

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 10th of August 2026 (30/26)



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.

BENEFICE LATE SUMMER BBQ

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

I appreciate that over the summer many of us, myself included, are taking well earned breaks and visiting foreign climbs or enjoying our beautiful British Isles. This includes many of the teams who support our local churches. This means that this will be the last news letter until the w/b 14th September. But, fear not, the Bugle and Manuden & Berden Magazines are full of local events and information, and I highly recommend these publications to you. One date I would however

bring to your attention is the Late Summer Benefice BBQ taking place on the 12th September at the Vicarage in Clavering. The event will take place from 3-7pm and will be a chance to catch up with each other after the summer break and a time for fellowship. We are asking for a contribution of £5 per head to cover the BBQ meet and items (Pay on the day). Also if you can bring your own drink (Alcohol if you choose) and a chair that will be great. We will be providing all of the BBQ items including meat, rolls, dressing and sauces. If, able could you offer to bring a small item of salad or dessert. You need only cater for 6 people per dish. Numbers are limited to 50 so please do let Jane Cowley know if you can attend on the details at the end of this newsletter. Have a blessed summer. Gary

Services

Vicar on leave from 10/8-29/8/26

Sunday 16th August

09.30 - Morning Worship, Berden (MT)

Midweek Services Each Week - Services resume W/B 31/08/2026

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 23rd August

9.30am - Holy Communion Langley (PC)

11.00am - Holy Communion Arkesden (PC)

4.00pm - Evensong Berden (PC)

For subsequent dates please refer to village magazines.

Readings

Sunday 16th August

Isaiah 56 1,6-8

Matthew 15 10-28

Sunday 23rd August

Isaiah 51 1-6

Matthew 16 13-20

Prayers

Collect for the Eleventh Sunday of Trinity

O God, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in shewing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Benefice Prayers

This week we offer prayer for the community of Manuden. We pray for the school and all who work in the village. We give thanks and pray for the family ministry that takes place in the local church, St Mary's.

We pray for all who are struggling. For the recently bereaved and all who are finding the warm weather difficult. We gave thanks and pray for all who run local businesses, for those who are working on building sites in the village and we pray for the new families that will join the community over the weeks and months to come.

Amen



Bible Study

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Bible study group which will reconvene on the 10th of September and will run from 10.30-11.30 in the Clavering Christian Centre. The new format will look at biblical themes starting with a session 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. All are welcome and there is no need to book or attend every session. Sessions are led by Reverend Gary Fleming



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. Walks normally take place on the last Friday of each calendar month.

Scheduled walk dates with start points are:

PLEASE NOTE NO WALK IN AUGUST

September 25th - St Johns Church, Langley

October 30th - Clavering - The Cricketers pub

November 27th - St Mary's Church - Arkesden

December 18th - St Margarets Church - Wicken Bonhunt

Contact Reverend Gary Fleming if you would like more details.

JULY STRIDE-BY-STRIDE WALK REPORT



We had a lovely time on our last Stride by Stride group walk. Setting out from Manuden we headed roughly west through a lovely field setting and then south towards Fanham, arriving eventually at Farnham school.

It was a warm day but we kept good spirits and enjoyed great conversation and fellowship. It is amazing how many places, paths and local features you discover on your doorstep when walking and just following signs. A memorable conversation from this walk was how it takes a lot of courage to follow a footpath sign when not quite sure where it will take you. Lots of life and faith lessons there I thought. Definitely a sermon in that!

But we had a lovely time and arrived back at St Mary's Church, Manuden for refreshments and facilities.

Please do join us on our next walk. Walks will be limited to 1.5 hours and we take a steady pace to accommodate all. Dogs under control are also welcome.

