

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 25th January 2026

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

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

Dates ahead:

Meeting for all interested Youth Club helpers and Leaders **this Wednesday 28th January 6pm in St. Helen's House**

- 2nd Feb, 16th Feb **Music Jam** 7-8.30pm
- 7th Feb **monthly prayers** in church 9-10am
- 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

**Readings for
Sunday:**

**1 Corinthians 1:
10-18 & Matthew
4: 12-23**

Kiddush Cup' 7-9pm in church.

New Youth Club

Starting

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Back of St. Helen's Church

7-9pm every Tuesday

For ages 11-16

Table tennis

Snooker/Pool

Darts

Air Hockey

Loads of other games

Music

A time and space just to chat & chill

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.

Next time @ Messy Church

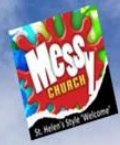


'Messy Love'

A New Commandment

14th February 2026

3-5pm



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

GOD, THE BIBLE, AND EVERYTHING (IN 60 MINUTES)



FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

St. Helen's Church

Buttway Lane, Cliffe

7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

BBC sitcom writer and stand-up theologian James Cary hilariously unpacks the entire Bible in one hour – jokes, props, and maybe even a song!

Unforgettable laughs for all ages, faiths, and none!



Adults £10, Under 16s £5

Scan the QR Code or call 07778 959003



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 'dropped out'

24th January 2026

A long blog this week

Internet labels

I'm not one to get frustrated very easily even though I do not have the best patients ever given to someone, are the two entwined in the same or are they subtly different. In regard to frustrations I am happy sometimes to wait and see what transpires, take the laid back approach, because if I'm getting all het up about something I think to myself, who is really suffering from the ill effects of that frustration; it is my own blood pressure that will burst a valve, so step back and relax. Let the world simply pass by and in time that calming act will allow for a different experience. There are many things that we have no control over so why get frustrated about them, what will be will be.

Patients whether having it or not is different in my experience, it's not built out of frustration but rather the desire to just get on with something or see a project through to its conclusion. I am not a great thinker or ponderer I just simply like to get on with

things, there's no time to stand around talking or considering the multiple outcomes of one's actions, just do it. This can make me impatient but not necessarily frustrated because I am fully aware that others around me are wired up differently.

Part of my clerical training was looking at who we are, who I am, Myres Briggs is an exercise you may be familiar with or had to complete in your own walk of life. It looks at your general makeup evaluating you through a set of physiological questions, I've sat the evaluation a couple of times and I'm what is known as borderline, I sit between many of the parameters and that actually makes me quite unusual for a priest, at college we examined our results and about 60 of us then stood in different corners of the room subject to those results, whilst the majority stood together other groups were well represented. In my corner there were just two of us as I remember, in fact it might have just been me.

One thing I guess that will not surprise you is that I am what is known as an extrovert, really you say! In that corner I could have possibly moved to other corners because my makeup is naturally sympathetic to those areas, the one area that I do not correspond to is introverts that corner is clearly not mine. What we looked at and is very important to understand is even though we have natural traits and tendencies they are not fully defining there are always times when actually we do experience the opposite of who and what we might be. My extrovert attitude actually comes from an introverted shyness that pushes me to break the silence, it compels me to the centre stage.

Understanding ourselves helps us in many ways, it explains us sometimes but does not excuse us. 'I did that because I am this', a label is just a label it can be removed, it can be changed, it can fit in with other labels because in many ways we all have them. It seems we live in a time now where many are trying to seek their label and stand firmly in their corner, claiming the ground as some kind of victory of belonging. There was a time when those labels kind of brought shame, now it seems many wear them as a badge of honour. I love the attention Paul places on our different makeups throughout his letters to the early church and its leaders, we are all different, yet we are all one, one humanity and in that difference we are enriched with different gifts, we can all offer something that uplifts the other parts of the body. No one part can exist without the other, that means we need to be patient with each other because a foot cannot do what a hand does and an eye cannot hear what an ear hears as it cannot see. Our lives are so much richer when we simply accept what we are and learn to work with those who are and accept the things as well that are different from us. The one label we all share is the maker's stamp, no, not made in China, but created and breathed by God. Wonderfully made. Psalm 139: 14.

