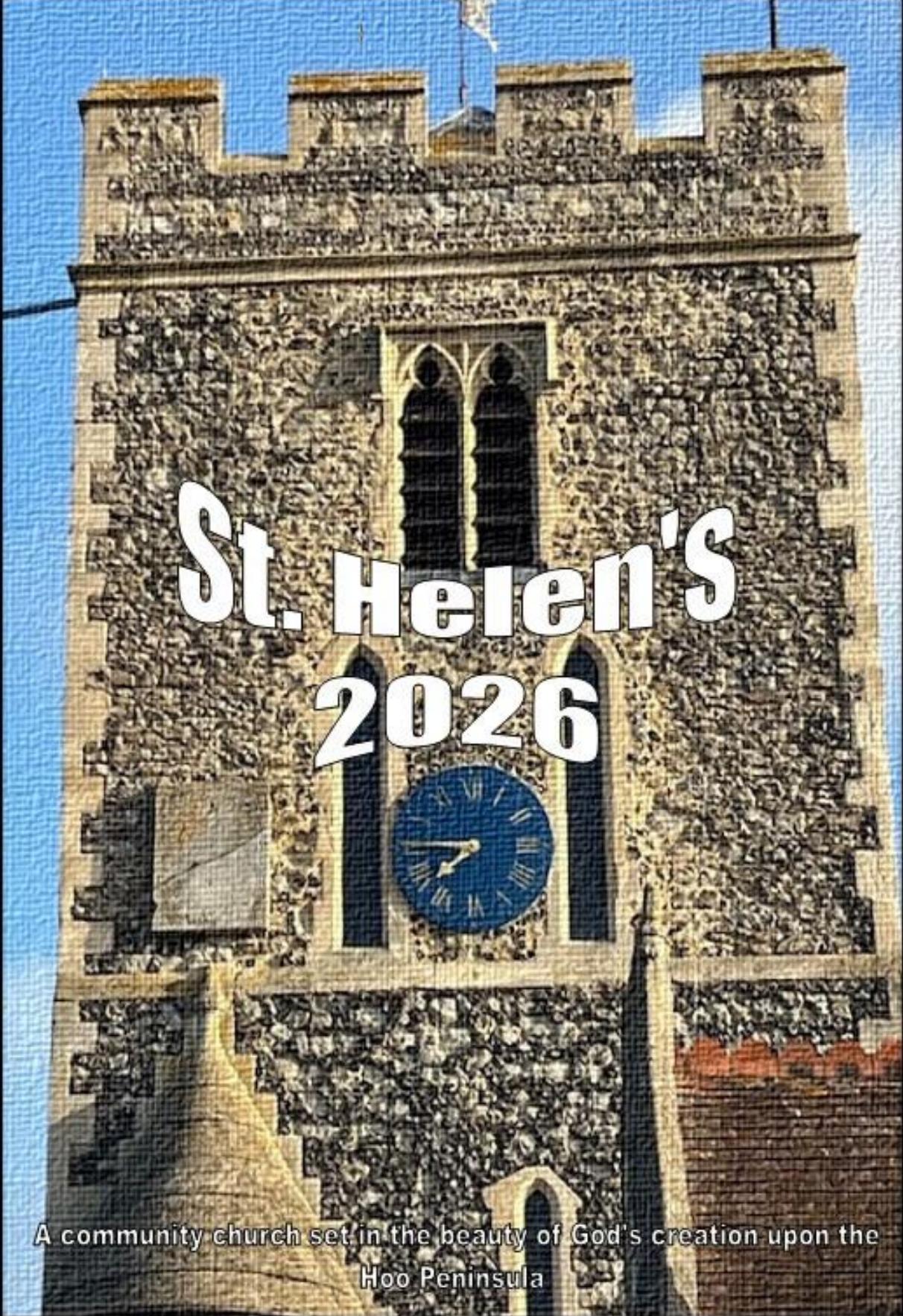


Welcome to our  
Weekly News Letter



# St. Helen's 2026

A community church set in the beauty of God's creation upon the  
Hoo Peninsula

A reading to carry us through 2026

**'I will give you a new heart and put a new**

**spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.'** *Ezekiel 36:26 NIV*

## Services this week and readings

### **Sunday 18th January 2026**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany  
The start of a week of Christian unity**

