

**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*

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## Services this week and readings

### Sunday 22nd February 2026 1st Sunday of Lent

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

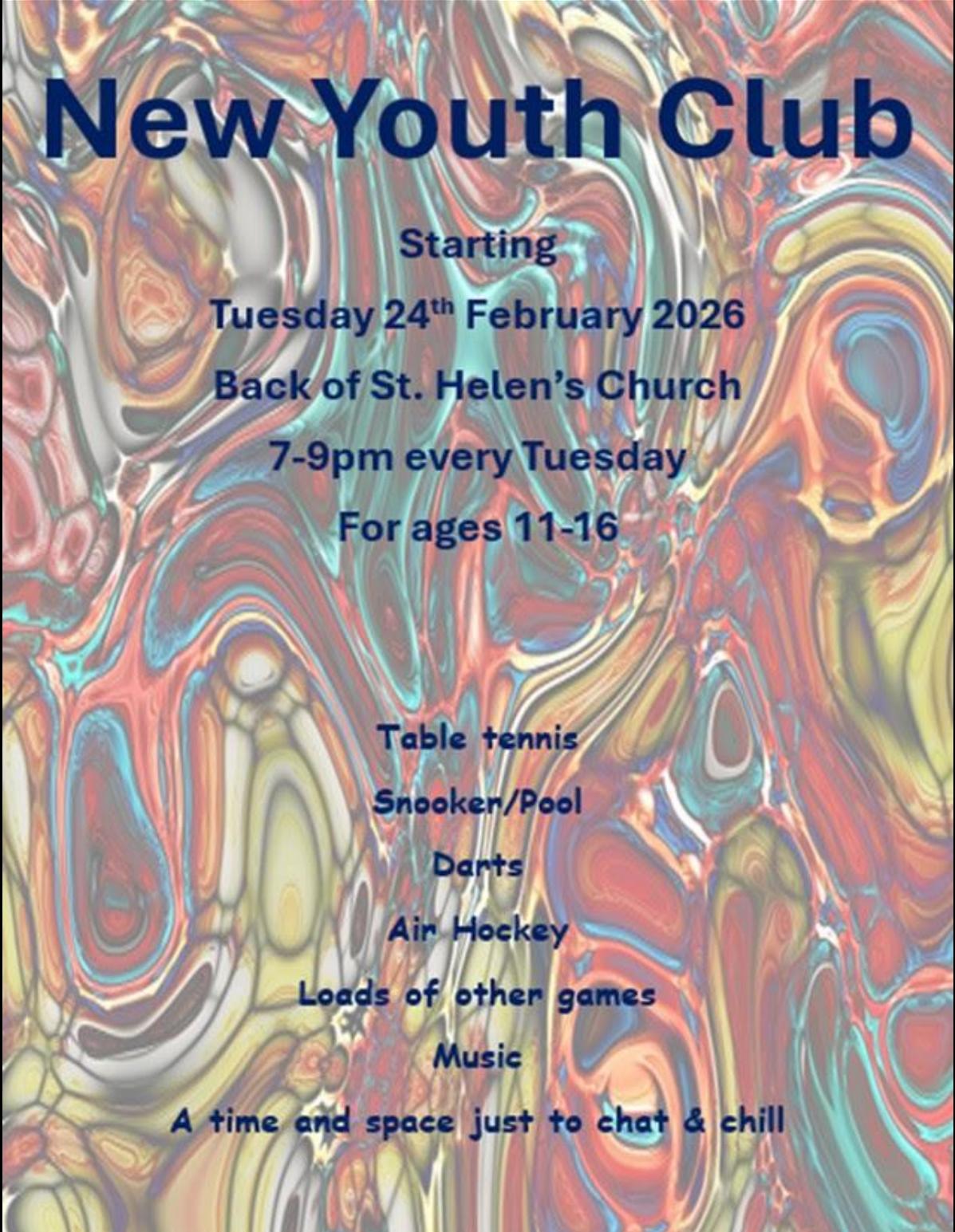
MORNING PRAYER is said @ 8am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Mornings in the Lady Chapel All Welcome

Please Note: Reverend Clifford Stocking is now offically **Area Dean of Strood**

### Dates ahead:

- 24th Feb **Funeral** in church 2.30pm for *David Smith*
- 24th Feb **Youth Club** 7-9pm
- 25th Feb **Funeral** Thames View 3pm for *David Townshend*
- 25th Feb 1st **Lent Course This Cup** 'The Kiddush Cup' 7-9pm in church.
- 2nd March **Music Jam** 7-8.30pm
- 4th March **Lent course** 7pm in church
- 6th March **World day of prayer** Grain 10 for 10.30am
- 6th March **Wedding @** St. James Cooling 1pm for *Conor and Daisy*
- 9th-10th March Clifford on Area Deans residential meeting.

