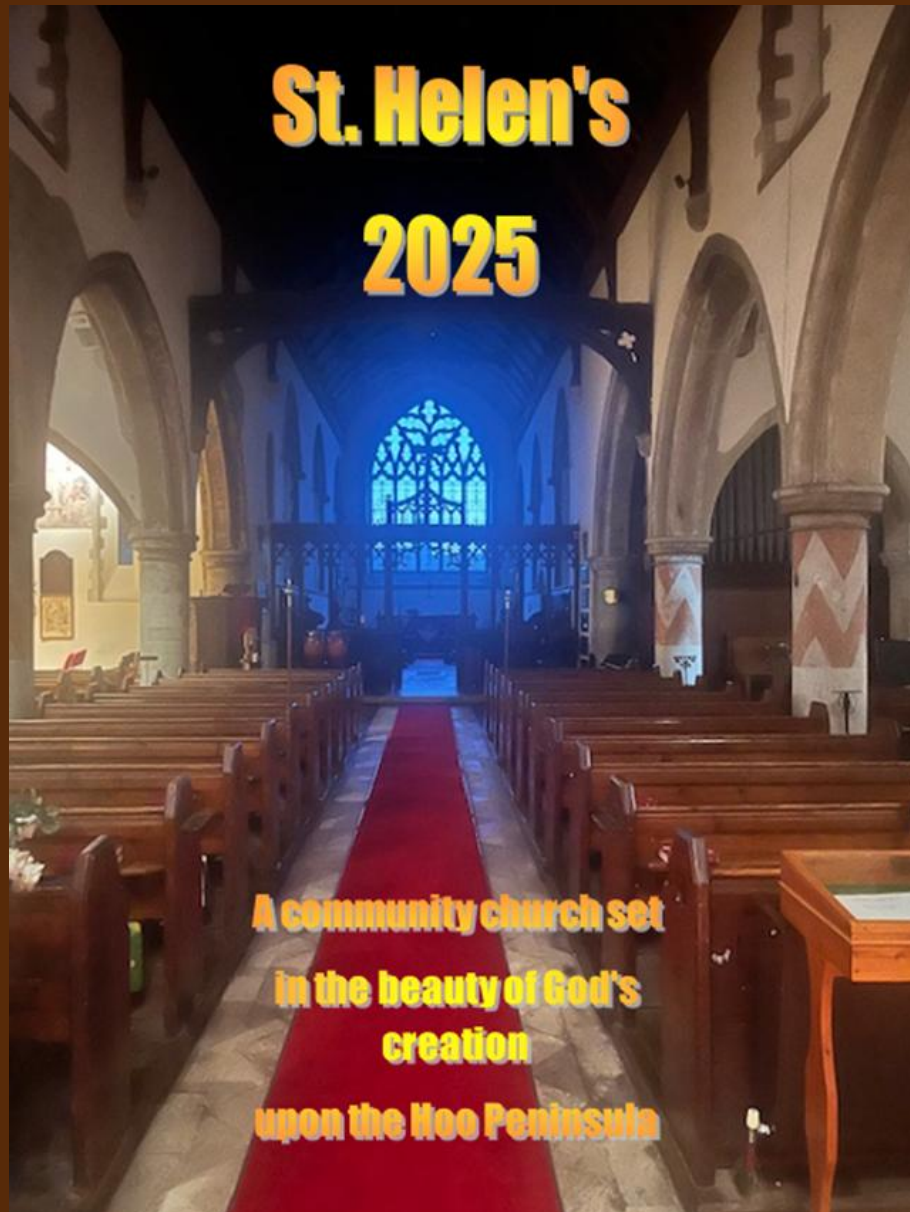


Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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*

Services this week and readings

Sunday 27th July 2025

6th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion Service BCP

10am Family Service

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: 20-32
&
Luke 11: 1-13

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](#)

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

**New to St. Helen's
1pm-3.30pm every Monday**

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!**



Our hot drinks are still just
£1 a mug
and it is the best Honduras fresh
Coffee and fairtrade, because
we care about those who grow
the beans!

