

Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford

Notes from the PACT: Strategy & Governance meeting on 8 January 2025

Present: Fr Michael, Mandy Rice, Pauline Reed-Scarsbrook, Paul Ashton, Angela McManamon, Deacon Paul Chisnall, Kath Playfair, Joan Sweeney, Rachael Marsland

Apologies: Fr Emmanuel, Liz Ainsley, Nuala McNorton

Fr Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. Paul Chisnall was welcomed back to the PACT now that he is on placement in the parish as a deacon.

The notes of the meeting held on 6 November were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

- Church Cleaning (SsPP): still to be recruited through the diocesan HR department
- Hymnbooks at SsPP: will be ordered in January
- Reporting on PACT to the parish: still to be done
- Paul Ashton's concern about the music of David Haas has been reported to the diocesan Safeguarding office
- External Church Noticeboards: Paul A will provide details of a suitable company
- Eritrean Orthodox: need to remove their belongings and return the church keys

Fr Michael distributed a sheet summarising the proposals submitted from this parish as part of the Diocesan Synod. Copies will be made available at the back of each church.

Fr Michael noted that the 2025 Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope – is now underway. Paul A mentioned that the Jubilee Year Hymn will be used in the parish and learned in the school.

There was discussion about the situation with proposed changes to parking around Ss Peter and Paul. It was thought that we might need to write to the MP and Councillors. Should the Diocese write? Perhaps a template letter could be prepared. Certainly something should be put in the parish newsletter as soon as possible.

Fr Michael informed the PACT members that St Luke's would be hosting two ecumenical activities in the near future: The Service for the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (on Sunday 19 January) and a Lenten Lunch (on Thursday 20 March).

Updates from members:

- Youth Group: Had a good session decorating candles
- Children's Choir: Need to think about how we might expand membership
- Children's Liturgy: Starting again on 19 January; thanks to Lauren Flynn for her help; need some more volunteers, so this will be advertised in the newsletter
- Baptism: There are now four ladies from the SsPP UCM involved; there is a monthly meeting, usually involving four to six families, with a second meeting for each individual family; could do with some volunteers from SL, where most of the baptisms take place
- Christmas Fair: well attended
- Mass for the Sick: went well
- Carol Concert: well attended and more went into the hall
- Loaves and Fishes: a good collection
- Sacramental Programme: 56 children (similar to last year); photos to be organised
- Confirmation: only 14 candidates (less than in previous years)
- Youth Ministry: meet once a month; also the Children's Choir