

Minutes of the SPAN meeting and Annual Review held on 11th November 2024 held in St Peter's – Davenport Room

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Anne and Roger Elson, Clare Burdett, Jenny Toutoungi, Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Mary and Jonathan Holden, Kieran McGerty, Jayne Taylor, Jane Knight.

Apologies: Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jeanette Davison, Patrick Reddin.

YPF: At the start of the meeting Kieran and Jayne from Young People First updated us about their extensive work supporting Youth in Leamington and showed pictures of food support given. They run Youth Clubs on a Tuesday 11-16yrs and Thursday 13-19yrs although vulnerable others are also catered for. More Youth Clubs are also being developed e.g. at Sydni Centre. A support group for older youth is being explored. Traditional activities offered but opportunity to chill with mates more important in an environment that they can afford. No cost Summer schools and residentials are provided. School Team support children at St Patrick's, Myton, Oakley and Campion. Running 440 1hr meeting sessions last year. Essential work to build up families. Outreach to youth in Pump Room Gardens etc.

YPF need £ 400,000 a year. Very well regarded by Police and other agencies in the area.

OWL, One World Link: Jane Knight updated us on how OWL linking us to Bo in Sierra Leone were in a low after 43yrs but the boost of funds from Pantomime bucket donations and a new team of young people in Bo are proactively developing the Youth Centres built by OWL in earlier times. A current visit to Bo is meeting leaders and there are health projects being explored. The Waste project has spread across Sierra Leone. OWL is now a lot more upbeat. 11 Primary Schools are still involved.

Chair's Review of Year 2023: Last December was the start of Span's 50th year. We are grateful that many of our congregations from the Catholic Churches of Leamington donate generously despite the cost of living problems that our donors continue to see SPAN as a good vehicle to spend their money wisely both locally and where there is most need internationally. In fact the money was spent at 34% locally and 63% overseas in 2023.

Although cash donations in churches continued to decline, we depended on other ways of collecting the money - through direct payments, Standing Orders, a card reader and Justgiving for special collections. The Christmas and Lent appeals attract a very good response each year. Last year, during Lent, we supported local families, Zoe's place and the mission hospital in Kiirua supported by Kindaid.

We amended our regular giving as the Saturday Friendship Group folded and we added New Chapters who help those with addictions locally with rehab. The House of Light and Hope is one of our long-standing recipients as well as relationships with mission priests in Uganda and Kenya. Many small grants were made with help for water projects, children's charities, medical missions, training projects and more. Other grants for local families via requests from social workers have been given frequently and we are able to respond quickly to these which is very helpful to the families and their support workers.

SPAN gave help to several emergency appeals – in Sudan, Turkey, South Sudan, Morocco and for Food Aid to a total of £ 3,450 via CAFOD.

A highlight of the year was our event in June where we invited the parishes to come to join us and decide who should be the recipient of the Frank Garvey's legacy of £ 79,000. We had speakers from Global Care, Cocos (via video link) One World Link and CAFOD. We also considered other recipients who we knew did work in Africa with poor communities - Temwa and Sand Dams Worldwide among others. As a result of that we decided how to distribute the legacy – as £ 500 a month to appeals and the residue over 5 years to Temwa, Coco's Foundation and Global Care.

The committee and Trustees are so grateful to all the donors, those who attend meetings and help with practicalities particularly Jean Feely in liaising with the schools each Christmas and Lent. We thank the clergy for their support and so many thanks to the donors on whom all depend.

Many thanks to the Committee who do the bulk of the work month by month – Paul, Michael and Caroline and to the Trustees, Patrick and Father Stephen and in particular to Jonathan who has just stepped down as Trustee .

Jonathan has been a supporter of SPAN for over 20 years. He was our Treasurer for many years and he and Mary attend meetings faithfully and are always well informed. As a Trustee he leaves a big hole but a great legacy and he tells us to look for young blood which we will try to do! So a very big Thank you!

Our Treasurer also added comments about our accounts in 2023, full details are summarised in our booklet and the Annual Report available on our webpage www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span.

Election of Officers: The current Chair (Jenny Armstrong), Vice Chair (Caroline Manning), Treasurer (Michael Barker) and Secretary (Paul Hayden) were thanked for their work over the year. They were all willing to stand again. Anne and Roger proposed that all be re-elected. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jonathan Holden: The meeting thanked him for his immense service as a SPAN Trustee since around 2007.

S.P.A.N.: It was confirmed that SPAN would increasingly be described as 'Supporting People Across the Nations' although SPAN or 'St Peter's Aid for the Needy' would remain for our bank activities.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated, approved and signed. **Matters arising:** N/A.

