

Serving the parishes of Clavering, Langley, Arkesden,  
Wicken Bonhunt, Manuden and Berden

Newsletter for the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 (3/26)



Welcome to our  
benefice newsletter.  
I am Reverend Gary  
Fleming, Vicar to the  
Clavering Benefice.

A group of six,  
stunning rural  
parishes in the  
north-west of Essex.

## LETTING GO

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

In last Sunday's sermon, I reflected on the changes that faced John the Baptist as he handed over his ministry to make way for Christ. John had developed a followership of disciples of his own, but was always of the understanding that he had a role to play and that he was to help build and stand aside for the kingdom of God, and not to focus on his own empire.

John reminds us that every calling is ultimately for Christ's glory. Success in ministry is measured by how faithfully we point others to Jesus, not by how much attention we receive. John willingly decreased so that Christ could increase. In a world that celebrates self-promotion, we are called to embrace humility and surrender our ambitions to God's purposes. When John released his disciples to follow Jesus, it was an act of worship. Likewise, when we let go of control—our plans, positions, or influence—we declare that Jesus is Lord over all.

## Services

**Week 25<sup>th</sup> Jan - 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2026**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Epiphany 3**

**9.30 am** - BCP 1662 Holy Communion, Langley

**11.00 am** - Holy Communion, Arkesden

**4.00 pm** - Evensong, Berden

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan**

**9.00 am** - Holy Communion, Clavering

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan**

**9.00 am** - Morning Prayer, Manuden

**4.30 pm** - Evening Prayer, Wicken Bonhunt

**7.30 pm** - Compline, Clavering

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Candlemass**

**09.30 am** - Holy Communion, Manuden

**11.00 am** - Holy Communion, Clavering

**4.00 pm** - Pet Blessing Service, Berden

## Readings

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4 12-23

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb**

Malachi 3 1-5, Luke 2 22-40

## New to faith or exploring what it means to you. Read on...

We intend to run an Alpha course in 2026 to support conversations for people wishing to explore faith further. The course is run over several weeks and is an enjoyable way to explore faith from the perspective of somebody who is new to faith. If you would like to be part of this discussion, please use the QR code below by simply opening your camera and focusing on the code to follow the link for the opportunity to register your interest.



## Bible Study Group

The benefice bible study group is held every Thursday from 10.30-12pm at the Clavering Christian Centre, CB11 4PH. This 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.

## Prayers

### Collect for Candlemass

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty, whose beloved  
Son was this day presented in the  
Temple, in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to  
you with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and for ever.  
Amen

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### Benefice Prayers

We pray this week for personnel  
serving in our armed forces and  
emergency services. We pray for all in  
political, military and religious  
leadership positions. We pray for all  
who serve overseas in humanitarian  
services to meet the needs of the  
vulnerable and at risk. We pray for  
Christian unity and for all persecuted  
Christian communities who suffer for  
simply choosing to follow Christ.  
Amen

## What's on

**24<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Burns Night - Langley Community  
Centre

Contact - Liz Cable at  
[langleycommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:langleycommunitycentre@gmail.com), or  
01763258043, 07519 741774

**28<sup>th</sup> Jan** - 7-8.30 pm Launch of Open Door  
Youth Club at clavering Christian Centre.  
Contact Revd Gary Fleming for more details -  
07491402273 or  
[revdgaryfleming@outlook.com](mailto:revdgaryfleming@outlook.com)

**29<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Langley Lunches - Langley  
Community Centre, 12 noon. Contact Liz  
Cable at [langleychurch@gmail.com](mailto:langleychurch@gmail.com)

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Coffee and Crafts, 10am-  
12 - Clavering Christian Centre

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Soup and Sweet 12-2pm-  
Clavering Christian Centre

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### Stride by Stride Walking Group All walks start at 10.30am

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** - Starting at St John's church,  
Langley.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** - Starting at St Margarets  
Church, Wicken Bonhunt.

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** - Starting at the Cricketers Pub in  
Clavering.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** - Starting from Poppies Café in  
Langley.

## How to get in touch

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](mailto:ClaveringBenefice@outlook.com).

Office admin asst: Jane Cowley working from home.

For pastoral or service related matters, please contact Reverend Gary Fleming on 07491 402273 or  
email on [revdgaryfleming@outlook.com](mailto:revdgaryfleming@outlook.com) (Vicar does not work Mondays)



# Join us for a transformative journey this Lent



## Walking with Christ

**A course of conversation and encounter held over 6 weeks  
(Attend as many as you are able)**

**All 2026 sessions run from 7-8.30 pm and will be held on  
19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Venue - Clavering Christian Centre. Stortford Road, Clavering.  
CB11 4PH

*All are welcome to join!*



**CLAVERING  
BENEFICE**



# **PET BLESSING SERVICE**

All are welcome to this fun and friendly family service. Bring your pets, big and small, including horses, sheep, water snails, alpacas, cats and dogs.

Well behaved owners also welcome!

## **Service Dates and Times**

February 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm – St Nicholas Church,  
Berden.

March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm – St Mary and St Clement  
Church, Clavering

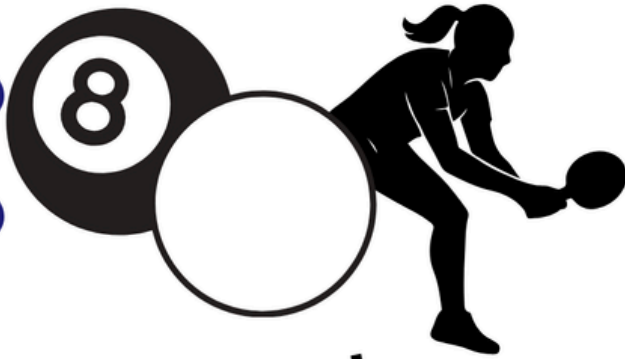
## **CONTACT DETAILS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

REVEREND GARY FLEMING: 07491 402273,  
REVDGARYFLEMING@OUTLOOK.COM





# OPEN DOOR YOUTH DROP-IN



**Pool  
Darts  
Table Tennis  
Card games  
Table top games and  
football**

Activities and  
refreshments for  
youths aged 11-16.  
Last Wednesday of  
the month starting  
28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026  
7-8.30pm

**Scan here to register  
(You must register to  
attend)**



**Come along, have  
fun, meet new friends**

Venue – Clavering Christian Centre.  
Stortford Road CB11 4PH

Contact – Reverend Gary Fleming for more info.  
07491 402273  
revdgaryfleming@outlook.com



**CLAVERING  
B E N E F I C E**