

As I have written here before, we are so lucky to live in this beautiful village of Findon, or in Clapham or Patching, our friendly Parish! Those of you who came to Findon Sheep Fair will know what a wonderful day it was, with perfect weather this year. It is a real showcase event for our village, but it would not be possible to run such an event without the large number of volunteers who work tirelessly, not just on the day but for weeks (and some folk for months) beforehand. Similarly, our fantastic shop relies on a great team of volunteers to run, and Findon Litter Pickers and Robin's volunteer gentlemen keep Findon looking tidy and welcoming. Well done all our current volunteers!

But did you know there are many other opportunities to volunteer here in Findon? Our successful Primary School is looking for some new governors, as a couple have moved away due to new work commitments. Being a school Governor is really rewarding and the Diocese offers excellent free training. Do contact me or the School Office for more information.

Our churches are also heavily reliant on volunteers! There are lots of jobs in our churches too and more volunteers mean that each of you needs to do a job less often!

At Findon, and at Clapham and Patching, we have a fantastic group of Friends and **new members are always welcome**. I wrote about this last month too! Joining the Friends for a small annual fee (currently £10 per household, although more is always welcome) gives advanced warning of fun fundraising events like quizzes and walks, events like the Sheep Fair where we usually have a stall, and occasional church and grounds tidy-up days, so you can plan your diaries to include these. Both Friends groups are registered charities and raise much needed funds to help with the cost of maintaining our three beautiful ancient Grade 1 listed church buildings. Please consider joining one (or both!) of these groups. A small committee, annually elected, meets 4-6 times a year to plan events over light refreshments (tea/coffee and sometimes a glass of wine!) in a friendly atmosphere at one of our homes, and we would love to welcome some new faces and fresh ideas.

The AGM for Findon Friends will take place on Sunday 10th November (Remembrance Sunday) at 3pm in St John the Baptist Church, with a cream tea and time to chat after the formal short meeting to elect officers for the coming year. Please put the date in the diary and join us! The Friends of Clapham and Patching hold their AGM at Clapham and Patching Village Hall with tea and cake on Sunday 24th November at 2pm. Again, new friends very welcome. If you have recently moved to live in one of our villages, do come along to get to know more people!

Thank you to everyone who does volunteer in the villages in whatever capacity; all you do is what makes our villages such a special place. A little time given freely in a busy life makes a huge difference!

We have a small group of friends coming from our link Lutheran Parish in Bavaria 26th -30th October and are planning a programme for them while they are here. Please keep an eye on our website for more information and join us if you can. Thank you to the families who have offered to host this time.

Every blessing,

Helena