



TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 25th May 2026 (19/26)



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.

THE BLESSEDNESS OF UNITY

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

Many of you will be aware that I have been asked by Bishop Guli, the Diocesan Bishop, to be the next Area Dean for the Saffron Walden Deanery. This is a privilege as it is a call to serve the clergy, laity and communities within the deanery. In setting out in this new capacity, I have reflected on what it means to have a theology as an Area Dean. The first thing that came to mind was a theology of unity. What does Christ show us and what does the Bible say to us about this?

Psalm 133 tells us that God sees righteousness where there is unity. Christ showed us that in reconciling all things through his atonement (at-one-ment) for sin He placed unification of all with God and Neighbour as a primary theological principle. Therefore, that should of course be the theological drive for an Area Dean. Unity.

With that in mind we are within the deanery holding a deanery service at St Mary's, Saffron Walden on the 31st of May at 10.30am to which all are invited. Why not use it as an opportunity to gather for breakfast with friends before or lunch after. We will also be holding a 9.00am Holy Communion Service at Wicken Bonhunt on the same day. I do hope you can join as at one or both. Amen

Services

Week 24th - 7th June

Sunday 24th May

9.30am - BCP Holy Communion, Langley

11.00am - Holy Communion, Arkesden

4.00pm - Evening Prayer and
commissioning of Rev'd Gary Fleming as
Area Dean, Berden

No midweek services for week beginning
the 25th of May.

Normal midweek services are:

Wednesday's

9.00am - Holy Communion, Clavering (A
Shorter said service of 25 minutes)

Thursday's

9.00 am - Morning Prayer, Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer, Wicken Bonhunt

Sunday 31st May

09.00am - Holy Communion, Wicken
Bonhunt

10.30am - Deanery Service. Holy
Communion, St Mary's Saffron Walden.

Sunday 7th June

9.30am - Holy Communion, Manuden

9.30am - Morning Prayer, Arkesden

11.00am - Holy Communion, Clavering

11.00am - Holy Communion, Langley

4.00pm - Sacred Space, Wicken Bonhunt

Readings

Sunday 24th May

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23

Sunday 31st May

Isaiah 40:12-17,27-end

Matthew 28:16-end

Sunday 7th June

Genesis 12:1-9

Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

Prayers

Collect for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the
gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath
of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Benefice Prayers

This week we pray for all on retreat
and those who have taken time to
come closer to God through
pilgrimage. We pray for the church at
this time of Pentecost remembering
at all times God's ability to renew
His church through the power of the
Holy Spirit and that we may be daily
renewed in our faith and
discipleship. Amen



No Bible Study Group 28th May

Bible study group held every Thursday from 10.30 - 12 midday at the Clavering Christian Centre.

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

Our next junior youth club meeting will be the 10th of June and the next senior youth club will be the 24th June. Please note there is no senior youth club on the 27th May as it is half term.

If you would like to volunteer. Please do get in touch with me, Reverend Gary Fleming

Coming Soon - A Question of Faith
An opportunity for those interested in theology to gather informally to discuss faith in relation to big questions of the day. Watch this space for more details

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

June 14th 3.00pm Teddy Bears Picnic

Clavering See poster below

June 14th 2.30pm Music through Time Concert at Berden Church. See poster below

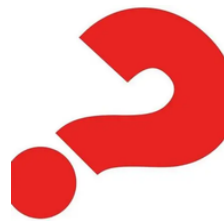
Langley Lunches - are held every month on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

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 in Manuden



Have you held long unanswered questions about faith?

Are you curious about faith matters?

Would you like to find out more?

Starting in September, we will be running a series of evening meetings to explore faith through conversation. Supported by well-produced and good-quality materials through the Alpha program. To find out more, please do contact me, Reverend Gary Fleming.

Reverend Gary Fleming appointed as Area Dean for the Saffron Walden Deanery

Bishop Guli has this week announced that I have been appointed as the Area Dean for the Saffron Walden Deanery.

I was pleased to be able to accept the position to support the benefice, the deanery and the diocese. In doing so we give that for the previous post holder Reverend Jeremy Trew, and for all that he did for the deanery over his 5-year tenure in the post.

As I enter into this role there will be a commissioning service which will be held at 4pm on the 24th May, at St Nicholas Church Berden starting at 4pm.

This will be a service of evening prayer with the commissioning of the Area Dean.

I do hope you can join us for this occasion in the life of the benefice and the deanery.

**With blessings,
Reverend Gary Fleming**

HERITAGE CAFE

“LET’S TALK!”

Come and meet up with old friends, make new ones, share stories of living in Berden and learn more about your community

First FRIDAY of the month

10.30am -12pm

**Starting Friday 1st May, and on
5th June, 3rd July, 7th Aug, 4th Sept
at St. Nicholas Church, Berden**



To find out more

**E: natalie.trapmore@outlook.com T: 07876 478717
or turn up on the day...**

BERDEN

Open Gardens

Sunday 28th June 2026

2 - 6pm

Plants from £1

Cafes

Live Music

Morris Dancing

Bee Keeping

Vintage Bus rides

Raffle

lots more!

Plus

Berden's Open Gardens include,
Little London
& Berden Priory's
17th Century water tread wheel

Passport to all gardens only £5 per adult

Children under 16 free

FREE car parking

to find out more please

E: john.tippett@btopenworld.com T: 01279 777446



"Telling the stories of St Nicholas, Berden"



Thanks to National Lottery players

<https://berden.org.uk/events/>

Raising funds for St Nicholas Church, Berden, CM23 1AJ - Reg Charity no: 1216100



Messy Church is a fun
afternoon for parents and
children up to 11 years old.

Teddy Bears Picnic

PLUS... if your teddy likes heights, come and make
a parachute and Reverend Gary Fleming
will launch your teddy off the church roof.



Bring a rug to sit on and
of course, your teddy!

Sunday
14th June

3pm

St Mary &
St Clement
Church,
Clavering

Picnic will be provided

For more information contact
Jane Woodhouse 01799 550765

A Celebration of music through time

Sunday 14th June

St Nicholas' Church tower has stood at the heart of Berden since c1270 and has lots of interesting stories to tell!

Join us to travel through time and experience

Medieval,
Baroque,
Romantic,

Renaissance,
Classical,
Contemporary music

with

Bron and Kirsty, Berden Choir and more...

Doors Open & refreshments available from 2pm

Concert starts at 2.30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

Entrance is FREE

Donations are encouraged to support
St Nicholas Church, Berden.



To reserve seats please

E: natalie.trapmore@outlook.com T: 07876 478717

Entry on the door is subject to availability

Please book to avoid disappointment

