

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 13th May 2024 held in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Roger Elson, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Jim Murphy, Patrick Reddin, Toni Reszka, Steve Wicking.

Apologies, David Burton, , Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jeanette Davison, Anne Elson, Clare Burdett.

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

Matters arising: Pastimes: To be discussed as a separate item.

Steve Wicking from **Global Care** – a recipient charity of Frank Garvey's legacy was welcomed. He presented slides from their Soroti Centre, one of 3 premises they have in Uganda. It was a very encouraging presentation showing how Frank's money was helping 35 young people with 9 months vocational training to make a long-term difference to their families and communities. A very supportive environment was described as well as support for the disadvantaged and those with disabilities. A booklet is available about their work in Uganda. See Trust Update April 2024 attached. Steve also talked about Global Care's work in Ethiopia. Steve was given a cheque for £ 2,000 as the next instalment of legacy funding.

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

- **Sr Monica Nassiwa, Nyenga Leprosy Hospital ***, dated 9th April 2024. "Hope this email finds you well and you had wonderful Easter celebrations. It's been long since we heard from you. Kindly find our accountability for last year's contribution. May God Continue blessing you all." [*£ 2,832.30 sent*].
- **Billie Barlow, Family Support Worker/Student Social Worker**, dated 10th April 2024. "I have a mother who states that her daughter is in desperate need of a new mattress due to accidents. [*Committee would respond if other options could not resolve it.*]"
- **IRT - International Refugee Trust**, dated 16th April 2024. "Dear Donor, I hope this email finds you well. It is with sad heart that we are sharing with you the news that, on 8th April 2024, the Board of Trustees of IRT made the tough decision to cease operations of the International Refugee Trust on 31st July 2024 due to financial constraints. We take this moment to say thank you for your dedicated support over the years. Thank you for your understanding. Sincerely, IRT Team. [*Donation rerouted*]."
- **ULARGIW K. Vincent, administrator for the Vulnerable Scheme, Nebbi Uganda**, dated 19th April 2024. "I am ULARGIW K. Vincent the new administrator for the Vulnerable Scheme as Fr. Gabriel Ukwong Mayele decided to relinquish some of his responsibilities to allow him pay more attention to his health which has been deteriorating day by day. In that regard therefore, he asked me to inquire from you how soon you will be able to send the assistance as the students/pupils will begin their end of first term examination next week while those with school fees areas/balance will not be allowed to sit for the examinations; the information from you will enable us communicate with the various school authorities on how soon they should expect the payment. Kind regards." [*£ 375 sent*].
- **Paul Keeley, Sustainable Global Gardens ***, dated 20th April 2024. "St Peter's Aid for the Needy received a progress report from SGG last October. Subsequent to that SGG received a grant from SPAN which enabled us to continue our work until Easter this year. It is now my pleasure to send St Peter's Aid for the Needy Trustees a copy of this year's progress report. Please accept the heartfelt thanks from our friends in West Kenya." [*£ 500 sent Oct 2023, further support to be considered in October*].
- **Dr Caracache, Beit-el-Nour/House of Light and Hope-LEBANON ***, dated 20th April. Prayer requests.
- **Nial, Hilary and Alice Watson, Kidogo Kids**, dated 23rd April. "Thank you for your recent cheque of £200 for Hope House Babies Home. It will be very much appreciated by all at Hope House."
- **Kieran McGerty, Young People First**, dated 23rd April 2024. "Just to let you know we received your incredibly kind donation of £200 today. Please pass our deepest thanks."
- **Stella Embliss, CAFOD ***, dated 20th March 2024, 23rd April 2024. Thanks for £ 100 for Darfur. Also letter to diocesan priests from our Archbishop calling for support for CAFOD's Sudan situation appeal.
- **May Mac, Five Talents ***, dated 18th April 2024. See Five Talents Cover Note and appeal.
- A video was received from **Cocoa's Foundation** showing Chris Connors in South Africa buying a vehicle to help transport food parcels to difficult to reach locations.

Finance - Comments by Michael on the April 2024 Accounts

There is **£1,005 available this month for appeals** due a healthy level of standing orders and cash collected at

church. To date there is £3,013 Lenten Alms collected and £1,500 will be paid to the House of Light and Hope in Lebanon. £1,000 has been distributed to the schools via supermarket vouchers.

International payments to Nyenga and Ortum have also been processed. A new beneficiary K Vincent will replace previous monies going to Fr Mayele.

I am currently undertaking completion of the annual accounts and will also be collecting the Gift Aid monies for 2023 from HMRC.

The SFG cheque of £2,000 to the Night Shelter is still uncashed and continues to be chased.

[£ 164.96 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,

- **War Child * NEW.** “War Child protects, educates and stands up for the rights of children in war. **Agreed not to support** – income over 19m.
- **The Free Shop * NEW.** “We predominately provide clothes, bedding, shoes, underwear and accessories to Syrian refugees in Lebanon through a "free shop" system.” **Agreed not to support** – our support in Lebanon is through House of Light and Hope.
- **St Vianney Junior School Parents Association, Uganda. Agreed not to support** – we already support some sponsored students in Uganda.
- **Fr Stephen Oribdhogu, Nebbi diocese Uganda NEW** “I am the Vice Chancellor and Bishop's Master of Ceremonies. I am inquiring whether it is possible to get some assistance from St. Peter's Aid for the Needy for some three young people (two girls and one boy) who are ready to go to school, but do not have any means to provide for their tuition.” **Agreed not to support** – we already support some sponsored students in Uganda.
- **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.” **£ 500 Agreed.**
- **Darfur via CAFOD *.** **£ 100 Agreed** from Frank’s legacy.
- **Sudan via CAFOD *.** **£ 500 Agreed** from our Gift Aid rebate.
- **Kiirua Mission Hospital via Kindaid.** **£ 500 agreed.**
- **Temwa.** **£ 2,000** as the next instalment of Frank Garvey’s legacy.
- **Cocoa’s Foundation** will be receiving monies earmarked from Frank’s legacy towards the cost of transportation.

Any Other Business:

Pastimes Warm Hub request for community support

It was agreed that SPAN would support the Warm Hub initiative for the next six months by giving £ 100 per month and the proceeds from our June celebration evening. We would then hope to be clearer about the future use of the hall, any grant availability, more transparent details of Pastimes finances / funding. SPAN recognised the great benefits, particularly for the elderly in our wider community of this initiative. What would help Pastimes in the long term? *[Last month Jim supplied the meeting with the attached document about Pastimes which the Secretary had meant to add to the minutes. For your information: Pastimes is also now hosting and supporting Clare Burdett’s new venture for mothers and children every Tuesday morning 9.30-11.00. PS – our donation is not related to this new activity.]*

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

Caroline has provided posters and is looking at leaflets.

90 tickets have been printed for the event - £ 10 each, (£ 5 youth price). To be sold after Masses.

A social and celebration evening not designed as a fund raiser, but proceeds will go to support the Pastimes Warm Hub initiative to help with the cost of food and community activities.

[The committee to hold a zoom planning meeting later this week.]

If you can help, please contact Jenny: Jenarmstrong@talktalk.net

The meeting finished with a reminder of the prayer requests from House of Light and Hope and saying the Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 10th June 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter’s Hall.