

## Thursday 16th February 2023

Dear all,

Firstly I need to apologise for not having written before now, this is my first newsletter since Christmas! We have had quite a full couple of months following the Christmas break with the funerals for Audrey Grocott and Ted Baker, a PCC away day and the lead up to the General Synod vote on the provision for samesex blessings. Attached to this newsletter is a letter I've written specifically to

address that point, I hope you find it helpful. In summary, this past few weeks have been some of the most challenging in my ministry and I've been grateful for your prayers and support.

As you can see from the header to this newsletter, we are looking forward with great excitement towards



Easter! Our plans are still to be exactly finalised but we are thrilled to be having a week of prayer and mission before Palm Sunday followed by a three-day holiday club and outreach events happening in Holy week. On Easter Sunday we are culminating with a celebration baptism service! Please do put the dates in your diary, invite people to join us and offer your help and support with making these events happen. We are still in need of volunteers for the Holiday club and I will be building team lists for the door-to-door work we will be doing during our mission week too, keep an eye out for more information to come.



Other things coming up soon include **Gloriously Messy**: 4:30pm-6:00pm

- Pancake party on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February
- Mothering Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

During Lent We will be doing a series looking at the role, purpose and practice of Holy

Communion through

our sermons and in our Kid's groups. This is following some discussion at PCC last year on the practice of allowing Children to receive communion.

If you have not been **baptised** and would like to be, please speak to me about what that might look like – we are planning a baptism as part of our Easter Sunday celebration service so I'd love to hear from you!

Our plans to launch a **Uniform Bank** alongside our **Community Larder** are still progressing in the background. Please do drop off any used uniform into the yellow box in the hall foyer or food into the box on the counter.

Quick reminder that we've moved from Facebook to **YouTube** for our live stream of the 10:30am service each Sunday, please like and subscribe our channel here: https://www.youtube.com/@standrewssg

The clergy and sarah are all having some time off next week for half term, the office is open as usual however.

With love to you all

James

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