

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer and prayers for the Grayling family following the death of David this morning, may he Rest in Peace.

**Attendance** Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Patrick Reddin, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Jeanette Davison, Anne Elson, Clare Burdett, Jayne Thomas (from Young People First).

**Apologies** David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Fr Stephen Day, Roger Elson.

Jayne (Operations Manager) from **Young People First** talked to us. YPF has emerged from 70 years of Youth work and WAYC which covered all Warwickshire, focussing now under the new name for the last 7 years, working from Jubilee House, Westlea Road and using Westbury Community Centre.

- Work in St Patrick's School, Sydenham Primary School, Campion School, and Myton School e.g. providing mentoring in situations of family stress, for refugees and anti-social behaviour,
- Varied outreach, with youth club activities for 20-40 youths with hot meals, safe spaces, cooking, life skills, helping the hungry and providing a warm hub.
- Over school breaks provision of personnel to the Pump Room Gardens working alongside Community Police Officers. The number of offences committed by youth has dropped since their involvement.
- 100 people were fed in the school holidays and one-off events have been very successful e.g. preloved baby clothes and a clothes swap event.
- 3 managers and 8 youth workers with a strong volunteer group and fundraising parent group.
- Finance comes from several sources e.g. the Police Crime Commissioner, the Big Communities Lottery, WDC Communities Grant.
- Need has exploded since Covid. A Sikh youth worker has recently been appointed. Informal access satisfies some foodbank type needs. Major current action on Internet Safety of the young. A high proportion of youth have autism, taking 8 boys to stay last week in Warwick Museum.
- Staff are given access to free training.
- Working in collaboration with Myton Church. Volunteers should give 6 months commitment unless for a one-off event. Open Mon- Thurs 9-4.

*The meeting was extremely impressed with the range of engagement described by Jayne and would hope to assist help them in their work in the future.*

**Minutes of the last meeting** were circulated, approved and signed. **Minutes of the last Annual Review** had been agreed last year. **Matters arising:** We haven't heard if the family from St Anthony's were now receiving free school meals.

### **Chair's remarks on SPAN Review of 2022:**

We are very pleased to recommend the report to you for your appraisal and again we are proud of what SPAN and its many helpers and donors, which include many in our parishes, have achieved.

2022 was a year when we tried to return to normal after the Covid years and went back to actual face to face meetings with relief. Our donations were up from 2021 from £36,702 to £45,469 which was a great achievement.

A highlight of the year was when we found that Frank Garvey, a loyal parishioner of St Peter's, had bequeathed SPAN £79,567 with  $\frac{3}{4}$  for African charities. This was both a wonderful opportunity and a challenge which we deferred for decision until this year to give us time to think it through. We were so thrilled and thankful to Frank and his executors, Margaret and Peter Dimambro for their work.

There were changes in our regular recipients locally as the Leamington Night Shelter, having closed its doors during Covid, did not reopen. The Saturday Friendship Group continued in 2022 (sadly to close this year) and the Food Bank goes on doing its great work which we support.

Overseas regular support continues for our mission hospitals, African priests and the House of Light and Hope in Beirut. We were sad to hear of the death of Father David Cullen, a White Father working in Zambia who SPAN has long had connection with and supported his work.

We try to balance the overseas and local donations and last year the amount going overseas was 58% and local 40%.

The Christmas and Lent appeals were again well supported and vouchers for the Christmas appeal amounted to over £4,000 -- the recipients of the Lent appeal were the local families, Kindaid's mission hospital in Kenya and Zoe's Place in Coventry.

As well as responding to several appeals each month, responding quickly to local social workers who ask for essential items for needy families, Span sent over £7000 to various disaster appeals usually via CAFOD,

I would like to express my thanks to the Committee who work so hard, Paul, Michael and Caroline – putting in much time, effort and commitment. To our Trustees, Patrick and Jonathan for their support, ideas and involvement. To Fr John for his support as a Trustee for several years. To Jean Feely who helps every Christmas and Lent with the liaison with schools and social services. Also to everyone who attends the meetings and takes part so loyally and to all who support and donate willingly. To Father Stephen who has now agreed to be a Trustee also and to Father David who readily agreed to support in whatever way he could.

#### **Treasurer's remarks on SPAN Review of 2022:**

Income was up compared with the previous Covid year, helped by nearly 30% of income through Standing Orders. We are slowly seeing collection box income returning. A tax rebate covering 2020-2022 amounted to £ 16k. More regular rebates have occurred since. Money from the Frank Garvey Legacy has since been sent to CoCo's Foundation, Global Care and Temwa - £ 2,000 each. We are grateful for the Standing Orders coming from across our Parishes which mean we will at least cover the donations to our core beneficiaries each month.

