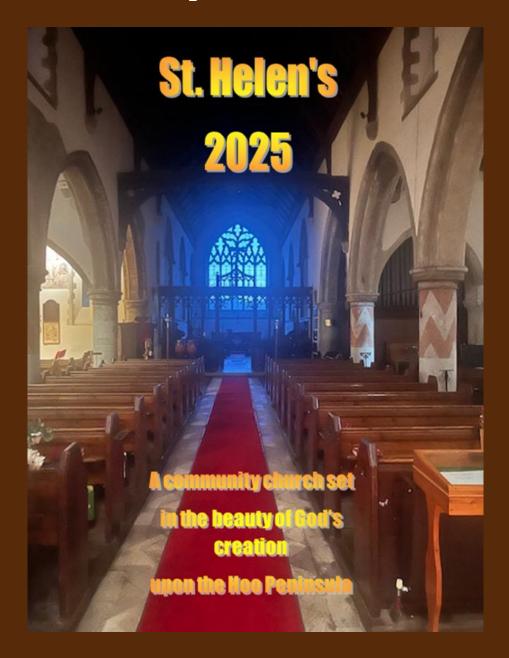
Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 30th November 2025

Advent Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion
10am Praise Service with Music Jam
12 noon Interment of ashes for *Keith & Jenifer Scarfe*

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

Dates ahead:

- 2nd December Hope Explored Advent Course 7-9pm St. Helen's House
 - 3rd December 7pm Choir Pratice
 - 5th December 7.30pm Christmas Concert in Church tickets can be purchased on the door.
 - Saturday 6th December Monthly
 Prayers 9-10am in Church all welcome

Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 2: 1-5 & Matthew 24: 36-44 "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".



Three-week course looking at Hope

Did you know that 600 years before Jesus was born @ Bethlehem his birth had been predicted?

Jesus offers Hope!

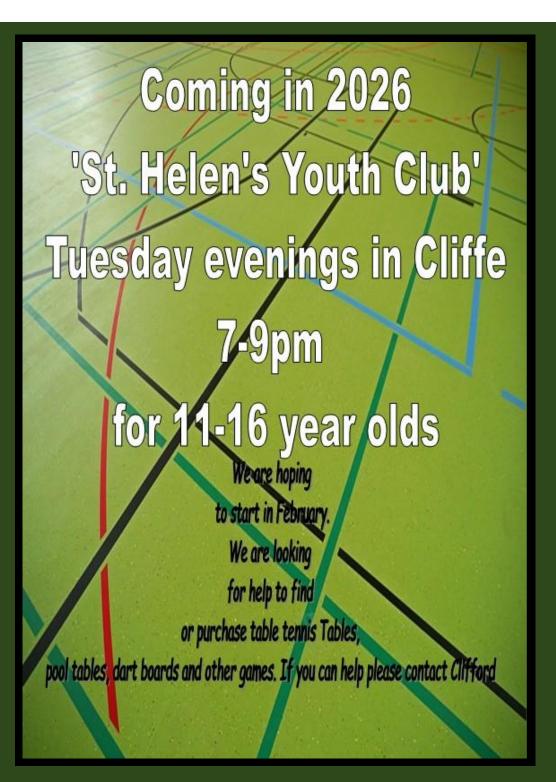
There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by.

Open to all and free why not find out more over three Tuesday evenings here in December

7-9pm

2nd December St. Helen's House 9th December St. Helen's Church 16th December St. Helen's House

Tea & coffee provided







Saturday 29th November 12noon - 3pm



Refreshments, raffle, cakes, games, have-a-go stalls, bric-a-brac and local handmade items and of course Father Christmas!

Stallholder bookings contact Rob: 01634 221497 email kentstamps@outlook.com





with the Gravesend Borough Band

A selection of christmas music & sing-a-long carols



St. Helen's Church Buttway Lane, Cliffe



Bar & Raffle

Adults £12 Under 16s free



Tickets: 07778 959003

Buy online with QR code



SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - 12 TO 3PM CHRISTMAS FAIR







SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER - 6PM CAROL SERVICE - ST. JAMES' CHURCH, COOLING





4PM - CRIB & CHRISTINGLE (CHRISTINGLE THEME: DONKEYS)

feel free to come dressed as a donkey or bring a toy donkey!

11.30PM - MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10AM FAMILY SERVICE







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 <u>open</u> 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 November2025 '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 'Barley fields'

Photo looking across to back of the Rectory



29th November 2025

After two years of coriander at long last the field at the back of the Rectory is planted out with I assume winter barley. Why am I relieved because as some of you would have heard me moan, the sound of coriander pickers shouting to each other as soon as the sun rises in the summer can be annoying as one tries to sleep in till at least 6am.

Anyway, I think barley and wheat are a much more interesting a crop as they reflect the changing seasons, they give me something to watch. Seeded in late summer or early autumn the first green shoots soon broke through their muddy entombment. As the first autumn rains water the earth releasing the nutrients within the soil, those tender shoots have gained strength to battle against the northerly winds now frequenting the fields that surround the Thames marshes.

In the last week the first test came in the crops endurance with the elements as heavy frosts settled upon the earth. Defrosting creating a mild rising mist as the weakened heat from the sun still has enough strength to warm the ground.

As autumn passes so winter will arrive, it might be mild or it might bring in another beast from the prevailing east, but whatever occurs the green blades will continue to push upwards fighting to find the sun. In these months of darkness, it might just be that the green is immersed in a new blanket of white, from winter snow where each crystal is unique in its own right, perfectly formed, so gentle and fragile and yet when compact unmoveable creating chaos in our regimented undisturbed lives.

As winter fades spring will come once again, the bulbs rising from iron solid soil, the first splash of colour as each day warms and each day is longer than the last. By now the green shoots are taller and firmer and a stalk bearing seed has developed. Birds have come over the winter months and birds have gone, migration never ceasing, to

and throwing a constant reminder of life's ebb and flow. Repeated in the tides and the ships that pass through Old Father Thames bringing wares from around the globe, from other seasons and climates. A taste of the exotic, of the orient of palms and bays so far away. Nests and new homes are built in anticipation of new life, the first bee seen and other creatures of the wing as ponds team with spawn. Standing upright and straight, the field is tight as the regimented lines of corn, barely or wheat now wait their final season as summer brings back the swallow and martin in their flight. Insects and small mammals now make home in the rows that begin to change in colour as rain is now out of season once again.

The heat of the sun will beat down on the ground, and the soil will bear cracks as the heads of barely and corn ripen until in full cycle it is harvest again. Seed for sowing and seed for bread, seed for beer and straw for bed, the gathering of each will remind us that from heaven all good gifts are given.

As winter now approaches this field reminds me that God will meet me in every season, that summer will return and that God's love is ever warming. I'm blessed for now to have this field at the end of my garden, and it reminds me that God's blessings are forever all around us. We just need sometimes to pause, to look, to listen to feel the creative hand at work in our daily lives. Jesus was amazing at this; he told parables by just observing the everyday things around him. He told stories of fields full of barley, and shared bread with those in need, he commanded the waters and turn them into wine for dancing and celebrating as each dined. He was a guest at weddings and welcomed in many a home, he healed the sick and gave hope to the forgotten, he welcomed children and gave dignity to all who called on his name. In every season Jesus was and is present in our circle of daily life.

Tomorrow is Advent the beginning of a new season, of preparation for sowing of seed, the seed we call the word of God, prepare ye the way of the Lord. We prepare for a baby, for a child who will grow, for a man who will meet us and forgive us when we reject him, he will harvest our lives to be presented to God. May we all grow as life comes and goes, fulfilling our potential to be children of God. Light your first candle for Advent and see him glow, the light of the world you know. Don't get stuck in one season for Christmas will go, be found in each season to grow and to glow. 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

145 St. Helen's Rectory Cliffe Rochester Kent ME3 7PY clifford2567@googlemail.com 01634 610752 or 07941056237 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:

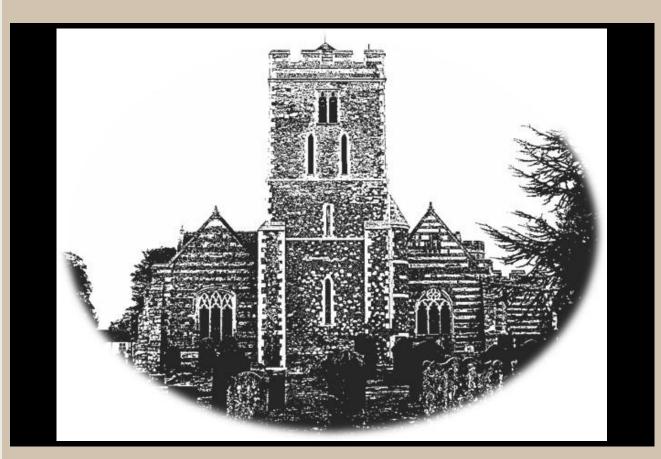
Children's Safeguarding officer:

Julie Allen - 01634 221763

Adult Safeguarding officer:

Heather Weston -07762 401424





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Our mailing address is:
cliffatcliffe@gmail.com
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe

