

**Welcome to our
Weekly News Letter**



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 15th March 2026 4th Sunday of Lent **Mothering Sunday**

8.30am Holy Communion (*BCP traditional*)
10am Family Agape Service we break bread
together and this week celebrate Mothering
Sunday.

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:

- 14th Messy Church 'Messy Mum's' 3-5pm
- 15th Mothering Sunday
- 16th March **PCC** 7pm
- 18th Lent course 'The Hallel Cup' 7-9pm
- 20th God the bible and everything 7.30pm
- 23rd Music Jam 7-8.30pm
- 25th Lent course 'Elijah's Cup' 7-9pm
- 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.
- 6th - 11th Clifford taking some time off,

Readings for
Sunday:
Ephesians 5: 8-
14 & John 9

emergencies only (gone fishing)

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'

Lent Course 2026

This Cup

Here @ St. Helen's

Written and presented by Reverend Clifford Stocking

Five Wednesday Evenings

7-9pm

Week one 25th February **the Kiddush cup**

Week two 4th March **the Haggadah cup**

Week three 11th March **the Berakah cup**

Week four 18th March **the Hallel cup**

Week five 25th March **the Elijah cup**

During these five weeks in Lent, we will start to look at the origins of the Passover Meal and how Jesus might have shared this with his disciples on Maundy Thursday at what we call The Last Supper.



- Next time @ Messy Church
- **Messy Mothers**
 - (a look at biblical mums)
 - 14th March
 - 3—5pm



GOD, THE BIBLE, AND EVERYTHING (IN 60 MINUTES)



FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

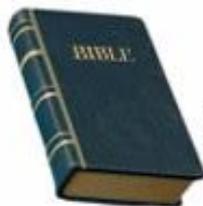
St. Helen's Church

Buttway Lane, Cliffe

7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

BBC sitcom writer and stand-up theologian James Cary hilariously unpacks the entire Bible in one hour - jokes, props, and maybe even a song!

Unforgettable laughs for all ages, faiths, and none!



Adults £10, Under 16s £5

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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



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share it with others**

**Reverend Clifford's Weekly Blog
Mummy or Mother**



14th March 2026

It's mothering Sunday tomorrow the day when traditionally those who worked in service went back home and worshiped in their home churches before the busy Easter season. I wonder what we would describe as being our home church or whether we value the church at all. It is clear that numbers have vastly fallen and where once maybe we would be packed on occasions such as mothering Sunday today the world of Clinton has taken over, stolen Mothering Sunday and replaced it with Mother's Day. Whilst I believe it is important to give thanks for our earthly mothers these constant changes in the church calendar are eating away at the very fabric of our faith. The Christmas Jesus challenged by Santa, who only visits our lives once a year, the Easter Jesus replaced with a bunny, who melts as quickly as the chocolate he is made of, mothering Sunday turned into Mother's Day with overpriced flowers and cupcakes that would be nice to give at any time of the year not just when we are told too. Holy Evening remembering our loved ones now Halloween with ghosts and scary ghouls representing our dearly missed departed, treat me or get egged.

One by one they are being dissolved, does it matter, you bet I does. The world is successfully taking everything we have and reshaping it with a commercial profit-making agenda which is trying to smother the light of Jesus. Is it any wonder I would argue that the world is similarly becoming more aggressive and hostile, the message of peace that Jesus came to deliver is being covered with the world's lies. Where is honesty and sincerity, truth, confession, apology and forgiveness. Dare I say it; what excuse was there for bombing a school full of young lives in Iran, for the grace of God it isn't happening on our shores, but what if it had; who will hold responsibility rather than saying it wasn't us gov. On this mothering Sunday mothers all over our world are weeping at the loss of their children as our governments rip each other apart. And what are we concerned about, the price of petrol!

What then is truth, truth is that sometimes in war, bombs won't land where you want them to, and the consequence is innocent lives are destroyed, that is the cost and price of any conflict Mr Trump. The casualties of war, nothing will bring them back, but admitting and apologising for these dreadful events is a start. I question seriously how some sleep at night, I question what their excuses will be when they stand before God whom they claim as being on their side. I can quote what Jesus has said, 'away from me, I do not know who you are, even if you claim to know me and do things in my name. Matthew 7:21-23 this is my strangely favourite part of the Sermon on the Mount because it keeps me active in my faith, I need to constantly review my relationship with Christ Jesus, because there simply are no 100% guarantees. It means I need to check regularly even as a vicar that I am living the life that Jesus expects me to, how does that look, what shape does it take. I pray that my action or inactions will not prevent me from an eternity with God.

The decline in our active faith where we become in many ways accountable to each other and supportive in good and bad times of each other's needs is reflected in society. Do not get me wrong there are many, many good things in life which sadly do not get recorded or noted but each positive action is met with the evil we see day by day as we seem either helpless to it or oppose it, or simply we are not interested because it does not affect us directly. Mothering Sunday reminds us that the church is still here, it acts like a mother shielding and protecting her children.

At the heart of the Church is Jesus who has taught us how we can live differently, his teaching talks of love, of forgiveness, of peace, it can bring healing of body, mind and spirit but only if we engage with him in our lives. The faith Jesus calls us to has to be active, inactivity allows the negative aspects of life to creep in, to become overwhelming, it is a voice of deception that says, you can have and achieve whatever you like in this life, put yourself first, take what you like, if a few people get hurt on that journey or get in your way, so what its expected. Just push them aside, it is simply a natural case of collateral damage.

Jesus was so different from that, he saw the afflicted, the vulnerable, the marginalized and welcome them to sit with him, he trampled on no one, and he reminded those who did that this is not the way to God. They came to Jesus in their tens of thousands; they sought him out because he offered something different from what this crazy world offers them and us. Today Jesus can through the life of an active Church offer the same, if we choose not to come then the doors of our buildings will in time shut and all we will be left with is the hopeless lies of the world. It's trying very hard at this time in our history to close our doors, and seemingly being very successful at it; it is up to us, this generation to do something about it and be stronger for it, and when we see a rival of people coming back to church, only then will we come to experience a different kind of peace.

Mothering Sunday is about identifying our local church and gathering together to celebrate the life of the church which includes all families and mums, but most of all Jesus.

Please give a thought this mothering Sunday to those mothers who are left weeping because the world has taken their children, in the name of who knows what!

Next week something much lighter, a conversation between Bishop and Area Dean that resulted in tears of laughter.

God bless,

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 & Area Dean of Strood

Reverend Clifford Stocking

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Paul Sutton

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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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cliffatcliffe@gmail.com

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