

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Kate Sharpe

Findern Parish Rooms, Lower Green, Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AS

Tel: 07444 085807

Minutes of the Annual Meeting for the Parish of Findern **held at Highfields Spencer Academy** **on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 6.30pm**

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, S Holmes, M Ratcliffe, and C Smith.

Also present: Mrs K Sharpe (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 9 members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor B Dosanjh, A Pratt, R Rose, T Scott and M Woodhouse.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, subject to one correction: -

The report for All Saints Church was submitted by Pat Maddock, not Peter Maddock as stated.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following report for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Good evening and welcome to the 2022 Annual Parish meeting of Findern Parish Council. Thank you to the Principal Anna Jones for allowing us to hold our first meeting here at the Highfields Spencer Academy.

There have been some changes to the Parish Council this year with Councillors Simon Holmes, Adam Pratt and Tim Scott joining us last June, this brings us to a full complement of ten Councillors.

This year, has again been a quieter one than previous years, with us not being able to hold as many events due to the Covid Pandemic.

But firstly, I would like to say thank you to a few people...

I'd like to personally thank Vice-Chairman Mike Ratcliffe for his support this year, and we'd both like to thank all of our fellow Councillors for not only their support to us both but for everything they do and all of their hard work. It has not been an easy year with the restrictions that have been in place.

The whole of the Council would like to thank our Clerk, Kate Sharpe. She works diligently in the background, making sure we are doing exactly what we are supposed to be doing when we should be doing it. Without her support we would not be able to serve Findern or Highfields properly.

A big thank you to all involved in The Footpaths Group, they have been working extremely hard on Cardales Meadow and Cotes Close all year. Now we have a Licence agreement with the land owner

they are also taking over the much-needed work in Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole, this has recently begun with necessary tree work being carried out. I feel a special mention should go to Joan Tidy and Steve Tiso who attend every Parish Council meeting and keep us so well informed.

Another thank you must go to our Lengthsman in Findern, Dave Tidy and our newly appointed Highfields Parish Warden Richard Yates. They not only do the necessary task of litter picking but they keep an eye out for any problems and enable these to be acted on quickly and safely by the correct agency.

We would also to thank the Councillors for the Willington and Findern wards, Councillors Martyn Ford and Andrew Macpherson for their ongoing support and prompt response to dealing with local issues.

Now I'll move on to some of the wonderful things we have achieved in the last year-

Our Garden of Remembrance has flourished this year with new planting, including daffodil bulbs that were donated by Woodgrow Horticulture and a good maintenance program, this is due to Councillor Ratcliffe keeping a close eye on it.

We have had a new tenant in the former Parish rooms and her Café business is doing very well and is well supported by locals and visiting walkers.

We have 'Pick up or Pay up' stencils on the pavements in both Findern and Highfields in known problem areas for dog fouling.

A Speed Watch Group has been successfully set up to try and help with speeding through the village.

We have successfully supplied and fitted a number of much needed Dog Waste bins on the Highfields Estate.

The Remembrance Day Service on The Green in November was well supported with special thanks to serving RAF officer Councillor Tim Scott for honouring the memories of the fallen of Findern from World War 1 and 2.

Festive Findern was a huge success, beginning with the Christmas Tree Lights switch on, again the fabulous Christmas tree was donated by Woodgrow Horticulture and was wonderful to see with its coloured lights. The Carol Service on The Green was also very well attended. The event on the 22 December, which was also on The Green, was a huge success, again being very well supported. Thanks again to everyone who played a part in the organisation and running of all of these events, without your support and hard work they would not happen.

Councillor Martin Woodhouse has recently planted two trees at King George V playing field on Heath Lane, a Sessile Oak to commemorate Prince Phillip and a Field Maple for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee, he has also sowed wild flower seeds on the unused grassy area next to the playing fields on Baxter's Way.

We have supported a number of Charities this year-

- *A grant was given to the Findern Historical Society for Archive boxes;*
- *£500 to the newly formed Findern Social Group;*
- *£500 to the South Derbyshire CVS Winter giving campaigns foodbank;*
- *£250 to The Royal British Legion poppy appeal;*

- £100 to Bill Newman for his charity bike ride for the South Derbyshire Mental Health Association;
- And £200 to the Hospital Pyjamas charity at the Royal Derby.

