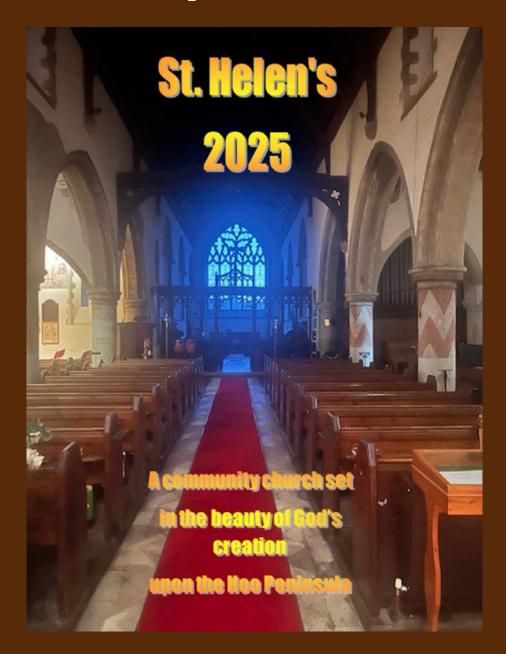
Welcome to our Weekly News Letter



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 16th November 2025

2nd Sunday before Advent Safeguarding Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion **10am Parish Communion**

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

Dates ahead:

- 15th November Messy Church 3-5pm
- 16th November Safeguarding Sunday
 - 16th November 12 noon interment of ashes for *Brian Saich*
- 17th November Music Jam 7-8.30pm
 - 19th November 7pm Choir Pratice
- 26th November 2pm Thames Veiw Crem funeral for *Alan Billson*
- 29th November Christmas Fair 12noon - 3pm

Readings for Sunday:

2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 & Luke 21: 5-19

"Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".



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!

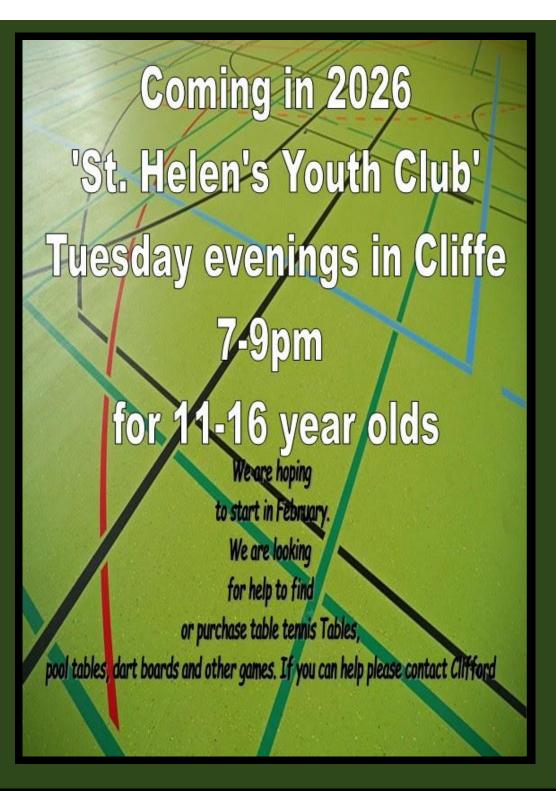
There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by.

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



MAKING MIRACLES

Knitting & Crochet Group - Cliffe

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

THURSDAY 20TH NOV 1.30 - 3.30PM ST HELEN'S HOUSE 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





with the Gravesend Borough Band

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



St. Helen's Church Buttway Lane, Cliffe



Bar & Raffle

Adults £12 Under 16s free



Tickets: 07778 959003

Buy online with QR code



SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - 12 TO 3PM CHRISTMAS FAIR







SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER - 6PM CAROL SERVICE - ST. JAMES' CHURCH, COOLING

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER - 5.30PM CAROLS & REFRESHMENTS AT THE END OF THE SANTA PARADE



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

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

11.30PM - MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10AM **FAMILY SERVICE**

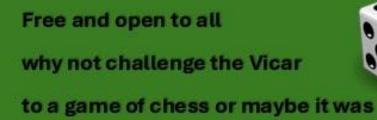














Reverend Green in the study with the candlestick, or just a trivial pursuit!

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 November2025 '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.

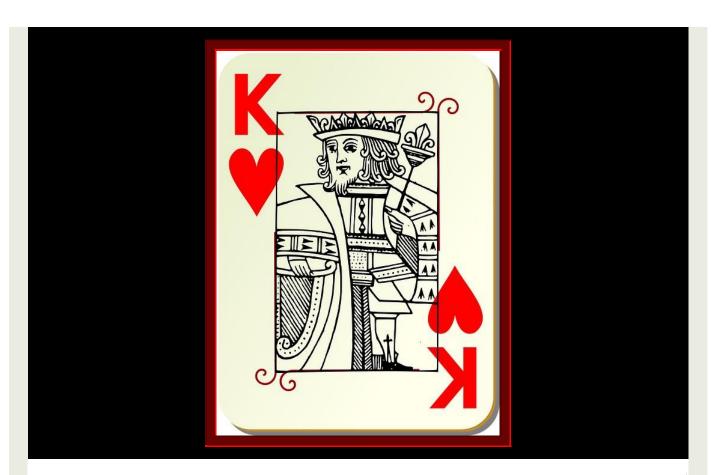
Weekly activities

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 'A Deck of Cards & a Bible'



15th November 2025

Now for something very different, I'm sharing with you something I shared at the assembly I led this week at Cliffe Woods primary school.