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

**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.**

**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

Messy Church New dates below for 2025/2026



Messy Church Dates for 2025/26

3-5pm.

Dates are:

20th September 2025 'Messy Idols' Moses and the law

18th October 2025 'Messy Coats' the story of Joseph

15th November 2025 'Messy Music' Gideon's army

17th January 2026 'Messy Hair' Samson

14th February 2026 'Messy Love' a new commandment

14th March 2026 'Messy Mothers' a look at biblical mums

3rd April 'Messy Good Friday' 10.30am-12 noon

16th May 2026 'Messy Gold' King Solomon

20th 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.*

Weekly activities

*If you would like something advertised here please email
cliffatcliffe@gmail.com*



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

**Reverend Clifford's Weekly Blog
'rotten windows'**



26th July 2025

Well, this week Paul and I started painting and repairing the windows in St. Helen's House, it's a big job. This is a job that has been put off for a while now and the result is that the work needed now is far greater than if they had had regular maintenance.

Someone stopped me on Friday and said, 'this isn't a job for the vicar,' well unless the vicar does it then it won't get done and that will cause me more problems in the long run. Then how can any vicar preach if life doesn't throw up examples of our everyday living, sometimes we need to experience it, life that is, to emphasize and sympathize with those we shepherd. After all Jesus was a carpenter (like me) and I bet he got his hands dirty from time to time, it's just part of a wider practical ministry, Jesus preached by telling parables about everyday things around him.

Windows then, as the paint has peeled off over the years it has allowed water to penetrate the softwood beneath. This has caused in many areas wet rot which needs cutting out and replacing, shortening the overall life of the windows, they need a carpenter not just filler. What could have with the right care have lasted for a hundred years will only now last as long as the patchwork of repairs now desperately needed can hold off future water incursion.

It got me thinking about our lives, for you see we all start off as it were as good human beings but it's not long before we must face the storms of life and then the rot slowly sets in.

In the Christian life that rot is known as sin, which is both the things we do wrong or simply don't do at all when we could have, and it is everything that separates us from God. We talk about Satan, (maybe not enough these days as we have made God all nicey, nicey) Satan simply is a deceiving voice that says, 'everything is alright, don't worry about God.' The real truth is that Satan eats into our relationship with God, lies

are told and yes life on the outside might seem a lot better without God. A quick lick of paint can transform a product but unless the time, real time is spent in preparing the whole thing, protecting it against the elements, cutting out the rot for new stronger materials, the lies and the destruction will continue to eat away at the inner areas of our lives.

These lies slowly rot away at our very core, when I started working on those windows the inner core of wood was nothing but dust, held together by a thin outer framework, it crumbled at my touch, the once supporting wooden structure was gone, not everything is quite what it seems on the outside.

We can go through our lives like that as well, looking good on the outside, or seemingly good, or maybe just a little tatty, yet somehow holding it all together, but God sees the inner person that we are, and He knows if we still have enough strength to support ourselves or whether we just crumble and return to dust on the final day of judgement, scripture is clear, there will be a day when we have to stand before God and be accountable for our relationship with Him and others, thankfully we won't stand alone because Jesus will stand there with us, which is good if we have had a relationship with him and allowed him to do as it were a few repairs, if not it isn't so good, the whole thing becomes nothing but dust when handled.

Fortunately then God has intervened for us and has sent us, yes a carpenter would you believe it, but Jesus is far more than a carpenter he is the one who can make us fully whole again, he is the one who can patch us back up and make us strong enough to stand before God on that final day and say, I'm fit for purpose to serve and worship God as He expects me to. We are called by God to be a Church, a body that supports each other in our daily worship, no body part can work on its own, my repair wood is no good sat beside the window frame, it must be cut in, to make the whole thing structurally strong. Church is the same, if you are sat on the outside, you're like that piece of wood, you could be useful but not part of the structure which in this case is the body of Christ Jesus.

