



# TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of  
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (17/26)



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 LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

My sermon on the 4th May focused on the need for us to switch on the light switch of faith, so that the light of Christ shines into the darkest of places within our communities. This is what is needed at a time when we see the evil of antisemitism and hatred rising in our communities we need to show that Christ is the light that overcomes the darkness. I considered how we as Christians respond to such discussions and I proposed that we have

prayer in which we can ask Christ for peace, kindness, tolerance and compassion. It was useful to also consider how we talk across faith but with one truth and I focused on the verse from John 14:6 in which Jesus reminds us that He is the way, the truth and the life. That the only way to the father, to eternal joy and rest is through him. This gives us a language of common values reflecting the Christian values upon which our country is established and moulded and one set of values and focus that all can come to. A unity in Christ and a message of peace and salvation for all. Our prayer was that all may be called to know the peace of Christ as the light that overcomes the darkness. inclusive and welcoming for all who declare him Lord. Amen

## Services

### Week 11th May- 17th May

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am - Morning Worship  
(AA&RT)- Wicken Bonhunt

9.30am - Short Said Holy  
Communion (PC) Berden-  
Followed by Rogation Walk

11.00am - Messy Church (VB/GP)  
Manuden

11.00am - Morning Worship (DA)  
Clavering Christian Centre

**There are no midweek services  
this week**

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am - Holy Communion (PC)  
Clavering

9.30am - Morning Worship (MT)  
Berden

9.30am - Holy Communion (GF)  
Wicken Bonhunt

11.00am - Holy Communion (PC)  
Langley

11.00am - Holy Communion  
followed by APCM (GF) Manuden

## Readings

### Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May

Acts 17 22-31

John 14 15-21

### Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May

Acts 1 6-14

John 17 1-11

## Prayers

### Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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

This week we pray for all in the Jewish community who have been victims of presecution. For the families of those who have been victims of attacks and for all who are persecuted for their faith.

We pray for a confident society who are able to stand up to antisemitism and hatred. That we have the courage of faith to say no to behaviours around us that are contrary to christian values of compassion, tolerance and peace. We pray that those who have undertake acts of evil and terror are called to repentance and away from such evil acts. We pray for our police and emergency services who place themselves in the way of harm to protect others and for the police who face great danger to deal with violent and hostile attacks. We pray for their safety and give thanks for their sacrifice. Amen

# **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 24<sup>th</sup> 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**



## Bible Study Group

There will be no Bible Study group on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

We continue on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May as we 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 been a joy to get started, and we are constantly revising our offering to the community. In response to feedback, we are pleased to announce that we will be running two youth club nights. Starting in May 2026, the second Wednesday of the month will be for children in school years 4, 5, 6. The fourth Wednesday of the month will be for school years 7 - 11. If you would like to volunteer. Please do get in touch with me, Reverend Gary Fleming

## 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)

## What's on

**10<sup>th</sup> May** - 10.00am Beat the Bounds walk from St Nicholas Berden. All welcome. Please bring a packed lunch

**16<sup>th</sup> May** - Church Fete, St Mary's Manuden  
1pm - 3 pm

**Langley Lunches** - are held every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> May, and on  
5th June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 4<sup>th</sup> Sept  
at St. Nicholas Church, Berden**



