

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 8th May 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Liz Mottram, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Patrick Reddin.

Apologies, David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Anne Elson, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Fr Stephen Day, Clare Burdett, Mary and Jonathan Holden.

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

Matters arising: None.

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

- **Joseph Kaipumoh, Gbanja Town, Bo, Sierra Leone **, dated 29th March 2023.** "Greetings from my family and community. You might have received our update report about the condition of our water well pump machine. We are glad to inform you that our machine is still serving us with safe drinking water. Our main problems for now are: 1 change of the metal door cost le800, (2) four bags of cement to repair drainages_ le640 (3) one gallon of paint _le280 (4) Labor cost _ le 700. Total expenses le 2,420. Please, we are kindly asking you to forward our request letter to the SPAN committee for help". *[SPAN Committee agreed to support with £ 150.]*
- **Dr Robert Caracache House of Light and Hope, Beirut, Lebanon, dated 15th April 2023.** "Dear brothers and sisters at SPAN, and dear parishioners. Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, We hope that you are all well, Your donation of 2350 GBP or 2730 U.S.\$ has safely arrived."
- **Stella Lucey working with 'Welcome Here', dated 20th April.** "A thankyou note was received from the beneficiary family receiving £ 100 Tesco vouchers."
- **Jane Knight, One World Link, dated 23rd April,** request for funding "One of the Bo teachers who will be visiting in June is Patrick Columba who is the Headteacher of RC Model Primary School, Bo. His school is linked with St Mary's Immaculate school so there is a very strong Catholic link. His air fare will be approximately £1,000 (plus or minus £150 - the price varies from day to day and Paul hopes to finalise the booking in the next couple of days). A contribution from SPAN of some or all of the fare would be wonderful." *[SPAN donated £ 250 to OWL last month].*
- **Debbie Warden, Tackling Social Inequalities Officer, Family Information Service, dated 28th April 2023.** "Hello SPAN Trustees. At the end of another very busy financial year we have been looking back on the support Family Information Service have provided to families in Warwickshire. As a team we have accessed £114,298.81 in charity applications and we are really grateful for the support from your charity. In partnership with FIS last year SPAN has supported 6 families with £1,359 of goods which has made a real difference to them. Please see the feedback below from a family you helped.
Purchase a fridge/freezer - Thank you a lot for your support! I with kids appreciate this support a lot. We wanted to thank you and let you know the difference your support makes to Warwickshire families. On behalf of Warwickshire Family Information Service team."
- **Sr Prexadis, Administrator Ortum Mission Hospital, Kitale, Kenya, dated 3rd May 2023.**"I wish to inform you that we received your donation of ksh 312,589.60 and was utilized to buy drugs and non drugs supplies. We thank you all for your kind contribution as we offer quality services."

Finance - Comments on April 2023 Accounts

£ 882.50 had been received from Gift Aided bank standing orders and £ 99 through collection boxes.

the Lenten Alms appeal has generated a further £ 844.40 with £ 40 more awaiting to be banked. In addition £ 671.70 was available from the Christmas appeal – either late donations of those from Gift Aid rebate relating to the appeal. We converted £ 2,500 to vouchers largely distributed via our Primary schools and had a deficit of £ -539.10. the balance on the appeals is now £ 816.40 So donations would allow just over £ 400 to be sent to Zoe's Place and Kindaid for Kiiroa in Kenya. The meeting agreed to top these up from Gift Aid refunds to **£ 600 to each**, So that total donations related to the Lenten Appeal will come to £ 2,500 + £ 600 + £ 600 = £ 3,700 compared to £ 4,500 last year. In the context of harder times, extra requests eg Ukraine and Syria and extended time of the CAFOD appeal, Catholic Leamington showed their generosity again.

The Appeals fund started this month with £ 780.60 available. £ 340 of which had been agreed by the committee for the Family Information Service request. £ 150 for the well repair in Bo will be taken from GA refunds. Leaving £ 440

See below re SFG funding

[£ 89.52 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,

- **Prue Banks, Brokerage Officer, Family Information Service.** “I am supporting a teenage single mother in Bishops Tachbrook who has a small baby and has recently signed a tenancy on a property of her own. She has managed to source a number of items to set up home for her and her baby but is struggling to source a cooker. I would like to ask if a request could be made for charitable funding towards an electrical cooker (approximately £340 to include delivery and installation) for her to be able to ensure she is able to provide nutritious meals for her baby once they start weaning and eating food.”
[SPAN Committee agreed £ 340.]
- **Five Talents *** “Five Talents works with a network of community partners who provide savings schemes alongside literacy and business training for communities who have been marginalised around the world.” SPAN donated £ 300 in Oct 2022.” *[We agreed to think about donating in the future.]*
- **Temwa *** “We work for a sustainable future for the people of Northern Malawi in partnership with rural communities, with projects supporting sustainable livelihoods, governance, health and education.” **£ 300 agreed to be taken from Frank Garvey, Starving in Africa legacy.**
- **Jesuit Refugee Service Emergency Earthquake response.** “Since the earthquake on 6th February, Jesuit Refugee Service Syria has been able to reach out and support more than 40,000 men, women and children,” **£ 440 agreed.**

Liaison Groups

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington.

A very successful promotion of cards to Prisoners of conscience.

Saturday Friendship Group.

Plans are in hand to reduce the engagement of the Salvation Army and Way Ahead Project to just 3 mornings a week. There have been adverts prepared for a couple of part time posts (a manager and a project worker) but these positions are yet to be advertised. There is great uncertainty for the future. St Peter's has been advised to contact donors to see whether donations should cease or to advise on what to do with donations. SPAN is currently setting aside its usual monthly donation and is holding £ 970 in the hope that some activity will be reinstated. It was suggested that we should give an end date to this action. We might decide to pass it on to help with the weekday meal support or split it to follow some of the homeless with support through the LWS Nightshelter, New Chapters or Helping Hands. It was recognised that none of these groups fulfilled the role of the SFG before the decline in managerial support,

Any Other Business. Frank's legacy – 2 documents were shared that listed several charities that we think reflect the aim of Frank Garvey legacy.

SPAN Open evening with wine and cheese. What is SPAN? Have your say about future projects. Come and ask questions about priorities. Is SPAN helping to address local and overseas Need? Nearly 50 years since it started how are we doing? Thursday 8th June 7.30 – 9.30. Patrick to organise wine. Caroline some posters or leaflets.

Welcome, Introduction and some slides to show off SPAN and Frank's legacy thinking from us. Jenny to try to get a speaker from CAFOD or one or two potential beneficiaries and or request leaflets. Several tables will be set out and a question and answer or discussion encouraged. Wine and cheese to follow.
format still evolving.

Paul and Jenny to meet to look at what SPAN literature / correspondence etc to have out.

We finished with a prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 12th June starting at 7.30 p.m. at St Peter's Church Hall.