Why have I gone down this path this week because I found how frustrated I can get when push comes to shove. For the past couple of weeks after nearly three years of smooth operation and connection our internet has started playing up. Then on Tuesday it gave up altogether, a series of flashing lights on the router stating no connection. Not frustrated yet, I simply ran through a couple of tests, reboot, unplug, wait, no good. Right now, it was time to test the connection through a phone app, frustration point one, the Rectory only has one area where we can get sufficient phone signal to load the apps. Standing on the landing I ran the tests, frustration point two, with fading weak signal I had to run them a couple of times to be told that I need an engineer, but don't worry it's simple just book it online, dergh! I have no internet, frustration point three, no problem, ring the number below and have a chat, yep with weak signal I did; to find it gave me a text code back on my phone which linked me straight back to the app page via the internet, oh dot com! Where are the humans?

After several attempts going in complete circles, I was able to book an engineer via the app, hooray, Wednesday afternoon was the earliest appointment, frustration point four encountered.

I decided maybe just maybe there was an obvious problem with the wire coming into the house, back in Margate a squirrel or rat even possibly a seagull, we had a lot of seagulls, anyway one of them had chewed through the satellite wire. Back in Cliffe and being the practical person I am I followed the wire outside my office back from where it comes into the house up to the roof line. There I could see a problem, the connection box was open, and a collection of wires were hanging down. I rescued my tall ladders from the weeds they were immersed in and did the thing I hate most; I climbed the ladder up to the roof level to examine the wires. I'm no expert but they all looked good, all connected so I gently place them back in the box and closed it, climbing back down the ladder. Clearly I was not going to solve this problem as those annoying lights kept flashing at me.

Now the infuriating thing about the internet is that our homes now run everything via the internet, so no radio or the other appliances connected to Alexa now worked, no alarm, no control over side lights and lamps, no door bell, no home phone. Fortunately, having been offered a glass Sky TV I declined it late last year so at least the basic TV stations were still working via the satellite dish they had wanted to remove. As for music I still have a large CD collection so I'm listening to tracks and albums I haven't listen to for years. Thank goodness for old technologies. Then there is the issue of emails and cloud-based computer programmes that all stopped working with no internet.

This meant Cathy couldn't work and so she headed off to our daughters to sit at her desk, and I took my laptop up to coffee morning to answer at least a few emails. But there was another frustration, number five as I'm counting, my iPhone. I've had it a long time it does what it should and plenty more and I refuse to change it for the sake of it, but it is a little temperamental on charging, guess what I woke up Wednesday morning to find it was as flat as a pancake having been on charge all night and it didn't seem to me to want to charge, why me I thought, why now, but then why at any time. Now I had no communication with the outside world at all, could I revert to smoke signals!

Now it was not frustration but my patients that were being tested.

Calming down I got the cleaning kit out and set about making sure the inlet connection were clear, it seemed to work as the most wonderful lightening flash symbol illuminated on the screen, it was charging again, so I could put the matches away.

Now on returning home from coffee morning, by the way where we do have the internet for free for anyone who finds themselves in this position and coffee and tea at just £1. On return and sitting back at my desk to carry on writing this blog a Sky van drove past, was this a sign?

Two paragraphs back from this line I noticed that the little flashing lights behind me were no longer flashing, four steady green lights, indicating that the internet was once again connected. With a cloud sign returned to the space bar at the bottom of my screen it was fixed. No seagulls, squirrels or any other creature, nothing at our end faulty but clearly a problem in the village for as quick as it was gone it was back. A text to Cathy, you can come home. Frustrations ended in an instant and a sense of hope that now it will hold, but I am enjoying the CD playing 'Diva's live in New York' wonderful power ballads echoing all around my office and in stereo, you don't get that

with Alexa.

