

Back at the beginning of December we were fortunate enough to welcome Rt. Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin to Benenden Primary School for the official opening of the new school, less than a week since she had been installed as the new Bishop of Dover. A few people got the opportunity to speak to Bishop Rose after the formal part of that event. At very short notice, she was then at St George's Church in January for a service to commission the new Area Dean. Again, a few people had the opportunity to meet her.

I am delighted to say that Bishop Rose will be preaching and presiding at a benefice Eucharist service at the 10am service at St George's on Sunday 15 March. Following the service there should be plenty of opportunity for many more to meet and speak to her. Please come along: make her feel very welcome in this part of her Diocese, and build a warm relationship with our new bishop. We are blessed to have her serving and caring for us.

Several months ago, I told you of an initiative that had been born out of the Messy Church service at Harvest time: 'Leave what you can; take what you need'. This is an initiative of caring for others by sharing out of the abundance that many of us have been blessed with. I would like everyone in the village to be aware of this. Please spread the word. The collection area is in the porch of St George's, opposite the 'Catching Lives' collection point. If you have food or toiletries in plenty and feel you can share some with others who do not, then please just leave what you can. (The church is open by 9am every day until dusk.) If you, or someone you know, is going through a tricky patch in life and are in need of something, please, just take what you need as often as you want; it is there to be shared and to be used.

If you require other help, for example with household items or a larger food shop, then please get in touch with me. The church is introducing a scheme of vouchers to be redeemed for products at the village shop (not alcohol or tobacco); we may also be able to help with obtaining larger household items. If you know someone who could benefit - who needs a bit of help now - please get in touch. It's all about people; about relationships; about caring for each other.

And whilst speaking of relationships and caring, we run a weekly, term-time Cakes & Chaos toddler group in St George's on Friday mornings. We could do with some more folk on the rota to help occasionally. Could that be you? If so, please give Helen or myself a call.

Revd David Commander, Rector