

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (27/26)



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.

## BOBBING ALONG

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

I have recently returned from a week of sailing. A hobby I used to engage with regularly. I very quickly get my sea legs, but always take time to adjust back to the land, feeling as if I am swaying when I am in fact standing on perfectly steady ground.

It is the strangest of feelings and one that I had forgotten about. But the week away was lovely with great Cornish views, good seas, company and being in the centre of God's creation.

I have been reading more and more of late of the importance of being in environments that feed and nourish us. Being close to the natural world. I found this to be the case whilst away, especially when I found myself sitting on the stern of the boat, simply watching the birds, listening to the sound of the sea and not being distracted by phone, TV or the news. Just being a part of God's creation as we are called to be. Part of it, not apart from it.

It took me back to the Book of Genesis when after each stage of creation God commented that it was good. He took pleasure and enjoyed what he had done. This for me is so important to learn from God's lesson to us that the created world is there to be wondered over and enjoyed. Amen.

## Services

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July

**9.30am** - 1662 BCP Holy Communion (GF), Langley

**11.00am** - Holy Communion and Baptism (GF), Arkesden

**1.30pm** - Blessing of Elizabethan Progress (GF), Berden

### Midweek Services Each Week

#### Wednesday

**9.00am** - Said Holy Communion (20 minute service - (GF), Clavering

#### Thursday

**9.30am** - Common Worship Morning Prayer (GF), Manuden

**4.30pm** - Common Worship Evening Prayer (GF), Wicken Bonhunt

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**9.30am** - Holy Communion (GF), Manuden

**9.30am** - Morning Prayer (SE) Arkesden

**11.00am** - Holy Communion (GF), Clavering

**11.00am** - Holy Communion (PC), Langley

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### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July

1 Kings 3:5-12

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

## Prayers

### Collect for the Eighth Sunday of Trinity

**O God, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## Benefice Prayers

We pray this week for our church community in Wicken Bonhunt. We pray for the Parish Meeting and those who work to lead the community. We pray for the members of the community trust who work with the PCC to deliver community facilities and a place of community fellowship and worship. We pray for the community, for all who are unwell or caring for others in the community. We pray for community events and fellowship and all who support activities and groups who meet at the church on a weekly basis. We pray for the PCC and all who worship at St Margarets. Amen



## Bible Study

Having spent some time reading through the Gospel of Mark, the Bible Study group will now take a short break and return for monthly sessions on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September and will run from 10.30-12.00 in the Clavering Christian Centre. The new format will look at biblical themes starting with a number of sessions on biblical places and geography. What happened where and when? we will be using videos, maps, film and imagery to go through the landscape of biblical lands. Please do join us for this relaxed session at which we also enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits. No need to book or attend every session



## Stride by Stride Walking Group

The Stride by Stride walking group is a friendly and welcoming group of people who walk for friendship and fellowship. We normally walk for about 1.5 hours and finish at a place where we can enjoy refreshments. Please do join us. No need to book just turn up and we go whatever the weather. Coming up dates are:

**July 31st** -10.30am

Starting from

St Mary's Church, Manuden

**PLEASE NOTE NO WALK IN AUGUST**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** - Starting from St Johns Church, Langley

Contact Reverend Gary Fleming if you would like more details

## OPEN DOOR YOUTH CLUB

Our next Senior (School years 7-11) Youth Club meeting will be the 22nd July. We will start the junior Youth club from September. If you would like more information please contact, Reverend Gary Fleming



**Have you held long  
unanswered questions  
about faith?**

**Are you curious about faith  
matters?**

Starting September the 8th, 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.

## 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 in Manuden

## 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)

# ***Late Summer Benefice BBQ***

***£5 per  
person to  
cover meat  
portions***

***Please bring  
your own  
chair &  
alcohol. Soft  
drinks, tea  
& coffee  
provided***

**SATURDAY, 12TH  
SEPTEMBER 2026**

**START AT 3PM UNTIL 7PM**

**VENUE**  
**VICARAGE,**  
**54 PELHAM ROAD,**  
**CLAVERING.**  
**CB11 4PQ**

**BOOK YOUR PLACE BY NOTIFYING JANE COWLEY AT:  
CLAVERINGBENEFICE@OUTLOOK.COM**