

Annual Parish Church Meeting

S Agatha, Sparkbrook & S Barnabas, Balsall Heath

2024



Diocese of Birmingham

Parish of St Agatha Sparkbrook and St Barnabas Balsall Heath

Agendas for Meeting to Elect Churchwardens and APCM on Sunday 28th April 2023

At St Agatha's Church 12 midday

Meeting to Elect Churchwardens

- 1 Minutes of last year's Vestry Meeting
- 2.1 Election of two Churchwardens for St Agatha's
- 2.2 Election of one Churchwarden for St Barnabas'

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of last year's APM
- 3 Matters arising (except where included in an agenda item below)
- 4 Priest's report
- 5 Report from the lay-Vice Chairman
- 6 Report of proceedings of PCC
- 7 Report on Electoral Rolls
- 8 Elections to the PCC and results of PCC elections
- 9 Appointment of Independent Examiners (a) for St Agatha's; (b) for St Barnabas'
- 10 Financial reports: (a) for St Agatha's; (b) for St Barnabas'
- 11 Reports on fabric, goods and ornaments: (a) for St Agatha's; (b) for St Barnabas'
- 12 Reports on Junior Church / School Visits
- 13 Deanery Synod report
- 14 Safeguarding Report
- 15 Social Report
- 16 Any other business (by 24 hours' advance notice)

Priest's Report

The Easter Services captivated the hearts and minds of all who attended. From the poignant reflections on the significance of Easter to the uplifting hymns and music provided by our organist Mr. David Lane, to every aspect of the services contributed to a profound sense of worship and renewal. The message of hope and redemption resonated deeply with the congregation, inspiring renewed faith and gratitude.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all members of the serving team whose dedication and hard work made the Easter services memorable. From the meticulous planning and preparation to the seamless execution of each aspect of the services, the serving team demonstrated unwavering commitment and passion. Their selfless service and attention to detail ensured that every attendee experienced the full depth of the Easter celebration.

The induction ceremony for our new Eucharistic Ministers was conducted with solemnity and joy. Each member demonstrated a profound understanding of their role in serving the congregation, fostering a sense of spiritual connection and communion. Their commitment to upholding the sacredness of the Eucharist was evident, instilling confidence in their ability to carry out their duties with reverence and grace.

I also take this opportunity to thank both Priscilla and Sandhya for beautifying the church with their amazing floral arrangements.

I am also grateful to all members of the congregation who in one way or another helped with the cleaning of the church.

I am also grateful for the refreshments after the service which helps to bring us together as a worshipping community, thank you for being on the Rota.

And finally, a huge thank you to everyone for being a vibrant member of St. Agatha and St. Barnabas.

Fr Thomas Singh

Priest-in-Charge

Vice-Chairman's Report

Without doubt the most important event in the life of our Parish in the past year has been the end of the interregnum which had followed the retirement of Fr John Luff and the arrival of our new Parish Priest, Fr Thomas Singh. Fr Thomas in fact started work in the Parish in June 2023, but he was formally Licensed by the then Acting Bishop of Birmingham, and Installed by the Archdeacon of Birmingham, at a Mass of the Holy Spirit which was celebrated by Bishop Paul Thomas SSC of Oswestry on 26 September 2023. The mass was a joyous occasion and greatly enjoyed by all. Fr Thomas combines his

ministry to our Parish with his duties as a Hospital Chaplain for an NHS Trust, and is a very busy man, but he and his family have already become well-loved members of the Parish community.

Colin Goodier

Lay-Vice Chairman of the PCC

[Report on proceedings of PCC](#)

Since the arrival of Fr Thomas as our Priest-in-Charge there have been 12 members of the Parochial Church Council (“PCC”).

The PCC has met on the following occasions:

27 June 2023; 22 October 2023; 21 January 2024 and 21 April 2024.

Colin Goodier

Lay Vice Chairman of the PCC

[Report on Electoral Rolls](#)

The Roll for St Agatha’s stands at

The Roll for St Barnabas’ stands at

Colin Goodier

Electoral Roll Officer

[St Agatha Treasurer](#)

Please see the accounts that follow this statement.

