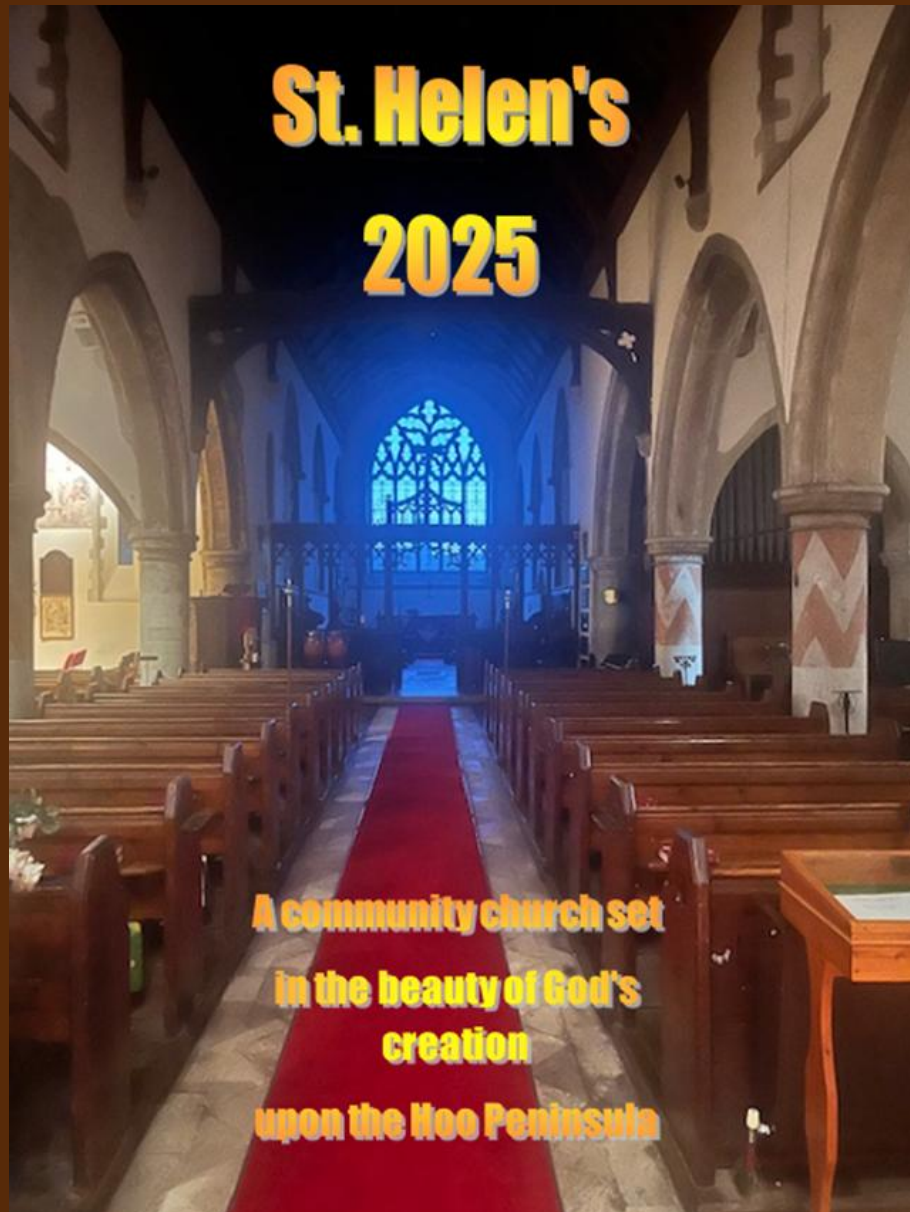


# Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 6th July 2025**

### **3rd Sunday after Trinity**

**8.30am** Holy Communion Service BCP

**10am** Holy Communion

**12 noon** Interment of ashes @ St James for John Marks

**3pm-5pm** **Open Garden** @ the Rectory

**145 Church Street**

**all welcome, use garage entrance side door.**

**Monday 7th July Music Jam 7-8.30pm**

**Wednesday @ St. Helen's 7.30 - 9pm**

9th July

Next Monday 14th July PCC

### **Funerals**

9th July @ 2.30pm St. Helen's for **Tom Fenney**

11th July @ 2pm Thames View for **Ron Taylor**

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

### **Readings for Sunday:**

Isaiah 66: 10-14  
&

Luke 10: 1-20

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Prayers today Saturday 5th in Church at  
9pm for an hour all welcome

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# St. Helen's Rectory Open Garden

It's that time of year again

when you are all warmly invited to

The Rectory Garden for afternoon tea and cakes

and of course, the Vicar's scones.



## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 3pm -5pm

(You might want to bring a chair and hopefully not an umbrella

as last year)



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**New to St. Helen's  
1.30pm-3pm 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!**







# **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.**

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**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)**



## 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.*

## Weekly activities

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

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

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## Reverend Clifford's Weekly Blog

### Sharing love

**5th July 2025**

The mercury was rising; how high would it go as most of South East England sizzled in the mid-thirties and Southern Europe passed into the mid-forties. With night time temperatures looking more like an average British summers day sleep deprivation has probably affected most of us this week. I guess the only good thing about England is that each hot spell is broken with sudden drops in temperature that we are now experiencing before the next heatwave, predicted for the end of next week but not quite thankfully as hot. The weather is a national obsession of our conversation for several reasons, firstly we are a small Island (sometimes we forget this) and as such many coastal towns have historically always looked to see what the weather will do before putting out their fishing boats or journeying across the ocean. We are also a farming nation and what the weather does tells us what to plant and when to harvest. Then we have a climate that sometimes can almost give us all four seasons in one day, how on earth do we know what to wear on days like that. Finally talking about the weather is a kind of ice breaker for wider conversation, do we really care about whether it will rain or shine as we open that introductory conversation to a wider

umbrella, (do see what I did there).

What is clear is the extreme heat kind of beats us all up, it drains our energy, it saps our ability to go about normal daily activities, and some activities should be avoided for health reasons and for the kindness of other living things. Dogs really shouldn't be walked on scorching hot pavements yet alone the consideration that they can't take a layer of clothing off. Putting a bowl of water out for the wild birds and other critters that inhabit and visit our gardens reveals our humanity and enables us to think beyond ourselves. Like every extreme weather event we need to look out for each other and not be over expectant that everything will work and run as on a normal day, it teaches us patience and reveals our compassion.

As I have struggled at times this week to find any space where I can be comfortable it reminded me that many in this world are facing events that will not simply pass in a couple of days. There has been much controversy this week over a performance last week at Glastonbury and I need to say that no one should ever wish any other party or person dead. Jesus explained and expanded the commandment on murder in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5: 21-22 and said that even if you hate or show anger against another you are guilty of murder. The second commandment is this Love your neighbour, love your enemy. We live in a world of many contrasts, there are wonderful acts of love happening all the time around us that never get reported and then equally there are acts of violence and destruction that dominate our headlines as we see so many suffer not because of the hand of God, but because of the lack of ability to live by the command to love each other. We do need to highlight the plight of others such as in Gaza but not with further words of hate, for hate only breeds more hate and has no room for forgiveness and reconciliation. Just read some of the local social media feeds as communities comment on what they think is right or wrong and you soon see a frenzy of hatred and negativity and lawlessness, and sadly very few comments that support love and tolerance and understanding.

I did read on a Facebook post this week that if we embrace the command to love it goes from being a command to being a fulfilment of a promise, it becomes our nature. I guess it is a sad reality that Jesus had to enter into our lives to tell us, remind us how we should truly live life on this planet, within God's creation, should we really need a command to tell us not to kill each other, to steal from each other, to love each other!

The church exists to give us a place where we can gather from all walks of life and share our common humanity with each other, it is a place where we can bring our joys and our sorrows, a place where we can share various gifts that God has given each of us. A place where every person is equal and the only head is Christ Jesus himself who teaches us how we should love each other setting aside difference and drawing us back to a place where we worship God and learn to live by His commands not because they are a chore or a burden in our lives but because they are second nature. To this extent our church building remains at the centre of our community, a hub to use a modern expression where we learn to embrace that second nature of love and support each other day by day in all the ups and downs because like our weather we all experience different seasons and in that we can help each other by protecting ourselves against all the storms, the droughts and grow together when each condition is right.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the Rectory Garden which is open to all this Sunday between 3-5pm.

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

[PDF Contact Sheet](#)

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## 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.

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## Who's who page

**Priest in Charge of St.Helen's:**  
**Reverend Clifford Stocking**  
145 St. Helen's Rectory



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Rochester  
Kent ME3 7PY  
clifford2567@googlemail.com  
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*Day Off usually a Thursday*

**Curate**

**Reverend Graeme Copestake**  
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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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