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

- **Judith Bradfield, Porridge & Pens, Ghana ***, dated 21st October 2024. "We are so grateful for all donations, and it will go a long way in supporting the children in Ghana."
- **Kerry Johnstone, Temwa ***, dated 24th October 2024. Acknowledging the next instalment of Frank's legacy. "... the second year of the project continues to go well."
Also dated 25th October 2024. "Attached is Temwa's Annual Report and Accounts for 2023. You can also find the Report on Temwa's website here - [TEMWA-signed-accounts-2023.pdf](#) None of the achievements would have been possible without your incredible generosity. Thank you".
- **Val Lithgow, Forever Angels**, dated 27th October 2024. "Thank you so much for the cheque for £300. I just want to assure you that there is a formal letter and receipt in the post. Many thanks once again.
Also, attachment * dated 27th October 2024
- **Trisha Williamson, Serendip Children's Home ***, dated 27th October 2024. "... thank you for the generous £500 donation we received on 17th September for our Sri Lankan appeal. Thank you for believing in our work."
- **Katy Bird, Deki, Togo ***, dated 22nd October 2024. Letter of thanks [*£ 400 sent in June 2024*] and impact report for Jan to Jun 2024.
- **Michele Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 22nd October 2024. Thanks for £ 100 for Darfur.
- **Grace Cooney, Five Talents ***, dated October 2024. Thanks for £ 500 in May 2024. 6-month Impact report.
- **Anna Lyttle, STAND (formerly Legs4Africa) ***, dated 5th November 2024. "I am delighted to have attached, the 6-month project report for STAND's Affordable Rehabilitation and Legs Logistics project."
- **Nazlie Chan-Wing-Yen, World Medical Fund for Children ***, dated 5th November 2024. Thanks for £ 400 in November 2023. A report on 21 years of mobile clinics in Malawi attached with appeal.
- **Debbie Farley (formerly Warden), Tackling Social Inequalities Officer, Family Information Service**, dated 5th November 2024. "I am supporting a mother with 3 children. The family are moving, from private rent which is furnished to WDC property. I would be grateful if SPAN could consider supporting with a fridge freezer." [*Clare has arranged delivery of a refurbished fridge freezer*].
And from Debbie on 8th November 2024: "I just wanted to pass on this message I have just received from the mother - please can you ensure it is passed on to the relevant people.
Just wanted to let you know the fridge freezer was delivered today by a lovely couple. I'm beyond grateful it's amazing. Thank you so so much."
- **Debbie Farley (formerly Warden), Tackling Social Inequalities Officer, Family Information Service**, dated 5th November 2024. Introducing an appeal from Alisa Paterniti, a social worker working on the Initial Response Team in Warwickshire for a single mother with a daughter diagnosed with autism. Mother is primary carer for her daughter and her mother. Moved home due to antisocial behaviour of neighbour, she doesn't have resources to replace a broken washing machine. [*Clare has arranged a refurbished replacement, which was later removed*].
- **Global Care ***, dated 1st November 2024. Thanks for next instalment of Frank's legacy.

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the October 2024 Accounts

A relatively normal month, in terms of standing orders and cash received means we have **£ 856 to allocate to appeals.**

During the month we have paid payments of £ 2,000 each to Temwa and Global Care, being their latest allocation of Frank Garvey legacy money, both have £ 12,000 remaining which will be allocated over the next three years.

A payment of £ 1,200 was made to Zoe's Place which was the proceeds of the June 7th event.

These figures exclude £ 1,000 paid to Clare Burdett for her excellent support and provision of white goods to local families in need. This will be paid out of the gift aid monies.

The audit process for 2023 has been completed with the accounts approved by the Trustees and submitted to the Charity Commission.

Year To Date report: You will see we have a YTD report comparing this year so far to last year.

Key trends: Receipts £ 11k down on last year due to a legacy of £ 5k received last year and last year we had some one offs like the £ 7k received for the Saturday Friendship Group.

General gift aid remains slightly up on last year. Payments are up by £ 16k which is due to the allocation of Frank Garvey money received in 2022. We have paid £ 14k to our partners that wasn't distributed last year.

[£ 112.19 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,

- **Open Air Campaigners, Uganda. Agreed not to support.**
- **Sand Dams Worldwide.** "In pioneering sand dams we promote and support the application of sand dam technology by key stakeholders in drylands." **£ 450 Agreed.**
- **World Medical Fund for Children.** "Our mobile clinics ease suffering and save young lives every day they go out." Working mainly in Malawi. **£ 450 Agreed.**
- **CAFOD for Darfur. £ 100 Agreed.**

Any Other Business:

SPAN Sunday promoting SPAN and introducing the Advent / Christmas appeal. Sunday 17th November at SJ's, SP's and OL's. Fr David and Fr Stephen happy to have a brief SPAN talk after Masses.

Jenny Armstrong will speak after SP 5pm Mass, Paul Hayden OL 9.15, Jackie Rabone SJ 10am, Anne Elson SP 11.15, Clare Burdett SJ 5.30pm

Joint SVP / SPAN leaflet printed, green envelopes and some additional booklets. Caroline to send A4 poster.

SPAN Quiz Night 2025 booked in St Peter's Hall for Friday 28th Feb – Lent starts Wed March 5th 2025.

LWS Night Shelter will be open over Christmas. They are not looking for funds as they have premises but expect to need a supply of small winter coats.

Christmas Cards will be prepared by Jeanette and Mary.

The meeting finished with a prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 9th Dec 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter's Hall, Davenport Room.