

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*

**Parish Prayers today 1st November 2025 9-10am
All welcome in Lady Chapel**

Services this week and readings

Sunday 2nd November 2025

All Saints' Day

8.30am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
4pm Memorial Service

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

Dates ahead:

- Sunday 2nd November **Memorial Service** 4pm 'theme: In this mirror'
- 9th November **Remembrance Service** starting 10am in Church gathering around War Memorial for 11am silence.
- 11th November act of silence gathering at 10.50am by War Memorial all welcome, followed by St. Helen's School service @ 11.10am
- 10th November PCC 7pm St. Helen's house
- 15th November **Messy Church** 3-5pm
- 16th November Safeguarding Sunday
- 16th November 12 noon interment of ashes for **Brian Saich**
- **29th November Christmas Fair 12noon - 3pm**

Readings for Sunday:

Ephesians 1: 11-
end
&
Luke 6: 20-31

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.

**“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.**



HOPE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

Three-week course looking at Hope

Did you know that 600 years before Jesus was born @
Bethlehem his birth had been predicted?

Jesus offers Hope!

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But
these days, hope often feels hard to come by.

Open to all and free why not find out more over
three Tuesday evenings here in December

7-9pm

2nd December St. Helen's House

9th December St. Helen's Church

16th December St. Helen's House

Tea & coffee provided



CHRISTMAS FAIR



ST. HELEN'S CHURCH
Buttway Lane, Cliffe, ME3 7QP



Saturday 29th November
12noon - 3pm



Refreshments, raffle, cakes, games, have-a-go stalls,
bric-a-brac and local handmade items and of course
Father Christmas!



Stallholder bookings contact Rob: 01634 221497
email kentstamps@outlook.com





Christmas Concert

with the Gravesend Borough Band

A selection of christmas music
& sing-a-long carols

Friday 5th December
7.30pm (doors open 7pm)



St. Helen's Church
Buttway Lane, Cliffe

Bar & Raffle

Adults £12
Under 16s free



Tickets: 07778 959003

Buy online with QR code



CHRISTMAS @ ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - 12 TO 3PM

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER - 7.30PM

CONCERT - GRAVESEND BOROUGH BAND

(TICKETED FUNDRAISING EVENT)



SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER - 6PM

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER - 6PM

CAROL SERVICE - ST. JAMES' CHURCH, COOLING

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER - 5.30PM

CAROLS & REFRESHMENTS AT THE END OF THE SANTA PARADE



CHRISTMAS EVE



4PM - CRIB & CRISTINGLE (CRISTINGLE THEME: DONKEYS)

feel free to come dressed as a donkey or bring a toy donkey!

11.30PM - MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10AM

FAMILY SERVICE



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
'Storms'**



My old parishioners standing in what is left of their home in Canada in July 25



The destruction Hurricane Melissa caused to St John's Anglican church, a 300-year-old church this week

1st November 2025

Last Saturday Cathy, myself and two friends down from where I was vicar in March spent the afternoon at the quay in Faversham. We perused the quirky local shops and stalls, especially the antiques spread around the quayside. Rummaging through the antique tool shop I pondered the risk of fire as you could hardly move around the piles and piles of tools. Our friend John managed to purchase a hammer he wanted for the leather work he now does; I found a lot of carving gouges that are now on my wish list, I didn't purchase any because they were a bit pricey. We then headed off for a pub lunch before returning home and finishing the day off at the Barn Dance which was wonderful. The clocks went back, and the day ended. Waking the next day preparing for Sunday services, Cathy then showed me the news, a fire had devastated some of the very business's we had visited just over 12 hours before. Later, on Sunday more news reported the devastation that that fire has on people's lives but also the praise of the emergency services who arrived quickly and contained the fire from spreading and damaging and destroying more buildings and businesses.

During this same week a parishioner of mine from Margate who moved back to her home town in Canada was reporting how she and her two children had visited the Canadian parliament to seek promised help that is slow in coming from the total devastation a forest fire had caused earlier in July this year. Sadly, forest wild fires had completely destroyed their home and their business but fortunately they had escaped the inferno with their lives, but nothing was left. All that was left a British phone box I believe her British husband had placed there as a reminder of home. Their family home, in fact their entire town, everything they had built was gone with a spark. We had been asked to pray that the winds would blow in a different direction, but it wasn't to be.

Personally, I have been following the hurricane in Jamaica this week as my 80-year-old uncle lives there having moved out there many years ago. As our news moves on with the next disaster or Prince who can't behave or fallen politician it has been hard to find out anything about my uncle or the real devastation out there. He lives in one of the hardest hit areas of Jamaica and has made of writing (Friday afternoon) no contact with family here in England, our prayers are he is safe somewhere. (latest on the area he lives in this morning 1st November, nothing is left and looting is widespread)

Sometimes news is just news, it might grab our attention but generally it passes us by unless we have a personal connection with it, then it feels real, then our prayers are poured out not just as a token but with heart felt sincerity.

Abraham felt the same when God said Sodom and Gomora would perish in a ball of fire, he had personal interest in the place because his young nephew Lot and his family were living there. Abraham pleaded with God in this ancient story to save any who were righteous in those towns but other than Lot and his two daughters none were found to be and the cities were destroyed.

I wonder what has caught your attention this week, I wonder how we have prayed or not prayed depending on our interest. The thing I guess is that some things seem real to us, others not so real. But in every instance it is good to know that there are people praying for every situation and that God is listening too and wants to hear our prayers. When we pray the answer is often that we ourselves need to then act, it is by our humanity for each other that we can bring aid when it is most needed, we can pull together and support each other, even when the world press has moved on we can still be there for those caught up in rebuilding their lives.

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

clifford2567@googlemail.com

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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