**Re-election of SPAN Committee.** All committee members were prepared to stand again. Anne proposed the motion, and Jeanette seconded it, to re-elect the committee. **The motion was carried unanimously.**

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

- From Brian Austin, dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023. "We had an email from Joseph Kaipumah [from Gbanja town, Bo in Sierra Leone] in which he says:  
Extend our regards to the brethren at St Peter's and the SPAN committee. Tell them that our pump machine is still serving us with safe drinking water. Greetings, your children in Christ. Joseph and Boi."
- Keith Sonnet, ComputerAid International \*, dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Letter and Impact report.
- SPAN have been copied into several conversations about the redistribution of **SFG** monies.
- **April Waites, UNICEF \***, dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Letter attached.
- **Dr Robert Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Lebanon \***, dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. See Letter.
- **Olivia Eaves, Refuge Domestic Violence Service, Warwickshire**, dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. "a huge thank you on behalf of the client ... a ring doorbell and feels a lot safer in her own home, it is really beneficial for her and she is extremely grateful for the support. So thank you again 😊"
- **Richard Warner, Sand Dams Worldwide \***, dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Letter attached.
- **Children of the Dump \***, dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Newsletter attached.
- **Paul Keeley, Sustainable Global Gardens**, dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.  
"thank you very much for the cheque for £500 to help support our 500 Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Kenya."
- **Peter May, SVP St Peter's**, dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023. "I would like to make a request that SPAN earmark £ 100 for St. Peter's SVP to cover expenses. We occasionally receive unexpected requests for ( usually) small amounts of money from people who may find themselves in need and this has often been paid by individual members. We are not requesting a donation as any money we hold is subject

to our paying a percentage to the national office and twinnage ( payment made to a twinned SVP conference in India or Africa for example) so would soon dwindle away. If you require any further details, please let me know. *[Committee replied that SPAN would respond as needs arose.]*

- **Amanda Grimstead, Temwa \***, dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. See letter attached. Also, HIV report.
- **Global Care \***, dated 31<sup>st</sup> October. See Newsbrief Winter edition on Global Care's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary attached. Also a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 thanking SPAN for assigning Frank's legacy and describing their use of this funding.

### **Finance - Comments by Michael on the October 2023 Accounts**

In the month we received £ 890 in gift aided standing orders and £240 collected through the church.

This has resulted in **£ 730** being available for appeals tonight.

In the month we have begun to see payments relating to the Frank Garvey legacy be issued with twice yearly payments of £ 2,000 issued to Temwa, Coco's and Global Care. The legacy should be exhausted within five years which was the intention of the executors. We have received £ 7,003 from St Peters for SFG which needs allocation and issuing. Likewise we have issued payments relating to our SFG balance to local beneficiaries.

*[£ 139.45 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals in Nyenga in Uganda and Ortum in Kenya.]*

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

- **ComputerAid International \* NEW** "Computer Aid International works to improve the effectiveness of their development interventions through IT. By providing low-cost equipment and software, and working with partners to provide training and support, we aim to reduce poverty through cost-effective, practical and locally relevant IT solutions. **Agreed not to support.**
- **UNICEF \*** "With the situation rapidly deteriorating we are launching an urgent appeal to support children affected by the crisis in Gaza". **Agreed not to support** as aid, although desperately needed is not getting through.
- **World Medical Fund for Children \* NEW** "Mobile health clinic in Malawi." **£ 500 Agreed. #**
- **Ghana School Aid \* NEW** "Ghana School Aid supports the education of children, particular girls and young women, with a focus on rural areas by making grants to schools, for building materials, technical equipment, teaching and learning materials, books." **Agreed not to support.**
- **Children of the dump. £ 500 Agreed. #** **# topped up from Gift Aid rebate**
- **Hope House Babies Home Nairobi Kenya via Kidogo Kids.** Trustees to be asked to include as a regular core commitment.
- **Darfur, Sudan via CAFOD. £ 200 Agreed from Frank Garvey Legacy.**
- **Young People First.** Trustees to be asked to include as a regular core commitment.

### **Liaison Groups**

**Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington.** No additional info.

**New Chapters.** No additional information.

Reallocation of SFG monies i.e. £ 7,003: £ 1,000 Helping Hands, £ 2,000 LWS Night Shelter, £ 1,500 Warwick and Leamington Foodbank, £ 2,000 New Chapters, £ 503 Young People First meal support.

### **Any Other Business.**

**SPAN Quiz night** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – booking confirmed.

Our **annual Christmas Appeal via green envelopes** will be launched this Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have a pull up sign to highlight SPAN activities. Clashes with SVP launch of their hamper appeal and other restraints will limit the time for our prepared appeal and summary of SPAN's work.

A leaflet giving the important information about the SVP and SPAN appeals has been produced.

We finished with the Lord's Prayer.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.30 p.m. at St Peter's Church Hall.**

*[Secretary: We can celebrate 50 years of SPAN – should this be by Zoom or live? Any thoughts? We forgot to discuss this.]*