

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 13th October 2025

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer. We prayed for Sister Anne-Therese Harding who died yesterday, aged 96. She taught at Our Lady and St Theresa's school for many years and entered religious life in her sixties after her mother died. Praying too for Wilf Feely who is awaiting an operation this coming week.

Attendance: Jenny Armstrong (Chair), Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Paul Hayden (Secretary), Allan Mulholland, Anne and Roger Elson, Patrick Reddin, Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Fr Stephen Day, Canon David Hartley, Jeanette Davison, Clare Burdett, Mary Holden, Aveena Basi, Francis Vaz.

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

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

- **Hope House Babies Home (one of SPAN's core beneficiaries) sending a newsletter link.**
- **Tom Williams, update from STAND ***, dated 16th September 2025. See attached. [*£ 500 July 2025.*]
- **Dr Robert Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Lebanon ***, dated 5th October 2025. Prayer request
- **Jane Knight, One World Link ***, dated 23rd September 2025. "We have slowly been building up teams of health professionals in Bo and here at Warwick hospital and university and Njala university in Bo as well as with the Director of Environment for Sierra Leone. At this stage we are not asking for any further support but will see how the current plans work out and maybe come back to you during the Phase one process to seek assistance."
- **Caroline Ticharwa, Sand Dams Worldwide ***, dated 24th September 2025. "Thank you again for your generous donation of £500 and please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries."
- **Adisa Varghese, Global Care ***, dated 9th October 2025. "Your support has made a tangible difference in the lives of children and families living in some of the most isolated and underserved communities." Please find attached the report for Zambia. From emergency food parcels during times of crisis to long-term improvements in education, health, and sanitation, your contribution has helped bring hope and stability to many young lives.
- **Anna Kotsonouris, Village by Village**, dated 10th October 2025 – phone call thanking us for donation.
- **Barry Harper, EACP – East Africa Children's Project**, dated 10th October 2025. "At our last monthly meeting Trustees allocated your kind donation of £500 to the project:
FAI240205. Faith. Orphan feeding 3-months. Q4_Oct-Dec 2025. Maize 300kg, beans 150kg, rice 150kg, meat 30kg chicken for 50 children living at Faith. 13 weeks. Cost UGX 3,143,500. See attached.
- **Michelle Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 17th September 2025. Thanks for £ 200 for Darfur, Sudan.
- **Michelle Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 17th September 2025. Thanks for £ 500 for the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal.
- **Pauline Allan, Let the Children Live! ***, dated 24th September 2025. Thanks for £ 500 sent by SPAN to help children in Colombia. This sum along with that raised at the appeal at St Joseph's on 22nd June has raised a total of £ 1,604.76

Finance – Treasurer Report by Michael on the September 2025 Accounts

After our double month last month, we are back to normal with a single month but still have £ 973 to spend in the month. While standard order receipts remain constant, cash collected in the church each week has definitely reduced. This month however, we are boosted by the Catenian President raffle proceeds of £300 and a further donation of £150 for Graham O' Rourke.

The audit for the 2024 accounts has been completed with no amendments required.

Following Jonathan's question last month we have requested a new account for a transfer into investments which should provide further receipts in the future. A final decision can be made at the forthcoming Trustees meeting next week.

We need to make the next payments to Temwa and Global Care in October as the recipients of Frank Garvey's Legacy.

A cheque raised to Deki remains outstanding, so we need to confirm with them whether it has been received.

[£168.95 will be added to amounts earmarked for hospitals at Nyenga, Uganda and Ortum, Kenya.]

Appeals Summary – * indicates that attachments with further details were sent out ahead of the meeting.

- **Angela Stafford, Lepra**, dated 25th September 2025. RCN: 213251; Inc £ 4,932,724; Exp £ 5,209,193; Charity Exp £ 4,730,000. "I am pleased to contact you on behalf of Lepra, a UK-based charity, which supports people affected by leprosy and neglected diseases in India and Bangladesh." **Not Agreed.**
- **Sr Fromunda Vintan Mtundu OSB. Mother Superior, St. Michael's Convent, Msakuzi-Dar es salaam, Tanzania** *, dated 29th September 2025. See attached. **Not Agreed** but will ask if UK link available.
- **Welcome Here update** *, 3rd October 2025. See attached. **Not Agreed.**
- **Jemma Williams, Porridge & Pens**, dated 22nd September 2025. "Last year, Porridge and Pens were fortunate to receive grant funding from you towards our work in Ghana for £300. We would love the opportunity to be considered again." **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Derrick Kidake, Bornstar Childrens Centre** *, dated 8th October 2025. See attached. **Not Agreed.**
- **Zoe Hauser, Medair**, dated 10th October 2025. "Thank you for your generous support for our work in the DRC. Your support for this project, which focuses on improving nutritional practices through community gardens and water infrastructure at health facilities throughout the DRC." **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Serendip Children's Home in Sri Lanka. £ 400 Agreed.**
- **CAFOD for Darfur £ 100**

Any Other Business:

Coco's Foundation: Sadly Chris Connors has been very ill for some months now and has had throat surgery. He is unable to be as active as he once was, he has been heavily involved for 18 years. Caroline is in contact with him looking at how best we can support his original projects, some of which can be managed through 'Reach out to the Child'. The truck Frank's Legacy helped purchase is being used to transport food supplies, transfer people to appointments and children to court hearings in relation to guardianship and safe guarding but needs a maintenance budget. There is a need to expand an eating area in the children's orphanage. Caroline hopes to present some options next month.

Justice and Peace: This year's Justice and Peace Assembly is on **Saturday 18th October** in the Grimshaw Room at St Chad's Cathedral. 9.30am – 3.30pm.

SPAN Quiz night: As usual, on the Friday before the start of Lent i.e. **Friday 13th February**. Now booked with Roger.

SPAN Sunday: Weekend of November 15th / 16th. An opportunity to give brief mention of SPAN, quite a fitting Sunday as it is the 'World Day of the Poor'. Pope Leo's recent Apostolic exhortation **Dilexi Te** to all Christians on love for the poor gives numerous references relevant to SPAN's work. It can be downloaded from the SPAN webpage www.catholicleamington.org.uk/span

SPAN and SVP Christmas Appeals: On November 16th, we will also be highlighting and handing out the usual A5 leaflet jointly promoting the SVP and SPAN's Christmas Appeals.

Jean Feely has volunteered to contact our Catholic Primary schools to seek numbers of families from each schools for Christmas food vouchers. Mary and Jonathan have Christmas cards to go to housebound etc, they will contact Jeanette as usual.

Printed material for our meetings: To save on unnecessary printing, we will display the meeting documents on the projector in the Davenport Room – trial next month.

Annual Report: SPAN's Annual Report is being submitted to the Charity Commission and so we can hold our Annual Review at our next meeting.

The meeting finished with a prayer chosen from the prayer requests from House of Light and Hope.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 10th November 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Davenport Room at SP's.