

Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



A reading to carry us through 2025
For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which
God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. *Ephesians 2:10 NRSV*

Services this week and readings

Sunday 12th October 2025

17th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion

10am Family Service

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

Dates ahead:

- Saturday 11th October **Cake Bake** from 12 noon
- Monday 13th October **PCC** St. Helen's House 7pm
- Friday 17th October **Funeral** 10am @ Thameview Crem for the late **Jenifer Scarfe**
- Saturday 18th October **Messy Church** 3-5pm
- Sunday 19th October 12 noon interment of ashes for **Brian Cripps**
 - Sunday 19th October 12.30pm after coffee **How to do CPR** with KSS Air ambulance free event please stay and learn a life saving skill.
- 21st October 1pm Wedding for **Adam and Katherine**
- 22nd October 12 noon Funeral service in church followed by crem Thamesview for **Susan Bunyan**
- Friday 31st October **Light party** 5-6.30pm

Lookout next week for November and December Christmas dates

Readings for Sunday:

2 Timothy 2: 8-15

&

Luke 17: 11-19

The Big Knit

Knitting for charity

Saturday 11th October 2025

Rochester Cathedral, Kent

10am - 1pm



MAKING MIRACLES

Knitting & Crochet Group - Cliffe



All abilities welcome
Drinks & snacks available
to buy from the Coffee Stop

THURSDAY 16TH OCT
1.30 - 3.30PM
ST HELEN'S HOUSE
BUTTWAY LANE, CLIFFE
ME3 7QP

Memorial Service of Hope and Comfort

This year's theme

'In this mirror'

Sunday 2nd November 2025

4pm

@

St. Helen's Church Cliffe



Tea and coffee served after the service

This is an opportunity to give thanks and remember before God all our loved ones who have gone before us.

There will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory

All are warmly welcome to this reflective service.

LIGHT PARTY 2025

**St. Helen's Church
is once again offering an alternative
to Halloween:**

**Friday 31st October
5-6.30pm**

**Why not come in fancy dress?
but no spooks or scary costumes please**

**Fun & games held at the back of
church, Buttway Lane, Cliffe**

All children must be accompanied by an adult



BARN DANCE

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER - 7PM
CLIFFE MEMORIAL HALL



LIVE MUSIC
AND CALLER



BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE:

£17.50 (INCLUDES PLOUGHMAN'S)