We have a Duke of Edinburgh student doing one hour a week of litter picking on the Highfields Estate.

Lastly, we held our first event this year, an Easter Egg hunt on the 16 April at King George V playing field, it was a beautiful day and it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves playing games and hunting for Easter eggs.

4 REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS / ORGANISATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

To receive reports on the activities of Local Groups / Organisations for the Year Ending 31 March 2022. This gave an opportunity for groups and organisations active in the village to give an update to residents on their activities over the previous year.

District Council & County Councillors

District and County Councillor, Martyn Ford was present at the meeting and he gave the following report: -

- The large development at Highfields was approaching completion. Over the past year, there had been some issues with the roads, pavements and open spaces and the District and Highways at County were slowly addressing these issues with the consortium of builders.
- The official opening of the new Primary School on the development, Highfields Spencer Academy was to be held on 10 June 2022.
- The Freeport development was progressing. This large development involving industry and technology would bring benefits and jobs to the area.
- In Findern, improvements to road safety marking had been carried out and the order had been recently made to introduce traffic restrictions around The Green, Lower Green and Doles Lane, which would also improve road safety in these areas.
- Derbyshire County Council were relaxing the criteria for Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to be used in the county; they are inviting Parish Councils to apply to take part in the trial, for Speed Indicator Devices to be introduced at specific sites. Findern Parish Council was keen to take part in the trial and would apply.

Findern Historical Society

A member of Findern Historical Society, Lynette Nash read the report on behalf of the group.

In February this year we restarted regular monthly meetings. We have a varied programme of speakers for the rest of this year, except for June when we plan to have a walk at a place of historical interest. In July we are visiting Swarkestone church which has the tomb of the last member of the De Fynderne family, but we don't meet in August.

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, we are holding an exhibition in All Saints church, on Sat 4 June from 12 – 4pm while the fete is on, and from 2-4pm on Sunday 5 June. The exhibition will concentrate on the Coronation and local links with the Queen over the last 70 years, but there will also be items of village interest.

Over the past 22 years the Society has collected photos, paperwork and memorabilia which has been housed in various places. Last year it had to be moved again but it gave us a chance to reorganise and catalogue the contents and store the collection in special archival boxes which Murrays kindly agreed to keep for us.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Methodist chapel and visitors are welcome to any meeting.

Findern Village Hall

Rosemary Rose, Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees had submitted the following report, which was read out on her behalf by Councillor Tammy Brown.

The hall remained in lockdown measures until summer 2021, and the majority of groups were keen to delay their return until the September, preferring to wait a few more weeks before restarting classes.

This also coincided with the rolling out of the vaccination programme which meant most people had had some protection against Covid when they returned.

Strict Government guidance was in place regarding cleansing and airing the premises and numbers allowed into the hall minimised. All public places were expected to follow this guidance. Face masks were to be worn at all meetings.

Preschool continued to operate throughout the summer for a small number of children, so the hall remained in use daily during the week.

Parties and large group gatherings were still not allowed.

The trustees met in early September and fully revised the charges and looked at the distribution of hours, across the user groups.

It became apparent that there needed to be change to ensure all age groups had activities available to them at the hall.

The preschool decided that they would cease to operate from mid-October 2021, which was a surprise and disappointment to trustees.

In October we welcomed two new trustees Graham Cooke from Highfields estate and Richard Brook from Findern village, taking the trusteeship to 10.

Groups have continued to operate over some challenging months, numbers have reduced in some groups as people have not felt ready to return and two classes have closed due to low numbers.

The whole of Findern & Highfields Estate has been hand delivered a survey to gain their views on activities at the hall they may be interested in.

At the present moment the survey is being analyzed by trustees, and it is hoped that an expansion of activities at the hall will be introduced from this September.

