

Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



**A community church set
in the beauty of God's
creation
upon the Hoe Peninsula**

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 5th October 2025

16th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion

10am Parish Communion

12noon Baptism for Chloe Hawkins

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

Dates ahead:

- Saturday 4th October 10am-12noon **Autumn Clean** of the Church all volunteers welcome as many hands make light work.
- Wednesday 8th October 1pm In Church funeral for **Peter Knight**
- Saturday 11th October **Cake Bake** from 12 noon
- 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

Readings for Sunday:

2 Timothy 1: 1-14
&
Luke 17: 5-10



**Saturday 11th October 2025
from 12 noon**

St. Helen's Church

Entry £3 adults & 50p Children

Categories are:

**Sweet, Savoury and Children's
'So get baking'**

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!**



Our hot drinks are still just
£1 a mug
and it is the best Honduras fresh
Coffee and fairtrade, because
we care about those who grow
the beans!

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

QR Code: Review us on Tripadvisor

Collect reviews with customised QR codes that prompt diners to write a review when they scan the code with a phone camera.



**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.



Big thank you to all our congregation, St. Helen's School and Cliffe Pre-school for all your donations.

And thank you for all the flowers that brighten the church up for this season.











**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

cliffechurch.co.uk

**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 'Lost'

4th October 2025

Lost, have you ever lost something, maybe not precious but annoyingly useful like your house keys, your wallet or purse, your glasses, your coat, maybe your marbles; no joking apart it is frustrating when you can't find something, when it becomes lost or mislaid. Cathy often says to me, that my problem is that I only look for things with a man look. She will often just move something simple to reveal the said lost item, it's so annoying especially when you think you have looked there several times. Finding lost things can be rewarding especially when you didn't even know you lost them, the ten pound note in a coat pocket that you haven't worn since last winter for example. A useful tool in the garage that you forgot you had. When I worked on the railway it always amazed me what people lost, I mean why would you leave behind a protistic leg, how on earth did they get home if they used it to get on the train in the first place. Bags of all shapes and sizes were the most common. Then when laptops became popular they were always being left up on the luggage racks. I remember returning many a laptop that clearly had classified work material on them as the claimants looked so relieved, some saying, even crying with relief, they would have lost their jobs if it hadn't been found, you know the kind of thing government documents and MI6 kind of stuff, worth a fortune to reporters who have often become privy to such lost information.

On the railway there was a very serious side to lost property, especially when the IRA was active in and around London. I remember one time at Dartford station an old slam door train had run into platform one. As the platform staff walked along shutting all the doors that had been left open, they came across a bag that had a large box of chocolates sticking out of it, not just chocolates but some wires too. They decided that there was no way they wanted to share the chocolates in the staff room, as Forest

Gump said, 'life is a box of chocolates you don't know what you will pick next', well probably life itself, so a call to the British Transport Police. Excellent they turned up and didn't fancy a chocolate either, so they shut the station and the line and some of us got a longer tea break. In those days the bomb squad still operated out of Chattenden so it was not too long before they took a look. Yep they didn't want to select their favourite chocolate either, time for the robot and full impact clothing. Slowly over about an hour they wired the box of chocolates up with a self-detonating unit and took themselves as far away as possible outside the station and pushed the button. There was a fairly large explosion, job done. They then returned to find that the box of chocolates and wires hanging out of it were a hoax. But still their controlled explosion had managed to destroy the entire carriage and there was a pound or so of chocolate everywhere. I've seen the army do this a couple of times, but this one did put a smile on our faces, and no one was hurt just the inconvenience of lost time and waste of good chocolates. This is why the railway takes lost property seriously, its why as I remember parrot fashion coming into stations especially terminal ones saying over the PA system, "we are now entering Charring Cross Station where this train terminates, please would all passengers ensure you take all your belongings with you." Well then I've dealt with tons of lost property in my life, and in the life of our church we still seem to collect a lot and have a lost property box at the back of church. My conclusion I guess is we are not very good at looking after things.

Now a little while back in the summer I realised that my expensive sandals were, let's say, a little whiffy, I know I thought, I'll chuck them outside the back door to air them off and there they stayed for a couple of days.

Now here is another thing, for my birthday this year my family gave me two wildlife cameras one for the garden and one which I still need to do for a bird box. The garden one I set up to see the night life that frequents the Rectory lawn. Amazing it works, lots of foxes and even more local cats seem to have a party out there most nights. I have quite a collection of photos and video of the nightly festivity's. In one blurred photo which you can see below a young fox has a black object in his mouth, this upset me, I know nature is what it is but the thought that it had killed a bird or something in my garden got me, but I'm realistic that's life, or is it; that's death and I thought no more about it.

Going back to my sandals I wanted to wear them I looked where I had put them but there was only one, you have probably got this by now, realisation hit me, that fox wasn't carrying a dead bird in its mouth it had pinched my smelly old sandal. I ran down the garden and searched high and low in bushes and over the fence, no sign of it anywhere. I even took the dog over the field a couple of times at the back of the garden and searched and searched for my lost sandal. It was nowhere to be seen, my oldest grandson said, 'Grandpa I think you need to look in the fox hole in the front garden.' I informed him there was no way I was about to crawl into a foxes den deep beneath our trees. I had to accept that it was lost, and I'd have to purchase another pair. There was the problem after Cathy checked in the shoe shop, and I checked online they were not selling them again until next summer. Maybe I needed to donate the one remaining sandal to the person years ago who left his leg on our trains, given that it was the right foot.

Never mind, as I listened to Cathy who told me, 'That will teach me to leave things out in the garden and not put them away'. I did miss those sandals on our last camping trip!

Talking of which, when we got home as we were both putting the washing out, we

noticed a black object in the now long grass of our lawn, yep it was my sandal fully intact but very smelly, as the foxes had left their calling card all over it. We couldn't believe it, clearly the game was over, and they were bored with it and kindly returned it. No longer was my sandal lost it had come home, it did need a few days soaking in Dettol but at least it has saved me purchasing a new pair which ironically as I write, a text came in saying they are back in stock due to demand, I wonder how many more foxes have played this game up and down the country creating a demand.

Lost, over the last couple of weeks in church I have referred to the parables that Luke puts together in his gospel, lost things, a lost coin, a lost sheep and a lost son. Familiar parables that speak about God not wanting to lose any of us. God will go to extremes to find us, as Jesus told these parables he knew he was God's ultimate cost for lost things, he would give his own life so that we might find ours once again. In each parable when that which was lost was found there was rejoicing.

I was quite pleased when I found my sandal, it's only a sandal imagine how God feels when yes one of us finds Him and He us, there is rejoicing in heaven.

God bless,

Clifford

Please feel free to share this with others

Rectory Fox



16°C/61°F 16/08/2025 01:13:17

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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Day Off usually a Thursday

Church Wardens:

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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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