**8.30am Holy Communion (BCP traditional)  
10am Family Agape Service (sharing bread and wine  
as one family in Christ Jesus)**

**Please note our New Services for 2026 will be as follows:**

**1st and 3rd Sundays of the month Family Agape services (simple sharing of bread and wine)  
2nd & 4th Sundays family service of the word  
5th Sundays as advised at time**

**MORNING PRAYER** is said @ 8am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Mornings in the Lady Chapel All Welcome  
Starting once again 5th January 2026

### **Dates ahead:**

- **Messy Church** Saturday 17th January 3-5pm  
'Messy Hair the story of Samson'
- 19th January, 2nd Feb, 16th Feb **Music Jam** 7-8.30pm
  - 8th Feb Dave & Kay are having a blessing during the main service to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. After the service there will be some nibbles all are welcome to stay.
  - 18th Feb **Ash Wednesday** Service @ 6.30pm
  - 20th Feb **Elvis** is in the building
  - 24th Feb **Youth Club** 7-9pm
  - 25th Feb 1st Lent Course **This Cup** 'The Kiddush Cup' 7-9pm in church.

**Readings for Sunday:  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9 & John 1: 29-42**

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**Start date for new  
Youth Club  
Tuesday 24th February  
2026**

Coming in 2026

'St. Helen's Youth Club'

Tuesday evenings in Cliffe

7-9pm

for 11-16 year olds

We are hoping  
to start in February.

We are looking  
for help to find

or purchase table tennis Tables,  
pool tables, dart boards and other games. If you can help please contact Clifford

Next time @ Messy Church

'Messy Hair'

The Story of Samson

17th January 2026 3-5pm

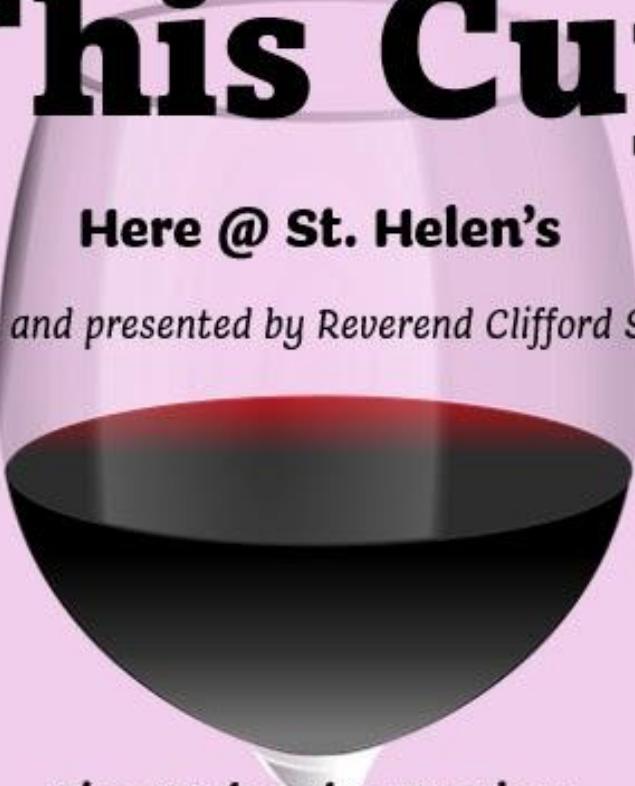


**Lent Course 2026**

# **This Cup**

**Here @ St. Helen's**

*Written and presented by Reverend Clifford Stocking*



**Five Wednesday Evenings**

**7-9pm**

**Week one 25<sup>th</sup> February the Kiddush cup**

**Week two 4<sup>th</sup> March the Haggadah cup**

**Week three 11<sup>th</sup> March the Berakah cup**

**Week four 18<sup>th</sup> March the Hallel cup**

**Week five 25<sup>th</sup> March the Elijah cup**

During these five weeks in Lent, we will start to look at the origins of the Passover Meal and how Jesus might have shared this with his disciples on Maundy Thursday at what we call The Last Supper.

