



Do you know?

There is a community support group for Findon, Clapham and Patching that provides visits to those that are ill or infirm, comforts people that are terminally ill and supports those that are bereaved. It celebrates marriage, welcomes new born and supports families. It educates and inspires spiritual growth in children, young people and adults of all ages. It responds to calls for help from anyone in need.

Your support for this ministry would be much appreciated. This wonderful organisation is of course, the churches of St John the Baptist, Findon, St Mary the Virgin, Clapham and St John the Divine, Patching led by Rector, Helena Buqué and Curate Colin Cox.

Helena and Colin spend a lot of their time helping others in our three villages, Findon, Clapham and Patching. Listening to expressions of need informs services they provide which are extensive, including;

Visiting people at home, in hospital, in hospice or in care homes whilst supporting carers or people that have been bereaved.

Acting as governors at our parish schools and providing spiritual guidance, organising a weekly youth club for teenagers and arranging for them to attend youth camp.

Providing family support and raising funds for charities.

Providing services for marriages, funerals, baptisms and conducting several services a week in our 3 churches. Differing worship opportunities are available, traditional said, services using the Book of Common Prayer, modern Sung Communion and non-Communion services, both formal and informal and Messy Church with after school craft activities for children followed by a meal for all the family.

Styles of baptisms, weddings and funerals can vary according to the wishes of participants. Home communion is provided by the clergy who along with lay people make home visits.



People are talking about their experiences of the churches of Findon, Clapham and Patching;

“When we moved to the village it was lovely to have a member of the local church knock on the door and then introduce us to other villagers. It made us feel welcome and at home.”

There are sometimes interesting events at church services. After a child brought a toy to church the parents said to the rector,

“Thank you for making us all feel so welcome at church. I don’t know many congregations that would gladly welcome a four foot lion into their community”



At Messy Church, a Dad who brings his children said that Messy Church is,

“Marvellous” and a boy that attends regularly thinks that,

“The cakes are the best thing at Messy Church.”

People whose marriage services were led by Helena commented,

” It was great to have our gospel choir at the wedding. Everyone stood up and joined in.”

Another couple said,

“Helena and everyone were so helpful. The wedding was just as we wanted it, the service, musicians, solo singers, flowers, in such a lovely setting”

A member of a family whose Dad’s funeral Helena conducted said,

“Dad would have been pleased that we were able to play a recording of his favourite song at his funeral. We departed to *Sultans of Swing* by Dire Straits”

At a funeral where recordings of classical music were played, it was said,

“The music was beautiful, peaceful and calming but also uplifting.”

The ambience of our churches is very special as witnessed by entries in our visitors’ books. A child’s entry that was accompanied by a drawing of Dad is,

“I love this place it is cool. I like learning about Jesus and stories”

Another entry is,

“Thank you for leaving the door open enabling strangers to enter in peace.”

A beautiful statement but funding is needed for these ministries and services to continue. Whether or not you attend church you could contribute by donation or by regular giving.

People are asking how they can support the ministry of Findon, Clapham and Patching churches who care for individuals, families and communities in our villages, at all stages of life and at times of celebration or loss.

The church may seem wealthy because of the tangible assets it has but it needs money to function.

The cost of running the churches comes from donations from individuals. Costs include clergy stipend and expenses, for those that work voluntarily, lighting and heating the churches, insurance of the buildings contents and personal liability, administration costs, printing, music license and organist fees. The weekly cost is £1,500.00

Whether or not you attend church you can contribute by donation or by regular giving. Whatever you can spare would be most welcome.

Monetary donations can be made in a number of ways;

Legacies.

Collections in services. For those who pay income tax, donations placed in a completed yellow envelope will enable gift aid.

Parish giving scheme. Completion of a non-incremental direct debit form enables collection of donations from the bank. There is an option for increments if wished. This scheme pays gift aid to the church regularly, removing the need to make an annual claim. More information on the parish giving scheme is available from Ian Hollyhomes Tel: 01903 872475.

More information about any services, donations or regular giving is also available from:

The churches of St John the Baptist, Findon, St Mary the Virgin, Clapham and St John the Divine, Rector, Helena Buqué and Curate Colin Cox who are based at The Rectory, School Hill, Findon, BN14 0TR Tel: 01903 873601 Email: findon.rectory@btinternet.com

You may not go to church but the church is always there for you.