CALL OR TEXT 07778 959003

OR BOOK ONLINE WITH QR CODE



Monday Afternoon

Board Games

Here at St. Helen's

House in the

front room

1pm -3.30pm



Free and open to all

why not challenge the Vicar

to a game of chess or maybe it was

**Reverend Green in the study with the candlestick, or just
a trivial pursuit!**





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.*

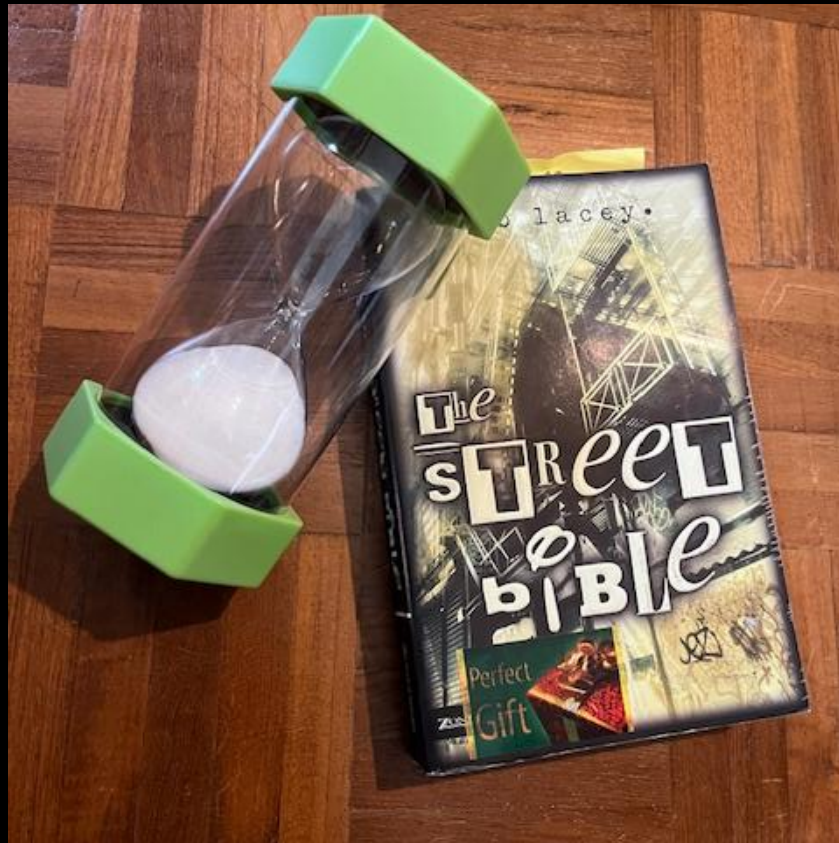
Weekly activities

*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
'Time for God'**



11th October 2025

Time for God

I was hanging around yesterday waiting for a drainage firm we have had to get in to survey our church grounds and the local southern water sewage systems as the shortest route we had hoped to use in the future for our new church toilets is now not possible, so we have to find a much longer route and of course find and raise a lot more money. Yet basically it all ends up down the same hole.

As I was hanging around, I read the historic information board just outside the church and I hadn't thought about it before, but I swear I'm linked to this church in very funny odd ways. For a start I'm Cliff of Cliffe then back in 1967 a theft or mis-layment occurred at St. Helen's. Up on the Jacobean pulpit is a long-armed shelf and cradle which once held a very large hourglass. The concept was to start it at the beginning of the sermon and end the sermon with the last grain of sand. For anyone timing my sermons today and possibly thinking mine are long, clearly in past times they were longer and timed only by the Rector.

My connection possibly to the hourglass is that in the year it went missing I was born. For just over 58 years the sand has not been able to run out, simply because it isn't there anymore. I kind of like the idea that throughout the whole of my life we have not been able to put a restriction on the word of God, well at least in Cliffe. I will be the first to admit that I preach longer than the average Anglican priest but much shorter than most Baptist pastors.

Since the sand stopped, over the last 58 years I have heard God's word preached by so many wonderful, wonderful people who have dug deep into scripture helping me to discover more about our amazing God. I have never tired of hearing and learning more, you could say, I hunger for it, which is good because Jesus refers to it as

bread, 'give us our daily bread'.

The Bible that many may have on their shelves is a wonderful gift to us, a treasure that should never be underestimated. I would need a hundred lifetimes to fully understand it, not because it is complexed but simply because it speaks to me in so many different ways, in all the changing seasons of my life. You can read the same passage a dozen times and always get something new from it, or you may see something you never saw in it before. Sadly, many pick the Bible up and never dig deeper into this incredible story of God in our lives. Admittedly there are many bits of the bible especially the Old Testament that at face value seem odd at best and irrelevant at worst. That is simply not the case, it might just be that no one has ever explained how every bit of the bible is relevant to explaining God and how Jesus fits into every page.

The simplest thing I can say in this blog, is the Old Testament describes our broken relationship with God and then points forward to Jesus. The four gospels introduce Jesus to us and give us his teaching and snippets of his life and how we might live ours modelled on him. The epistles describe a new church that rises up from that teaching and looks back at Jesus, leaving us with hope for our own daily lives.

The truth is that the 66 books that make up our bibles were written over 1600 years by approximately 40 different authors, most likely more, who never met each other or in the main never knew anything about the other authors work. They came from all sorts of backgrounds and yet they all tell the same story. This amazing combination of books does not claim to be a history book, or a reference book that gives all the answers in one hit. It isn't one persons ideology or philosophy but a combination of life events, most of its characters are the most unlikely people you might have thought someone like God would choose; revealing the brokenness of us all, yet at the same time revealing how God values every single one of us.

When that hourglass went missing freeing its preachers to share God's word not under restriction I entered this world, personally 'lol' I think 1967 was a brilliant year. I was brought up from birth with those who found the freedom to explain and share God's word with me. Today over 58 years later I have an infectious desire to share God's word with those who are willing to listen, those who as it were, have stopped looking at the hourglass and opened their hearts and minds to discovering more about Jesus and how we can apply his teaching into our daily lives bringing us a real sense of hope.

It will soon be Advent and during that season this year I have decided to run a very short course in St. Helen's house on three Tuesday evenings 7-9pm 2nd, 9th & 16th December. It is called, **Hope Explored, What's the best future you could imagine.** This is a free course and open to everyone, and especially those who want to learn more about how the bible and how Jesus can play a bigger role in our lives, maybe for the first time. Tea and coffee will be available. As Christmas looms upon us you may want to find out more than just the crib story which is only the start of an amazing bigger story, its only the first, if you like, paragraph, so why rob yourself of the rest. Find maybe the hope that it goes on to offer, the hourglass does not have to stop us learning more, it has gone and so we are free to enter into the first unending story.

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

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01634 610752 or 07941056237

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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