To find out more

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

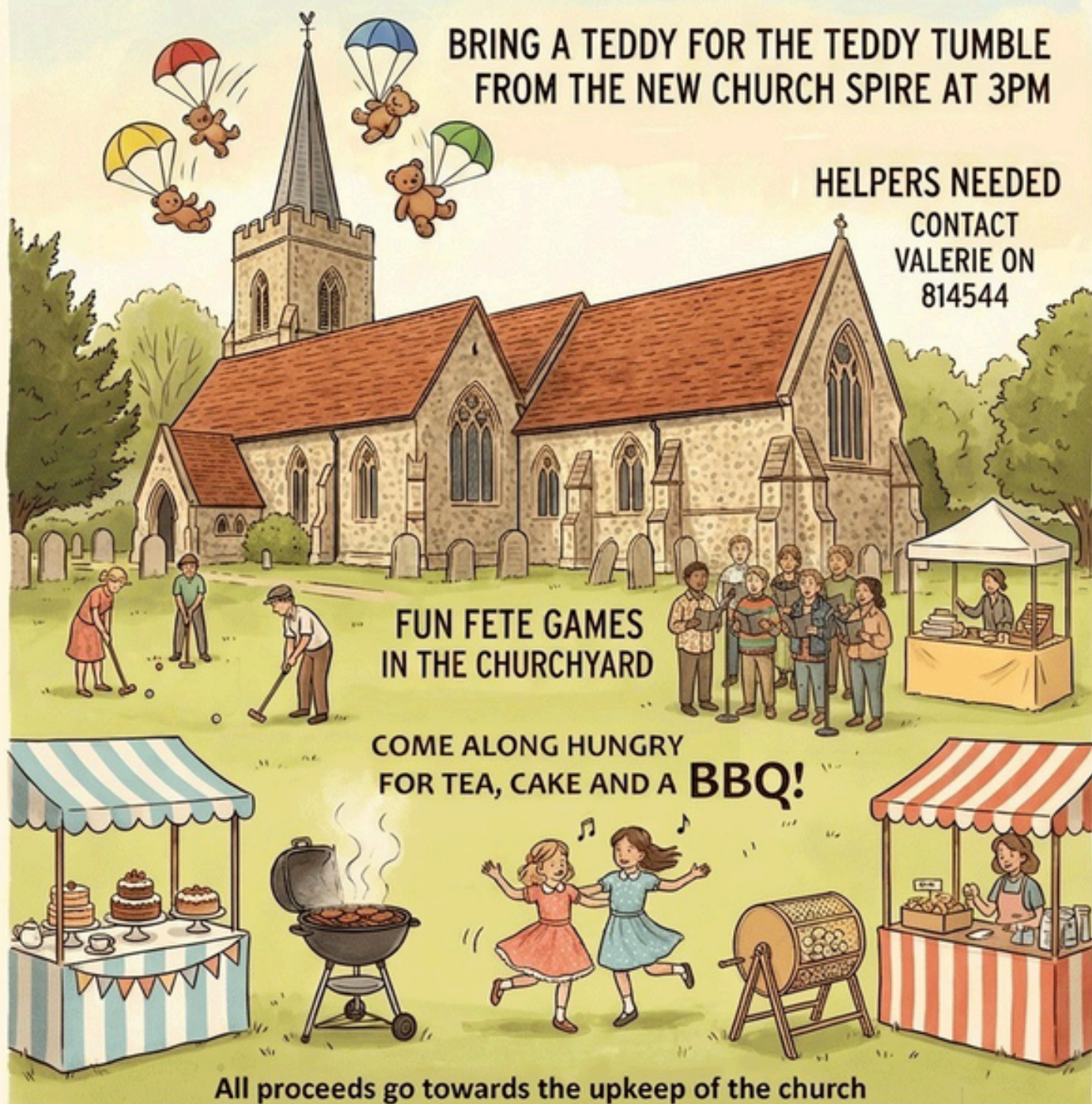


# ST MARY'S MANUDEN CHURCH FETE

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 12-3PM

BRING A TEDDY FOR THE TEDDY TUMBLE  
FROM THE NEW CHURCH SPIRE AT 3PM

HELPERS NEEDED  
CONTACT  
VALERIE ON  
814544



FUN FETE GAMES  
IN THE CHURCHYARD

COME ALONG HUNGRY  
FOR TEA, CAKE AND A **BBQ!**

All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the church



## Services

### Week 4th May- 10<sup>th</sup> May

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

9.30am - Holy Communion (GF)

Manuden

9.30am - Morning Prayer (SE)

Arkesden

11.00am - Holy Communion followed by APCM (GF) Clavering

11.00am - Holy Communion (PC)

Langley

5.00pm - Sacred Space (GF) Wicken

Bonhunt

#### Wednesday 6th May

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

#### Thursday 7th May

9.00 am - Morning Prayer,

Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer,

Wicken Bonhunt

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am - Morning Worship (AA&RT)-  
Wicken Bonhunt

9.30am - Short Said Holy  
Communion (PC) Berden

11.00am - Messy Church (VB/GP)  
Manuden

11.00am - Morning Worship (DA)  
Clavering Christian Centre

## Readings

#### Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Acts 7 55 - end

John 14 1-14

#### Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May

Acts 17 22-31

John 14 15-21

## Prayers

### Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

O Lord, from whom all good things do come:  
Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy  
holy inspiration we may think those things  
that be good, and by thy merciful guiding  
may perform the same; through our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

Amen

## Benefice Prayers

This week we pray for all in public office and for calm and responsible debate and discussion. We pray for all who shape our communities and that we may be able to listen to each other with a calm and loving posture.

We pray for all political candidate preparing for local elections and that they may be encouraged and give attention to the call of Christ to love those neighbour and care for the most vulnerable in our society. We pray for all staff at voting centres that they be respected and give thanks for public service.

We pray for candidates who may not be successful and that they are able to continue to focus their public spirited sense of service to continue to support their local communities. Amen