

# Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



A reading to carry us through 2025  
For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which  
God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. *Ephesians 2:10 NRSV*

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**Services this week and readings**

## Sunday 20th July 2025

### 5th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion Service BCP  
10am Parish Communion

Monday 21st July Music Jam 7pm

Tuesday 22nd St. Helen's School Leavers service  
in Church 10am

Tuesday 22nd July Archdeacon's Visitation for  
Wardens

*St Paul's Church, Parkwood Green, Rainham,  
Gillingham ME8 9PN* Service starts @ 8pm

Saturday 26th Wedding @ 1pm **for Melanie and  
Shaun**

No more Wednesday evenings for summer

MORNING PRAYER is said @ 8am Monday,  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Mornings in the Lady  
Chapel All Welcome

## Readings for Sunday:

Genesis 18: 1-10a  
&  
Luke 10: 38-end

## Social Media

At PCC this week we had a long chat about social media especially **WhatsApp** which is so commonly used to communicate and share information.

We have several of these groups within the life of the church which support the name St. Helen's.

Recently it has come to our attention and in the wider diocese that some conventions and the sharing of information has broken several rules and laws around GDPR and safeguarding and this is a reminder that any association with the church, St. Helen's needs to fall within those guidelines and laws. As a PCC and church, we have already signed up to the archbishops guidelines which can be found by clicking the link below.

The prayer chain for instance is for just that: Prayer

Share a request with permission for prayer from person concerned wherever possible.

Use first names only.

Brief description of problem or request.

Do not always expect a result to be given, ask no questions, just trust that God knows.

If the person or situation has not given permission just use an initial, example 'can we pray for J who is to have an operation this week.'

No sharing of links to other sites there are no guarantees that these are appropriate or that they do not lead to scams.

No further conversations just respond with for example: I'm praying, praying hands emoji, may God bless J or situation, keep it simple, but please pray fully.

**Do not use** the new open chat request as this cannot be monitored but does show that a conversation has taken place on the back of a prayer request.

**Always remember Keep it simple.**

If you want to chat about other things then use your own private chat groups. We will be setting up a community WhatsApp forum for all individual WhatsApp groups that are associated directly or bare the name St. Helen's to monitor each so as we comply with the law and safeguarding. Each group will keep its own administration and be responsible for conversations and activities.

[Social Media Policy](#)

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## Church Cleaning

Could you spare an hour or so every so often to help keep our wonderful church clean and tidy?

We are looking for volunteers to make up a rota of people.  
More hands make light work.

If you are able to we would be delighted

If you already do (thankyou) we still need to put you on a rota

Please see, talk to or contact  
**Yasmine Elliott**

[yasmineelliott@btinternet.com](mailto:yasmineelliott@btinternet.com)

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# Monday Afternoon

## Board Games

### Here at St. Helen's

### House in the

### front room

### 1pm -3.30pm



**Free and open to all**

**why not challenge the Vicar**

**to a game of chess or maybe it was**

**Reverend Green in the study with the candlestick, or just  
a trivial pursuit!**





## ARTS & CRAFT

**Wednesday 23rd July**  
**St. Helen's House**  
**10am -12noon**  
**All Welcome**



# **SKA & REGGAE MADNESS**

with Danny Barrett

Friday 25th July, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

St. Helen's Church, Cliffe

Tickets £15 adults, £5 under 16s

For tickets use the QR code  
or call 07778 959003





**Do you enjoy crochet, knitting or crafts?**

**Would you like to be part of a local charity  
and meet new friends?**

If you answered yes to the above please consider joining our  
Making Miracles Crochet, Knitting & Craft Group.

All items that are created will be sold at our shop "Handmade with Love"  
All monies raised fund our vital support services  
helping families that have been through baby loss.

**Venue:** St Helens House, Buttway Lane, Cliffe, ME3 7QP

**Date:** 3rd Thursday of every month

Launching: Thursday 15th May 2025

**Time:** 1.30pm - 3.30pm

For more information please contact Hayley on:  
hayleyspencer@makingmiracles.org.uk 07956 068 787

Follow us  

Registered Charity No. 1158233

# **St. Helen's Church Cliffe**

## **The Coffee Stop**

*A community hub for all*

*'Tea, coffee and cake as cheap as chips'*

St. Helen's House just before you get  
to the church opposite parish carpark

### **Opening Times**

10.30am -4pm

Monday – Friday

*(subject to volunteers)*

Free WIFI available

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**If you would like to give to the work at  
St. Helen's it couldn't be easier.**

**Just Scan the QR code follow the link to our  
page on SUMUP and donate.**

**All gifts are gratefully welcome and received.**



**Help us to keep our church open  
for another thousand years**



**If you would like to give to foodbank there is a  
shopping trolley found at the back of St. Helen's  
Church just drop your donations in the trolley.**

A Big

# THANK YOU



## St Helen's Church

Thank you for your donations between January - June 25,  
totaling 238.4 kg

Your donations make a BIG difference  
to local people in crisis



Medway foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank network.  
Registered Charity Number: 1166505 | Registered in England and Wales

**For more info about St.Helen's go to  
'A Church Near You' or our 'Webpage'**

click one of the buttons below

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9932](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9932)

[cliffechurch.co.uk](http://cliffechurch.co.uk)

**Messy Church**  
New dates below for 2025/2026



## Messy Church Dates for 2025/26

**3-5pm.**

*Dates are:*

*20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 'Messy Idols' Moses and the law*

*18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 'Messy Coats' the story of Joseph*

