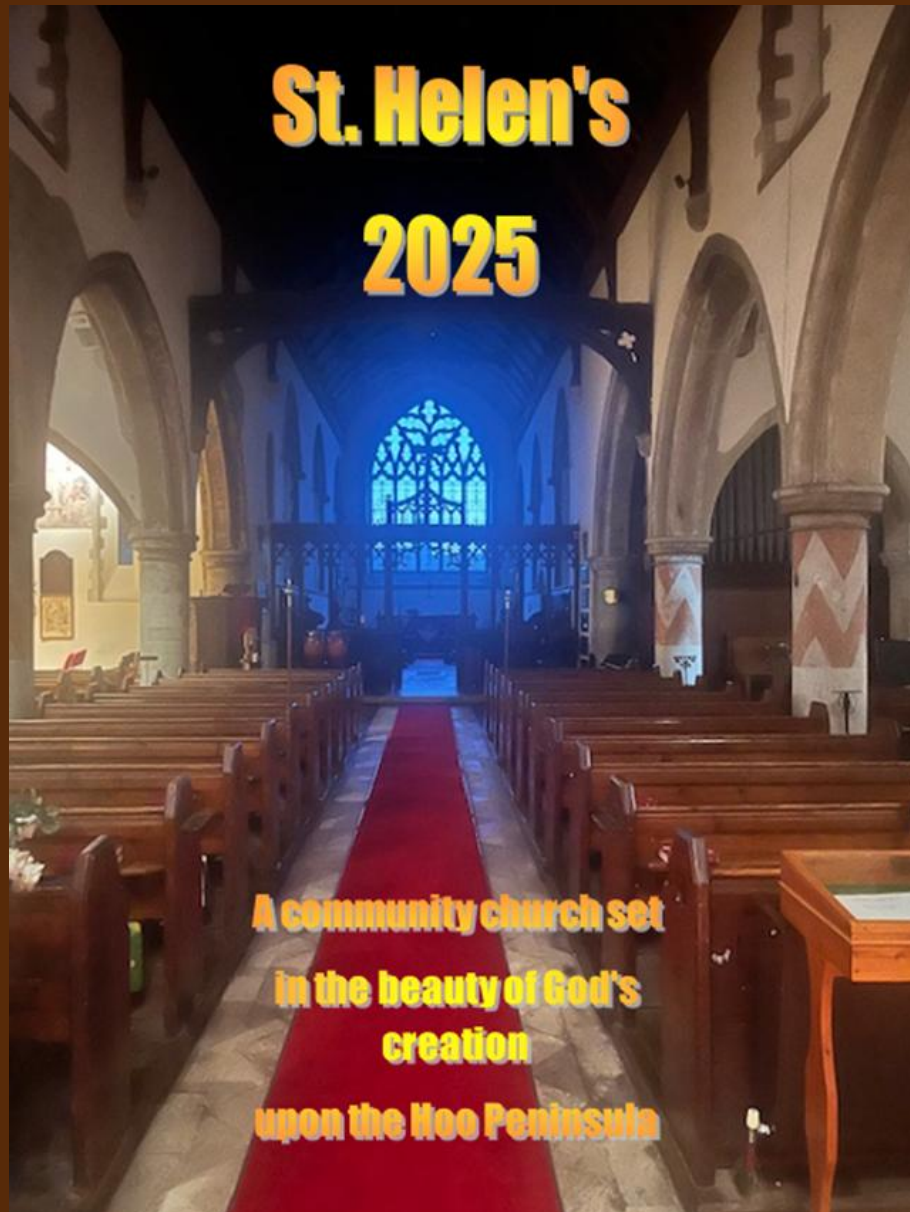


Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 28th September 2025

15th Sunday after Trinity

HARVEST

8.30am Holy Communion

10am Harvest Family Service

12noon bring and share harvest lunch

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

Dates ahead:

- Friday 3rd October 10am **St. Helen's School** Harvest service in church
 - Saturday 4th October 10am-12noon **Autumn Clean** of the Church all volunteers welcome as many hands make light work.
 - Sunday 5th October 12 noon **Baptism** of **Chloe Hawkins**
- Wednesday 8th October 1pm In Church funeral for **Peter Knight**
- Saturday 11th October **Cake Bake** from 12 noon
 - Friday 17th October **Funeral** 10am @ Thameview Crem for the late **Jenifer Scarfe**
- Saturday 18th October **Messy Church** 3-5pm
- Sunday 19th October 12 noon interment of ashes for **Brian Cripps**
 - Sunday 19th October 12.30pm after coffee **How to do CPR** with KSS Air ambulance free event please stay and learn a life saving skill.
- 21st October 1pm Wedding for **Adam and Katherine**
- 22nd October 12 noon Funeral service in church followed by crem Thamesview for **Susan Bunyan**
- Friday 31st October **Light party** 5-6.30pm

Readings for Sunday:

Philippians 4: 4-9

&

John 6: 25-35

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.



