

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 14th October 2024 held in St Peter's Church Hall
The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Patrick Reddin, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Michael Barker (Treasurer), Anne and Roger Elson, Clare Burdett.

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

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

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

- **Kieran McGerty, Young People First**, dated 10th September 2024. "... the exciting news we are now supporting the Sydni Centre to get their youth club up and running."
- **Jack Willcocks, Medair ***, dated 11th September 2024. Thanks and info attached.
- **Paul Keeley, Sustainable Global Gardens ***, dated 13th September 2024. * "It is good to be in contact with groups who have put Catholic social teaching into practical help for the disadvantaged."
- **Mahnoosh Mossadegh, Hands Around the World, Rwanda**, dated 17th September 2024. "We were delighted to receive £500 towards school meals for vulnerable street children at Saint Paul Muko School and make a big difference to these children's lives."
- **Debbie Farley (formerly Warden), Brokerage Officer Tackling Social Inequalities for Warwickshire Family Information Service**, dated 17th September 2024. "I am currently working to support family from Leamington. The parents to 1 year old and have a baby due. The family have exhausted most of their savings, and their fridge freezer has broken down." *[Passed to Clare]*

Also dated 17th September 2024.

"I am currently working to support a single mother of 4 children (1 is over 18) a survivor of domestic abuse and struggling financially due to low income exacerbated by household debts incurred by her ex-partner which she is now repaying. ... is in a need of a 60cm electric cooker. *[Clare]*

And dated 19th September 2024

"I am currently working in partnership with a learning mentor at school to support a single mum of 2 boys. She is not currently working and is in receipt of Universal credit and Child benefit. They had been living in a 1-bedroom flat for the last 6 years. They were awarded a house with the council but then it was retracted due to rent arrears. The old washing machine had broken. She has been hand washing their clothes due to not having the funds to pay for a laundrette." *[Clare]*

Further, dated 18th September 2024

"I am the allocated worker for a little girl called ... who currently lives with his mother in Leamington is currently unemployed and is struggling financially and they have moved into their current house which had no furniture. Mum is supported by paternal family. They have supported her to get carpeting, however she is in need of a freezer and cannot afford one. *[Clare]*

[Clare has arranged for refurbished goods for all these families. We thanked Clare for facilitating this.]

- **Uilliam Barrow-Retallack, Sand Dams Worldwide ***, dated 18th September 2024. "Thank you in advance for your consideration of our funding application." See attached appeal.
- **Michele Oakford, CAFOD**, dated 18th September 2024. "Thank you for your donation of £300.00. Thank you so much for being there for our global family. The protracted conflict in Darfur that started in 2003 has caused the internal displacement of millions of families."
- **Amy Hathaway, Forever Angels, Tanzania ***, dated 20th September 2024. "Dear all in 2022, you gave a generous donation of £250 for our work. Our mission is to provide vulnerable children with the care, love, and opportunities they need to thrive."
- **Roger Elson for St Peter's Hall team meeting**, dated 30th September 2024.
"... it was necessary to close the hall on certain days to reduce costs." *[As SPAN can use a fan heater in the Davenport Room and contribute to running costs, we can continue meeting on the 2nd Monday.]*

- **Clare Oliver, Global Care ***, dated 2nd October 2024. “Thank you once again to SPAN for their generous support of Global Care’s work in Africa. We are pleased to send you a report on the work you have so kindly supported and hope you can see the amazing impact this gift has had.
- **Hope House Babies Home** have sent their newsletter, it isn’t easy to pass on as a pdf. If you visit their website you can request to be added to their mailing list <https://www.hopehousebabieshome.org/>
- **Kay Mackay, Children of the Dump ***, dated 1st October 2024. Thanks for £ 500 to transform the lives of children who live on the rubbish dumps of Minila, Philippines.
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Beirut, Lebanon ***, dated 8th October 2024. See attached for this informative set of responses.

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the September 2024 Accounts

We have **£ 820 available** for appeals.

We still have an ongoing issue with payment to Vincent Ularigiw (in Uganda) for the vulnerable student scheme; even today emails have been exchanged.

The paperwork for the Trustees 2023 Annual Return to the Charity Commission should be signed off by the auditors this week, the deadline is October 31st.

A cheque for £ 1,200 from the celebration evening has been issued for Zoe’s Place Baby Hostel in Coventry; the next instalment from Frank Garvey’s Legacy is being sent to Temwa and Global Care. [*£ 84.20 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,

- **Nombulelo Nomagugu Mjimba *** for help with tuition fees. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Wec Foundation * NEW** / Working in Jinja, 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.” **Agreed not to support this month.**
- **Forever Angels *** “Supporting a Baby Home in Tanzania that provides interim care to orphaned, abandoned and HIV positive infants, providing love, security, medical care, nourishment and quality attention, until a permanent family can be found for them. “ **£ 300 Agreed.**
- **Sustainable Global Gardens *** “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.” **£ 300 Agreed.**
- **Santa Maria Foundation *NEW** “... to support orphanage girls in Colombia. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Porridge & Pens - Ghana * NEW** “works with some of the most disadvantaged children and young adults in Ghana. ... providing access to free education, medicine, safe shelter and school meals so young people can create their own bright and sustainable futures, free from poverty.” **£ 300 Agreed.**
- **Sr Paskazia Mbonizana, St Kizito School, Uganda * NEW** Borehole appeal. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Beirut, Lebanon. £ 1,000 Agreed from Gift Aid rebate.**

Any Other Business:

Kindaid events coming soon: Just Desserts evening Sat 19th Oct.

St Joseph’s events coming soon: Afternoon Tea Dance Saturday 19th October. 2pm

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.

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

CAFOD Soup Lunch on Fri 25th Oct in SP’s

Justice & Peace Assembly Sat 19th Oct 10am – 3.30pm St Chad’s. Theme: called to be Peace Makers.

Refugees: Clare reported on her work to gain access to swimming time for refugee families.

The meeting finished with a prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 11th Nov 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter’s Hall, Davenport Room.