The village Fete, which is the annual fund raiser for the village hall, is happening this year after a two-year break and helpers with this are most welcome for this very large event, which is taking place

during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

The hall roof developed a leak during storm Arward and this is soon to be repaired, which will be a large expense.

Under advice and guidelines from our Village Hall advisors and the Charity Commission the hall continues to operate a cleansing and airing policy within the hall with large group numbers restricted to a maximum of 70 people.

This is no longer mandatory although strongly advised until the Covid pandemic subsides, at the present time infection rates are still very high, and most users of the hall feel reassured by the measures still in place.

We look forward to the future and hope to offer an exciting daytime programme for hall users of all ages.

Findern Footpaths and Conservation Group

Joan Tidy, secretary to the Findern Footpaths and Conservation Group read the report on behalf of the group.

CROW PARK WAY

'The area of ground on the right-hand side of Crow Park Way between the locked gate and the entrance to the bird screen has been planted with bluebells and wild garlic. We are continuing to plant this area with native species of wildflower to increase the period of pollinators and this will be an ongoing project.

Moving down Crow Park Way, it is disappointing that the daffodils planted on the left-hand bank last year have failed to grow but plans are in place to replace the bulbs in the autumn.

Rosliston Forestry Centre have gifted us 10 dogwood whips which have been planted, five on each bank, and hopefully we will see them grow and develop during the spring and summer.

Further ongoing projects are to plant the top of each bank with annual and perennial wildflowers, again to improve pollination and to provide food for birds and bees. It has been a major project during the winter to remove encroaching blackthorn on the banks wherever possible.

CARDALES WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Several hundred native wildflowers have been grown from seed by members of the group and these have been planted out in the meadow, we wait to see how successful this has been.

An area of open ground has been sown with annual wildflower seeds by children from the Old Forge Nursery. The children are now growing sunflower seeds for the group to be planted out around the bird hides later in the spring.

The butterfly bank has now been covered with weed suppressant material and covered in wire netting to prevent damage from rodents. It is hoped shortly to replant the butterfly bank with plants saved when it was cleared earlier in the year. The bank will then be covered with stone chatter and also the skirt around the base. Some buddleia bushes have been planted and a dedication to a late member of the group will be made.

CARDALES WILDLIFE SANCTUARY and POND

As a group we are in the process of applying for a grant to establish this area as a wildlife sanctuary whilst also providing places where the public can view the wildlife without disturbing the inhabitants.

It is planned to build a dead hedge from the memorial tree running parallel to the path along the bottom of the meadow. Wildflowers, including native daffodils, will be planted in front of the hedge. The area between the hedge and the pond is to be cultivated and planted with native wildflower seeds and native shrubs, again to increase all year-round pollination and food for the birds and other mammals.

The pond itself and the surround to the pond area is to be planted up with marginal pond plants. The blackthorn to the left of the pond is to be cut back to allow access to the raptor 'butchers' bench that is already there and it's hoped to place some hedgehog boxes around this area.

Last year a bird hide was placed to the side of the pond for people to be able to view the wildlife without disturbing it. To this end a path has been constructed from the notice board around the back of the vegetated area to the entrance to the hide. It is also proposed to plant two disease resistant elm trees along the length of the dead hedge and possibly plant hawthorn whips along the inside edge of the dead hedge which can be laid in years to come to create a permanent barrier.

We are working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to create this wildlife sanctuary and pond.

We now have a contact for the provision of beehives, which will be followed up and more information will then be provided.

A temporary barrier has been erected around the pond to prevent disturbance to spawning frogs and newts as the biggest danger is from dogs swimming and dragging out the spawn on their coat.

COTES CLOSE BIRD SANCTUARY

The main work in Cote Close this autumn and winter has been to cut back the encroaching blackthorn. Several areas have been cleared, one is an area known as the circle, now left open to being replanted with trees, shrubs and flowers to give a better environment for the local wildlife. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are being asked to advise on the specific planting of this area.

A dead hedge has been constructed to protect the newly planted birch and hazel plantation which has been created to provide a better nesting habitat. As the hedge rots away, it will attract insects which will be food for the birds. The hedge is being constructed using the blackthorn cut back to prevent encroachment and this is a better use than just burning it.

