



TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 13th April 2026 (13/26)



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.

MEETING CHRIST

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

Easter Sunday, brings with it renewal and encounter. Mary stands at the empty tomb, in the presence of Christ, but presented as a gardener. Mary is quite rightly not aware he is Jesus, until he calls her by name. As Jesus called Mary, he calls each of us to know him. And calls us by name to have a very personal encounter and relationship with him.

My sermon considered how, as Mary met Jesus in an apparent stranger, a gardener, we also meet Christ in the strangers we meet. I shared how I had been served with grace and kindness during a difficult walking challenge in Cornwall, and how I felt that I had been treated to such unsolicited love, that I felt I had been served by Christ. The kindness shown by the serving staff to a very tired and grubby walker reflected the call to serve each other as if we were serving Christ himself. It was a reminder to me that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ to each other. Amen

Services

Week 12th April - 19th April 2026

Sunday 12th April

9.30am - Morning Worship Wicken Bonhunt

9.30am - Holy Communion followed by APCM Berden

11.00am - Morning Worship Christian Centre, Clavering

11.00am - Messy Church Manuden

Wednesday 8th April

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

Thursday 9th April

09.00 am - Morning Prayer, Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer, Wicken Bonhunt

Sunday 19th April

9.30am - Holy Communion Clavering

9.30am - Morning Worship Berden

9.30am - Holy Communion Wicken Bonhunt

11.00am Holy Communion followed by APCM Langley

11.00am - Messy Church Manuden

4.00pm - Cafe Church Manuden

Readings

Sun 12th April

Sun 19th April

Acts 2 14a, 22-32

Acts 2 14a 36-41

John 20 19 - end

Luke 24 13-35

Prayers

Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father,

you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness

that we may always serve you

in pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of 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

Benefice Prayers

This week we pray for all victims of crime. For those who work in the retail sector for whom crime, abusive and aggressive behaviour have become a daily haunt in the roles. We pray for their safety and well being. We pray for all business owners whose business suffer because of the impact of criminal acts on their income and livelihood.

We pray for those who work in the security sector. For our police services and all who try to uphold standards in society that reflect the Christian values set out in God's holy law.

We pray for the Royal Family and our church that through our witness in our communities we might encourage faith and fellowship and a neighbourly approach to each other and unity in our country. Amen



Bible Study Group

There will be Bible Study group at 10.30am on 16th April at Christian Centre Clavering

We continue our journey through the Gospel according to Mark. If you would like to find out more about studying the Bible, or have a discussion about faith, please do contact Reverend Gary Fleming whose details are at the bottom of this newsletter.

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 23rd April 2026 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

Tuesday 14th April - Botanical audit of Wildlife in our churchyard at St Nicholas Berden

11.00am - 2.00pm everyone welcome

Refreshments available

Saturday 18th April - Busstop shop in Berden in aid of Church funds from 10am

Langley Lunches - are held every month on the 4th Wednesday of the month. 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



Stride by Stride Walking Group

All walks start at 10.30am

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.