# ELVIS

## Tribute Night

with Scott Elvis



**F R I D A Y**  
**20th FEBRUARY**

**TICKETS:**  
**£15 ADULTS**  
**£5 UNDER 16s**  
**07778 959003**

**DOORS OPEN 7PM**  
**PERFORMANCE 7.30PM**  
**BAR (OWN DRINK NOT PERMITTED)**  
**RAFFLE**

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

# 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.

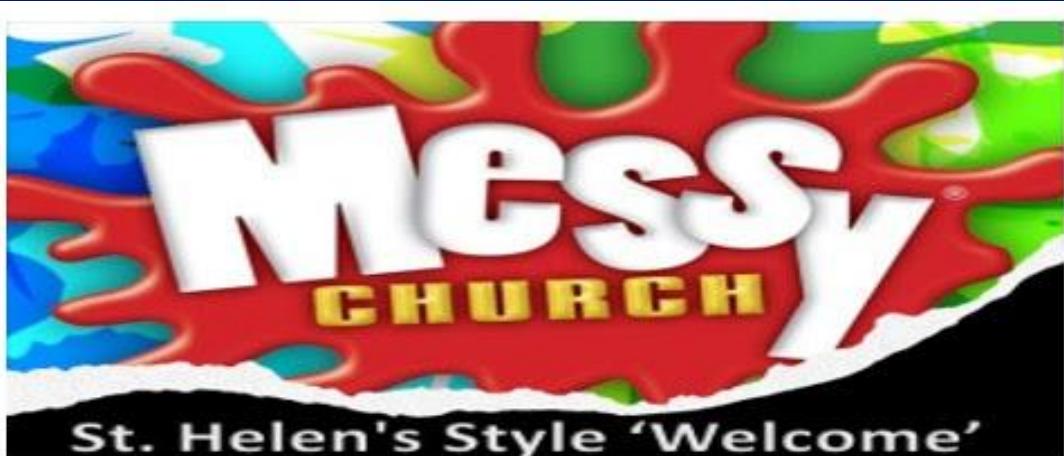
For more info about St.Helen's go to  
'A Church Near You' or our 'Webpage'

click one of the buttons below

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9932](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9932)

## Messy Church

New dates below for 2025/2026



### **Messy Church Dates for 2025/26**

**3-5pm.**

*Dates are:*

*20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 'Messy Idols' Moses and the law*

*18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 'Messy Coats' the story of Joseph*

*15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 'Messy Music' Gideon's army*

*17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 'Messy Hair' Samson*

*14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 'Messy Love' a new commandment*

*14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 'Messy Mothers' a look at biblical mums*

*3<sup>rd</sup> April 'Messy Good Friday' 10.30am-12 noon*

*16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 'Messy Gold' King Solomon*

*20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cliffatcliffe@gmail.com)

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

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**Reverend Clifford's Weekly Blog  
'Snowdrop'  
see the photo below**

**17th January 2026**

It's Friday morning and as I sit down to write both this blog and a sermon for Sunday, I'm left scratching my head for words, or a place to begin. It's been one of those weeks I guess; on Monday I was aware that as I headed off to PCC that some in our community were gathering to try and wake up the dead in an evening of clairvoyancy. If you want to know what God thinks about such activities just read Deuteronomy 18: 10-12 basically He deplores it, those who practice or engage in it are detestable to Him. It's a harsh language but clearly if you believe that your loved ones are in God's heaven then they rest peacefully for eternity, we have no way at reengaging with them between earth and heaven, whatever messages some might claim to hear are not from God. To finish this week off at morning prayer we had Jesus's take on this. Jesus is the only person to have claimed to have come from heaven and gone back to heaven, I guess; I believe! that makes him a good authority on the subject. Basically, the things of this earth are just that, and the things of heaven are yet to be revealed, we take nothing from here to there but ourselves, which simply means we need to live in the present and concern ourselves with the things that we can change

or make a difference to today. The reading was Matthew 22: 23-33.