Our windows will face and survive many more storms and as long as we set a regular maintenance program in place they will out see me as vicar and maybe the next one. God has put that same maintenance program into our lives, and as long as we regularly attend to our relationship with God through Jesus, we will see God's eternal kingdom. Don't though be fooled by Satan who will convince you otherwise because he is happy for you to rot from within and on that final day of testing it will be too late as what stands before God crumbles. Jesus warned us about this time and time again, we can heed the warnings or just keep slowly rotting away, believing the lies that 'God wouldn't do that', well that's right God wouldn't, we do it to ourselves as we all have freewill.

Meanwhile I have a lot more painting to do over the summer.

God bless,

Clifford

Please feel free to share this with others

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

[PDF Contact Sheet](#)

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

01634 610752 or 07941056237

Day Off usually a Thursday

Curate

Reverend Graeme Copestake

curategraeme@gmail.com
07424035267

Church Wardens:
Robin Thompson
kentstamps@outlook.com
01634 221497

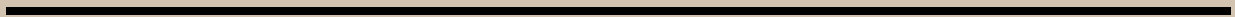
Paul Sutton
paulsubtle@gmail.com
07740867238

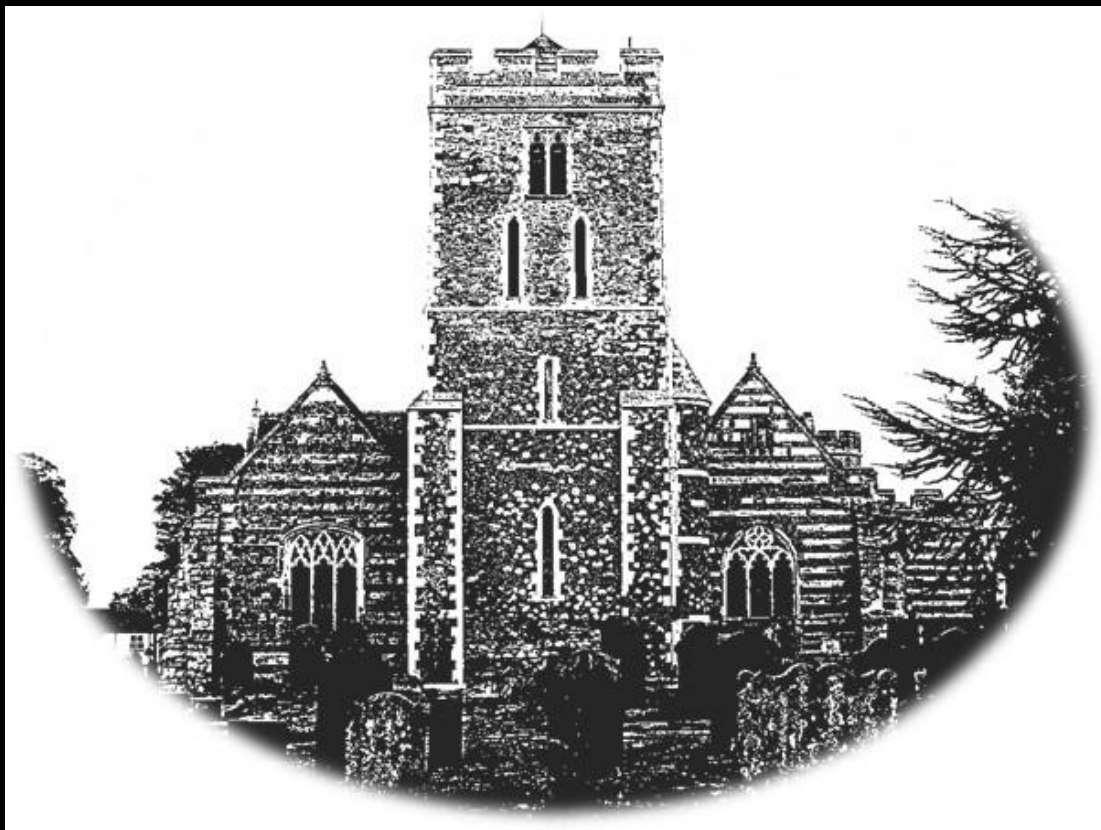
Licensed Lay Minister
Dave Green
pewsey54@btinternet.com
01634 220430

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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Our mailing address is:

cliffatcliffe@gmail.com

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