



TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 2nd March 2026 (7/26)



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.

IN THE WILDERNESS

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

Sunday past represented the First Sunday of Lent. Over the sermons across services I focused on the need to place ourselves in a place of wilderness where we are left to face only ourselves and withdraw from our temptations so that we might be closer to God. It is easier said than done was, I think, my conclusion.

Especially when we consider it may have taken Jesus 40 days in the wilderness to be completely withdrawn so that He could stand before the devil at His most vulnerable without distraction, solely reliant on His faith. A reminder that the devil seeks to tempt us when we are at our most vulnerable; when we feel that easy comfort would be the best way out. We learn that we are vulnerable when we are weak and tired, which the devil sees as opportunity. But resistance, like Jesus, can be our moment of greatest victory and closeness to God.

Services

Week 2nd Mar - 8th Mar 2026

Sunday 1st March - Lent 2

09.30 am - Holy Communion,
Manuden

09.30 am - Holy Communion,
Arkesden

11.00 am - Holy communion,
Langley

11.00 am - Holy Communion,
Clavering (Not APCM)

Wednesday 4th March

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

Thursday 5th March

09.00 am - Morning Prayer,
Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer,
Wicken Bonhunt

7.30 pm - No Compline

Sunday 8th March - Lent 3

09.30 am - Holy Communion,
Berden.

9.30 am - Morning Worship,
Wicken Bonhunt.

11.00 am - Messy Church,
Manuden

11.00 am - Morning Worship,
Clavering Christian Centre

04.00 pm - Pet Blessing Service.
Clavering

Readings

Sunday 1st Mar

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

Sunday 8th Mar

Exodus 17: 1-7
John 4:5-42

Prayers

Collect for 3rd Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went
not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and
entered not into glory before he was
crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way
of the cross, may find it none other than the
way of life and peace;

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 in this season for our attention to
be brought to what God is doing in us,
through us, around us and within our
communities.

We pray that, like Christ in the wilderness,
we might be in a place where we are able to
let go of the distractions around us to focus
on who and what God calls us to be. We
pray that all leaders in political, religious,
and military settings may be able to stop
and, in this season of Lent, to fall back onto
the commandments to love God and
neighbour. To place that as an outcome and
success measure of their decisions and
daily actions. We pray that this season of
lent calls all to repentance and renewal.
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

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

4th March - Coffee and Crafts, 10am-12 - Clavering Christian Centre

4th March - Soup and Sweet 12-2pm- Clavering Christian Centre

FREE First Aid Course

14th March 9.30 am - 4pm Free Lunch.

Contact Frances Hiron -

franceshiron@hotmail.com

Ideal for community group and church leaders and helpers. Or if you care for somebody such as relatives or friends.



Stride by Stride Walking Group

All walks start at 10.30am

February 27th - Starting at St Margarets Church, Wicken Bonhunt.

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

April 24th - Starting from Poppies Café in Langley.

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, 25th 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 1st at 4pm – St Nicholas Church,
Berden.

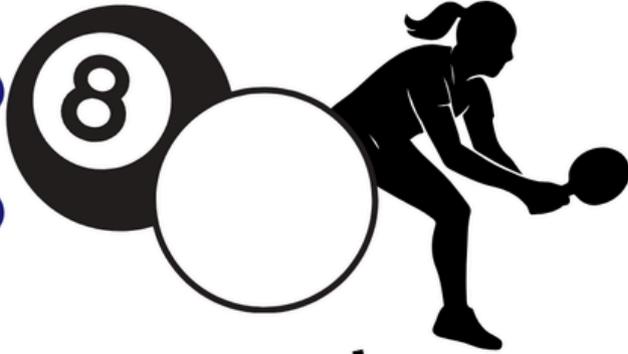
March 8th at 4pm – St Mary and St Clement
Church, Clavering

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 28th 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**