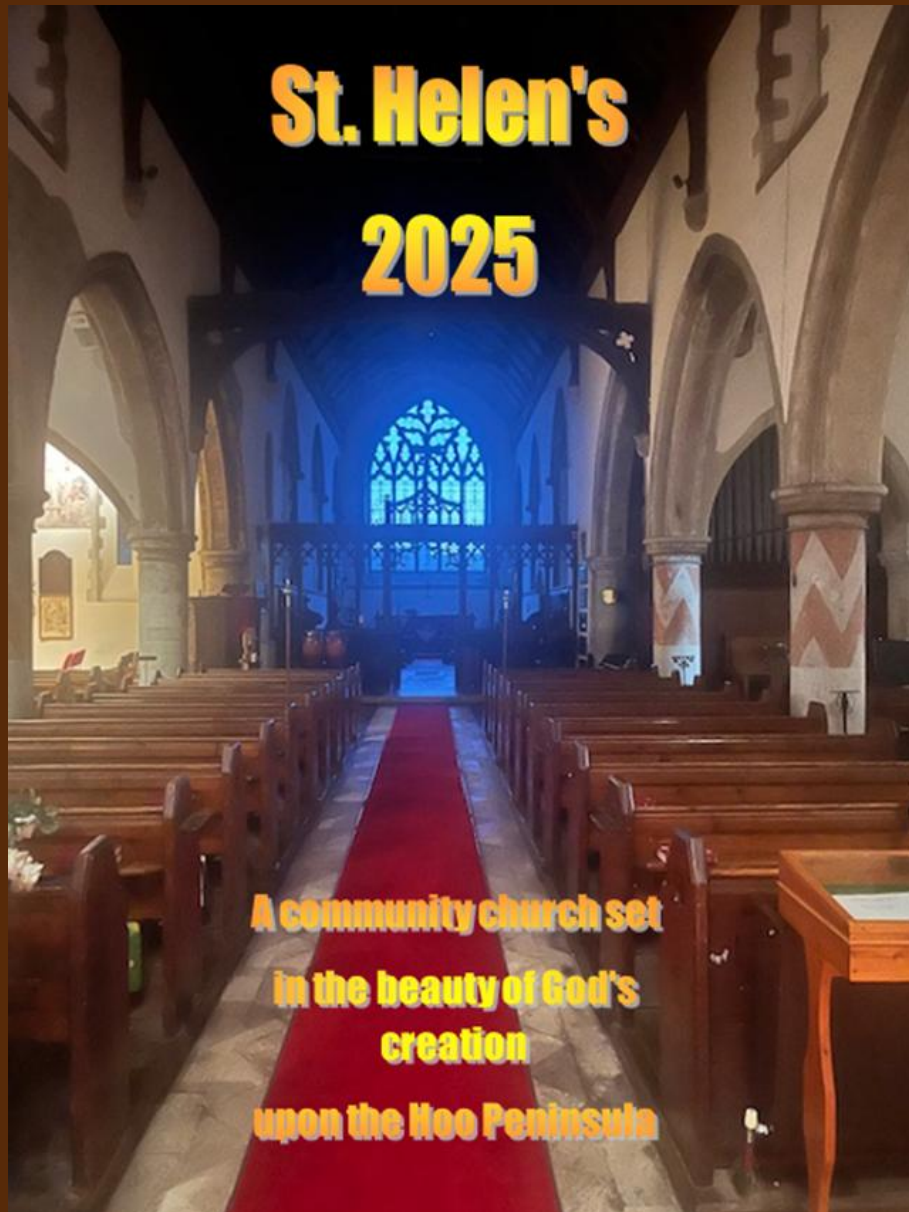


Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 19th October 2025

18th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion

10am Family Service

12 noon Interment of ashes for Brian Cripps

12.30pm-1pm after coffee How to do CPR with KSS Air ambulance free event please stay and learn a life saving skill.

