

## Minutes of the SPAN meeting and Annual Review held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 held in St Peter's – Davenport Room

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

**Attendance:** Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Manning, Alan Mulholland, Anne Elson, Clare Burdett, Anne-Marie and Patrick Reddin.

**Apologies:** Caroline (Vice Chair), Mary and Jonathan Holden, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley, Jeanette Davison, Roger Elson.

**Chair's Annual Review Report:** Looking back to 2024 - again we are fortunate to have many generous donors who keep on giving, through Standing Orders, money in boxes and at Christmas and Lent in the special envelopes. This enabled us to keep paying our core beneficiaries - as well as having some over, usually around £ 1,000 month for other appeals. Total income was over £ 71,000 which includes our legacy money from Frank Garvey spread over 5 years to charities in Africa in the main; Temwa, Global Care and Cocos'. It is great to hear what they are doing, as they feedback to us how their work is going. It is particularly good to be able to support Coco's with a truck for their transport over difficult terrain and saving them a fortune in hiring trucks.

For our Quiz evening in February we raised £ 1,000 for Friends of the Holy Land together with other money from masses it amounted to £ 3,300. Chris Connor from Coco's came to talk to us at this evening.

Lenten Alms raised £ 3,500 for local families and £ 1,000 for House of Light and Hope in Beirut. We gave money to many international emergency appeals in Darfur, Kenya, Afghanistan and Sudan. (£ 3,300)

At Christmas another successful appeal was held to help families and £ 5,000 was raised and distributed through the schools, SVP and social services. We had many thankful responses. Thanks to Jean Feely for organising these and the Lenten Alms.

We had so many appeals and over the year we helped charities in 8 African countries as well as Peru, Philippines and Sri Lanka. We gave Kindaid £ 1,200 for their mission hospital in Kiirua. Local charities also benefited and Young People First and New Chapters, both in Leamington, are part of our core beneficiaries.

We also had a great celebration in June of our 50<sup>th</sup> and were very happy to welcome a lot of members who were there at the start of SPAN - or close to it. Many people helped with food, entertainment and general organisation. A happy event and a great milestone. We announced then our name was to be known as 'Supporting People Across Nations' to general approval.

It's a big thank you to all who support all year, loyal attendees, donors, our Trustees and our clergy for their support. A particular thanks to my fellow Committee members who work very hard to keep the ship afloat.

*[The Annual Report is available on our webpage [www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span](http://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span) and our SPAN booklet gives further information.]*

**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 proposed that all be re-elected. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

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

- **Amanda Parks, Pastoral Lead, Milverton Primary School**, dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025. "We have a year 6 child at our school who is attending our residential trip on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. The child's family struggle financially and she is FSM and pupil premium... the family will also financially struggle to get the child the correct items (clothes) for the trip." **SPAN committee agreed £ 100.**
- **Liz Mottram, Kindaid committee**, dated 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025. "At our latest meeting last Thursday, the £400 donation from SPAN to Kenya was acknowledged with gratitude, and we noted that £1200 has been donated to the cause by SPAN over the year."
- **Judith Bradfield, Porridge and Pens**, dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025. "... donation of £400. Fundraising has been extremely difficult over the last year and so we are really grateful for your continued support."

- **Caroline Ticharwa, Sand Dams Worldwide \***, dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025. See thanks and report.
- **John Halligan, Global Care \***, dated 23<sup>d</sup> October 2025. See attached thanks and report.
- **Zoe Hauser, Medair \***, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025. See attached thanks and report.
- **Trisha Williamson, Serendip Children's Home \***, dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025. "... to thank SPAN for their continued support. We've received the kind donation of £400 for our Sri Lankan Appeal."
- **Katy Bird, Deki**, dated 3<sup>d</sup> November 2025. "I can confirm that your kind donation was received."
- **Tim Martin, Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf \***, dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Newsletter attached. £ 350 given March 2025.
- **Five Talents**, November 2025. 6 month report following £ 400 given in May 2025.
- **From last month -Derrick Kidake, Bornstar Childrens Centre \***, dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**SPAN Committee comment / recommendation:** Not registered with CC.