2023 was dominated by the ebb and flow of funds for the kitchenette/WC project and the end-of-year balance accordingly shows a substantial drop in our balance, the previous year having been inflated by grants received for the project but not yet spent.

Energy costs were not the issue they were in 2022 and we continued to benefit from a three-year fixed price electricity deal from Scottish & Southern in which our unit price is around 45% less than a typical domestic rate. Gas – from Total Energies – is priced at around 50% of standard domestic rates. The heating oil market is far less volatile and long-term deals are impossible for a user of our scale. Unfortunately, in 2024 a leak in the supply feeder to our boiler wasted 900 litres of heating oil costing around £800. The leak was small, but it was two days before it was discovered.

CCLA have been somewhat difficult to deal with, this year; they even failed to issue correct year-end statements and ‘lost’ payments by us for a period of almost 2 months. We currently have 7156 property shares and 1865 investment shares valued at £51467 on 31st Dec 2023; this gain of £12475 is not shown in the accounts as it is virtual but advice to treasurers may change, and we may have to include end-of-year valuations in future accounts. CCLA recently conducted a webinar for church treasurers with reference to the property fund: it has consistently outperformed comparator funds yielding income of over 5% pa and valuation growth despite dropping in value by 10%. The investment

fund has grown in value by 30% over the same eight-year period, so overall we have gained income and increased asset value.

I am grateful to organisations who have not charged us for services or have donated equipment they have no further use for. Among these are the Stirchley Space Agency and the University of Birmingham.

Thanks also to Mrs Goodier for paying in our cash collections into one of the few TSB branches left. It is worth noting that we can accept payment through PayPal, by contactless card and by BACS. Thanks also to Mr Bolton for his work with envelopes and the Gift Aid tax rebate scheme administered by HMRC. We also benefit from VAT rebates on major work to the building - a privilege enjoyed by all Grade 1 or II listed places of worship. Thinking about the future, do please remember Saint Agatha's in your will.

But I am most grateful to you, the congregation of Saint Agatha's for your continued support. It enables us to carry on with catholic mission in this spectacular building - an all too rare Christian presence in Sparkbrook.

Gareth Rainford

Treasurer, St Agatha's

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Agatha's Sparkbrook

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 6

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examinations, no matter has come to my attention :

- 1 Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
_to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act;
_ to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

G.P. Holland, F.C.A.



44 Rowney Croft
Hall Green
Birmingham

Date

18/3/24

Treasurer's Confirmation for St Agatha's Sparkbrook
Birmingham

For the year ended 31st December 2023

As Treasurer- on behalf of the PCC- I confirm that these accounts have been prepared
in accordance with the relevant legislation and fully reflect the underlying entries in the
books and records for the year



GARETH RAINFORD- TREASURER

DATE

16/3/24

St Agatha, Sparkbrook PCC Birmingham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	50,363.02	27,070.00	-	77,433.02	58,585.05
Activities for generating funds	14,094.76	(5,000.00)	-	9,094.76	8,423.92
Investment income	4,529.45	-	-	4,529.45	2,111.23
Incoming resources from charitable activities	399.00	-	-	399.00	-
Other incoming resources	1,958.00	13,238.30	-	15,196.30	275.40
Total income	71,344.23	35,308.30	-	106,652.53	69,395.60
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of generating voluntary income	312.20	-	-	312.20	717.23
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	47,587.62	-	-	47,587.62	39,896.43
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used	(10,000.00)	87,154.16	-	77,154.16	2,525.94
Total expenditure	37,899.82	87,154.16	-	125,053.98	43,139.60
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	33,444.41	(51,845.86)	-	(18,401.45)	26,256.00
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	15,780.36	48,460.00	-	64,240.36	3,639.01
Gross transfers between funds - out	(64,240.36)	-	-	(64,240.36)	(3,639.01)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(15,015.59)	(3,385.86)	-	(18,401.45)	26,256.00
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	74,767.96	19,600.80	-	94,368.76	68,112.76
Total funds carried forward	59,752.37	16,214.94	-	75,967.31	94,368.76

