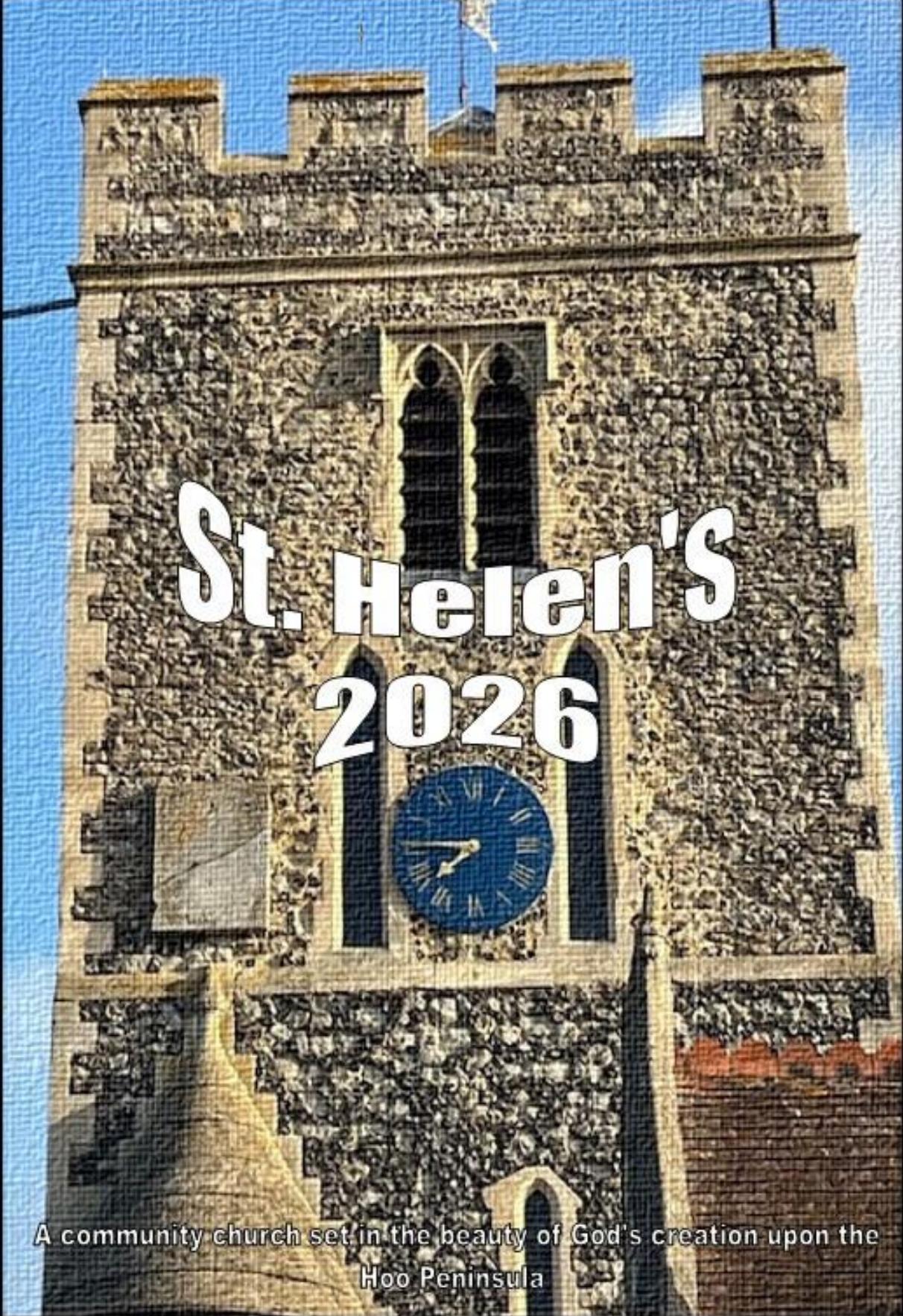


Welcome to our
Weekly News Letter



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 11th January 2026

1st Sunday of Epiphany The Baptism of Christ

**8.30am Holy Communion (BCP traditional)
10am Family Service**

**Readings for Sunday:
Acts 10: 34-43 &
Matthew 3: 13-End**

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:

