

Newsletter for the Clavering Benefice
Representing the churches of
Arkesden, Berden, Clavering, Langley, Manuden and Wicken Bonhunt.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Neighbour,
Welcome to this new letter, the last before we enter in Christmas week. I know for many of you that this approaches so fast, and we might feel unprepared or that we hoped it would last a bit longer. Well of of course it can and I would like to extend an invitation to you all to join in a course starting in the new year called Alpha. This is a course for those new to faith, exploring faith or wishing to deepen your faith. If you scan the QR code below with your phone you can register your interest and when I have enough names, I will contact those on the list to see if they would like to join. Please don't worry you are not committing yourself to anything, only joining a list which is administered by me to whom I can send more details. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing the discussion on faith and your personal journey and experiences. Please do share this with whomever you feel might be interested.



I am on leave after Christmas therefore this newsletter will be last until the week beginning the 12th of January 2026.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a joyous New Year.
Reverend Gary Fleming

Readings 21st December

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-11



Bible Study Group

The benefice bible study group is held every Thursday from 10.30-12pm. All sessions are at the Clavering Christian Centre which offers us a warm venue for the winter months and good facilities. All are welcome regardless of if you have ever read the Bible or not. Tea, coffee and conversation come as standard so please do pop in, and don't worry if you can't make every week. That is fine.

The next Bible study will be on the 15th of January 2026



Stride by Stride Walking Group

If you haven't managed to join us yet, please do come along. We are a mixed crowd and walk at a relaxed, but purposeful pace. Each walk lasts about 1.5 hrs, and we always start at a venue offering parking and facilities and end back at the start for refreshments. The intention of the walks is to offer a chance for people to engage in a supported walk and enjoy conversation and fellowship.

Walks in the new year are as follows **(Please note that from January all walks will start at 10.30am).**

January 30th starting at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Langley.
10.30am

February 27th starting at St Margarets Church, Wicken Bonhunt. 10.30am

March 27th starting at the Cricketers Pub in Clavering. 10.30am

April 24th starting from Poppies Café in Langley. 10.30am

New Years Day Walk

Since we started the 'Stride by Stride Walking Group' several people have been unable to join us for various reasons, so as we are not walking in December, I am offering a chance to start the new year with a walk.

Like the Stride by Stride, we will walk for about 90 minutes on good paths and tracks, and hopefully relax afterwards with refreshments in the Christian Centre.

We will set off from the Christian Centre at 2.00 on the 1st January. Dogs on leads welcome.

There is no need to register, just turn up, but if you have any questions please contact me on 01799 550462

Peter Cooper



Prayers you may wish to use during the week

Heavenly Father,

We pray this week for families and for all who are coming together to share in the joy of this season. We pray for good conversation, tolerance and patience. We pray for those who are alone and for whom this is the first Christmas without a cherished loved one. We pray that they may know the comfort and joy of the closeness of the Kingdom of God and that they may find comfort in the many outreach opportunities offered through friends, neighbours and social media.

I pray for you all this Christmas blessing which has been welcomed by many.

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon and remain with you and all that you love, this Christmas time and forevermore. Amen

We offer our prayers through Christ our Light. Amen. *(Please insert your own prayers into these for areas you wish to pray for)*

Benefice Prayers

We pray this week for all those who have been involved in church services and for the preparations that have been underway. We pray for a restful period. We pray for those who are lost and without a home this Christmas. For all who are on the streets or homeless and for all who offer shelter, food, sustenance and hope over this time.

We pray for all who are in hospital over Christmas and for all in our emergency services and health care professions who will work over this season ensuring our safety and wellbeing. We give thanks for their service. Amen

Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Christmas

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Pastoral outreach – Home Visits

If you, or somebody you know would welcome a home pastoral visit, then please do contact Reverend Gary Fleming to discuss this further by emailing: revdgaryfleming@outlook.com.

If you would like to receive this weekly notice sheet by email or have your event publicised in it, please send details to the benefice office email which is ClaveringBenefice@outlook.com.

Office admin asst: Jane Cowley working from home.

For more information, please contact me, Reverend Gary Fleming on 07491 402273 or email on revdgaryfleming@outlook.com

Thank you for considering this.

Service Schedule

Sunday 21 st December	9.30am	Holy Communion Rev G Fleming	St Mary with St Clement, Clavering
	9.30am	Holy Communion Rev P Cable	St John the Evangelist, Langley
	9.30am	Morning Worship M Trapmore	St Nicholas, Berden
	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight Rev G Fleming	St Mary's, Manuden
	6.00pm	Carols by Star & Candlelight Rev G Fleming	St Mary's, Arkesden
Wednesday 24 th December	2.00pm	Crib Service Rev G Fleming	St Mary's, Manuden
	3.00pm	Crib Service Rev G Fleming	St Nicholas, Berden
	9.30pm	Bethlehem Mass Rev G Fleming	St Mary with St Clement, Clavering
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass Rev G Fleming	
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass Rev P Cable	St Margaret's, Wicken Bonhunt
Thursday 25 th December	9.00am	Holy Communion Rev G Fleming	St Mary's, Manuden
	9.00am	Morning Prayer S Erb	St Mary's, Arkesden
	10.00am	Holy Communion Rev P Cable	St John the Evangelist, Langley
	10.30am	Holy Communion Rev G Fleming	St Nicholas, Berden
Sunday 28 th December	11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion Rev G Fleming	St Mary with St Clement, Clavering
Sunday 4 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion Rev P Cable	St Mary's, Manuden
	11.00am	Holy Communion Rev P Cable	St John the Evangelist, Langley

Please note that there will be no midweek services until week beginning 12th January 2026