St Agatha, Sparkbrook PCC Birmingham

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Current assets		
1501: TSB Current Account	6,091.17	7,328.87
1502: CCLA Inv Acct CB3040913 was 777481001S	29,613.39	29,613.39
1503: CCLF Deposit Account (Old - Closed)	-	-
1505: CCLA Deposit Restoration Account CB3040911 was 777481001D	31,531.34	48,695.09
1507: Lloyds TSB Spec Int (Closed)	-	-
1508: Leeds Bulding Society (Closed)	-	-
1509: CCLA Property Fund CB3040912 was 777481001P	9,109.41	9,109.41
1510: Other assets	-	-
Total Current assets	76,345.31	94,746.76
Liabilities		
6699: Agency collections	378.00	378.00
Total Liabilities	378.00	378.00
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	75,967.31	94,368.76
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	(18,401.45)	26,256.00
Z01: Starting balances	94,368.76	68,112.76
Total Reserves	75,967.31	94,368.76

Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	59,140.00	73,089.18
Designated	612.37	1,678.78
Restricted	16,214.94	19,600.80
Endowment	-	-
Total	75,967.31	94,368.76

St Agatha, Sparkbrook PCC Birmingham

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
1101 - Gift Aid giving	17,810.00	-	20.00	-	17,830.00	11,773.00
1102 - Envelope scheme	2,211.00	-	-	-	2,211.00	3,007.00
1103 - Income tax recovered	9,487.11	-	-	-	9,487.11	4,636.85
1105 - Plate Collection	1,275.63	-	-	-	1,275.63	1,092.85
1106 - Sundry donations	9,190.41	(1,050.00)	(4,950.00)	-	3,190.41	1,268.60
1107 - Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-
1108 - Covenanted giving	1,560.00	-	-	-	1,560.00	1,560.00
1110 - Square electronic income	-	-	-	-	-	14.71
1173 - Grants received	2,878.87	7,000.00	32,000.00	-	41,878.87	14,514.63
1174 - Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	20,717.41
1112 - Church magazine-sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
1113 - Church magazine-adverts	-	-	-	-	-	-
1114 - Book stall sales	-	-	-	-	-	8.00
1115 - Hall Rent	4,365.90	4,323.38	-	-	8,689.28	7,683.71
1171 - Fund raising income	405.48	-	-	-	405.48	732.21
1172 - Appeals	5,000.00	-	(5,000.00)	-	-	-
1121 - Rent	1,205.20	488.00	-	-	1,693.20	-
1122 - Dividends	829.73	-	-	-	829.73	1,635.64
1123 - Interest received	2,006.52	-	-	-	2,006.52	475.59
1111 - Fees - weddings etc	-	399.00	-	-	399.00	-
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	58,225.85	11,160.38	22,070.00	-	91,456.23	69,120.20
Other incoming resources						
1109 - VAT Exemption Scheme	-	-	13,238.30	-	13,238.30	275.40
1161 - Asset surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-
1162 - Insurance Claims Received	1,958.00	-	-	-	1,958.00	-
Other incoming resources Totals	1,958.00	-	13,238.30	-	15,196.30	275.40
Incoming resources Grand totals	60,183.85	11,160.38	35,308.30	-	106,652.53	69,395.60

Resources used

Costs of generating funds

1361 - Stewardship expenses	57.20	-	-	-	57.20	52.58
1363 - Publicity	255.00	-	-	-	255.00	664.65
Costs of generating funds Totals	312.20	-	-	-	312.20	717.23

Charitable activities

1301 - Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	23.17
1302 - Organ Maintenance	837.60	-	-	-	837.60	1,292.40
1303 - Sacristy supplies	527.04	-	-	-	527.04	506.12
1304 - Service books	65.00	-	-	-	65.00	-

