



TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 23rd March 2026 (10/26)



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.

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

Last Sunday we reflected on the readings for Mothering Sunday, 1 Sam 1:20-end, and Luke 2:33-35. It was the telling of Hannah, mother of Samuel and of Mary mother Jesus being told by Simeon that a sword would pierce her own heart. The stories told us of the pain of parenting and letting go of our children go to achieve their potential.

Mary would stand at the foot of the cross as her son hung in agony above her. Whilst Hannah would see her son given over to serve the priest Eli, and therefore given over to God. However, in both of these stories we hear of the wonder of motherhood and the blessings of children, of life given by God. It is that blessing that the parents in the stories are grateful for. And we see that the paths of the children are, it seems, accepted and both Mary and Hannah stand by in support. A lesson of gratitude and handing over our lives to God's care in faith, even if it seems to cause us some pain. Amen

Services

Week 23rd Mar - 29th Mar 2026

Sunday 22nd March - Lent 5

09.30 am - 1662 Holy Communion, Langley

11.00 am - Holy Communion, Arkesden

4.00 pm - Evensong, Berden

Wednesday 25th March

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

Thursday 26th March

09.00 am - Morning Prayer, Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer, Wicken Bonhunt

7.30 pm - No Compline

Sunday 29th March

11.00 am - Distribution of Palms & Benefice Holy Communion, Manuden

Readings

Sun 22nd Mar

Exodus 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

Sun 29th Mar

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Matt:21 1-11

Prayers

Collect for the 5th Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;

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 who teach and preach the faith to our communities in our services and through teaching in schools and places of work. We pray also for those who bare Christian witness to those around them through their kindness and good spirit.

We pray for Christian unity and an end to schisms with the Christian community. We pray for persecuted Christians at home and abroad. We pray for those who need encouragement to speak about their faith and who this day feel isolated from family and friends because of their faith. We pray this for our families, our communities and our country. We pray that we may know through your Holy Spirit what it means to be called to serve in this time, in this place.

Amen



Bible Study Group

The group is held on Thursdays from 10.30-12pm at the Clavering Christian Centre, CB11 4PH. All are welcome regardless of whether 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.

OPEN DOOR YOUTH CLUB

The youth club has proven to be a real success and a sign of where the spirit is at work in our communities. Thank you to all who have donated money and gifts to support this venture. We have an amazing team on board in Cara, Grant, Jayne, Dawn, Juliet and hopefully a few more coming through. Feedback from parents has been excellent. Our next evening is the 25th of March from 7-8.30 pm.

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.

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 (Vicar does not work Mondays)

What's on

Langley Lunches - are held every month on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the. Please contact Liz Cable to book on:
Phone: 01763258043 or 07519741774
Email: langleychurch@gmail.com

Mondays. 9-10.30 am - Mums and Chums, held every Monday in term time in the church

19th March. 2- 4 pm. Wicken Bonhunt Tea and Chat in St Margaret's Church.

The remaining date for our Lent course this year is **Tuesday 31st March**

All run from 7-8.30 pm at the Clavering Christian Centre



Stride by Stride Walking Group

All walks start at 10.30am

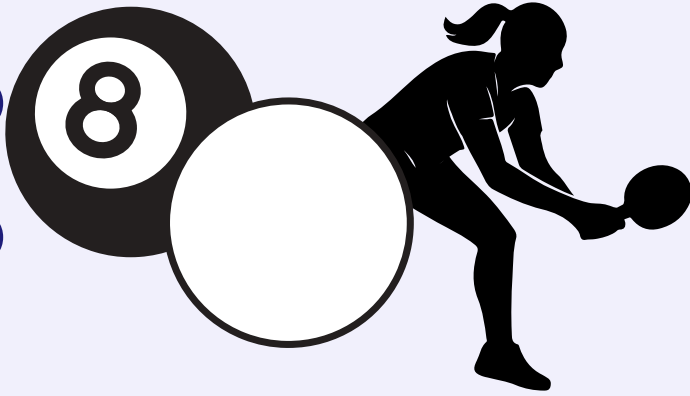
March 27th - Starting at the Cricketers Pub in Clavering.

April 24th - Starting from Poppies Café in Langley.

May 22nd - Starting from St Nicholas' Church, Berden

June 26th - Starting from St Mary's Church, Arkesden.

OPEN DOOR YOUTH CLUB



Activities for
youths aged 11–16.
Next session 25th
March from
7–8.30pm.
£1 admission fee

**Pool, Darts
Table Tennis
Card Games
Tabletop Football**
All sessions close with
prayer

**Scan here to register (You must
register to attend 24 hours
before the session)**



Faith, Fun and Friendships

Venue – Clavering Christian Centre.
Stortford Road CB11 4PH

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



**CLAVERING
BENEFICE**

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
19th Feb, 26th Feb, 5th March, 12th March, 17th March, 31st March**

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

All are welcome to join!