Grace and peace to you, Gary

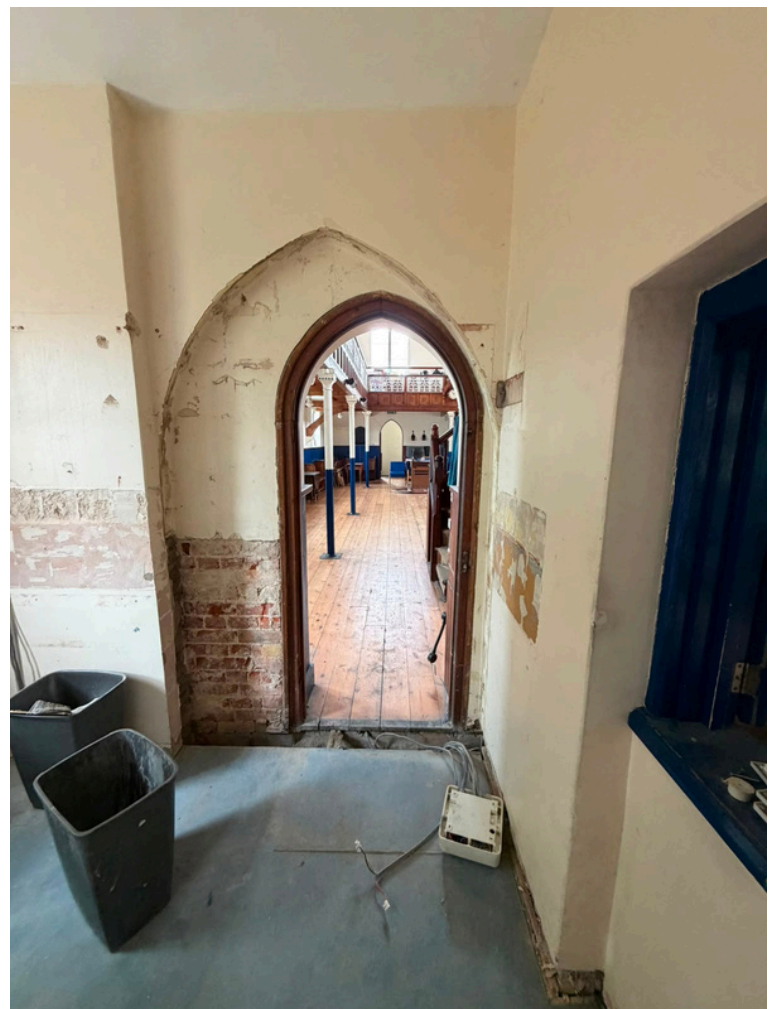
Clavering Christian Centre Update

Well, the works to restore the kitchen at the Clavering Christian Centre are well under way. The old doorway to what was the vestry (Kitchen) has been reopened and the electrics have been completed. We are now waiting for the kitchen and fitting to take place.

So many people have contributed to this and the Church and URC together have contributed to the fundraising for the work, as well as money from the Bugle magazine as a way of reinvesting the money raised back into the community.

We will be looking to improve storage and seating as well, but this is where I would ask for a little more help. We would like to replace the existing hard, uncomfortable chairs with folding cushioned chairs that are easier to store. We have tried for grants but to this point have been unsuccessful. So we are looking to raise £1500 for the chairs and storage rack. Could you help?

I appreciate that this seems like another ask but this will make the use of the centre even more comfortable. If you feel you can help then please do contact me. But in any case please do visit us we have our launch event in Sept/Oct (Date TBA) and enjoy the new setting. What a blessing the newly refurbished centre will be to all users.



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

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

OPEN DOOR YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club will start back in September in the refurbished Christian Centre with an exciting new format. Please see dates below.

Youth Club	Date
Junior	9/9/2026
Senior	23/9/26
Junior	14/10/26
Senior	21/10/26
Junior	11/11/2026
Senior	25/11/26
Junior	9/12/2026
Senior	16/12/26

HARVEST SERVICE DATES AND VENUES 2026

CLAVERING - 6TH SEPTEMBER,
11.00AM, ST MARY'S CHURCH.
HARVEST SERVICE

LANGLEY - 20TH SEPTEMBER,
11.00AM, ST JOHN'S CHURCH.
HARVEST SERVICE

ARKESDEN - 27TH SEPTEMBER,
11.00AM, ST MARY'S CHURCH.
HARVEST SERVICE AND LUNCH

WICKEN BONHUNT - 18TH
OCTOBER, 09.30AM, ST
MARGARETS CHURCH. HARVEST
SERVICE

MANUDEN - SEPTEMBER 13TH,
11.00AM, ST MARY'S CHURCH.
HARVEST SERVICE

BERDEN - SEPTEMBER 13TH,
09.30AM, ST NICHOLAS CHURCH.
HARVEST SERVICE

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)

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**