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
1305 - Training aids	-	-	-	-	-	-
1306 - C/mag-printing etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
1307 - Salaries	4,030.00	-	-	-	4,030.00	3,315.00
1308 - Other expenses	360.00	500.00	-	-	860.00	312.20
1309 - Expenses - administration	181.00	-	-	-	181.00	350.00
1310 - Energy Costs	2,545.98	1,261.02	-	-	3,807.00	5,050.84
1311 - Routine maintenance	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	666.90
1313 - Insurances	6,391.04	1,806.47	-	-	8,197.51	7,748.92
1314 - Diocesan Quota	8,800.00	-	-	-	8,800.00	8,480.00
1315 - Sundries - buildings	13,223.10	123.08	-	-	13,346.18	6,344.22
1317 - Postage	-	-	-	-	-	-
1318 - Stationery	42.50	-	-	-	42.50	-
1319 - Telephone and Broadband	287.99	-	-	-	287.99	243.09
1331 - Missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-	-
1332 - Church societies	260.00	-	-	-	260.00	210.00
1333 - Charities eg Oxfam	-	5,360.00	-	-	5,360.00	5,210.00
1351 - Bank charges	136.27	14.53	-	-	150.80	128.57
1352 - Other Mgmt costs	205.00	-	-	-	205.00	15.00
1353 - Legal fees	-	330.00	-	-	330.00	-
1354 - Architects fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
1362 - Social expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities Totals	38,192.52	9,395.10	-	-	47,587.62	39,896.43
Governance costs						
Governance costs Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used						
1312 - Major work to Organ	-	-	-	-	-	-
1316 - Diocese Funeral Charge	-	-	-	-	-	-
1320 - Major Building Work	(10,000.00)	-	87,154.16	-	77,154.16	2,525.94
Other resources used Totals	(10,000.00)	-	87,154.16	-	77,154.16	2,525.94
Resources used Grand totals	28,504.72	9,395.10	87,154.16	-	125,053.98	43,139.60

The Statement of Financial Activities for 2023 shows total income (in column 3) of £10,905 and total expenditure of £13,323.

This gave a deficit of £2,418, which when added to the balance at the start of the year, £3,853, gave a closing balance of £1,435.

The summary at the bottom of the Statement shows the Total Net Assets of the Church.

This equals the Total Funds of the Church at the end of the year, namely £1,435.

Finally, thanks are due to Francis Bolton for submitting the Gift Aid claim, on behalf of St Barnabas, for 2023.

Roger McDonald

Treasurer, St Barnabas.

Birmingham, St Barnabas Balsall Heath.

	Unrestricted Funds General Purposes	Restricted Funds Repairs & Renewals	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
Income				
Planned Giving (Gift Aid)	4,000	0	4,000	2,340
Income Tax Recovered	585	0	585	422
Cash Collections	173	0	173	79
Energy Subsidy	0	0	0	543
Donations	400	0	400	335
Church Hall	5,584	163	5,747	3,563
Interest & Dividends	0	0	0	0
Fees Received	0	0	0	0
Legacy	0	0	0	478
Total Income	10,742	163	10,905	7,760
Expenditure				
Clergy Expenses	237	0	237	397
Common Fund	2,872	0	2,872	2,872
Missions & Charities	140	0	140	140
Insurance	2,594	0	2,594	2,797
Church Running Costs	413	545	958	606
Church Utilities	1,464	0	1,464	798
Salaries & Support	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Church Hall	3,695	163	3,858	1,948
Professional Charges	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	12,615	708	13,323	10,758
Surplus / (Deficit)	-1,873	-545	-2,418	-2,998
Valuation Increase / (Decrease)	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0
Opening Fund Balances	18,241	-14,388	3,853	6,852
Closing Fund Balances	16,368	-14,933	1,435	3,854
Represented By :-	2,023	2,022		
Freehold Land	75	75		
Cash at Bank	1,423	3,693		
Debtors	189	304		
Less Creditors	-252	-218		
Total Net Assets	1,435	3,854		

7 Reports on fabric, goods and ornaments:

(a) for St Agatha

St Agatha's Church is Grade 1 Listed and classed by Historic England as a Major Parish Church, but the building, while magnificent and beautiful, was completed in 1901, and had always suffered from the lack of a kitchen, and from the presence of only one WC, and that in a remote and inaccessible corner of the building, and which could not be made accessible to disabled people. A long-running fund-raising campaign had been launched, but building costs increased more rapidly than funds could be raised.

