



TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 9th March 2026 (8/26)



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.

GOD OF SURPRISES

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

Last Sunday we read John 3:1-17. The story of Nicodemus, a Pharisee, sent to speak covertly to Jesus about his ministry. Jesus tells him that all must be born again from above. But he puts it to Nicodemus in such a way that he is unable to understand the concept, seeking to rely strictly on a literal interpretation of what Jesus is telling him.

As a Pharisee, Nicodemus would have relied on legal, black and white certainties. But this is not how Jesus approached him, or us. Jesus leaves us to figure things out in the power of the Spirit. Calling us to reflect on what he says and understand on a deeper level. Of course, we will always be limited in our understanding, but an enquiring spiritual mind is healthy, I think. We can often stand uncomfortably on the edge of our own knowledge, but Christ calls us forward to discern his will rather than to fall back on our own, sometimes limited, certainties. Amen

Services

Week 9th Mar - 15th Mar 2026

Sunday 8th March - Lent 3

09.30 am - Holy Communion,
Berden.

9.30 am - Morning Worship,
Wicken Bonhunt.

11.00 am - Messy Church,
Manuden

Wednesday 11th March

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

Thursday 12th March

09.00 am - Morning Prayer,
Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer,
Wicken Bonhunt

7.30 pm - No Compline

Sunday 15th March - Mothering

Sunday - Lent 4

09.30 am - Clavering

09.30 am - Langley

09.30 am - Berden

09.30 am - Wicken Bonhunt

11.00 am - Manuden

11.00 am - Arkesden

All will be Mothering Sunday
Services

Readings

Sunday 8 th Mar	Sunday 8 th Mar
Exodus 17:1-7	1 Sam 1:20-end
John 4:5-42	Luke 2:33-35

Prayers

Collect for the 4th Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord,
absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains of
those sins which by our frailty we have
committed;
grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's
sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, 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 work in local businesses
who support and sustain the day-to-day life
of our villages. We give thanks for their
presence amongst us. We pray for all who
work in our local communities in
volunteering roles to support our churches
and to help manage the many committees
that ensure that our villages remain a
vibrant and safe place to live. We pray
especially for those on our parish councils
and meeting groups. For those who give of
their time, gifts and resources to help and
serve others. We are reminded that all
types of service are an act of ministry and
demonstration of love for our neighbour.
Lord, bless the ministries deployed and
displayed in this benefice. Amen



Bible Study Group

The bible study 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 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
7th March. 10am - 1pm. Repair Cafe in Berden Village Hall

7th March. 10-12 am. Wicken Bohunt Breakfast Club.

8th March. 3-4.30 pm - Messy Church followed by Pet Blessing service in St Mary and St Clement, Clavering.

12th March. 7-8.30pm - Lent Course at the Clavering Christian Centre

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



Stride by Stride Walking Group All walks start at 10.30am

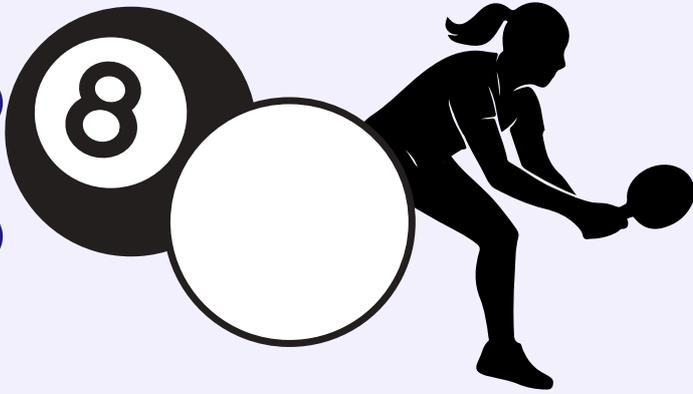
March 27th - Starting at the Cricketers Pub in Clavering.

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!