As I then approached St. Helen's house for the start of PCC the carpark and village were full of blue flashing police lights. I believe as is so common here there was a chase through the churchyard, as a continued crackdown on drugs and other illegal activities passes into another year. I read so many comments on local social media that a little bit of weed is harmless. Well maybe, but when it's sat behind a wheel of a car or white van, tell that to the families who have lost loved ones, yet alone the illegal background that underpins supply not just of weed but harder drugs. (I bet you wouldn't get on a plane or a train if the pilot or driver were under the influence, why has it become so acceptable on our roads) Harmless; well, I have buried to many young people who have been drawn in by a harmless puff, it is heartbreaking trust me. I remember trying to stop one young man, a brother from jumping in the open grave with his twin sister who had died from an overdose. Then there was a young mum who overdosed leaving her toddler behind, she had been trying so, so hard to get off drugs and those who kept chasing her and supplying her, they just kept pushing. The toddlers dad couldn't cope at the loss of his girlfriend and within two weeks I was burying him to, the toddlers granddad was left to bring the boy up, telling me, yes it all started with a harmless puff. How do you bring comforting words in moments like that, as a priest it is devastating and it hangs deep in my memory. I tell people about the risks, but they laugh back in my face, 'won't happen to me mate.' Your right until I burry you.

A couple of weeks ago an 89-year-old man was run down on the streets of Gillingham and when you dig into why, it relates to illegal supply of weed and other illegal activities and traffic offences. Everyone seemed shocked as they should be, but that is the consequence of saying our activities are harmless, they are often not. I hope then the police got who they were after in the carpark, it might just in the long run save a life.

By mid-week the world seemed to be going mad, especially in Iran and Greenland. Protestors being slain in their thousands as they seek to change a regime that will not allow for a democratic voice. A 26-year-old man threatened with the death sentence because he spoke out. Pray for the young men and women of Iran who want the freedom to choose their own governments, its something we take for granted here in the UK. But then even our stable elective system seems to be all over the place as deflections and U turns dominate the headlines. Pray for Greenlanders who are being threatened by those who should know better. Pray for all the other areas of our world torn apart by human activities that we simply don't have time or space in our news to report each day.

I guess its just another week, it could be so different, Jesus stood here on earth and told us it starts with each one of us, we need to seek God's peace, Shalom in our daily lives. We need to be accountable for ourselves and when we start to do that then we find we have greater respect for our neighbour. So, as I walked through the churchyard (quiet and peaceful) this morning I looked for the simple things that reveal God to us. You see we are so busy, so caught up in our own lives that we sometimes pass the tiniest of things that just get on with being the creation that God wanted.

I stooped down and took the following photo, it speaks a lot, one I had to stop, pause and place myself in a position to admire what I could have easily walked pass. A bunch of snowdrops, the first flowering bulbs of a new year, innocent in their white array, defying all the frosts and the rains, pushing up from the earthy grave that they have been suspended in for the past 12 months. They won't be here long but whilst they are they remind us of the constant circle of life for as they fade others will come

and bring us spring, a time of colour and new birth.

In my photo you will see in the blurred background a reminder of other seasons, the cross of Good Friday, the poppy of remembrance. We are but like a flower in the field Jesus said, (Luke 12: 22-34) don't worry about yesterday or tomorrow; do what you can today, whilst you bloom. Tomorrow the flower maybe gone but today it can as it were make hay whilst the sun shines. That small snowdrop brightened up my day, it won't be here long, but it has done what God created to do and be, it did not go unnoticed. Can we take time in our daily lives to just stop, pause and make a little difference that is positive and full of hope, collectively every small action becomes a tidal wave of God's amazing love.

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](mailto:clifford2567@googlemail.com)

01634 610752 or 07941056237

*Day Off usually a Thursday*

### Church Wardens:

#### **Robin Thompson**

[kentstamps@outlook.com](mailto:kentstamps@outlook.com)

01634 221497

### **Paul Sutton**

[paulsubtle@gmail.com](mailto:paulsubtle@gmail.com)

07740867238

**Licensed Lay Minister**  
**Dave Green**  
[pewsey54@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:cliffatcliffe@gmail.com)

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