**Saturday 11th October 2025
from 12 noon**

St. Helen's Church

Entry £3 adults & 50p Children

Categories are:

**Sweet, Savoury and Children's
'So get baking'**



BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER - 7PM
CLIFFE MEMORIAL HALL



LIVE MUSIC
AND CALLER



BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE:

£17.50 (INCLUDES PLOUGHMAN'S)

CALL OR TEXT 07778 959003

OR BOOK ONLINE WITH QR CODE



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.

**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 'Harvest'

27th September 2025

Harvest

Yes this weekend we celebrate in the life of St. Helen's the harvest of 2025.

Once again it has been a warm year, one of the hottest since records began and I guess traditional harvest fruits might of either suffered or blossomed from it, whilst the change in our climate allows for other crops to be grown. Personally, we have a small apricot tree that for the first time gave us small but delicious fruit enjoying the extra warmth. A small potted cherry tree produced some fruit, but it then perished in the heat.

Now we have kept recorded weather and climate records in the UK since the 1600's but they didn't really become an accurate record until the late 1800's at the turn of the 20th century. What is clear though is the world's climate whether it be increased now by our human activity has always changed with or without us. The Romans planted vineyards here in Britain then a mini-Ice age in the 14th Century changed all that, but now once again vineyards are scattered at least across the southern parts of the UK and are thriving. The climate adjusts and nature adapts and I guess we must too. What is certain is that whatever the climate is, as long as we plant for it the earth will always bring forth a harvest and if we get it right, it always produces an abundance, we have to plan and think ahead and not just do the same old thing.

It reminds me of the story of Joseph which we will be re-telling at the next Messy Church. Joseph's success was in that he learnt how to read the weather. God gave Pharaoh a dream which haunted him, and no one could describe what it meant.

Joseph was a dreamer, and he learnt how to interpret the minds messages and the messages from God, he knew exactly what Pharaohs dream was all about.

For seven years the land of Egypt would produce an abundant crop, the Nile delta giving everything it could, too much in fact. Joseph's past as the son of a nomadic tribesman called Jacob, clearly gave him a knowledge and wisdom of how to survive in the harsh wildness of the Middle East. Now it was time not just to interpret dreams but to use that early experience to save the day. Build barns, store all that was surplus for those seven years of plenty because as is common in that part of the world seven years of drought and failed crops was coming too.

What I like about this story is Pharaoh trusted Joseph and invested in those barns, he put him in charge of operations, a Hebrew slave, I wonder if he ever doubted him over those first seven years as the harvest did what it did best and provided Egypt with some of the best natural products in the world. It paid off because whilst other countries around the Middle East suffered great famine and people starved, Egypt had plenty, it might not have been as fresh as they would have liked but there was grain and other supplies to feed every mouth and even sell it on to other neighbouring countries. Joseph taught them how to adapt, how to look ahead, how to trust in God, his God who saved him from a life in slavery and rewarded him with the second highest position to Pharaoh. If we only remember Joseph because of his colourful coat then we have missed so much of the story.

God provides everything we need through creation but creation moves and breathes, it adapts and changes, once here in Cliffe everything was under the sea, we know that because we are called Cliffe because simply there is a large chalky Cliff at the edge of our village, the chalk deposits are made up of tiny microscopic marine organisms that fell to the ocean floor. Today we have to walk down that cliff and out across the marsh to find the water of the Thames. Then there was a time just 7000 years ago when the seas receded so far back, believe it or not due to global warming that there was nothing dividing us from mainland Europe, they call it Doggerland, today the North Sea. Humans might be warming things up a little quicker, but these changes have always been with us, and we have adapted with them and continued to bring in the harvest that only God has provided. For he gave us the seed, we planted it, and He watered it and provided it with warmth, and it grew and produced its crop, and we then harvested it and then shared it with each other.

That last statement, we shared it, is something that we are not always so good at and as we tuck into our harvest lunches let us never forget those who are starving in many parts of the world, can we pray for more people like Joseph who saw the problem and was able to save the day because he knew there was plenty to go around. It is an ancient story that can teach us still so much today.

Enjoy then the harvest of 2025 as new seed is scattered for the next harvest.

God bless,

Clifford

Please feel free to share this with others

The Cliff's at Cliffe taken by Cliff this week



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

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Day Off usually a Thursday

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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