Response on 8<sup>th</sup> October after last month appeal: "Thank you very much for your kind response. I'd like to say that our organisation is registered, and we have all documents required to run the children centre. We are helping needy children from Kibera slums Nairobi. If there are any documents they need I can quickly send to you. We are tax compliant. I have our tax compliance certificate for the current financial year. We are traceable. In case of your auditing, we can send you any legal documents you need so that you are not accused of money laundering."

Also 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025: Hello. You can also donate through our UK registered partner charity called Chaffinch of charity number 1206986 and send us a receipt confirming the donation please.

- **Caroline Manning, SPAN Vice Chair about Coco's**, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025. ". Chris Connors is still awaiting costs for changes to the orphanage to allow a dining/ canteen area. I believe they now plan to use the old boys' dormitory for this and build a new boys' dormitory. Also, unfortunately the truck has been involved in an altercation with a cow! it was on its way from the orphanage to a church event taking mattresses for the children to sleep on. Thankfully the lady and the child in the truck were both ok. The cow not so!" *[Caroline to update next month]*

### **Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the October 2025 Accounts**

This is a relatively standard month as we are reliant on standing orders only as there are no one off receipts this month. However we still have £ 974 to spend in the month.

Payments in the month included an electronic payment of £ 400 to Deki to replace a lost cheque issued in May. The committee also approved a payment of £ 100 to a local family needing assistance.

We also paid our auditors bill of £ 1,440 which is only a £ 30 increase on last year, out of our gift aid balance. This is a high expense but unfortunately a necessary evil.

Following Jonathan's previous question we have created a new account for a transfer into investments which should provide further receipts in the future. The Trustees agreed a temporary transfer of £ 20,000 which can be processed, now we have a new cheque book.

*[£ 100.52 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,

- **Dee Pfeiffer, Starfish Malawi \* #**, dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025. See attached. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Melane Kalyowa, Open Air Campaigners Uganda \***, dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Fr Phillip Apiya, Parish Priest Amuru Catholic Parish \* #**, dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025. also later that day: "Thank you very much for the opportunity given to us to submit our application. Thank you also for the wonderful work ! We also thank you for the clear and easy to fill application form. Here attached is our application." **Agreed not to support for now.**
- **Kane Louis, PAYPR Org \***, dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Not reg with CC. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Joanne Parker, Myton Hospice \***, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Bornstar** – from last month and correspondence this month. **Agreed £ 350 via Chaffinch.**
- **CAFOD - Sudan appeal.** Sadly, over 150,000 people have already lost their lives and over 12 million people are currently displaced. Over 30 million people - more than half of Sudan's population - need emergency aid. **Agreed £ 350.**

- **Children of the Dump** - £ 500 in Sept 2024 - Since 1975, Children of the Dump, a UK based charity, has worked with a trusted local partner, ASCF, a team of trained Filipino professionals who understand the needs of the community. Today, over 300 disadvantaged children receive education, family support, emotional care, and spiritual guidance. **Agreed £ 350.**

### **Any Other Business:**

SPAN Sunday promoting SPAN and introducing the SVP and SPAN Advent / Christmas appeals. Weekend of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November at SJ's, SP's and OL's. Fr David and Fr Stephen happy to have a brief SPAN talk after Masses.

Patrick will speak after SP 5pm Mass, Paul at OL 9.15, Jackie Rabone SJ 10am, Anne Elson SP 11.15, SJ 5.30pm – Jean Feely to be asked, *any other suggestions?* Jenny maybe?

Joint SVP / SPAN leaflet printed, green envelopes available, could reference SPAN booklet. Caroline has provided some impressive leaflets and posters.

Christmas Cards are being prepared by Jeanette and Mary.

SPAN Quiz Night 2026 booked in St Peter's Hall for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Lent starts Wed March 5<sup>th</sup> 2026.

Use of the Church Hall: Have we paid to use the Church Hall this year? We will check that we donated for use of the hall for our quiz and info evenings and to covered meetings until July. £ 25 per month from then was mentioned. [*i.e. £ 100 for Sept to Dec meetings – to be paid after Dec meeting.*]

*[NB Not discussed at meeting:*

*Who should Quiz night be in aid of? Perhaps jointly Young People First and New Chapters.*

*Who should Lenten Alms be in aid of? Perhaps Local families with vouchers and jointly Friends of the Holy Land and House of Light and Hope seeing the continued need in Gaza and the link to Easter and the Holy Land in that season.]*

The meeting finished with a prayer.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter's Hall, Davenport Room.**