning, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Jane Knight and Richard Hall.

**Apologies**, David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Fr Stephen Day, Caroline Manning (Vice Chair), Sandie Tansy, Jeanette Davison, Patrick Reddin, Clare Burdett.

**One World Link.** <https://oneworldlink.org.uk> Richard is Chair of OWL and Jane has kept SPAN informed about activities over many years (decades) about alongside Brian Austin. For 40 years now, OWL has been fostering links between our area and the area of Bo in Sierra Leone, understanding friendship and culture by writing and visiting, enabling people to share ideas and dreams. Despite a local 10yr war, the area in Bo has been more settled for 20 years. OWL has several strands to its activities:

*Education* with 15 Primary schools in our area and 15 in Bo District linking with teacher exchanges and special days like the Day of the African Child (this year on June 16<sup>th</sup>); *Waste Management* projects now being rolled out beyond Bo because of its success; *Local Government* looking at strengthening procedures, planning development tools and Mayoral exchanges; *Health* where good links are developing between SWHT and Bo clinics, midwifery links are being explored. Knowledge sharing and exchanges are being proposed.

OWL seeks to facilitate and encourage sustainable programmes or sourcing seed funding. Working with youth is seen as an important challenge with beneficial outcomes. OWL is largely funded through its members donating £ 1,000 each a year and other grants which are quite hard to depend upon.

OWL suggested a partnership with SPAN.

SPAN has had links with Bo, paying the salary of a clinician at Panguma for several years, maintaining a well and providing vocational training through local agencies. We would hope to respond favourably to specific appeals that match our criteria for funding through our monthly appeals e.g. Education or facilitating costs.

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

**Matters arising** The Warm Hub has started and Pastimes have applied for a grant from WDC towards heating costs, food, board games etc.

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

- **Fr Arul Samy**, dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter dated 10th January and enclosed cheque for £1000.00 from SPAN to be forwarded to Fr. Siluvai Nathan in India.
- **Sr Imelda Poole IBVM**, dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. "Thank you and the parish for your consideration of our request for funding."
- **Sand Dams Worldwide**, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023. Letter of thanks for £ 400 sent to them last year and their Annual report.
- **Starfish Malawi**, dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Annual report.
- **CAFOD**, dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Two letters of thanks, for £ 1,000 for the Turkey / Syria earthquake appeal and £ 100 for Darfur in Sudan. Also a handwritten thankyou note for the £ 1,000 donation.

### Finance - Comments on February 2023 Accounts from Michael

"This month we received £1,022 in gift aided standing orders and £977 being our quarterly investment income. This has resulted in **£1,305 being available for appeals**, which is a healthy amount to distribute.

The recent quiz has generated a net £992 for New Chapters which will be rounded up to £1,000. Thanks to everyone who helped with the quiz, really enjoyed it and I have received numerous favourable comments so far.

A donation of £100 was also made to Fr Stephen for use of the hall on the quiz night.

You will see there are a few large balances outstanding to our partners and I can confirm international payments were made last week to Nyenga, Ortum, Fr Mayele and House of Light and Hope so these balances should disappear next month.

We have had an incorrect charge to our bank account of £110.30 relating to someone's DVLA charge. The bank and the DVLA have been informed so hopefully should be corrected soon.

The Lenten Alms appeal has begun and we have received an initial £60.

Last year we donated £2,500 to local appeals and £1,000 each to both Kiirua via Kindaid and Zoe's Place."

We thought we would do another quiz at a similar time next year. Provisionally Fri 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024, just before Lent.

*[£ 329.33 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,

- **Rebecca Lee**, Brokerage Officer, Family Information Service "I am working with a family who live in Leamington Spa - a single father and his 3 children, all of whom have additional needs. The family were re-housed at the end of last year after their house was re-possessed. During the move the youngest child's (aged 12) bed was broken beyond repair. The father has no disposable income and is constantly having to borrow money off family each month to pay his bills, and also has debts he is paying back.*[Committee agreed to fund Divan bed at £ 185.]*
- **Mumba Children's Project NEW** \* "To advance the education and preserve and protect the good health of children in Africa, in particular, but not exclusively, children living in Mpongwe, Zambia by the provision of and assisting in the provision of educational materials, training and health care projects." **Agreed not to support.**
- **Legs4Africa** \* "Legs4Africa works to rehabilitate amputees in Africa so that they may lead more independent and fulfilling lives. By recycling prosthetic leg parts, upgrading mobility centres and training their staff, and supporting organisations that provide peer support for amputees, Legs4Africa ensure thousands of people a year are given the ultimate leg up." **£ 500 agreed.**
- **Miriam Blakemore**, Brokerage Officer, Homes For Ukraine scheme. "... a family in need in the Leamington area. A family of four, Mum, Dad and two boys, who came to the UK on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme last year after fleeing from the war. They have been able to move out of their sponsor's home and into social housing, however, the parents have no bed to sleep in and are looking for assistance in obtaining a double bed. They also have no refrigerator. The parents are reliant on their Universal Credit allowance. **£ 300 for double bed agreed.**
- **Darfur**, Sudan appeal via CAFOD. Church donations to be topped up to **£ 100 agreed.**
- **CAFOD** campaign to Fix the Food System. **£ 500 agreed.**

#### **Liaison Groups**

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

CAFOD Stations of the Cross planned for Friday morning after the morning Mass. See newsletter for latest times due to funerals etc.

**Saturday Friendship Group.** No change – Yvonne finishing, more information may be available next week.

**Any Other Business.** Caroline, Jenny and Paul M provided a list of suggestions both new and old to us regarding Frank's legacy, focussing on basic food and health provision. A wine and cheese evening in June was suggested to enable us to report to the parish about SPAN and also Frank's legacy arrangements.

We might look at adopting one or some of the proposals next month to explore the feedback we receive from these charities.

We finished with a prayer.

**The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Monday Bank Holiday) starting at 7.30 p.m. in person at St Peter's Church Hall. It is proposed to move this back a week to 17<sup>th</sup> April.**

**The following month the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday is also a bank holiday but we can decide about this meeting later.**