What are the lessons from this, who knows, one: do not get rid of your CD's or vinyl's. Patient's I guess, you see we live in an instant world and when it goes down we have forgotten how to cope. Don't put all your eggs into one basket have those alternatives, I believe we are nationally heading for a day when some mass outage will crash every system we have, so do we have backups for that day. I like to keep bread flour in at all times, do you get what I mean; any way I have no excuse now to get back on with some work and unless it all goes Pete Tong again my blog for this week is over, I'm going to wear a suitable label now, 'chilled' as normality reigns again.

I think I'm overdue a fishing trip, capturing a different net.

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

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Reverend Clifford Stocking

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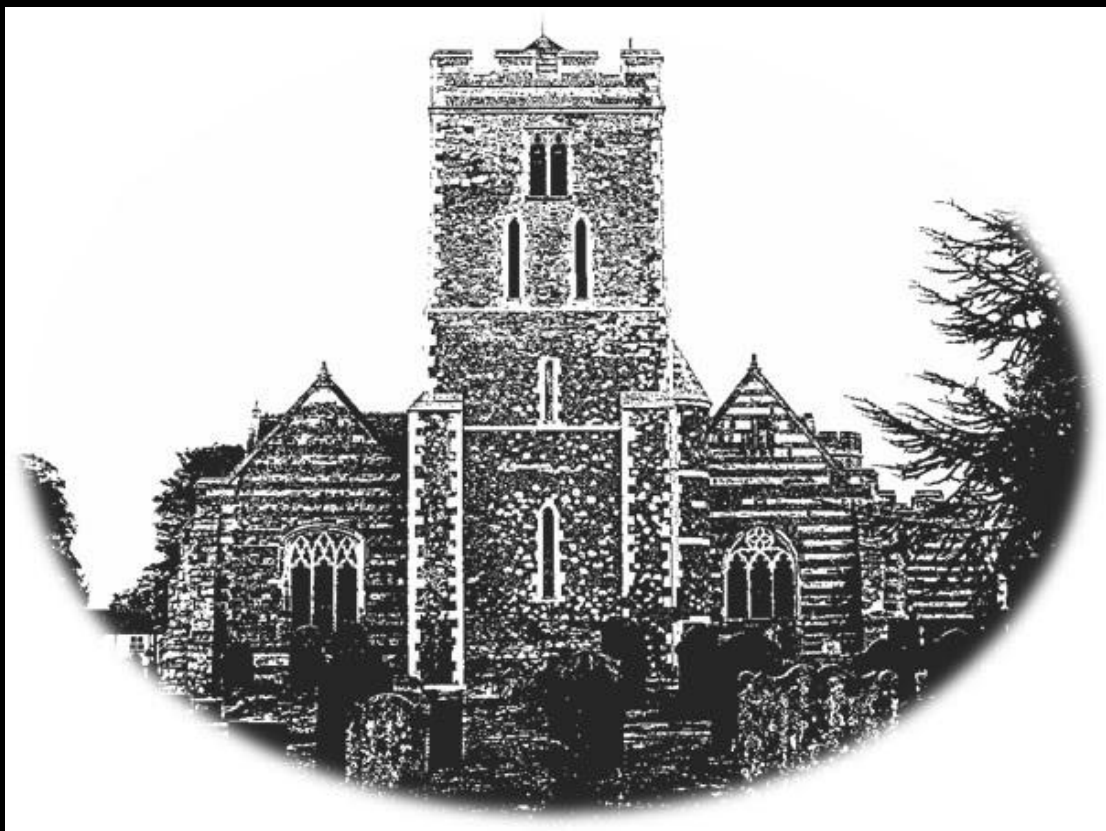
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For any safeguarding concerns @ St. Helen's please contact our safeguarding officers:

Children's Safeguarding officer:
Julie Allen - 01634 221763

Adult Safeguarding officer:
Heather Weston -07762 401424



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