I was talking about this month of November in the life of the church as being a month to remember, 1st November, All Saints Day remembering those who have died whom we have loved, 11th November, Remembrance Day remembering those who we may not known but gave their lives so as we have what we have today in Britian, freedom. Remembering Jesus which we do at the end of the month as King and Lord of all on Christ the King Sunday 23rd November.

I explained to the children that as well as I know my bible as a priest, I need props to help me sometimes. I told them that when I go on holiday there are two things that always go with me and have travelled the world with me. The first is my small travel bible and the second a pack of cards.

I was heckled by one or two children as they said why cards, just take your phone it has all the games on it you could ever need. I explained that that relied on two things which sometimes are not available, power and connection. I described how a pack of cards meant that you could play by yourself or with others and at any time. To my amazement lots of the children asked how can you play cards on your own, I said ask your parents, dumb response because possibly they don't know either. I looked at the teachers and said it might be a good thing to teach in spare time and to the children, why not ask for a pack of cards for Christmas, you can imagine the response, heaven help them come the revolution, and if all phones, tablets and computers crashed tomorrow.

Anyway, you might be familiar with the song A Deck of Cards by Wink Martindale a hit in 1959, it was introduced to me when I was little by my grandad who hadn't long

given his life to Jesus. The concept of the song wasn't new it was taken from an old 18th century folk tale, originally recorded in 1948 by T. Texas Tyler.

For assembly I put together the following using hearts as my suit, I got the children one by one to come to the front and hold up giant cards after answering some questions, they are always keen to come to the front, sometimes I think they will burst with the raised hands and excitement as they plead with me, please Clifford.

Below now you will find what I shared with them and the amazing simple maths at the end, all from one pack of cards, hopefully you will enjoy and should you forget your bible just remember this.

A bible in my pocket a deck of cards.

Helps us remember.

Card value

- 1. The Ace: One God, day one, out of darkness came light
- 2. It takes two to make three and four Adam and Eve it's the basic pattern of life our DNA and the bible has two testaments Old and New
- 3. God created us in their image, the trinity God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the third day was the day when Jesus rose conquering death.
- 4. Four Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in four seasons, winter, spring, summer and autumn, North south, east and west are the corners of the earth.
- 5. In the gospels we read how Jesus fed 5,000 people with just five loafs of bread, it is also represents the first five books of the bible called the Pentateuch in Judaism, The Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- 6. There are six days in creation, six days for work, on day six God made us! God's enemy is represented by three 6's the biblical number for imperfection, those things we call sin.
- 7. The day of rest, God's Day to enjoy creation and worship Him. There are also seven colours of the rainbow, God's promise to humanity never to flood the earth again. Biblically the perfect number.
- 8. When God saved the world from the flood eight people stepped out of Noah's ark. Jesus rose on the eighth day as Saturday was the Sabbath the last day of the week, day seven. So, Sunday is a new day, a new week, a new start, a new creation, Christianity's holy day.
- 9. There are nine fruits of God's Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control three of these we use when we light the advent candle adding hope.
- 10. God gives us just ten commandments to live our lives by.
- 11. **The Jack:** well as we are preparing for Christmas that reminds me of Joseph, he is one of the main players in the story, in the pack but he is never spoken about much.
- 12. **The Queen:** this lady reminds me of Mary the mother of Jesus, she was obedient to God and raised Jesus and stayed with him right up to the end. It also reminds me of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve disciples.
- 13. **The King:** this is clearly Jesus whom God sent to earth to remind us how we should live our lives and that God who has been present in every card loves us. In the Christmas story Herod was told a newborn king had been born, at Jesus's death a notice was placed over him that said, Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews. In heaven Jesus takes his crown and throne beside God.

Unlucky number thought to be because the last super there were 13 present, then on the Friday Jesus died, Jesus was obedient to the Law so take away 10 and you are left with 3 and three means God the father, son and Holy spirit all rose again on day three. If we remove the 3 for thirteen then we are left with 1 and 1 is light, Jesus said I am the light of the world.

That leaves us with an empty card box and the number zero, a naught which represents nothing, before God there was nothing, and without God many faiths including the Christian faith believe that there is nothing, so we need these cards and the story they tell.

If we take the whole pack there are 52 cards one for every day of the year, if we counted up all their values, it comes to 364 almost one for every day of the year.

Calculation: (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13)=91 x 4 suits=364

Add the joker and everyday is counted for, add another joker and a leap year is covered to.

It's like keeping a bible in your pocket and prayer for every day.

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
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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:

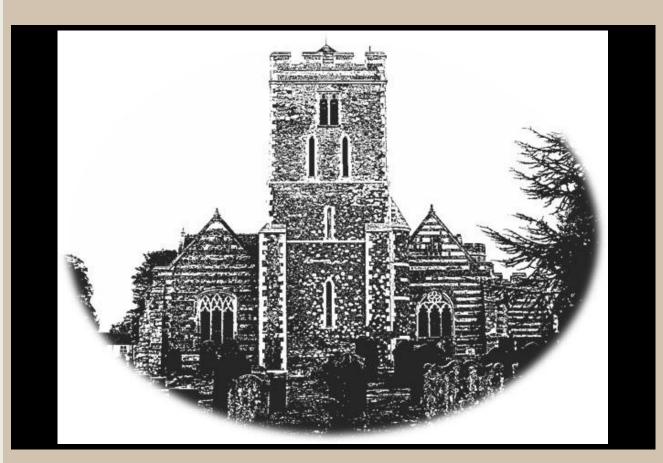
Children's Safeguarding officer:

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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