A few small areas of native annual and perennial flower seeds have been sown in the sanctuary to see if there is an advantage with direct sowing.

STANHOPE HOLE AND STANHOPE WOOD

Most of that tree guards have been removed from Stanhope Hole and the same job is being carried out in Stanhope Wood, however, this may have to be left until the autumn due to our own workload at this time.

FOOTPATHS

Throughout the year group members spent 84.5 hours maintaining our Public Rights of Way within the village and keeping stiles, 'A' frames and kissing gates clear of vegetation. Any problems we couldn't deal with ourselves were reported to the Footpaths Officer at DCC.

TRENT AND MERSEY CANAL TOWPATH AND JUBILEE WOOD

The group has adopted a stretch of the towpath from the Nadee to Hicklin's Bridge and passes details of any problems to the Canal and River Trust. Adjacent on a short stretch of the towpath a path has been created through Jubilee Wood and members of the group keep the path tidy and again report any problems we can't deal with ourselves to the Canal and River Trust.

NEW MEMBERS

In the last 12 months we have had three new members join, each with a variety of skills very beneficial to the group.

In the near future on a date to be fixed members of the group will attend a one day first aid course and an introduction into manual handling as part of our ongoing duty of care to the group

VISIT TO TEAN VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

The group are hoping to pay another visit to this excellent nature reserve and get some more tips on how to improve our own sites. There are quite a few wildlife cameras on the reserve and these capture some amazing footage so we hope to be able to install some cameras on our sites too.

Findern Social Group

Mary Goodall read the report on behalf of the group.

We are a new group called Findern Social Group (FSG) and we set up in January 2022. We have eight committee members. We formed this group initially to organise a Soap Box trial in Findern, but later decided to organise more events through the year to raise funds for the Soap Box trials to enhance the grant of £500 from the Parish Council and an anonymous donation.

We have also applied to Martyn Ford for a grant from his community fund. You may think this is a considerable amount of money, but if I told you we've just paid £454 for our annual insurance, which won't cover the soapbox trials, that is for the other events through the year, you will understand why we need funding.

Our first event is on this Friday, 29th April at the village hall where attendees will be able to have a flutter on some dog racing and / or play some games of bingo.

We are attending the village fete where we will be running a bottle tombola and guess the name of a giant teddy bear.

Our third event is a family fun day on 12th June at 2 pm on the King George V playing field where there will be a series of games, skill events and races for all the family to enjoy.

Our Soap Box trials will be on Sunday, the 18th September on Hillside from the junction with Thrushton Close down Hillside turning right past Longlands Mews and finishing in front of the gates. We have a road closure from 12 noon till 6 pm.

We hope to include some refreshment stalls, and hope the Derbyshire Blood Bikes will be in attendance. We will also be offering advice and help with the making of the carts and will be organising workshops over the summer.

There are talks between the Village Hall trustees and FSG regarding monthly cinema meetings in the Village Hall starting in the autumn, but a lot of work is still to be done on that, so watch out for more information.

We meet once a month to discuss our events, but use WhatsApp and emails to sort out the finer points.

There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes and we only hope the residents of Findern including residents of the new Highfields Estate will support our events.

Findern and Friends Women's Institute

President of the Findern and Friends Women's Institute, Mary Bucknell had submitted the following report which was read out by Councillor Chris Smith on her behalf.

During the early months of 2021, Findern and Friends conducted their monthly meetings via Zoom. Generally, these were well attended and we were able to adapt some of our planned activities and alter our speakers to get the most out of the use of the internet. For example, our speakers "zoomed" into our homes from Nottingham, Burton and Suffolk! We also ensured that we remained connected by having smaller group chats via computer or phone and some groups met outside over a cuppa on the canal bank at Mad Hatters or at Mercia Marina.

As Covid restrictions started to be lifted, whilst remaining on Zoom for our main meeting, we began to develop our outside activities further and, liaising with the Findern Footpaths Group, we took part in the Great British Spring Clean. A cheerful group of members set forth collecting rubbish along the canal bank between Nadee and The Dragon and around the road towards Mercia Marina.