Eventually, however, we were able to have the building work commenced in April 2023, and it was finished in September 2023.

The total cost was over £66,000.00. We had been greatly helped by a gift of £4,000 from the family of Quintin and Margaret Greatrex, both of whom were for many decades stalwart members of the congregation, and another of £1,250 from Fr Canon John Herve, a former Vicar of the Parish. We must also extend our thanks for the following grants:

The Harlow Trust	20,000
The Benefact Trust	4,381
The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust t	5,000
The National Churches Trust	25,000
The Garfield Weston Foundation	7,000

These important new facilities were formally opened by Bishop Paul of Oswestry at the St Agatha's Patronal Festival on 3 February 2024.

A less happy event was that in June 2023, for the third time in five years, the water supply pipe from the water main in the Stratford Road to the Church and Church Hall was found to be leaking, and we were served with notice requiring that the old lead pipe must be removed and replaced by a plastic one. That work has been done. The cost was £6,400.00 +VAT. Our insurers contributed £1,958.00 to the cost.

Colin Goodier/ David Lane

Churchwardens, St Agatha

(b) for St Barnabas

This year has been a rather frustrating one so far as getting work done at the church is concerned. Our long-standing builder, Lee Wade, failed to provide a quotation for the first stage of the works of repair and replacement recommended by Stephen Oliver, our architect, in his Quinquennial Inspection Report of September 2022 despite many reminders. I can only assume that he no longer wishes to undertake work at St Barnabas' Church. A pity after 10 years and much good work. I asked Stephen Oliver for the names of builders who might be interested in doing work at our church and he has supplied the

names of J.L. James Conservation and Cooper Whyte. I will approach them later in the Spring for a quotation. Most of the work relates to roof coverings, rainwater disposal goods, clearance of debris from gullies, the north door and the concrete lintel over the hall entrance door.

In August Mrs Noreen Khan, the owner/manager of St Barnabas' Nursery Limited, asked for permission to lay artificial grass in the church garden for the nursery children to play on. The 'St Barnabas' Sub-Committee' gave her the go-ahead for this provided that it was at the nursery's expense. The garden, prior to this, became soaking wet, muddy, and unusable after rain. The PCC, at its meeting on 22nd October 2023, commented that 'There was discussion about the use of artificial lawn as it was not thought to be environmentally friendly'. I did not disagree with this sentiment but considered that any possible impact on the environment was outweighed by the benefits afforded to the disadvantaged children, many with disabilities, who use the nursery. The play area looks attractive as well as providing a safe place for the children to play on. It has been a successful initiative on Mrs Khan's part.

Mrs Khan asked for permission to erect a rain shelter (originally a conservatory) in part of the church garden to provide space for the increasing number of children using the nursery. The PCC gave its consent for this as did the Diocese, but having spent 'so much' on the artificial grass has put this project on hold for the time being. Mrs Khan has obtained confirmation from the City Council that planning permission will not be required. [Stop Press- the work is being carried out during the Easter holiday].

St Barnabas' church, hall and contents are insured under a Parish Plus policy under a long-term agreement which expires on 24th March 2027 for £9,980,000 on a loss limit basis. Terrorism cover is included. There is an excess of £500 per loss. The church received a discount of 10% for agreeing to a long-term agreement.

The portable fire extinguishers were inspected by Chubb in June and a Certificate of Conformity issued.

No amendments have been made to the inventory of articles appertaining to the church during the year and the logbook, which sets out details of maintenance work, is up to date.

Evesons, who supply fuel oil to St Barnabas', and have for many years serviced the boiler, no longer have a engineer on their staff who services boilers. I approached SMS, who service St Agatha's boiler, and one of their engineers visited St Barnabas' in February and inspected our boiler. He detected what he thought was asbestos in the interior of the boiler and was, therefore, for safety reasons unable to proceed with the service although he did say that SMS could repair the boiler in the event of a breakdown. This was confirmed by his superior. I have asked Bradley Environmental, who carried out an

asbestos survey at St Barnabas' in 2015, to revisit the church to clarify whether or not asbestos is present in the boiler. A reply is awaited.

