



# TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of  
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 (6/26)



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.

## LOST FOR WORDS

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

Last Sunday we reflected on the Transfiguration. A moment when the disciples Peter, James and John stood in the presence of Christ in His fullness. In His representation as the fulfilment of the prophets and the law represented in Elijah and Moses. Seeing Jesus represented fully as God. But their understanding is, of course, limited

with Peter suggesting they build a house for the three. So in the sermon, we reflected on the times we encounter God and struggle to understand that encounter through lack of words or paying attention. We closed by considering how we might pay more attention to what God is doing in our daily lives, so that we might be transfigured into the likeness and mind of Christ. We reflected that our daily bread is given to us in crumbs of encounter, which add up to our daily offering to sustain us. Amen.

## Services

Week 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2026

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - Lent 1.**

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

**11.00 am** - Holy Communion, Arkesden

**4.00 pm** - BCP 1662 Evensong, Berden

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**09.00 am** - Holy Communion, Clavering (A Shorter said service of 25 minutes)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**09.00 am** - Morning Prayer, Manuden

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

**7.30 pm** - Compline, Clavering

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

**09.30 am** - Holy Communion, Manuden

**09.30 am** - Morning Prayer, Arkesden

**11.00 am** - Holy communion, Langley

**11.00 am** - Holy Communion, Clavering

## Readings

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

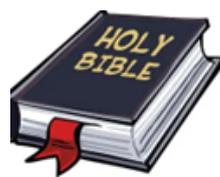
Gen 2 15-17, 3. 1-7, Matt 41-11

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

Genesis 12 1-4a, John 3 1-17

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

We intend to run a course to discuss and explore faith after Easter. 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, returning to, or looking to deepen their 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 bible study will not be held on the 26th February and will start back on the 5th of March.**

The group is held on Thursdays from 10.30-12pm at the Clavering Christian Centre, CB11 4PH. 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 1st Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

### Benefice Prayers

We pray for all this Lent who have taken the time to come closer to God. To hear his word and encounter the living God in their lives. We pray for those attending the lent course, that they may hear something of what it is to walk with Jesus and to be a witness to His love in our communities. We pray for all who are discerning their calling to follow and for those who are in ministerial training. We pray for clergy and lay leaders and all teachers of the faith. Amen

## What's on

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

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



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

**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.

### Volunteering at your local church

If you would like to be involved in your local church, or have an idea for a community event please do get in touch. Volunteering is a great way to make friends and be part of the community. We have many opportunities from leading groups, grounds maintenance, flower arranging and cleaning, reading in church or being a welcomer at services. Contact Reverend Gary Fleming to find out more or to have a chat.

## 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.

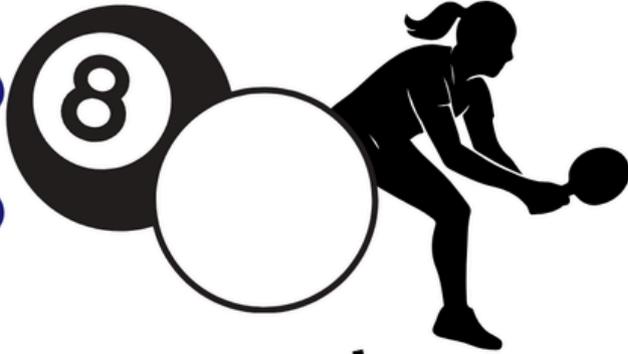
March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm – St Mary and St Clement  
Church, Clavering



## **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  
BENE FICE**