

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 11th May 2026 held in Davenport Room, St Peter's.
The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Ann Marie and Patrick Reddin, Anne and Roger Elson, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Allan Mulholland.

Apologies: Fr Stephen Day, Canon David Hartley, Mary and Jonathan Holden, 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.

- **Katy Bird, DEKI**, dated 14th April 2026. "... thank you for your continued support; it is extremely appreciated and will make a huge difference in supporting the communities that we work in. ... will be sent to Togo to be used to support our organic cooperatives programme."
- **Helping Hands Team, Helping Hands ***, dated 14th April 2026. Invite to Family Fest on 16th May.
- **Sue Clayden, Friends of the Holy Land**, dated 22nd April 2026. "Thank you for your donation of £800 and offering hope to Christians in the Holy Land. Please pass on our gratitude to your parishioners for their generosity and support through their offerings. By donating your parishes are standing in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters, enabling us to provide them with key humanitarian, development, and healing programmes."
- **Michelle Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 28th April 2026. Thanks for £ 100 for CAFOD in Darfur.
- **Francis Vaz**, dated 21st April 2026. "... be aware that there are 'professional groups' in some countries that scout the internet for charities and try and secure funding which doesn't necessarily support the organisations they supposedly help. "
- **Michele Foot, Turbo Ghana**, dated 10th May 2026. "Thank you for the kind donation of £400 to be directed towards supporting public toilets in Bunuso and rebuilding latrines in Aframano.

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the April 2026 Accounts

We have £ 1,036 available for appeals, a fairly quiet month with no additional income, such as investment income available.

We received a further £ 1,100 for Lenten Alms allowing us to meet the cost of the local vouchers of £ 2,400 and make payments to Friends of the Holy Land and House of Light and Hope of £ 800 each, with a small balance coming from our gift aid monies. The latter two payments will be paid in May.

The cheque to New Chapters for the quiz proceeds has been cashed in April.

An electronic payment to House of Light and Hope is being made in May to transfer their balance plus their Lenten Alms.

Also the beneficiaries of Frank Garvey, namely Global Care and Temwa will be receiving their next £ 2,000 payment in May.

The purchase of units for £ 20,000 in January are now worth £ 200 less but in February were higher, this of course depends upon the Stock Exchange.

I have begun initial work on the 2025 annual accounts and will be actioning the gift aid refund for 2025 shortly. Gift aid letters will also be sent out shortly.

[£ 75.42 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,

- **Fr Stephen Oribdhogu, Chancellor, Nebbi Catholic Diocese, Northern Uganda ***, dated 14th April 2026. "... a proposal from the children of Nebbi Cathedral parish in Nebbi Catholic Diocese. They have started a program to reach out to some poor people in the parish." **Agreed not to support.**
- **Will Seth-Smith, Five Talents ***, dated 21st April 2026. "I am pleased to share an update on the impact of your generosity through the attached report. 2025 was a record-breaking year for us and this has been in part because of the trust you have bestowed in Five Talents." [*£ 400 sent in May 25*] **Agreed not to support.**
- **Alice Corrigan, Project Play ***, dated 29th April 2026. "Last year, St Peter's Aid kindly gave us £300 which went towards our match funding campaign. This meant we got £600 in our bank." **Agreed not to support.**
- **Amy Hathaway, Forever Angels ***, dated 13th April 2026. Helping babies in Tanzania. [*SPAN sent £ 250 March 22 and £ 300 Oct 24*] **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Paul Keeley, Sustainable Global Gardens ***, dated 3rd May 2026. "You will recall that in October 2024 St Peter's Aid for the Needy donated £300 to Sustainable Global Gardens [SGG] for our " Support for Orphans &/or Vulnerable Children in Busia". This year after a January to March field visit, we now have a progress report for the Busia project where SPAN donations are used. Thus, we hope you find the attachment an enjoyable read." [*SPAN sent £ 500 July 21, £ 300 Nov 22, £ 500 Oct 23, £ 300 Oct 24*] **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Kiirua Mission Hospital, Kenya** £ 200 so far this year – **target £ 1,200. £ 200 Agreed.**
- **CAFOD for Darfur** £ 400 so far this year – **target £ 1,200. £ 100 Agreed from FG Legacy.**

Any Other Business:

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

Caroline continues to produce some great Facebook pages. She urged everyone to 'like' or 'share' the posts. Is there a way to have them promoted on the Catholic Leamington Facebook page?

CoCo's Foundation have been asked to suggest alternative projects than some recent ones proposed. One new suggestion is for repairing water heaters to avoid cold only showers. Costings have been requested. CoCo's now working through 'Reach out to the Child'. Transport issues also being considered. Caroline reported that an update should be available next month.

Justice & Peace planning to engage for one day with Leamington Peace Festival on 13th / 14th June.

SPAN Social to encourage more people to support SPAN, suggested date Friday 2nd October. Inviting donors, mailing list people and parish groups e.g. Young Adults' Group to give a personal invite to a friend. SPAN Past, Present and Future. Wine and Cheese. Inviting New Chapters, Young People First, Global Care, CAFOD and others? to say how SPAN have helped them.

It was suggested that we should explore having an ongoing JustGiving page - not just pop-up seasonal ones.

SPAN have obtained the website domain of www.span.org.uk and will start to explore how a different website might be more accessible and offer more diverse content styles. Mike Walsh who maintains the St Joseph's website has offered support to set this up.

Update from the Philippines from Children of the Dump. Caroline and Paul shared correspondence recently received. See below.

The meeting finished with prayers for people and families known to us.

The next meeting will be on Monday 8th June 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Davenport Room at St Peter's.

Caroline and Paul Manning have been trying to find out more about the families affected by the landfill collapse from 'Children of the Dump' or ASCF (Asian Students Christian Trust) in the Philippines. The response was:

"The public reports say:

The collapse happened on Friday 20 February 2026 at the landfill in Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal. Early reports varied, but later official/public reports generally referred to three people buried or missing, with at least one confirmed death.

The Philippines environmental authorities found that around 420,000 cubic metres of waste had eroded/collapsed from the active tipping area, burying three units of heavy equipment.

A follow-up DENR/EMB investigation on 23 February 2026 reported operational lapses, exposed waste, foul odour, erosion of the active tipping area, and a visible crack in an adjacent waste bench that created concern about possible further collapse.

DENR/EMB then issued a cease-and-desist order/ suspension affecting Phase 5 of the landfill operation after the incident.

Environmental and labour groups used the incident to highlight the continuing risks faced by waste pickers and families who depend on dumpsites for income. Mongabay reported in March that the collapse exposed the dangers faced by waste pickers in the Philippines.

I could not find a newer reliable public update from April or May 2026 specifically confirming whether the affected section has fully reopened, whether all investigations are complete, or whether families around Sitio Pintor have returned to normal income. Based on the public reports, the clearest confirmed position is that the collapse caused fatalities/missing persons, exposed serious safety concerns, and led to at least a partial suspension of landfill operations.

For our CotD wording, I would describe it carefully like this:

In February, a serious trash slide at the landfill in Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal, affected the area around Sitio Pintor, where a number of families connected with ASCF live or work. Public reports confirmed loss of life and serious safety concerns at the landfill. The closure or restriction of landfill activity has also affected families who rely on waste-picking for daily income. ASCF has been responding through practical support, including food assistance for families most affected."