We have given permission to Noreen Khan to hold parenting classes for nursery parents in St Barnabas' weekly commencing in May for 8 weeks.

Graham McDonald

Churchwarden St Barnabas

Junior Church

I was really pleased to do the intercessions at Christmas, I enjoyed serving this year. The Easter Egg hunt was great. Some of the games we played at junior church were great too. I enjoyed Junior Church in Lent and all the services in Holy Week and for Easter.

William Skerrett

Junior Church Member

School Visits

Over the past year St Agatha's has reconnected with our neighbour, Ladypool School, in quite a dramatic and unexpected way! Last summer term, the entire staff team came on a visit to St Agatha's one afternoon, for a training session. Shortly afterwards there were visits from Year 1 and Reception. I discovered that there was a job going and applied. I started work as Teaching Assistant at Ladypool on the 1st of September and my contract is due to be extended for at least another year. I have been encouraged to share details of church life, my faith and the Christian Year. We have loaned resources to school and two colleagues attended our St Agatha's Patronal Festival. We have been allowed use of the school carpark for evening events. Overall, it seems a very positive relationship.

During Inter-Faith Week in November, we welcomed return visits by two classes from Christ Church School and also from Jamia Islamia boys school. We are very grateful to Fr Colin Butler for leading those visits. Also to Colin Goodier and Janet Shufflebotham.

Priscilla Rainford

PCC Secretary

Report on the Deanery Synod-

Robert and Victoria have continued to attend DS meetings on-line this year. Robert also represented St Agatha's at the Deanery service at St Martin's to welcome Michael +Birmingham. At the time of writing, Robert was due to attend an in-person DS meeting on 20th April where the members of the Diocesan Finance team will be speaking.

Victoria Skerrett

Deanery Synod Representative

Social Report:

Last summer Viola organised a day out to The Battle of Bosworth Visitor Centre in June and a great day out was had by all who went.

We've had some superb church lunches making the most of our new Kitchen.

The photos are from the St Agatha's meal out in February.



This year Catherine is organising a weekend in Walsingham at the end of August and the places have been taken up very quickly. Listen out for other events that may happen soon!

It is most important to pay tribute to Viola Kershaw for her dedicated work in keeping the social side of the parish going over the years. Most of us have fond memories of excellent events and days out that are thanks to planning and hard work by Viola. Now she has decided to step back a bit from organising, although we trust that she will still come along for the rides and the food! Thank you, Viola.

Also, we will miss Viola's beautiful flower arrangements that have cheered our entrance to St Agatha's. Most of the flowers selected by Viola have been from her garden and therefore she has been leading the way in sustainability. Most churches in the UK have just woken up to realise that this is what we should be aiming for! Her work has been inspired, and her expertise and experience need to be celebrated.

Thanks are due to Janet Shufflebotham and all the others who have helped in organising events.

Priscilla Rainford

PCC Secretary

Safeguarding –

Stephanie Wheeler has been kept very busy checking that all the necessary paperwork regarding Safeguarding is in place for both churches and all partner organisations that use our premises.

The Church of England has had experts design new programmes so they can store all the DBS checks and training completed by everyone connected with our churches. Once done correctly, it will inform when training and DBS checks need to be re-taken. There will be role descriptions and risk assessments for all church activities and this is underway. All volunteers will have to be profiled then undertake training as required.

We can expect an over-view inspection by external persons of the Diocese Safeguarding team around October half term so it is crucial that everyone does the training as soon as possible. Eg DBS check took over a year for 16 people. If we don't comply and meet all the levels of the requirements and something does occur, it could affect our reputation and insurance cover.

We are very grateful to Steph for all the hard work she has put in to making sure we are compliant and ask for everyone to cooperate if they are asked to provide information or complete training.

Priscilla Rainford

PCC Secretary

Brand new kitchen!



The new front door!



