



# TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of  
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (11/26)



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 story of Lazarus and his death and resurrection. In the story, we hear that Jesus weeps as he witnesses the suffering of those around him as they mourn the loss of their friend and brother. We asked, why did Jesus weep. Why, with full knowledge of life in eternity and that he could and would raise Lazarus did he weep?

This is, of course, a complex matter. Jesus was fully human and fully God, so to experience normal human emotions would be natural. But it also shows us that we experience seasons in life. Jesus would not want to see his friends suffer, and maybe their lack of faith was something that was of concern to him. But he doesn't criticise their weeping, only instead provides assurance that belief in him will offer eternal life, and that when we mourn the end of one season of life, we do so with Joy and hope of the resurrection in the next season of our walk with God. Amen

## Services

Week 30<sup>th</sup> Mar - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Wednesday 1st April

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

### Thursday 2nd April

09.00 am - Morning Prayer, Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer, Wicken Bonhunt

### Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

2-3.00 pm - Final hour of the Cross

### Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am - Holy Communion - Clavering

9.30am - Holy Communion - Manuden

11.00am - Holy Communion - Arkesden

11.00am - Holy Communion - Langley

## Readings

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Mar

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Matt:21 1-11

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> April

Acts 10: 34-43

John: 20 1-18

## Prayers

Collect for the 6th Sunday of Lent

### Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Amen

### Benefice Prayers

We pray this week for Archbishop Mullalley as she undertakes her new role as the Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Anglican Communion.

We pray for her ministry and her team who will support her in the role. We pray for all Bishops, Priests and Deacons who offer ministry within parishes and across the Anglican Communion.

We pray for the Royal Family and King Charles, who stands as head of the Church of England and together with Archbishop Mullalley, may lead us with God's wisdom, humility, confidence and strength for greater Christian unity.

Amen



## Bible Study Group

There will be no Bible Study group until 16<sup>th</sup> April

## 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](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)

## Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Supper 7.30pm  
Clavering Community Centre, details from Dawn Adams [dawn@adamsathome.plus.com](mailto:dawn@adamsathome.plus.com)

**Good Friday - 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Walk of Witness  
11.00am Meeting outside Clavering Village shop

**Good Friday - 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Fish Supper 6.00pm St Nicholas Berden, details from Mark Trapmore [mark.trapmore@outlook.com](mailto:mark.trapmore@outlook.com)

### What's on

**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](mailto:langleychurch@gmail.com)

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

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

The remaining date for our Lent course this year is 7-8.30 pm at the Clavering Christian Centre



## Stride by Stride Walking Group

All walks start at 10.30am

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** - Starting from Poppies Café in Langley.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Starting from St Nicholas' Church, Berden

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** - Starting from St Mary's Church, Arkesden.

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, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

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

*All are welcome to join!*