

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 11th September 2023 in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

Attendance Caroline (Vice Chair) and Paul Manning, Michael Barker (Treasurer), Mary and Jonathan Holden, Paul Hayden (Secretary), Clare Burdett, Anne and Roger Elson.

Apologies Jenny Armstrong (Chair), David Burton, Jean and Wilf Feely, Jeanette Davison, Fr Stephen Day, Patrick Reddin.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated, approved and signed. **Matters arising:** The sfg accumulated donations would be split between Helping Hands, LWS Night Shelter, Foodbank and New Chapters with more going to the latter [*Secretary: £ 300, £ 300, £ 300, £ 400*]. Awaiting feedback from Young People First.

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

- **Matt Thomson Legs4Africa ***, dated 11th July 2023. "With your support of £500, we've been able to put 25 individuals back on their feet, and that's just the start!..."
- **Mark Ryan, Turbo Ghana, dated 12th July 2023.** "Thank you very much for your donation of £300 to Turbo Ghana towards the Atonobi borehole project and the business starter project."
- **Miriam, Homes for Ukraine.** "We are working very closely with the Kenilworth Lions and have a system where they issue £300 vouchers for their shop to all of our guests moving out of sponsor's homes. Homes for Ukraine Scheme itself is providing £500 for essential items, and we are encouraging people to use Freecycle and local selling pages on Facebook etc, as well as charity shops." We are also working closely with Warwick Lions, Shakespeare Lions and Shipston Lions; however Kenilworth are very unique with the support they are offering."
- **Becca Lee, Brokerage Officer Family Information Service dated 10th July 2023.** "... Family consists of a single mother and her 4 young children. The mother ... does not have car seats for two of her children. As a single parent who relies on benefits, she simply does not have the spare income to afford one. *The Committee agreed to supply one seat and received a letter dated 17th July 2023:* "Many thanks again to the charity for helping this family, they are extremely grateful."
- **Helen Ryman, Territorial Community Engagement Lead, The Salvation Army, dated 17th July 2023.** "Dear WAP volunteers, supporters and friends, including the Saturday Friendship Group members, It is with a sense of sadness that I am letting you know that The Way Ahead Project will not be re-opening. ... I'm aware this sadness will be shared by many and I am thinking of our visitors, you, our partners and the congregation (Corps). As volunteers, you have made the WAP possible over the years and brought care and hope. Thank you for how you have served and the huge difference you have made."
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Lebanon, dated 23rd July 2023 ***. Article by Fady Noun.
- **Izabella Topolińska, Treasurer, Local Polish Catholic Mission in Leamington Spa, dated 23rd July 2023 ***. Receipt and thanks attached for £ 100 donation.
- **Shona Hickey, Temwa, dated 27th July 2023 ***. Annual report. £ 300 sent in May.
- **Fr. Mayele Ukwong, Uganda, dated 27th July 2023.** "We acknowledge receipt of the funds that you sent to assist the needy/vulnerable, thank you so much for the assistance and always bringing hope to the hopeless. ... paying their school dues for this term and other school requirements."
- **Olivia Eades, Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate, Warwickshire DVSW, dated 2nd August 2023.** "...in regard to a client I am supporting from here at Refuge the Warwickshire domestic abuse service. Her ex-partner is due to be released from prison after serving a custodial sentence for controlling and coercive behaviour, ABH and threats to kill. I am concerned for my client and her children's safety, and I wish to ensure she has access to all additional safety measures. Would you consider a grant to purchase a ring doorbell camera potentially on her behalf? [*SPAN Committee agreed £ 70.*]
- **Claire Fry, Family Support Worker, Early Help and Targeted Support Warwick.** "supporting ... lives with her two children, 7 and 11 years old. Her sister has also recently moved in with her having been made recently homeless. xxx is requesting help with sourcing a new electric oven. ... [*Committee agreed to support with £ 365 for cooker from Argos incl removal and installation.*]

- **Becca Lee, Brokerage Officer, Family Information Service, dated 18th August 2023.** "... The family have 3 children, 2 of whom are school age and need new school uniform for September, having outgrown their clothes from last year... *[SPAN Committee agreed £ 97.50]*.
- **Mark Aldrich, Grants and Trusts Manager, Starfish Malawi, dated 22nd August 2023.** Charity 1130350. "Please find attached the latest impact report from Malawi for the Hope Clinic programme." SPAN supported with £ 100 Jan 2021, £ 250 Dec 2021, £ 400 Jan 2023.
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Lebanon, dated 1st September 2023 *** Prayer requests.
- **Jean Mikajo, IRT – International Refugee Trust, dated 31st July 2023 *** Thanks for £ 300 supporting South Sudanese refugees.
- **Deki, dated 19th July 2023 *** Impact report for Jan – Jun 2023 and letter saying we have been sent an application for more support in 2023.
- **CAFOD, dated 20th July 2023 *** Thanks for £ 100 towards CAFOD's work in Darfur.
- **CoCo's Foundation,** received this week, very brief video with thanks.

Finance - Comments by Michael on the July and August 2023 Accounts

With the combined two months, brings double the income but also double the costs.

While there were no appeals in August, we did pay our two annual payments to our African priests, Frs Kazozi and Mwanza. We increased their payment to £400 per annum to reflect cost of living increases.

With the receipt of the investment income we have a healthy £ 1,409 to distribute although we do need to deduct two payments made locally totalling £162 for a security doorbell and school uniform.

I am pleased to announce that we have received the gift aid rebates for 2022 from HMRC. In total we received a rebate of £ 6,328. This has been allocated to specific beneficiaries such as House of Light and Hope and various appeals such as Christmas vouchers and Lenten Alms. Approximately £4000 will be available to SPAN for general usage.

I can confirm the 2022 annual accounts have been with the auditors all August awaiting final sign off. I will continue to chase correction of the incorrect DVLA postings made in the early part of the year.

[£ 560.11 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,

- **EACP - East Africa Children's Project *** "We support projects which contribute to the education, health or relief of poverty of children and their families in East Africa. Currently these include a children's centre in Kenya and three schools in Uganda." **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Serendip *** "... assistance to vulnerable children and women in the north and east of Sri Lanka. We run classes; we help children with mental & physical disability including autism." **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Teshie *** "prevention, relief of poverty, in particular in Ghana". **Agreed not to support.**
- **Moroccan Earthquake Appeal. £ 1,000 Agreed.** *[Awaiting CAFOD or DEC appeal launches. Any SPAN donations over next 2 Sundays will be added – Gift Aid envelopes available.]*

Liaison Groups

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington. No additional info.

New Chapters It is understood that there is now an agreement with a landlady in Kingsway. New Chapters have funding for the first year of the project.

Any Other Business. Frank's legacy – meeting proposed payments each 6 months to CoCo's, Temwa and Global Care of £ 2,000 each subject to feedback. Trustees to discuss, as this is a long-term commitment. We have asked to use the SP's Hall for a SPAN Quiz night on Friday 9th February 2024 i.e. just before Lent. We finished with a prayer from the requests from Dr Caracache.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 9th October starting at 7.30 p.m. at St Peter's Church Hall.