Readings for  
Sunday: Romans  
5: 12-19 &  
Matthew 4:1-11



# **New Youth Club**

**Starting**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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.



- Next time @ Messy Church
- **Messy Mothers**
  - (a look at biblical mums)
  - 14<sup>th</sup> March
  - 3—5pm



# Arts & Crafts

25th February  
10-12noon  
in St. Helen's House  
All welcome



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

An hourglass with blue sand and a blue Bible with gold lettering are positioned above the main title.

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

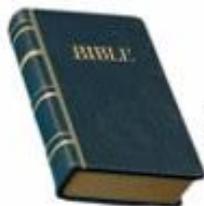
**St. Helen's Church**

**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



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A service for everyone!

**Friday 6 March**

*I will give you rest, come*

**Nigeria 2026**

**St James's Church  
Grain ME3 0BS**

**10.00am for refreshments  
10.30am for the service**

**All Welcome**



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led  
[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 233242

# **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

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**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.**

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**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  
'Lent'**



**21st February 2026**

Here we are in Lent, are you coping with it, have you done anything to acknowledge this season of penitence; possibly it will just pass you by which reminds me of these words from Lamentations chapter 1 often reflected upon and recalled as Jesus hung on a cross. **“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me.”** If you find time read the whole chapter whilst seating quietly possibly holding a cross or looking at one, it’s a powerful reflection on all that Jesus did for us, for you and me. In that moment heaven and earth seem at war with each other, God taking on everything whilst we just pass by, barely noticing what was occurring or even wanting to notice because sometimes it is so easy to just advert our eyes to the truth.

At present I am not sure any of us knows what is happening in our press or our world as day after day more allegations unfold from dare I say the word, the Epstein files, what has Andrew (*I can't be bothered with the other titles*) really done, why is ‘Trump’ almost gloating that it is a shame its come to this for Andrew as he governs knowing I am sure many, many secrets from those days when they all partied at the price of their victims. I pray they don’t find what I expect they might on the Royal computers as they search for evidence. I guess the message coming from Buckingham Palace and the Common’s is at last it is fare, no one is above the law. Yet, it would seem that for to long in our society many have thought that they are, and in truth been allowed to live as they like for who knows whatever reason, probably fear. Perpetrators creating more victims, countless victims as every action have a knock-on effect.

Lent is a time of penitence and reflection upon one’s own life, a time to say sorry and

to confess and acknowledge our own weaknesses, we all have them. A time set aside to prepare ourselves to hand them, our sins, our short failings over to Jesus. It means we cannot just simply walk on by, we must stop for long enough and see, to witness how seriously God take this. God desperately wants to hear our confession, He wants to forgive us, in fact we have already been forgiven but that isn't an instant ticket, its an invitation to come and receive, take the ticket for ourselves, as it were we must come to the foot of the cross, look up at it and see our sin, all of it piled upon Jesus Christ, we need to say to him sorry before we can take our ticket and move on. In truth it couldn't be easier and yet it is probably the hardest thing we ever have to do, we have to come into the light, there is no dark corner or palace to hide the things in that God sees anyway.

In truth everything comes into the light eventually, you might have seen that desperate photo taken of Andrew as he was released from custody, Its quite disturbing. Why do the press have to hound people like this. But they do and they feed their images to hungry wolves, as we hunger for more of these rabbits caught in the lights. Anyway, the photo tells a story, a sad human story, it's a face of real fear, it is scared, and it says, I've never been here before. You might say, and good riddance to him, but in this photo suddenly the world isn't as controlling as we might like to thing it is, it will catch us out, it will chew us up and spit us out on the other side. Victims will be pleased that at long last justice seems to be being done. His face also says to me, oh crap, (*excuse the language but even in this I was being polite*) there's no going back now, there is nowhere left to hide, its game over, lights out. And yet if he but knew it, a full confession will set him free and in some way his victims, not from any jail term or from public disgrace, but set him free from whatever trap caused him and countless others to pursue a life that often walks over others, just as the author of Lamentations experienced. It brings us back to the reality of who we really are and where we are all going, which at our Ash Wednesday service we recalled, from dust we came and to dust we return. Our faith in Jesus is the only hope that we have that we can overcome this final chapter, that there is a God who loves us and forgives us and welcomes us to a new chapter in His eternal kingdom. But only if we confess, only if we come to that cross, then as we walk the remaining days of this life until the dust comes, so live it like Christ, be forgiving and seek forgiveness and that is only possible through confession, through admitting our short coming.

This process isn't easy, it needs constant work because we tend to forget quickly and return to our old ways, but if we allow God's light to shine into our very being then the darkness has no place to hide.

It's been yes, another crazy week, I am sure next week will reveal more craziness, pray for all who are caught up in the worlds web of lies, for perpetrators, those who still believe they are above any law. Pray especially for victims that they find comfort in knowing that their stories are now being believed and that some in this world are doing something about that. Pray that forgiveness can bring healing and that lessons are learned.

If you can pray for our Royal Family, for King Charles III is the head of our denomination, and at the end of the day he is as human as you and I and one will likewise simply return to the dust.

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](#)

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## 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.

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## 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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