

SPAN - Principles Governing the Distribution of Funds

Agreed by SPAN Trustees on 3rd December 2024.

SPAN has its roots in the Catholic community of St Peter's Parish in Leamington. Nowadays it is part of Catholic Leamington being the collaboration between parishioners of St Joseph's in Whitnash, Our Lady's in Lillington and St Peter's in central Leamington. Most of its funds come from this community. It is fundamental that the funds be used in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Catholic Church. A hierarchy of need should govern our distribution of funds.

1. Meeting the basic human need for survival through the provision of food, water, and shelter is a primary principle. Where these needs are urgent and failure to meet them would be life threatening, as in disasters, our response should be directed through one of the major disaster organisations, preferably CAFOD.
2. We aim to enable people to live with human dignity where this is threatened by endemic poverty. Supporting projects which enable individuals or groups to help themselves, so that their development is self-sustaining, is preferable. Basic educational provision for children and basic skills training for adults are good examples, as are projects which promote basic health provision. Building projects, where they are supporting basic human need and SPAN can help in a material way, should not be excluded but carefully considered in all the circumstances.
3. The needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups e.g. orphans, children, the elderly, those with disabilities, should have priority in the above categories.
4. Many large charities address the above problems. It is considered better to donate to established small viable projects of good standing, or to CAFOD, where there is a good likelihood of donations being targeted to specific developmental areas. Another important factor is our ability to monitor the effective use of our grants either by written reports back to SPAN or through personal contacts between a parishioner and the beneficiary.
5. We recognise that poverty is relative and is not just material. While there is absolute life-threatening poverty in developing countries there are different but valid needs at home. Supporting community building and enhancing life through schemes such as New Chapters, who work to help those in cycles of addiction. Also important is support for organisations such as Warwick District Foodbank and Young People First in addressing the needs of the powerless and marginalized in our affluent society.
6. An important dimension of our giving is our Christian witness of love as a parish community in the local area. There are several significant local charities, and parishioners can be encouraged to contribute their time and skills. We can do this by giving support to the community through schools and local social services. We appeal to parishioners to enable us to provide food vouchers during the Christmas and Lenten Alms collections. We also use these times as opportunities to help local or overseas charities depending on need and priorities, such as giving to Zoe's Place or the House of Light and Hope in Beirut.



Where possible it is desirable to work ecumenically with other Christian groups and communities with shared interests and values. One example is our work over several years with the Saturday Friendship Group working with the Salvation Army. We aim to make donations in a spirit of Christian love and partnership. We seek to improve our own understanding of issues around poverty and development and recognise that we have much to learn from those who ask us for assistance. Feedback to the parish from our partners about their life conditions and values, and the effectiveness of our donations, can both challenge and help us in our Christian lives, and in building God's kingdom.

SPAN - Trust Objects

'The Trustees shall hold the capital and income of the Trust Fund upon trust to apply the income and all or such part or parts of the capital for or towards the following charitable purposes:

1. The relief of poverty
2. The preservation and promotion of good health
3. For any general charitable purposes or such charitable institution or institutions at such time or times and in such manner as the Trustees in their absolute discretion see fit.'

The trustees have the responsibility for interpreting how the trust objects should be met. Having consulted SPAN members and met as a group the trustees have adopted the above principles in relation to the distribution of funds. From time to time it may, in addition, be necessary for the trustees to exercise the absolute discretion referred to in paragraph 3 above.