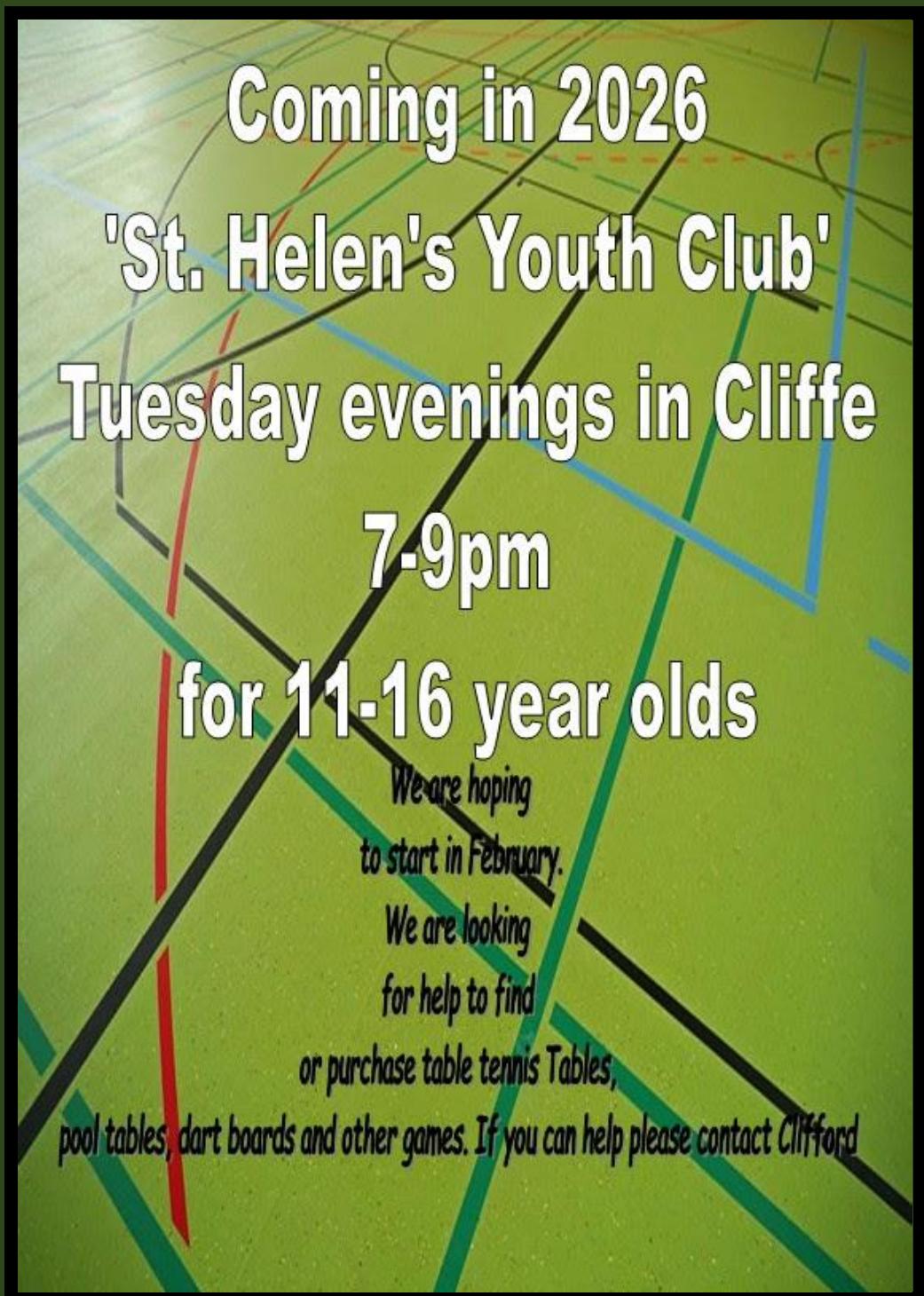
- 10th January PCC members social @ the Rectory 7-10pm
- 12th January **PCC meeting** 7pm St. Helen's House
- **Messy Church** Saturday 17th January 3-5pm 'Messy Hair the story of Samson'
- 19th January, 2nd Feb, 16th Feb **Music Jam** 7-8.30pm

Start date for new

Youth Club

Tuesday 24th February

2026



MAKING MIRACLES

Knitting & Crochet Group - Cliffe



All abilities welcome

Drinks & snacks available to buy from
the Coffee Stop

THURSDAY 15TH JAN

1.30 - 3.30PM

ST HELEN'S HOUSE
BUTTWAY LANE, CLIFFE

ME3 7QP

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 25th February the Kiddush cup

Week two 4th March the Haggadah cup

Week three 11th March the Berakah cup

Week four 18th March the Hallel cup

Week five 25th 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



FRIDAY
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.

