

As you read this, I hope you have managed to find time to enjoy some of the good weather we had in August. Fingers crossed now for a fine September.

Looking in the Visitors Book at Findon Church, I noticed two new entries in early August, both expressing surprise they hadn't visited our beautiful church before, having lived in the Worthing area for some years. This sentiment has been echoed by guests at weddings over the years too. I'm sure there are similar comments at Clapham and Patching churches. Part of the charm of our ancient buildings is that they are hidden off the road! It set me thinking, I wonder how many of you readers have not visited our church, especially if you are new to the village. All three churches are open daily, as well as for weekly Services, and are well worth a visit to admire the architecture and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. There are seats outside too, where you can admire the view as you listen to the birds. Often, I see walkers resting outside one of the churches, perhaps enjoying a well-earned snack.

Of course, these ancient buildings take a lot of looking after, and I am hugely grateful to our Church Wardens for all their care in ensuring any building work necessary is addressed as soon as possible (and for applying for grants from various organisations, some of which are successful!). This is of course expensive! We would not be able to maintain our lovely buildings without the support of the Friends of St John the Baptist Church and Friends of Clapham and Patching. Both groups run fundraising events through the year, which are always great fun, and this means that our Church Council can approach them for financial support when needed. All funds are generated for the maintenance of the building concerned.

So, are you a 'Friend' yet? New members are always welcome. It is simple to join for a minimum donation of £10 annually, ensuring you are emailed details of any fundraising events in good time, plus an occasional newsletter showing what Friends have done recently. Volunteers are always welcome at the church clear-ups organised a couple of times a year too, and there are always great refreshments at these! This year, the Findon Church Friends are responsible for the main refreshment area on the Green by the marquee, so do stop by on the day.

The committee meets roughly six times a year to agree any formal business but also for refreshments and some light hearted banter. Most time is spent on discussing and planning fund raising events - which is an important aspect of our financial objectives and many of you will already know some of our existing committee members - including myself, Gerald Hibbs, Ian Hollyhomes and Tessa McCormick. So, some very familiar faces. We would welcome a couple of extra committee members, with maybe some fresh ideas for fundraising. Why not come along and try us out at our next meeting; fun, friends and laughter all together - and in a great cause! Please contact me if you'd like to know more!

Every blessing,

*Helena*