

The beginning of June this year is all about thanksgiving for 70 years of dedication to our Monarch's role as Queen as the country celebrates her Platinum Jubilee. As a church, we pray every week for our Queen and the Royal family, as we give thanks for her unwavering example of faith in God, which keeps her positive even in times of extreme difficulty and challenge. There will be special prayers for her at our Services on Sunday 5th June, and our worship together will include a favourite hymn of hers. Our Findon Worship at 10am will be a Jubilee Songs of Praise. I know of several street parties and gatherings across the villages, and hope you will all enjoy the extra Bank Holiday. At our Messy Church session on Tuesday, 7th June, we will be having some of our activities linked to the Jubilee theme too.

On Saturday 11th June, the Findon School Revels make a welcome post-Covid return! Starting as usual with a procession down from the school with the May Queen and her attendants to Pond Green, where each class will display their country dancing skills, the fun will continue back at the school with Maypole dancing, the traditional sword dance, stalls and refreshments and of course the crowning of the May Queen (yes, I know it is June!). I hope to see many of you there enjoying the festivities, supporting the pupils and of course helping to raise funds for the school.

You may have heard that there is an urgent need to replace the lining of the school swimming pool, which will cost a lot of money. There is a crowd-funding page set up for this; please consider giving a donation towards maintaining this valuable Village amenity. As well as ensuring that all our pupils are able to swim by the time they move on to secondary school, the pool is used through the summer months by many other families. Last summer, it was a joy to hear the laughter from the pool in my Rectory garden, after the sad silence of 2020! Living as we do near the sea, it is vital that our children learn water safety and are able to swim, for their safety as well as for the enjoyment they get from being in the water!

Please spread the word about our Baby and Toddler Group, 'Lambstails', meeting on Tuesday mornings of termtime, 10.30-12; unless we get more families coming along, it is unlikely we will continue this group. It is so worthwhile for young mums and dads (or grandparents doing childcare!) to have a chance to relax and chat while their young ones learn important social skills as they enjoy our range of toys. This is held in Findon Village Hall, except for the 3rd Tuesday of each month when we meet in Findon Church (as the Hall is booked out that morning). We also hope to start a session in Clapham and Patching Hall from September, on a Thursday morning. All pre-schoolers welcome with their carer!

Looking ahead, we have lots to look forward to in July, so save these dates in your diaries! Clapham and Patching Friends are holding a Flower Festival in Clapham Church on 2nd and 3rd July. This will be well worth a visit, especially if you haven't been to Clapham Church before. More details in next month's magazine or look on the Parish website! Then on Saturday July 10th, there will be another Andrew Bernardi Music Group Concert held here in Findon, details of tickets to be found on bernardimusicgroup.com/shipleigh-arts-festival All this year's concerts are themed around the 'Green Corridor', focusing on the beauty of nature in this part of Sussex where we are so fortunate to live. Wonderful refreshments are included in the ticket price, including a glass of Nyetimber, along with world class music. I hope you can join us!

Every blessing, *Helena*