*15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 'Messy Music' Gideon's army*

*17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 'Messy Hair' Samson*

*14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 'Messy Love' a new commandment*

*14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 'Messy Mothers' a look at biblical mums*

*3<sup>rd</sup> April 'Messy Good Friday' 10.30am-12 noon*

*16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 'Messy Gold' King Solomon*

*20<sup>th</sup> June 2026 'Messy messengers' Looking at prophets*

*There is no charge for Messy Church, but donations are  
always welcome to help with the running costs.*

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## Weekly activities

*If you would like something advertised here please email  
[cliffatcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:cliffatcliffe@gmail.com)*

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**QR for this Newsletter  
share it with others**

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## **Reverend Clifford's Weekly Blog 'Transition and choice'**

**19th July 2025**

What a week, long, fun, emotional, challenging, tiring. I wonder what words you would use to reflect your own week as you look back. At the start of the week, we met as usual to pray for the needs of our community, our fellowship, our family and friends, the nation, the world and everything in God's creation. Monday the first day of the week with 7 of us, is that a holy number; sharing all those needs and issues and requests before God. As ever so much in each prayer has changed throughout the week as we witness God's hand at work and as other needs arise.

My most emotional moments came on Tuesday and Wednesday as I led two assemblies and handed out little leaving certificates to the toddlers at Pre-school as they start their summer holidays before starting school for the first time. Many of them I will get to see again because of the assemblies I lead at St. Helen's and Cliffe Woods primary schools. Then there were the year sixes who too are about to transition from primary school to senior schools. It was clear in assembly that many of them are of mixed emotion, not wanting to leave the known for the unknown, the stability and familiarity for new ventures but also with trepid excitement of a new start, a fresh page to make their mark.

It was at the pre-school graduation ceremony that I got all emotional as I handed out all their certificates and shared high fives with each one as was read out what each little young life wanted to do when they grew up, hairdressers, mechanics, firemen, dustmen, nurses and teachers and much more. Once that was over I stood in the wings and watched the parents get all emotional taking photo's of their loved ones in their graduation gowns and mortar boards, they were cute.

I stood there and pondered what lies ahead for each young life in a rapidly changing world, what the reality will actually look like. I guess as I have had a few funerals in recent weeks and having done hundreds over the years I have been privileged in the sadness to hear the other end as families look back and record those dreams that where once held in the innocence of youth. What did the reality look like?

Maybe like myself you never achieved what it was you dreamed about as a child, for me it was to become a dog handler in the police, then an army musician, a long way from the things I have actually done as a musical instrument technician, bus driver, train driver and instructor and now a full-time priest. Like those on that stage in the village hall I have learnt that life will play out its own cards and some will fulfil their dreams and others will find different avenues. Some will have nothing but joy and others will face the tragedies and struggles of life and even life itself.

As I stood there I prayed quietly in the wings that whatever the journey is for each of them they will experience the best that life can offer each of them, that they will find protection in God, that they will find support in each other and that their world will be a better one because of that love that we are called to share with each other.

That was my message in assembly to the year sixes, to take with them the values they have learnt in both schools, and the love they have experienced and shared with each other into their new schools. The truth is that the innocence of primary school is soon evaporated by senior school as older children and young people start to experience more of the wider world and experiment with it and pass that onto a watching younger generation and so the human story repeats as independently each learns how they want to model their lives.

Discipleship is about modelling your life on Christ Jesus, those who first listened to Jesus's teaching had a choice to adopt what they were being taught or reject it and find their own way. The transition many of our young people will be making now allows them to make that choice to, as they grow and mature, I pray that they will take onboard much that I have taught them in my assemblies about this way of life that is Jesus. Love, forgiveness, and the fruit of the Spirit of which just a little bit will change everything and the way in which they approach whatever it will be that life will present before them.

God bless,

Clifford

Please feel free to share this with others

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## Contact Details

If you would like to be contacted by the church at anytime or the Vicar then please download and return the contact sheet below by clicking on box, in compliance with GDPR

## Opening times for Church visits

We are pleased to say that we are continuing to make every effort to keep our church doors open during the week.

If you would like to visit the church then please sign and pick up a key from the Coffee Stop in St. Helen's House. Where possible volunteers might be able to show you around.

When you have finished your visit then simply return the key.

### Opening Times

Monday - Friday 10.30am - close at 4pm

we make every effort to keep to these times but as you might appreciate this is reliant on our wonderful volunteers.

## Who's who page

### **Priest in Charge of St.Helen's:**

#### **Reverend Clifford Stocking**

145 St. Helen's Rectory  
Cliffe

Rochester

Kent ME3 7PY

[clifford2567@googlemail.com](mailto:clifford2567@googlemail.com)

01634 610752 or 07941056237

*Day Off usually a Thursday*

### **Curate**

#### **Reverend Graeme Copestake**

[curategraeme@gmail.com](mailto:curategraeme@gmail.com)

07424035267

### **Church Wardens:**

#### **Robin Thompson**

[kentstamps@outlook.com](mailto:kentstamps@outlook.com)

01634 221497

### **Paul Sutton**

[paulsubtle@gmail.com](mailto:paulsubtle@gmail.com)

07740867238

**Licensed Lay Minister**

**Dave Green**

pewsey54@btinternet.com

01634 220430

For any safeguarding concerns @ St. Helen's please contact our safeguarding officers:

**Children's Safeguarding officer:**

Julie Allen - 01634 221763

**Adult Safeguarding officer:**

Heather Weston -07762 401424



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cliffatcliffe@gmail.com

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