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

Dates ahead:

- Saturday 18th October **Messy Church** 3-5pm
- 21st October 1pm Wedding for **Adam and Katherine**
- 22nd October 12 noon Funeral service in church followed by crem Thamesview for **Susan Bunyan**
- 25th October **Barn Dance** 7pm Memorial Hall
- Friday 31st October **Light party** 5-6.30pm
 - Sunday 2nd November **Memorial Service** 4pm 'theme: In this mirror'
- 9th November **Remembrance Service** starting 10am in Church gathering around War Memorial for 11am silence.
- 11th November act of silence gathering at 10.50am by War Memorial all welcome, followed by St. Helen's School service @ 11.10am
- 10th November PCC 7pm St. Helen's house
 - 15th November **Messy Church** 3-5pm
- 16th November 12 noon interment of ashes for **Brian Saich**
- 29th November **Christmas Fair** 12noon - 3pm

Readings for Sunday:

2 Timothy 3:14- 4:5
&
Luke 18: 1-8

'a dripping tap!'

MAKING MIRACLES

Knitting & Crochet Group - Cliffe



All abilities welcome
Drinks & snacks available
to buy from the Coffee Stop

THURSDAY 16TH OCT

1.30 - 3.30PM

ST HELEN'S HOUSE

BUTTWAY LANE, CLIFFE

ME3 7QP

Arts and Crafts Morning

St.Helen's House

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

10am -12 noon

Looking at Autumn crafts this time

All welcome



Memorial Service of Hope and Comfort

This year's theme

'In this mirror'

Sunday 2nd November 2025

4pm

@

St. Helen's Church Cliffe



Tea and coffee served after the service

This is an opportunity to give thanks and remember before God all our loved ones who have gone before us.

There will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory

All are warmly welcome to this reflective service.

LIGHT PARTY 2025

**St. Helen's Church
is once again offering an alternative
to Halloween:**

**Friday 31st October
5-6.30pm**

**Why not come in fancy dress?
but no spooks or scary costumes please**

**Fun & games held at the back of
church, Buttway Lane, Cliffe**

All children must be accompanied by an adult



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!**



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.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

The Rt Rev Dr Jonathan Gibbs



17 October 2025

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am delighted to be able to share with you today an update on the work that has been taking place around the Called Together diocesan vision and strategy.

I am sure you'll remember that back in March, we were able to announce that the National Church, through the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board, had awarded us a grant of almost £11 million to invest in our vision and strategy to **change, serve and grow**, as we seek together to serve the Kingdom of God in the Diocese of Rochester.

People have been wondering, of course, what's been happening since then? And the short answer is, a great deal.

Much work has been taking place over the spring and summer to finalise the details with the National Church concerning the vision's expected overall outcomes, what the national team are expecting of us, the governance structures for managing this very significant investment, and the process for reporting on the way the work is going.

All of that has been necessary so that we could finally draw down the funds that have been promised and begin the first phases of this ambitious and hope-filled plan for the entire diocesan-family.

The good news is that all this is now in place - after a great deal of work behind the scenes - enabling us to start mobilising the programme of work that will help us to:

- Grow and sustain confident mission-focused leaders, both lay and ordained
- Nurture faith in the next generation
- Use targeted investments to encourage and support growth and to resource other parishes through that learning
- Strengthen those parishes who are especially facing financial and missional challenges by coming alongside them, and
- Meet our commitments to growing safe and healthy churches that are diverse, inclusive and that allow everyone to experience the fullness of life that Jesus promised

What I would like to encourage you to do is to head to the Vision page of the diocesan website to view a full-day update on progress so far, or simply click the link here: [Called Together – Autumn 2025 update](#)

This update will be linked to in the next Digest, and we'll share regular updates like this throughout the year ahead. Please use this update in your parishes and other settings to let others know what is happening.

God really is at work here in the Diocese of Rochester and we all have an important part to play in turning this vision into a reality.

Bishopscourt, 24 St Margaret's Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1TS
tel 01634 842721 email bishopscourt@rochester.anglican.org

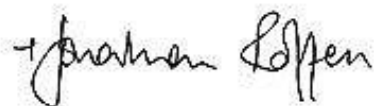


I am so excited about all that is to come and so thankful for all those who have done so much to bring us this far and have committed to taking this forward in the years to come.

I hope you too will be excited and encouraged to play your part so that God's Church in this Diocese may flourish and grow, and God's name be glorified.

Thank you for your share in the work of the gospel.

With my prayers and blessings



Jonathan, Bishop of Rochester

[Rochester Funds click here for link page](#)

Weekly activities

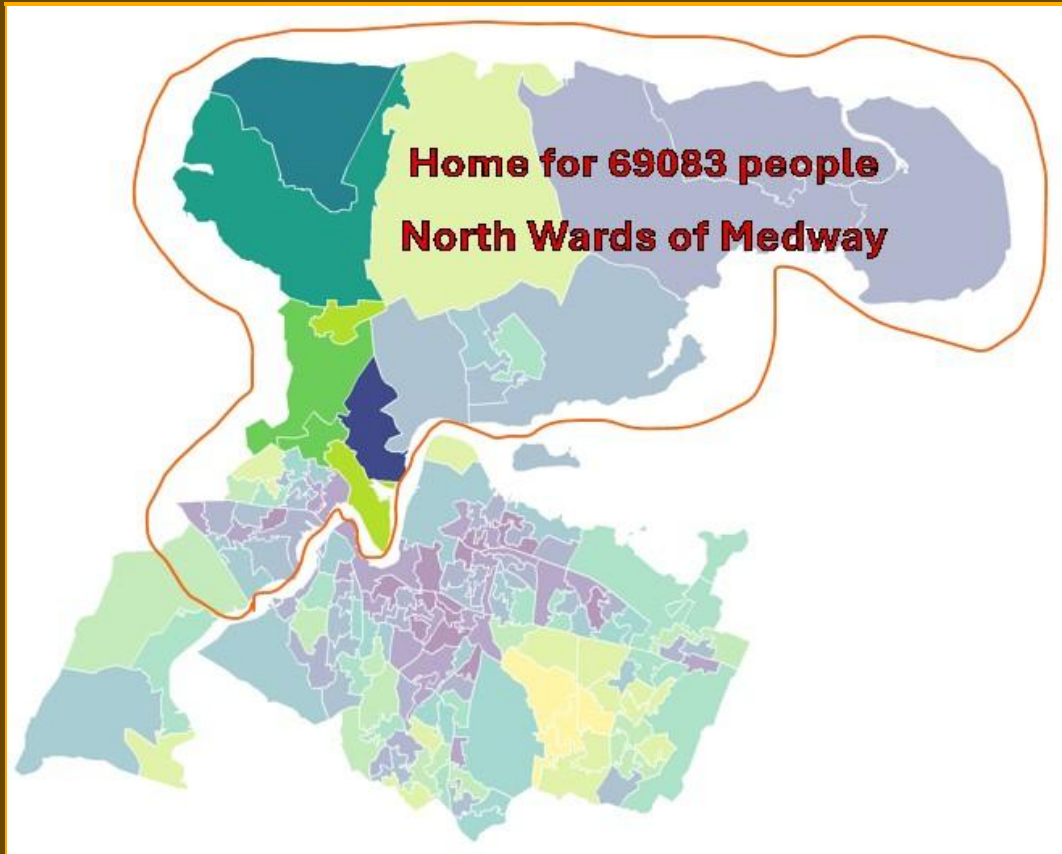
If you would like something advertised here please email cliffatcliffe@gmail.com



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

Reverend Clifford's Weekly Blog

'Imagine'



18th October 2025

Imagine

John Lennon once sung in his last verse:

Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world
You, You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

I don't want to imagine his first verse:

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us

Above us, only sky

Livin' for today

Imagine all the people

I personally believe that many of the world's problems are triggered by a new population that really do believe yet alone imagine the first verse, take away either or both heaven and hell and all we have is earth.

As I see it the problem with no heaven is it removes hope.

If you only have heaven then the problem is that with no hell is it removes consequences and thus responsibility.

Today many are just living for today, it's a self-indulgent world, take what you can, make what you can whilst you can, because tomorrow may never come and if this is all there ever is; you might as well make the most of your own desires.

We are literally stripping the earth bare with little regard for our grandchildren and theirs. Just today as writing we have been warned that the carbon we are putting into the atmosphere is far greater than we imagined and it's too late to turn back the clock of its effects. The UK is being warned it needs to get ready for a minimum 2% rise in temperature by 2050 but more likely a 4% rise; for at present, we are not prepared for the consequences of that. Already water each summer and now in other seasons is scarce as our population continues to rise by just under half a million a year. These are the UK problems, traditional crops and wildlife being replaced by more Mediterranean varieties, whilst I might enjoy this climate, the truth is it will change much of what I know.

If we are to survive long term as a human race we all need to wake up to that last verse, we need to learn to share the world and live as one. I believe unlike John Lennon, that if we focus on heaven and hell and take on the consequences as being real then we might be able to start seeing real change. Until then the conflict we see all around the world with nature and with ourselves will continue because we have undervalued its worth.

Our value of life is shocking; this week thank God we have seen the return of hostages to Israel both those alive and those who have sadly died. My genuine prayer is for lasting peace, but it seems we value life depending on which side of the border we live, are we really shocked that the IDF have killed in just two years @ least 67000 people mainly women, children and the elderly, that whole cities have been reduced to nothing but rubble. I'm not sure we understand those figures, so let's imagine.

Imagine all the people living in a world like this:

You turn off the M20 from London the capital city for Cuxton and Halling, you pass through Snodland and then the devastation begins, a few houses are flattened at first then more and more destruction as you follow the north side of the river Medway for the next 15 miles to the edge of the Thames. As you cross over the M2 down into Strood everything is gone, a continuous pile of rubble, there's no life because everyone has been killed. Up to this point the population was about 20000 all gone. Now through the debris you head out up the hill through Frindsbury and Wainscott it's the same everything and everyone is gone total population 36000 people, its okay it's only a number.

A survivor tells you they have flown a drone over Hoo and out across to Grain and there again, no one is left, a peninsula of rubble and tumble weed blowing across the marshes. There's an eerie silence but for a few birds still singing in the air.

Your journey continues as your destination is not yet met, the B2000 always a deadly road now deserted, the passage for once is clear, Cliffe Woods gone, every hamlet abandoned.

Closer you approach the last village at the end of the road that goes to nowhere. Cliffe to is flattened and not a soul survives, the death toll is now for the entire population of all these wards in North Medway up to 69083 yet still it is just a number in other parts of the world that have never even heard of Medway.

69083

Imagine the size of the graveyard that needs to place each at rest, **imagine there's no heaven** for 69083 is simply as I say just a number, **imagine there's no hell** that number falls on no ones shoulders of blame, it's just what we do, pass through without a name.

I paint a grim picture that is not our reality, but it is someone's today, the grieving is still real, the numbers unbelievable and that is just in one place, one conflict that has destroyed Gaza, around the world other conflicts devour human life and its settlements because there are those who can't **Imagine sharing all the world.**

The numbers I have used here are the official population numbers for the whole of the Medway north of the river, they help to give us a stark view of what many have faced over the last two years.

Let's pray there is a heaven and that each name is known to God rather than them just being a statistical number. Hell isn't a nice concept or place, but if there is a heaven then there must be equally a hell where those who only see numbers rather than names are accountable for mindless actions.

Can we pray that the **dreamers** become the peace makers, and that they rise up to govern our world with justice and mercy, can we pray that we stop blaming God as John Lennon was and take on board the message God gave us through Jesus, that love is what is important above all things in our lives, that reconciliation and forgiveness replace hatred and revenge. **Imagine living in a world like that** as we pray for continued peace, **imagine all the people with nothing to kill or die for, imagine no religion** but a life built on FAITH, **imagine a world with no more greed, so no more hunger, a brotherhood of man.**

John Lennon was a dreamer the Son of Man is a reality if we allow him.

*Songwriters: John Winston Lennon
Imagine lyrics © Audiam, Inc, C&C Digital Services OÜ (UniteSync), Downtown Music Publishing, Music Admin, Inc*

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

Church Wardens:

Robin Thompson

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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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