In June we held our Annual Dinner at Mickelover Golf Club and in July we celebrated the birthday of the NHS by enjoying afternoon tea together in the Findern garden of one of our committee members. Our July meeting took place in Clemson's Park in Littleover with a Gossip and Games evening when members could try their skills with a hoola hoop, a golf club, a hook a duck, Jenga and more. In August another member opened her Findern garden for members to enjoy a summer picnic together and later in the month a number of members joined up with Repton WI at Maple Tree Cafe for another pleasant afternoon. In early September a Treasure Hunt around Willington was organised for members finishing at the Function Room of The Dragon for refreshments.

And then - at last- we returned to the Village Hall! Our members were given clear instructions re: Covid Safety precautions and we asked that all members should provide their own refreshments and that movement should be restricted and doors left open for ventilation. It was good to be back together and we should like to extend our thanks to the Village Hall committee for their work towards this and to Gwen Johnson for her support and guidance.

Our first meeting back was a demonstration on preserving and gin making. We really do sound as if we are only interested in food and drink! But alongside all this we have continued to run our Book Club; and members have been knitting squares for blankets going towards Littleover Community School's Uganda Project. There have been trips to Tissington and Haddon Hall, and a Christmas craft session led by one of our members. We have also been involved in trips and quizzes organised through the Derbyshire Federation and we took part in the Mercia Group carol service at St Mark's Church Winshill and have enjoyed two fund raising Spring Strolls. We have raised money for our chosen charity Umbrella and have begun our fund raising for our new charity MeandDee.

Like many organisations, we are looking towards the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and are grateful to Findern Parish Council for allowing us to sponsor and be responsible for the planting of flowers in the Village Green and Well planters. The plants and flowers are currently being nurtured in various greenhouses ready for planting shortly and the post box topper is also being prepared. We are also investigating the possibility of planting a tree in the Queen's honour in early September and of course we are looking forward to taking part in the Findern Summer Fete.

We have been heartened by a growing interest in joining Findern and Friends WI by newcomers to Findern and continue to welcome all friends into the Findern Community of which we are proud to be a part.

For more information on joining the WI contact the President of Findern and Friends WI, Mary Bucknell by telephone: 01332518490 or by email: bucknell_mary@yahoo.co.uk

John Allsop Foundation

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Tammy Brown read the report on behalf of the foundation.

The John Allsop Foundation is a registered charity that gives grants and awards to young people under the age of 25 and to educational organisations such as schools, pre-schools, youth clubs, guides, etc.

To apply for a grant, you must be a resident of Findern, Willington, or Stenson and Twyford villages or be involved in the running of an organisation in these villages.

Currently we have a GCSE award that benefits students gaining four or more C Grade or equivalent qualifications. This is set at £100. Our Book and Equipment grant is aimed at students at university or college, but does not fund A level study. We can help with the relevant books and equipment for your courses. We have a music grant that can assist with the purchase of musical instruments.

Organisations can apply in writing explaining how they would spend a grant and list the cost of the items needed. All grants and awards are at the discretion of the Trustees, and are dependent upon the income of the Foundation.

For further information and application forms, please contact: Helen Lakin, 13 Chevin Avenue, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9GW or email: helenlakin@hotmail.com

Grants and awards are not means tested so if you think you could apply, please do so without fear of disclosing personal information.

We want to support young people and are keen for more people to know about our wonderful charity.

Findern Bereavement Group

Angela and Joan from Murrays Funeral Directors read the report on behalf of the group.

Good evening, thank you for inviting us to talk to you this evening. We hope by sharing with you today it may encourage anyone in need of a little helping hand to talk to us.

My name is Angela and I am the Principal Funeral Director for Murrays Funeral Directors and my Colleague Joan who wears many hats at Murray's, but today is here as our Community Liaison and Funeral Director.

At Murray's our main focus is caring for the families we serve. We pride ourselves on continuing to provide a service even after funeral arrangements have been carried out. Not everyone needs additional support, equally those that do, don't always know how to access it or perhaps have the confidence or motivation to do so.

