

Minutes of the SPAN meeting held on 8th July 2024 held in St Peter's Church Hall

The meeting started with the SPAN Prayer.

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

Apologies, David Burton, Fr Stephen Day, Fr David Hartley.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated, approved and signed.

Matters arising: Thanks were restated for the many people who made the SPAN 50th Anniversary evening so successful.

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

- **Nial, Hilary and Alice Watson, Kidogo Kids**, dated 9th June 2024. Thank you very much for sending another cheque, to Hope House Babies Home. It is very much appreciated and will be well used.
- **Fr Stephen Oribdhogu ***, dated 17th June 2024. See attached.
- **Tim Martin, Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf ***, dated 18th June 2024. "I'm pleased to send out the latest newsletter with what has been happening in Salt / Jordan." [*£ 300 sent Dec 23.*]
- **Anna Lyttle, STAND – Formerly Legs4Africa ***, dated 18th June 2024. "Thank you again for this collaboration. We critically need to expand our reach and enhance our services to support more amputees and people living with disabilities living in isolated areas and facing higher barriers to accessing the rehabilitation they need across sub-Saharan Africa." [*£ 500 sent March 2023.*]
- **Debbie Warden, Tackling Social Inequalities Officer, Family Information Service**, dated 19th June 2024. "I am currently working to support a family from <South Leamington>. xxx and her partner recently became parents in the past 12 months and xxx is currently pregnant with her second child. Xxx moved into their first home around 6 months ago, they are young and have not previously lived independently. Xxx is claiming benefits and it has been confirmed that all the correct financial support is in place, Xxx has been supported with budgeting. A complicating factor is Xxx's mental health for which she is accessing ongoing support. I would be grateful if the trustees would consider supporting this family with purchasing a washing machine." [*Committee agreed to support, and Clare B has arranged suitable machine at a reduced cost of £ 150. Thank you, Clare.*]
- **Bernard Nwaiwu, St Ignatius Centre Ltd ***, dated 19th July 2024. See attached.
- **Sr Orla Treacy in Loreto Rumbek***, 25th June 2024. "Thanks for connecting with us. Find attached our annual report. We also have a monthly newsletter that you can get if you sign in to our website – www.loretoRumbek.ie. Our current need is to cover the Primary School scholarships. We have 1,215 boys and girls in our Primary School, each costing us € 400 a year."
- **Michelle Oakford, CAFOD ***, dated 26th June 2024. Thanks for £ 100 towards our work in Darfur.
- **Edward Woods, Medair ***, dated 18th June 2024. Thanks for £ 400 support in DR Congo.
- **Angela Docherty, New Ways ***, dated 20th June 2024. Thank you for your very generous donation of £ 400 which we received recently. We really appreciate your support of our health and development work in Kenya for a bore hole in Turkana area of Northern Kenya.
- **Dr Caracache, House of Light and Hope, Lebanon ***, dated 26th June 2024. Prayer request attached.
- **Deki ***, dated 17th June 2024. Thanks for the £ 400 towards Water Safe projects in Togo.
- **EACP ***, dated 5th July 2024. Newsletter updating projects since last September funding.
- **Hope House Babies Home**, dated 1st July 2024. Their newsletter can be requested at the foot of their website <https://www.hopehousebabieshome.org/> This contained a plea for more funding. [*SPAN are sending £ 100 a month, extra funding was not agreed*]

Finance - Comments by Michael on the June 2024 Accounts

There is **£ 989 available this month for appeals**. There are two outstanding payments still being processed a payment of £ 344.84 to **Vincent Ulargiw for the (Fr Mayele) Vulnerable student scheme** in Uganda and a cheque for £ 5,775 which will be reissued to Coco's Foundation.

A Gift Aid rebate of £ 6,162 has arrived and amounts linked to particular causes now appear in our state of funds report e.g. to Fr Siluvai Nathan and amounts to add to our future voucher appeals.

£ 1,200 was confirmed as raised during the celebration evening. This will be allocated after discussion – Zoe's Place Baby Hostel was one suggestion. £ 200 has been given for Hall usage for the evening.

[£ 88.90 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,

- **Fr Stephen Oribdhugu**. Laptop appeal for his studies in Belgium. **Agreed not to support.**
- **St Ignatius Centre Ltd**. Nursery school in Salford appeal. **Agreed not to support.**
- **Loreto Rumbek**. Achieving amazing work supporting a school in South Sudan. **Agreed not to support.**
- **STAND, Formerly Legs4Africa**. Recycling prosthetic limbs to 8 African countries. **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **EmpoweringKidsInKenya**. Requesting book packs following Solar Lamp provision. **£ 200 Agreed.**
- **EACP, East African Children's Project**. Working to empower disadvantaged children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. **£ 400 Agreed.**
- **Clare Burdett responding for SPAN to needs of Refugee families in Episode Hotel**. **Agreed to support, awaiting detail of costings.** Hoping to arrange for families to be able to use Newbold Common swimming facilities over the summer.
- **£ 100 Agreed** for **CAFOD's** work in Darfur.

Any Other Business:

New Chapters are opening their new property today; formerly student accommodation. Some work has been done to decorate, replace flooring and convert a kitchen. 7 clients moving in this week. Situated around Brunswick Street.

20 people being supported at a weekly day session held at Dale St Church.

Dance with Jamilah from the SPAN celebration evening. See Bollywood and Bellydance Gala at Campion School this Saturday 8-11pm tickets £ 33.22 from Eventbrite.

SUMMER CELEBRATION CONCERT: This Friday 7pm at St Peter's - Soloists, St Peter's Choir and Cubbington Silver Band make a return performance of a great range of music.

Kindaid events coming soon

Quiz night on Friday 27th September 2024

Just Desserts on evening of Saturday 19th October 2024

Christmas Crafts on afternoon of Saturday 7th December 2024

Deanery Visitation Report for St Peter's and Our Lady's. Unfortunately this document had not been checked within our parishes before publication and gave the impression that Kindaid had been active for 50 years rather than SPAN - even though the Kindaid start date was mentioned. Fr Stephen is aware and for the record, the error has been pointed out by him to Canon Paul Fitzpatrick.

The Parish Visitation Report praised the strong sense of the call of the poor at home and internationally in both our Parishes.

It was good to see SPAN mentioned in the Social Outreach section of the Parish Visitation Report for St Joseph's alongside the significant work of the SVP.

SPAN strives to be active across the whole of Catholic Leamington.

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

The next meeting will be on Monday, 9th September 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m. in St Peter's Hall.