



TOGETHER IN FAITH



Diocese of
Chelmsford

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 18th May 2026 (18/26)



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 all 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 17th 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

Tuesday 19th May

9.45am Holy Communion, Arkesden

(A Shorter said service of 25

minutes)

Wednesday 20th May

9.00am - Holy Communion,

Clavering (A Shorter said service of

25 minutes)

Thursday 21st May

9.00 am - Morning Prayer,

Manuden

4.30 pm - Evening Prayer,

Wicken Bonhunt

Sunday 24th May

9.00am - 1662 Holy Communion,

Langley (GF)

11.00am - Holy Communion

Arkesden (GF)

4.00pm - Evensong with

commissioning of Area Dean

Berden (GF)

Readings

Sun 17th May

Acts 1 6-14

John 17 1-11

Sun 24th May

Acts 2 1-21

John 20 19-23

Prayers

Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God the King of glory,

you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in

heaven:

we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,

but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us

and exalt us to the place where our Saviour

Christ is gone before,

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 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**



Bible Study Group

We continue on the 14th 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.

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

16th May - Church Fete, St Mary's Manuden
12 pm - 3 pm

16th May - Soup and Sweet Christian Centre
Clavering 12.00

20th May - Talk Patmore Nature Reserve St
Nicholas Berden 7pm. Refreshments. Donations

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

Stride by Stride Walking Group

All walks start at 10.30am

May 22nd - Starting from St Nicholas' Church, Berden

June 26th - Starting from St Mary's Church, Arkesden.



Have you held long unanswered
questions about faith?

Are you curious about faith
matters?

Would you like to find out more?

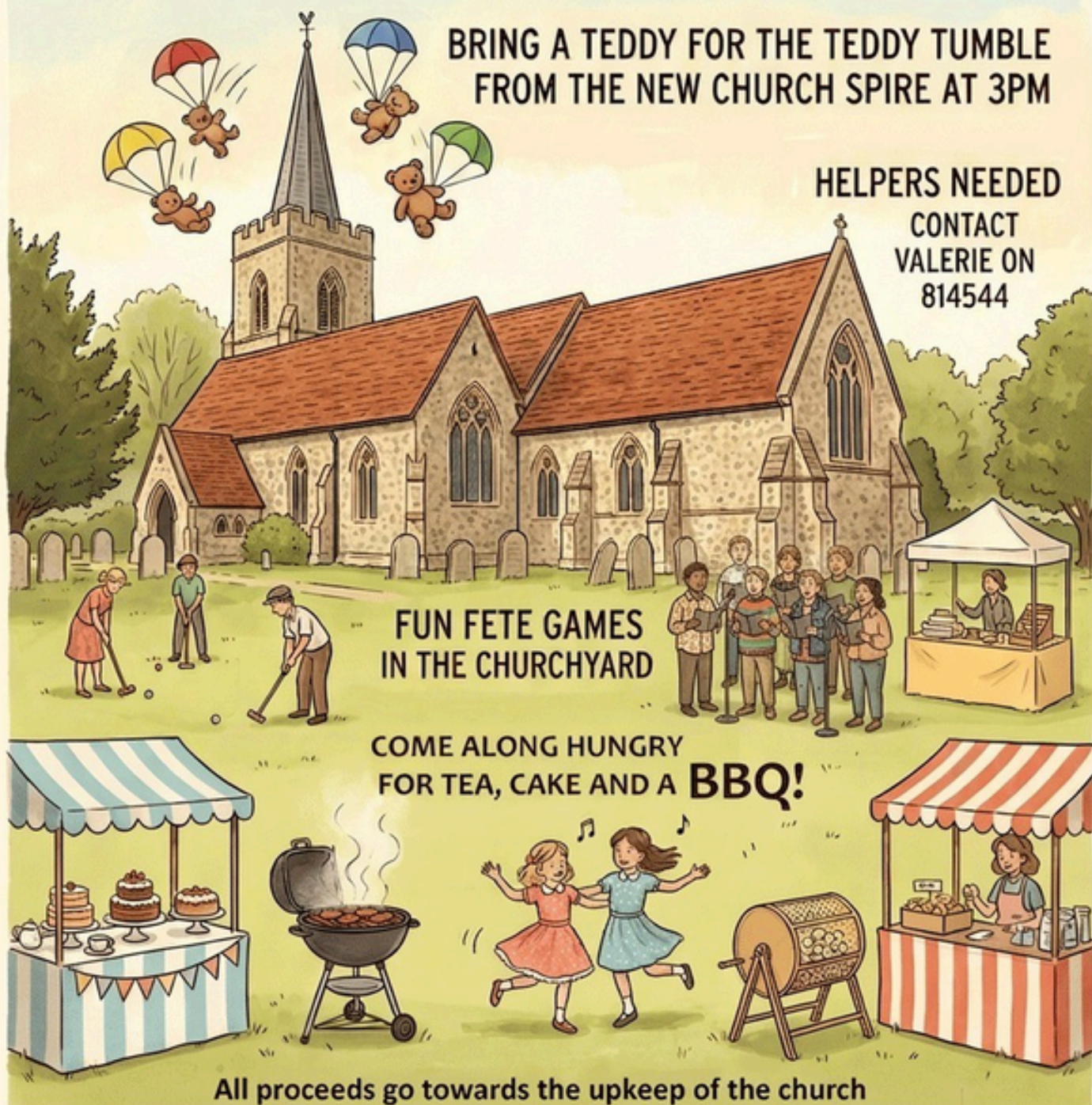
Starting in September, we will be running a series of evening meetings to explore faith through conversation. Supported by well-produced and good-quality materials through the Alpha program. To find out more, please do contact me, Reverend Gary Fleming.

ST MARY'S MANUDEN CHURCH FETE

SATURDAY 16th 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

Talks at
St Nicholas Church, Berden
in 2026



Patmore Heath Nature Reserve and the Swifts of Berden

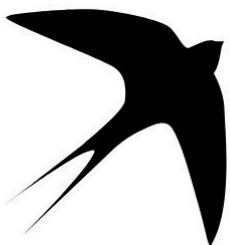


**Herts &
Middlesex**
Wildlife Trust

Wed 20th May @ 7pm

(refreshments from 6.30pm)

Come, see and meet Gavin Vicary,
Warden of Patmore Heath, nr Albury,
an outstanding example of grass
heathland, now a scarce habitat in
the South East of England to learn
more about nature, also with
reference to swifts in Berden



**All events are FREE but donations are
encouraged to support St Nicholas Church
and Patmore Heath Nature Reserve.**

"Telling the stories of St Nicholas, Berden"

If you would like to give a future talk or
reserve a seat at an event please contact
natalie.trapmore@outlook.com



Thanks to National Lottery players