

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 9th October 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Roger Elson, Patrick Reddin, Fr David Hartley.

Apologies Mary and Jonathan Holden, Clare Burdett, David Burton, Anne Elson, Jean and Wilf Feely, Jeanette Davison, Fr Stephen Day.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated, approved and signed. **Matters arising:** The sfg accumulated donations will now be distributed: Helping Hands £ 300, LWS Night Shelter £ 300, Foodbank £ 300 and New Chapters £ 400. Kieran McGerty from Young People First invited to start of next meeting.

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

- **Uilliam Barrow-Retallack, Sand Dams Worldwide ***, dated 11th October 2023. "...I am also delighted to share that we have recently released our 2022 Impact Report: <https://www.sanddamsworldwide.org.uk/FAQs/impact-report-2022>."
- **Becca Lee, Brokerage Officer, Family Information Service, dated 12th September 2023.** "... family have 3 children and need new school uniform ... Many thanks again for your help with this family."
- **Kieran McGerty, Young People First, dated 12th September 2023.** "... Yes, the address is correct. I have just delivered some erroneous post to the other Jubilee House..."
- **St Anthony's school appeal dated 12th September 2023.** "... family in school - victims of domestic abuse. Mum cannot apply for free school meals... Dad may be able to apply for free school meals on their behalf, but we are unsure if the claim will be accepted." [*Committee agreed: 2 children involved; this might cost £ 100 a month if £ 2.50 each per day for 4 weeks in the month. So £ 200 would cover 2 months and allow time to discover if applications for FSM are successful or not.*] "The parent is so grateful. Many thanks for your kindness."
- **Mrs Trisha Williamson, Serendip Children's Home ***, dated 17th September 2023. "Thank you ... Your donation will go towards helping our vital projects in the north and east of Sri Lanka... existing schemes are so important to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families in Sri Lanka."
- **Matt Thomson, Legs4Africa covering letter ***, dated 19th September 2023.
- **Barry Harper, EACP – East Africa Children's Project, dated 19th September 2023.** "The award from your Trust will support our key aim of empowering the most deprived children through education to escape the damaging health and economic effects of extreme and persistent poverty. Your donation will make a real difference for these children."
- **Sylvester Mutsigwa, Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD Birmingham Archdiocese, dated 26th September 2023.** "Dear SPAN, Just to say thank you so much for the tremendous generosity and kindness in responding to the Moroccan Earthquake humanitarian response and the Libya Flood Appeal. Your support will make a huge difference to our brothers and sisters in all the affected communities. Thanks again to all."
- **Robert Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Beirut, Lebanon, dated 29th September 2023.** "... I am leaving today for Armenia with a group of Lebanese-Armenians on humanitarian mission. The situation there is now catastrophic with more than 80,000 Armenians refugees flying up to now from the Azeri's invading their lands. I will be back to Lebanon in 10 days. Much prayers are needed"
- **Vlad Darahan, Medical Evacuation Cars for Ukraine vd@missionukraine.uk, dated 1st October 2023.** "We work on a "mission" basis and our current focus is on purchasing old off-road cars in the UK and converting them into special medical evacuation vehicles. Our vehicles are then delivered directly to medics on the frontline. There is extensive info on our website: www.missionukraine.uk
- **Paul Keeley, Sustainable Global Gardens ***, dated 3rd October 2023. "... to send ... a copy of latest report on the 'Support for 500 Orphans & Vulnerable Children in Busia County, Kenya' project. You can see that much has changed and progressed since our last report a year ago.
... we are pleased to note that SGG has found adequate funding for all four components of the project until the end of this year. However, the other three aspects [i.e. table-banking, kitchen gardens, and agroforestry] all require new funding."
- **CAFOD ***, dated 2nd Oct 2023. Thanks for £ 2,300 "helping those affected by the devastating floods in Libya – please pass on our thanks to the parishioners of St Peter's, St Joseph's and Our Lady's."

- **CAFOD ***, dated 2nd Oct 2023. Thanks for £ 2,300 for Morocco. “This help can provide essentials like food, water, blankets, clothes, toiletries, cooking utensils, shelter, education and counselling. Please pass on our thanks to the parishioners of St Peter’s, St Joseph’s and Our Lady’s.”

Finance - Comments by Michael on the September 2023 Accounts

Our main focus in the month was the appeals for Morocco and Libya. With £ 2,610.04 being donated and £ 2,000 allocated from our gift aid rebate. Allowing £ 2,300 to be sent to each appeal.

During the month we received £ 875 through bank transfers and a donation of £ 1,000 for House of Light and Hope. Additional sums were released for local urgent appeals £ 97.50, £ 130 and £ 200.

£ 811.62 is available for appeals.

[£ 123.02 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,

- **Sand Dams Worldwide *** “Sand Dams Worldwide supports rural dryland communities to work their way out of poverty with dignity. Working with local partners, we support rural communities to gain access to clean water close to their homes and to invest in climate-smart agriculture. In pioneering sand dams we promote and support the application of sand dam technology by key stakeholders in drylands.” **£ 500 Agreed.**
- **St Vianney Junior School Parents Association.** [Not registered in UK.] Application for £ 790.00 for school fees sponsor project to education of two girls in secondary education. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Sustainable Global Gardens *** “1. relief of poverty by promotion of small-scale environmental, agricultural and social welfare projects in communities where income is below \$2/day. Projects include: support for HIV-affected families, composting, tree-planting, income-generation schemes for rural communities. 2. education concerning causes of global poverty.” **£ 500 Agreed.**
- **IRT – International Refugee Trust *** “Cultivating hope in Uganda”. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Transform trade – formally Traidcraft Exchange *** “are a global community of farmers, workers, collectives, campaigners, donors and supporters, we work together for trade that values people over profit. We partner with people who are fighting for their communities and finding better ways to trade.” **Agreed not to support.**

A monthly donation to Hope House Babies Home in Nairobi as suggested at previous meetings to be set up.

Liaison Groups

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington. No additional info.

CAFOD soup lunch Fri 20th October 12-2pm St Peter’s Hall.

New Chapters. Unfortunately the securing of a property for this project fell through at the last minute and a property is again being sort.

St Peter’s Church held **£ 7,400 earmarked for SFG.** This will now be redistributed. Jenny will circulate SFG supporters with a suggested breakdown and SPAN will allocate asap upon feedback.

Any Other Business.

SPAN Quiz night Friday 9th February 2024 – still awaiting confirmation of booking. Chris Connors founder of CoCo’s Foundation plans to attend.

This December marks **50 years since the first SPAN meeting** in 1973. We should mark the anniversary year during 2024. Ideas needed. Perhaps a special evening in the Summer with a world theme.

Our **annual Christmas Appeal via green envelopes** will be launched on Sunday 19th November (Fr David suggested the date for SJ’s, we will talk to Fr Stephen to see if this or other dates work at SPs + OL’s. We hope to try to produce a pull up sign to highlight SPAN – ideas to Caroline / Jenny asap.

We finished with the Pax Christi prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 13th November starting at 7.30 p.m. at St Peter’s Church Hall.

We hope to meet Kieran McGerty of Young People First at the start of the meeting and receive the 2022 Annual Review.