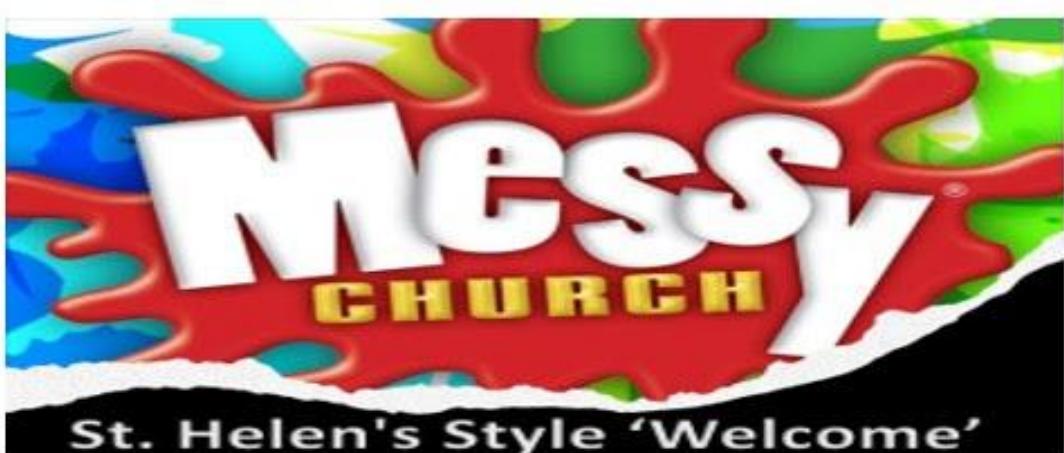
For more info about St.Helen's go to
'A Church Near You' or our 'Webpage'

click one of the buttons below

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9932

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 ‘A small storm’

*Photo from walk on Monday morning, a frozen Cliffe as the sun
rises on another day.*



10th January 2026

A small storm

What a week even for a country that is used to talking about the weather.

I was pleasantly surprised by the set reading for Friday at morning prayer. I had opened up a cold church and having just got soaked walking the short distance from the rectory to the church I wanted to check to see if the transept roof was leaking as it does when the wind blows the rain under the tiles sometimes. Yep it was, so I gathered up the buckets and started to listen to natures percussion section, drip, drip, drip a rhythmic back drop to the quiet prayers that would soon be going up to the place where the heavens were now open.

Sitting in the lady chapel the wind was blowing heavily through the stained glass, straight off the marsh, adding the wind section to the percussion, all we needed now was the string section, natures orchestra in full jubilant symphonic glory.

Then we opened our bibles to the set readings for the day, now who says God does not have a sense of humour, check these out Psalm 148: 8 'lightening and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding.' Then Jeremiah 30: 23 See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down. Could those who put these readings together hundreds of years ago have known what today would be like as storm Goretti pounds our small Islands. What's in naming storms anyway but in this case maybe a lot as the name Goretti has its origins in Italian meaning be watchful and vigilant. It suggests that a person can find protection and safety. That

was certainly our prayer in that chapel, that those who have to face the storm which had been given both an amber and red warning might be protected and shielded from the damage that such storms with this kind of magnitude carry with them.

Where then can we find protection when the winds tare down trees and rip off roofs, where can we find warmth when driving winds hit freezing cold fronts and the store house of snow falls from the heavens. Where is safe passage, where are the harbours that keep at bay the mighty waves crashing down, that toss our mightiest ships against the rocks at the bottom of the ocean.

More prayers for those who will wander field and mountain to restore powerlines and plug up burst pipes, for those who walk tracks to check rails, for tree surgeons who cut away the obstacles blocking our paths. For all emergency services and hospitals who patch us up and rescue us when we are lost and afraid. For farmers and those who look after live stock and the crops that will feed us all throughout calmer seasons.

Then prayers for common sense, we are not bigger than the storms that batter us from time to time, the machines we drive, sail and fly are not invisible, there are many journeys that can wait. There are other times to take a walk to see what is going on outside, because what we can say with full confidence is that every storm will pass. It is then that like nature around us that we can pop our heads back above the parapet or look out from our burrows of safety and examine the damage and pick up the pieces until the next storm.

In truth we have escaped here in the southeast the worst of this storm, on Thursday evening as the winds hit 99mph on the Southwestern coast I opened my back door to let our dog out. It was totally still in the rectory garden but for the rain, no wind at all, were we really in the middle of a storm so powerful. I then looked on my phone at the current satellite image of where the storm was, there I could see here in Cliffe we were sitting in the eye of the storm, the safest place to be when all around that eye the winds were bringing destruction. If only we could remain in this central safe zone, but storms move and the eye with it and so as it passes by it is not long before the winds return and we must endure them until they fully pass us by. This reminded me of our spiritual lives set against the storms of life that sometimes pass our way and batter us. When these times come we need to focus on the peace and stillness that is found at the centre of our lives. It is Christ who wants to be that safe place in our lives, he is the eye of every storm, the place where we can find rest long enough to then be ready to face the storm again that will soon pass over us until we can come out on the other side.

Both the Psalmist and Jeremiah reflect that we cannot avoid the storms of life, but we can prepare for them, we can seek him who will guide us through them and bring us out on the other side, the psalmist said, give him all the praise. Jeremiah was pointing people towards this person as God's people faced many storms and today we can find comfort in knowing that this person is Jesus, and we find Jesus in the body of the Church, in other words, in each other. Its why we gather week by week so that we may help each other through the storms. Those storms come in many ways just like natures storms, they can be destructive but together we have the strength to weather them and come out on the other side.

Stay safe.

God bless,

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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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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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