With this in mind we decided to talk to some of the community in Findern to see if there was a need or indeed interest in us starting a group. With the help of a few of the community stalwarts (such as Heather) we have gathered together our first group. Now, although we are both Qualified Funeral Directors we are not trained counsellors, we both hold certifications in managing grief and combined with our many years' experience in the funeral service we felt we might be able to offer additional support to those interested.

So far, the results have been very positive and our little group is starting to grow. We are very much a work in progress and ever evolving, there are no hard and fast rules. The needs of the individuals in the group will determine our pathway each meeting.

Whilst we have a cuppa and a biscuit we chat, always offering a safe, comfortable, environment to chat, share grief journeys, happy memories and sad. We often shed a tear or two, but we also embrace the lighter moments that our group share.

Our door is open and regardless of where you are on your journey in grief, no matter where funeral arrangements have been made you are welcome. This is about supporting those in our local community.

Joan will share a little more about our vision and aims...

To start I want to say this has been something Sue Barke, the owner of Murray's has wanted to do for many years and when I started 3 years ago, we thought it could be realised, as like many of the team we realise the need for the what we are calling 'After Care'.

Mission

Provide comfort, safe place to meet, relief from loneliness and offer support and if required or requested signpost to bereavement or specialist care

Help relieve and improve the community's loneliness & social isolation, especially vulnerable, bereaved people; particularly if living alone or have no access to support daily (i.e., family work long hours or have other responsibilities)

Offering a friendly face, a safe place to go when the day feels impossible to deal with- a light at the end of a tunnel (listening ear and voice on the telephone)

Currently run & managed by Staff but long-term plans to have volunteers, Heather is a great advocate and has been a great help attracting people to the group.

Once we know what the need is we may have own bereavement counsellor

Currently every 6 weeks at Findern

Aiming to start in Swad very soon & then Burton

Future plans and possibilities

- *We have already made connections with Woodgrow Horticulture of Findern and at our next meeting, Thursday 12 May they are coming along to talk about seasonal planting*
- *Cooking for one and healthy eating*
- *Computers & Mobile phones- Keeping in touch, online banking (WhatsApp, Facebook), utility warehouse. Internet useful for Hobbies - writing, games, photos, current news*
- *Future Planning; Wills, Probate, Trusts, Finances: Bank or finance advisor to come and chat*
- *General Maintenance- Bleed boiler/controls, frozen taps, painting/decorating, shopping*
- *Grief session - Possibly different agencies that offer grief support could showcase their services (Treetops, St Giles, WAY, etc)*

New Interests & hobbies you may have had years ago that you may revisit

- *Art - painting/drawing/colouring books*
- *Bowls - Littleover, Stretton or Burton - Barefoot bowls*
- *Sports Clubs - lots about- Swimming Tennis Gym Badminton etc.*
- *Dog Walking Looking for volunteers/ advert in window*
- *Golf - Taster/ driving range*
- *Walking Groups - Findern Footpaths*
- *Performing Arts; Dancing, musical instruments & Drama*
- *Photography*
- *Singing,*
- *Crafts - Floristry, crochet, jigsaws, card making, origami, writing-blogs/diary/poetry,*
- *Trains,*
- *Upcycling, sculpting - clay, metal, pottery,*
- *Fashion/ fabrics/ dress-making/ sewing*

We have also been hearing of other groups that meet up through users of the group which we will compile a list for people to use.

We will leave you with a quote from a Japanese writer Ryunosuke Satoro:

‘Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean’.

All Saints Church

The report was read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Tammy Brown on behalf of Pat Maddock, of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church.

Church reopened on 4th April 2021 with Services each week at 10am using just the one element(bread) for Holy Communion eventually leading to the Minister partaking the wine on our behalf. Holy Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month, Morning Praise the second, Holy Communion the third and Morning Praise on the fourth.

Where there is a fifth Sunday, we alternate with St Michael's at Willington. Look for the Notice Board at Church.

A Wedding (with more booked), Baptisms and Funerals have taken place since then.

You are probably aware that Sue our Vicar retired in September; we are a Church in Vacancy at present and are being supported by other Ministers.

Any Church Business, enquiries for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms to be made through me.

Our Harvest Festival service supported the Padley Centre with food and general hygiene items along with monetary gifts. Remembrance Sunday on The Green and afterwards in Church, Carol Singing at the local Residential Home and Sheltered Housing ending on The Green with the local community, culminating with refreshments in church using, YES, our completed kitchen and toilet just finished in time. These were all with the great help of Findern Methodist Chapel.

The usual Christmas Carol Service took place and Christingle Service on Christmas Eve with restrictions on numbers.

We now use our lovely new kitchen for refreshments at the end of each Service.

In addition to the kitchen and toilet, an outside tap has been installed for the convenience of those tending graves. It is situated near the first bench on the left approaching the porch. It has been left off through the winter for protection from frost. It will be switched on by the time of your meeting.

We had a lovely visual aid Meditation Service on Good Friday in Church in the morning followed by a dramatised version of the crucifixion on The Green at 3 15pm led by the Methodist Chapel.

We are still seeking a new Heating System before redecoration and plasterworks can take place.

Latterly, both Church and the Methodist Chapel have been supporting Ukraine both monetarily and with specific goods through T4U.

Findern Methodist Chapel

Lynette Nash read the report on behalf of the group.

Like many other places, chapel has adapted to the changing restrictions over the past year but now with ventilation and as much spacing as possible, normality begins to return. Most efforts have been to keep in contact with the many who passed through the doors of the chapel pre pandemic and we have felt extremely blessed by the community spirit generated in Findern as a whole.

We have also welcomed the opportunity during December of combining carol singing in the village and supporting other activities on The Green and hope this can continue.

Following re-opening of the chapel, the weekly calendar has filled with a number of organisations (both chapel led and community led) using the facilities as a meeting point. Community activities run by the chapel including "Slow Flow Fitness" and "Morning Coffees" have recommenced as has the Elvis group visiting old people's homes and lunch clubs in the area. Sadly "Ark babies" children's group and the

monthly lunch club have ceased. Most of the congregation have been happy to attend services but one or two of the most vulnerable are still concerned about mixing in groups

We are pleased at the numbers who have joined us at the chapel on Wednesday coffee mornings for a drink and there is always a piece of cake and a welcome natter. The donations during Lent have enabled us to donate over a £1,000 towards support for Ukraine refugees.

Last September, Jacky Quarmby, became our new minister. She is also the minister for Newmount Methodist church on Blagreaves Lane, and Chellaston Methodist church. You may have seen her on Good Friday giving out hot cross buns after the presentation on the Green! She looks at becoming more involved in the community and the church as a whole as far as her work commitments in the wider Derby area allow.

5 Matters raised by electors

There were a number of matters raised by electors.

- A resident asked whether it would be possible to encourage the landowner to change the stiles on the Gorsty pathway so that they were easier to use by less able people. This request would be added to the Agenda of the next Parish Council meeting for the Members to discuss.
- A resident asked why the Police did not attend the Parish Council anymore, as they had done in the past. Councillor Ford responded to say that he had been advised that the police needed to be out on the beat, rather than sitting in meetings; however, he would try to get a police report to bring to each meeting.
- A resident asked when the Brook Close Community Room would be open again. This had been mentioned at a previous Parish Council meeting and Councillor Ford had enquired. He was advised that it would open once again when the room had been given a deep clean, this should be by June.
- A resident raised concern about the 3 x bridges over Hell's Brook, between Derbyshire and Derby City. These had been subject to a planning application. Whilst they were finished on the Derbyshire side there was still a 2-foot drop on the Derby City side and the Heras fencing erected to stop people using the bridges had been pulled down; therefore the bridges were a safety risk. The resident was advised that the bridges were not under the remit of the Parish Council and it was South Derbyshire District Council and Derby City Council who need to sort this.
- A resident raised a concern about a gap in the fencing close to the Nadee that had a significant Drop on the other side. The Chairman would visit the site and take photos and report back to the Council.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm