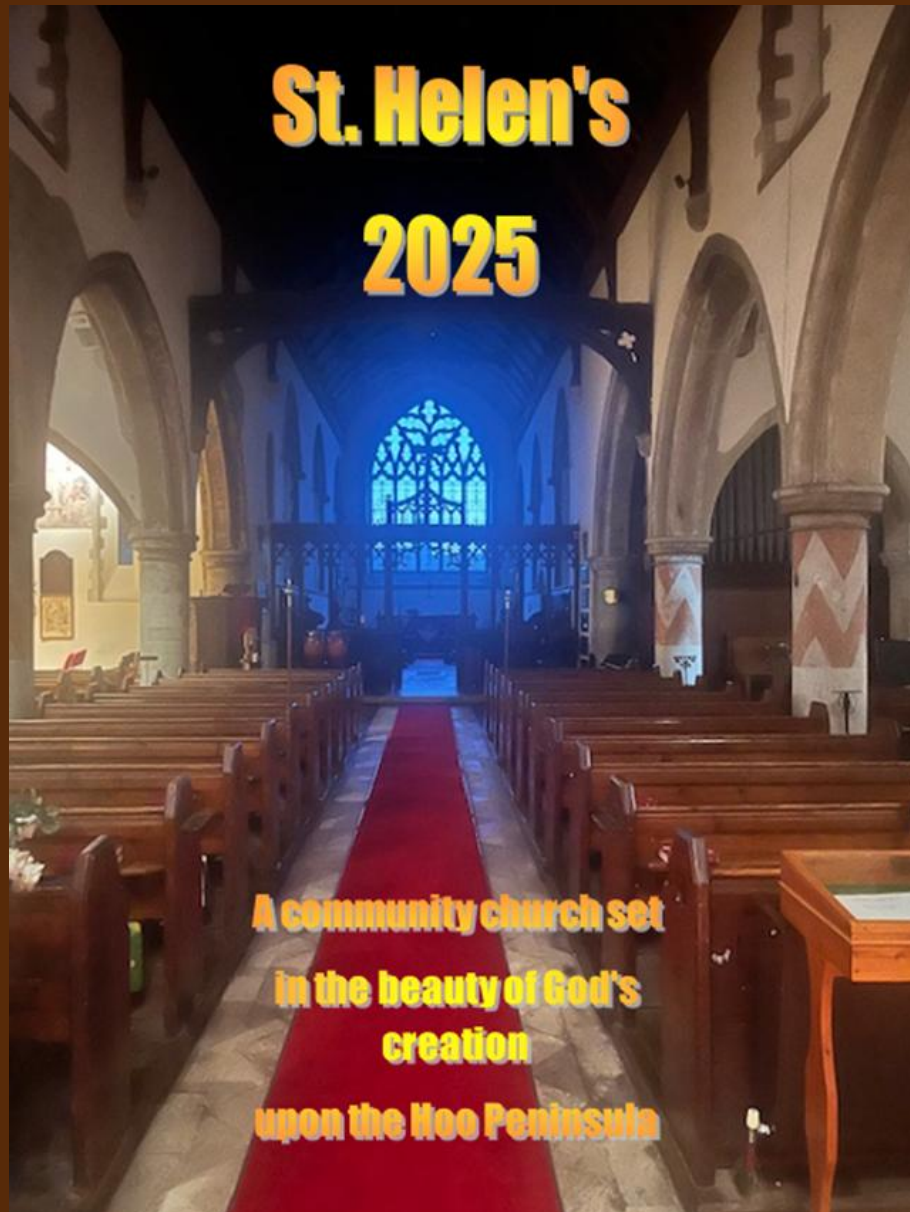


Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 9th November 2025

Remembrance Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion

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

Dates ahead:

- 9th November **Remembrance Service** starting 10am in Church gathering around War Memorial for 11am silence.
- 10th November **PCC** 7pm St. Helen's house
- 11th November act of silence gathering at 10.50am by War Memorial all welcome, followed by St. Helen's School service @ 11.10am
- 14th November 10am Thames Veiw Crem Joint funeral for **Timothy and Maureen (Sally) Long**
- 15th November **Messy Church** 3-5pm
- 16th November **Safeguarding Sunday**
 - 16th November 12 noon interment of ashes for **Brian Saich**
- 26th November 2pm Thames Veiw Crem funeral for **Alan Billson**
- 29th November **Christmas Fair** 12noon - 3pm

Readings for Sunday:

Luke 20: 27- 38

We will remember them

**“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.**



HOPE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

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



CHRISTMAS FAIR



ST. HELEN'S CHURCH
Buttway Lane, Cliffe, ME3 7QP



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





Christmas Concert

with the Gravesend Borough Band

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



Friday 5th December
7.30pm (doors open 7pm)



St. Helen's Church
Buttway Lane, Cliffe



Bar & Raffle

Adults £12
Under 16s free



Tickets: 07778 959003

Buy online with QR code



CHRISTMAS @ ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - 12 TO 3PM

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER - 7.30PM

CONCERT - GRAVESEND BOROUGH BAND

(TICKETED FUNDRAISING EVENT)



SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER - 6PM

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER - 6PM

CAROL SERVICE - ST. JAMES' CHURCH, COOLING



SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER - 5.30PM

CAROLS & REFRESHMENTS AT THE END OF THE SANTA PARADE



CHRISTMAS EVE



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

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

11.30PM - MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10AM

FAMILY SERVICE



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.

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
'Do not forget;
It only took one small spark'**



8th November 2025

Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot.

In the life of the church November is the month of remembrance, it allows us to gather as church and community in various ways. Last week we opened the doors of the church to all who have lost loved ones at any time in their lives, to light a candle, say some prayers or simply just pause from our own busy lives and look back. Many names were read out of people who have touched our lives in some way. It was a moving service and this Sunday both church and community will gather again up and down this land of ours and read more names of those who gave their lives in defence of us. Too many lives laid down often so young, engraved in memorial walls and crosses, lists of whole families, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, whole communities that sacrificed so much. We will remember them, but is that enough; because we need to act upon their sacrifice, we need to seek the common good and work together for peace so that we never have to add more names to those memorials which sadly we continue to do year on year, an endless list of human misery, when will we write the final word, The End?

We will also be remembering together as a community tonight as this is sent out this Saturday morning, gathered around the bonfire at the bottom of Pond hill, remembering Guy Fawkes. Following a national tradition dating back to the 17th Century when treason, plot and gunpowder are remembered, fireworks will brighten up the darkness and send every neighbourhood dog wild; but for a short time, our fear of explosions will subside as maybe we remember those who still wake up or live in fear of real missile attacks everyday of their lives.

November is for remembering but the real treason comes when we walk away and simply return to the old things, the old ways, when the mildest of confrontation flows from our being again. Like a firework or the bonfires that smoulder having consumed everything placed in their flames, **it only took one small spark** to engulf, ignite and destroy the fuel which it rendered back to ash. Each war and human conflict started

with just one wrong word or action, it forgot forgiveness, it forgot the consequences, it forgot its own humanity.

Remember this November the words of the psalmist, (psalm 139: 14) 'I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' That means you and that means me and note that the word fear in this original context means, I'm in awe, left in wonder and have great reverence for what is. You are awesome, so am I! I'm not being flippant here, its true we are all amazing creations, there is no one like us outside of the world we know, you and I are precious and if we need to remember anything at all this November; or any other month or day of the year, we need to remember this, because when we do we will begin to value life in its fullness.

November reminds us that to often we have failed to be fearful, to be awe struck, to step back and truly appreciate the gift of life, of all life on earth. I have heard to often as a parish priest the confrontation of petty squabbles that divide families and communities alike, energy spent on destruction rather than construction. Yes sometimes we can't resolve everything but that is why we were given the gift of movement, for times when we simply walk away, like taking a kettle of the heat, it will stop boiling, like blowing out the spark that will cause a fire or an explosion, **it simply takes one small action to cancel a chain reaction.**

Let us then remember this November and in honour of those who we remember, let us learn to truly live in unity with each other so that as Jesus once said, we might start living life to the full.

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

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