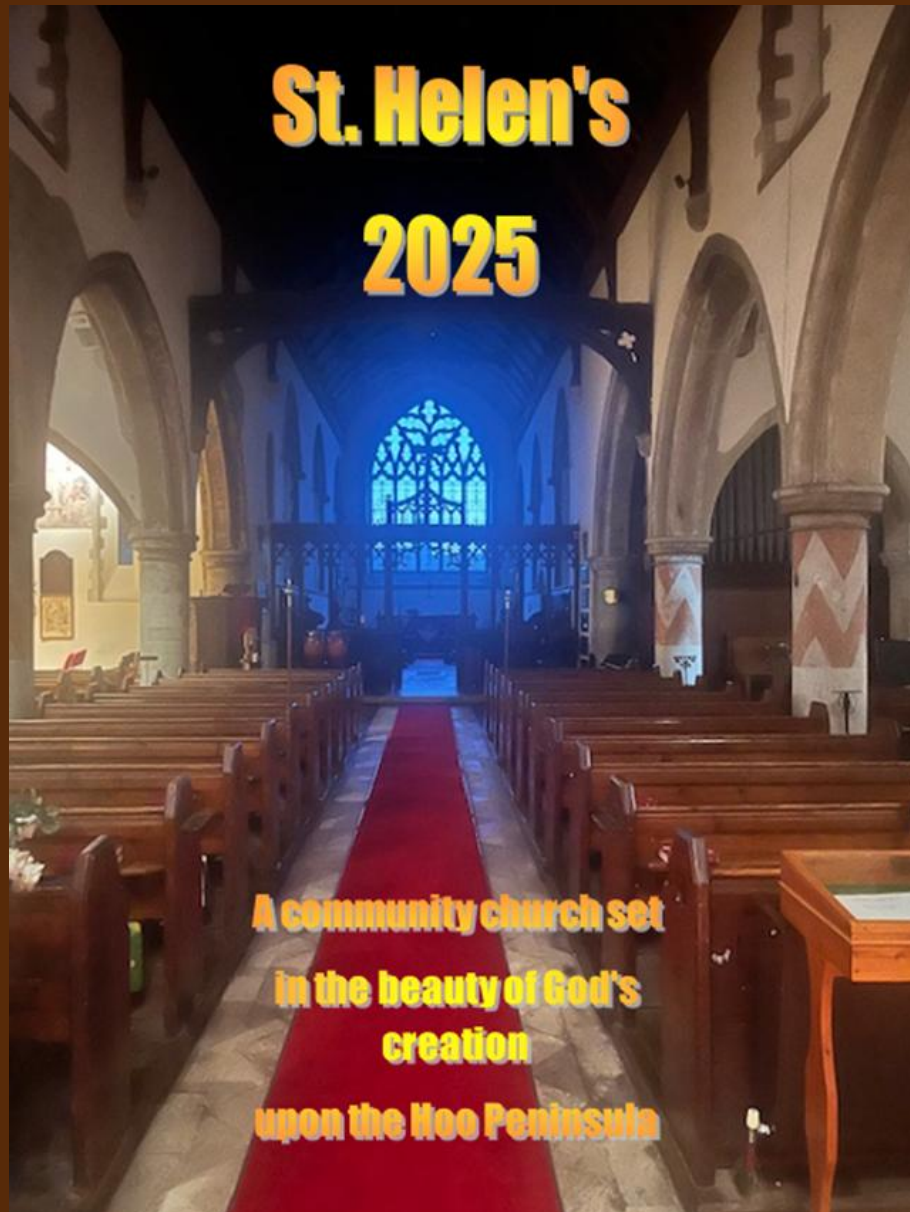


Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 24th August 2025

10th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion Service BCP
10am Parish Communion

Monday 25th August Bank Holiday no morning prayers or Coffeestop enjoy the day doing something different.

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

Dates ahead:

- Monday 1st September 7-8.30pm **Music Jam**
- Tuesday 2nd September funeral in church for **Jean Cowling** 11am
 - Friday 5th September funeral Medway Crem for **Maureen Smith** 11.30am
 - Monday 8th September **PCC** 7pm start
 - Saturday 20th 3-5pm **Messy Church**
 - Sunday 28th September 10am **Harvest Service** followed by **bring and shared lunch @ 12noon.**

Readings for Sunday:

Hebrews 12:18-end
&
Luke 13: 10-17

This is just a big thank you to those who make St. Helen's happen!

To all our volunteers

**You are very much appreciated and loved,
the life of our church (God's) continues only
because of you!**

Thank you, thank you.

Clifford

The **Legends** *and* **Laughter Show**

Featuring the Award Winning Talents of...

NEIL J. DUNCAN



DEAN MARTIN

TOMMY COOPER

NEIL DIAMOND

FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

7.30PM (DOORS OPEN 7PM)

TICKETS £15 (ADULTS), £5 (UNDER 16S)

USE THE QR CODE OR CALL/TEXT

07778 959003

BAR (OWN DRINK NOT PERMITTED)

RAFFLE



**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, BUTTWAY LANE,
CLIFFE ME3 7QP**



Harvest at St.Helen's Cliffe

10am

Sunday 28th September 2025

Followed by a

Bring and Shared Lunch

at

12noon

All welcome

Come, ye thankful people come
and raise a song of harvest time,
come to God's temple, come.
Raise that song of harvest home.

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

QR Code: Review us on Tripadvisor

Collect reviews with customised QR codes that prompt diners to write a review when they scan the code with a phone camera.



**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.

We will be collecting @ Harvest gifts for Foodbank see below



Medway

Foodbank

Together with Trussell

Harvest appeal



Please donate an item or two from the list to help local people left without enough money to live on.

Harvest Shopping list 2025

FOOD & DRINK:

- Pasta sauce
- Instant mash
- Tinned ham or corned beef
- Tinned fruit
- Fruit juice – long-life
- Squash
- Tinned potatoes
- Cup-a-Soup
- Tinned vegetables
- Milk – long-life
- Super noodles
- Long grain rice
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned custard

**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

cliffechurch.co.uk

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
'I'm back'**



23rd August 2025

Hi all, I'm back from a couple of weeks off, I'll be off again soon as we try to use some of the six Sunday's a year I am entitled to, I'm around for the other 46 Sunday's if you are worried. As we have a 'new to us' tent that we are using since our May holiday where the old one sort of gave up in the storm force winds and rain we do not want to pitch up in the late autumn or winter. The nice thing about taking a break was to just sit and relax, and allow our surrounding to just soak in. We spent eight nights in Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire and enjoyed the time away, we cycled to a few places enjoying the quiet roads (no potholes either). I spent three years of my life in ministry in March in the Cambridgeshire Fens which was a quieter slower place of life to the mad rush of the Southeast, but I have to say a little further north across the fens, Lincolnshire is even more laid back, I highly recommend it if you haven't been before, dare I say it, we never smelt the sickly smell of cannabis anywhere, proving I guess people can enjoy a laid back life without the need to fry their minds.

Anyway, whilst I sat there I did think of a few things I could use to write about in my blogs, so I apologise now for the next few weeks inclusions. You see life is about observance, Jesus used this model time and time again, he spoke about everyday things, he used the things and people around him to tell us about his Father, God and how we should live our lives in a way that shares God's love and forgiveness. If I get

this right the following titles will be 'The Stall', 'Bat out of Hell', 'The Imp perfection' 'Defenders of the Sky' and 'The Swan.'

Right then for this week, 'The Stall' not just any stall but my stall. A stall that is a tool for cooking, a kitchen stall that I place before my camp stove and have sat on in all weathers in many parts of Europe and the UK. It has travelled with me and our family for tens of thousands of miles and seen hundreds of meals provided and cooked my myself for my family. It is getting on a bit now, tried and tested over almost three decades and still as supportive as it has ever been from the first day I purchased it in Gillingham. Reliable it is, taking my great weight. It has become a family joke, dad's stall, we can't set up camp without it, maybe one day I will bequest it to one of my children or grandchildren as they are all now enjoying the life of camping. If that stall could speak it could tell you of all the places we have seen over the years, it could tell you of heatwaves and storms, it could describe the many languages that it has heard and the sound of people just enjoying life. It could describe how infants have grown and become adults and now have infants of their own, it could tell you how valued it is.

My stall, three simple short legs bound together by a plastic grommet thing, rising up to a red fabric cloth which forms the seat. What image can I get from this that reminds me of God. Well, the obvious I guess, the Trinity, that is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit three persons in one. You see I take that stall on every camping trip and God in Trinity I know is always with me when I travel, He is the constant, the one who sets up camp beside us, the one who supports us in all that we do. He is the one who can tell our stories who has seen all that we have said and done. From the foundation up this heavenly union gives us a base to place ourselves on, to allow us to do the things that we need to do, we are invited to take our rest with them. It reminds me that we need all three supports to accomplish anything that we might want to do.

Take away a leg from the stall and collapse, I'm on the floor bruised and unsupported. You can believe in God alone, but would you sit on just the one leg, a bit like a spike, you can accept God has a son, but two legs aren't much better than one, because we need also the Holy Spirit that finally gives us true support, equally with the other two. It is simple engineering and the law of gravity and a few other scientific bits and bobs that I don't really understand. It is the same with the Trinity we don't have to understand every part of it, we just have to accept that like my stall it works. We can see it with our own eyes, we can experience it from allowing ourselves to trust that it will support us, that's how basic faith works.

If we allow the Trinity to support us then like my trusted stall we would not leave it behind, it becomes part of us, an essential to every place we go.

I'll be taking the stall with me again soon and there I'll sit securely knowing I have sat there before and will again and hopefully again. May God bless you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

God bless,

Clifford

Please feel free to share this with others

St. Helen's



We are open every Sunday

Free worship

Free Tea and Coffee

Free just as it has always
been

You are always welcome
services begin

At 8.30am and at 10am

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

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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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