

**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 29th March 2026**

### **Palm Sunday**

**Clocks go forward by one hour this Sunday**

**8.30am Holy Communion (*BCP traditional*)  
10am Family Service bring out the palms  
6pm Palm Praise**

**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:**

- 29th Palm Praise 6pm
- 30th - 3rd April **Holy Week** see below don't forget to sign up for the Seder meal, sheet at back of church or email Clifford.
- 1st April School Easter Worship in church 10am
- 1st April international Adam's apple day, remembering to in future say no to Eve.
- Parish prayers 4th April 9-10am church or St Helen's house see sign on day

**Readings for Sunday:  
Philippians 2: 5-11 & Matthew 21: 1-11**

- 6th - 11th Clifford taking some time off, emergencies only (gone fishing)
- **NO** youth club till the 21st April Easter Break

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## Holy Week & Easter @ St. Helen's 2026 This Cup

### **Palm Sunday**

8.30am Holy Communion BCP

10am Family Service Theme: He rides on in Triumph

6pm **Palm Praise** service led by the Music Jam

7pm **Holy Monday** 30th March Taizé: Theme wine

7pm **Holy Tuesday** 31st March Celtic: Theme 'I am the vine'

9pm **Holy Wednesday** 1st April Compline: Theme 'Take this cup from me'

7pm start **Maundy Thursday** 2nd April Seder Meal:

You need to sign up for this by emailing Clifford or sign-up sheet at back of church, all welcome to come and experience the Last Supper in a way that Jesus delivered it 2000 years ago as a Passover meal.

**Good Friday** 3rd April Theme: 'With this cup'

### **Messy Church 10.30-12noon**

12noon -2pm the church is open for prayer and reflective readings then from 2pm-3pm we move to a full-service remembering Jesus in his final hour.

### **Easter Sunday** 5th April

6am Dawn Service A communion gathered around the fire in silence then we enter the church in celebration that he is risen.

10am Family Easter Agape service Theme: 'Finally he is risen to share a new cup'

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Next time @ Messy Church



**Messy Good Friday**

3<sup>rd</sup> April 10.30am – 12 noon



Hot cross buns  
& a drink

# TINA TURNER

AND SOUL DIVA TRIBUTE NIGHT



**FRIDAY  
24<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**7.30PM**  
DOORS OPEN 7PM

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



**BAR** (own drink not permitted )

**RAFFLE**

**TICKETS**

ADULTS £15  
UNDER 16s £5

BOX OFFICE:  
07778 959003



## A plea from the Coffee Stop

We are very short of volunteers at present due to illness and other life events.

### **Could you help?**

If you can boil a kettle you pass the grade!

Seriously if you think you might be able to spare a couple of hours a week we would be delighted to see if you might be able to join the team of wonderful volunteers who serve at the Coffee Stop.

**Many hands make light work**

**Please see or speak to Shirley or Clifford for more details.**

**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.**

**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  
Holy Week**



**28th March 2026**

Well Lent is officially over as the Church throughout the world gathers to celebrate Palm Sunday, you might be like me and keep the fast going to Good Friday when traditionally Hot Cross Buns reintroduce yeast, or maybe you go further to Easter Sunday. We mark the end of Lent by changing the liturgical colours in the church, we go from purple to red as Holy week begins. This as I have said many times before, is the greatest week we celebrate in the Christian calendar, but sometimes the world might be forgiven for thinking otherwise. Our whole faith is centred around the events of 2000 years ago during this week, most of our gospels are also centred on just the last few weeks of Jesus's life. Last week Dave brought us the story of Lazarus, this was the real changing point in Jesus's ministry, suddenly Jesus wasn't just a good Rabbi, a good healer, he now proved that he had the power over death itself. No one before him or ever since has demonstrated the power he has, as he commanded that his dead friend, four days dead come out of his graveclothes to live again. Jesus's authority simply commanded through his voice, no tricks or medicines, operations or potions, simply the voice, the word of God.

As we head through Holy Week we travel with Jesus once again and hear every human emotion that revealed itself back then. Palm Sunday filled with such hope that Jesus would come and claim his crown and set Isreal free from its enemies. Praise and honour, high expectations as Jesus turned out money lenders in the Temple courts and reminded them all that it was a place of prayer. Then disappointment as Jesus left Jerusalem to return to his friends three miles down the road. As the week passed by so Jesus plans to celebrate the Passover, the time when many rebellions occurred, a time as we looked at during our lent course, when it was predicted the Messiah would rise up and take his place. What transpired was a disastrous last meal with Jesus and

his disciples arguing, there was betrayal, confusion and misunderstanding, John's gospel gives us five chapters of the quarrels that broke out. Whilst this was all happening Jesus heads off to find some peace, finally betrayed and arrested.

The next day he is beaten and found innocent under Rome but handed back to his own people who having seen his power in raising Lazarus now beg that he is crucified. And that's exactly what happens next, the only crown being claimed is of thorns. Death is all around him, its power overwhelming, or is it, Jesus has already revealed his power over death, they really should have taken note.

On the third day Jesus does the impossible, he is raised to new life, not like Lazarus to wait again for death to find him, no, this time eternal life, it's very different. This is what Jesus had tried to explain time and time again, now the only way in which anyone was going to believe it was if he demonstrated it. We have the same promise that we can find this eternal life if and only if, it's a big if, we follow him, it might not all make sense, it didn't for the twelve disciples who followed him to the shadows of the cross, but they in time after seeing Jesus raised from the dead got it. They shared it with everyone they came across and for all but one that meant they too came to a sticky end, but how can you deny what you have seen with your own eyes and touched with your own hands. Easter gives us that same promise, if we like them choose because it is always choice, never forced, if we dedicate our lives to following Jesus and telling others about God's amazing power and love then we to have a promise of eternal life. This is the greatest moment in the life of the Church, why would we not want to gather together and shout about it and show the world that light can shine in the darkness of this world.

If we move away from light, it doesn't take much to understand that things get darker, are we fed up with living in a world that seems at present so dark. True believing, practising, Christianity is now a minority faith in the UK, our churches are empty, we are closing crumbling buildings at a rate not seen for two thousand years, does anyone care, well if the state of the world is the alternative then yes we should. True faith is about 'actively' turning back on the lights, remembering that Jesus made a big claim he said. 'I am the light of the world.'

Holy Week, a truly reflective celebration of our faith, revealing the greatest day in history, our doors this week are open more for all to come and celebrate, don't just pass by because that keeps the lights off. As Jesus once said to a few young, rugged fisherman, 'come and see.'

Photos: The cups of the Passover, the whole Lent course is now downloadable on our Church Near You page, just click the link button below and it will take you there.

God bless,  
Clifford

Please feel free to share this with others

**[‘This Cup’ full Lent course download just click](#)**



# 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

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**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 & Area Dean of Strood**

#### **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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