

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

Newsletter for the week beginning 3rd of August 2026 (28/26)



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.

YOUR LEFT OR MINE?

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

At our Pints of View chat last Tuesday it was a wonderful conversation about getting lost and directions. We shared some very funny stories about times when the simplest of instructions seemed to have left us completely lost, even when we were very close to home.

It was a very enjoyable evening with much laughter and a lovely mix of couples, men and women, sharing a couple of drinks, anecdotes and good company. Our next evening will be the 29th September in the Fox and Hounds in Clavering starting at 7pm.

Do join us as it is a lovely mixed group of people who come along. But back to directions. One of the points that did stand out to me after the conversation was how we can be, or feel, so lost and yet be so close to home. This I thought is a parable of faith and the closeness of Christ to us always, but how through getting lost along the way, the lost sheep you might say, we can feel so far from Him. Often it is the smallest of things that can reorientate us to Christ, like prayer by simply saying, 'Lord Jesus, Son of Go, have mercy on me a sinner'. And we once again feel not lost but found. A simple message shared in a humorous way, but one that reminds that Jesus is close to us, always, we simple have reorientate ourselves to Him through prayer.

Amen.

Services

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

Sunday 2nd 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

4.00pm - Sacred Space, Celtic Christianity

Evening Prayer, Wicken Bonhunt

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 9th August

9.30am - Holy Communion, Berden (GF)

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

11.00am - Morning Worship, St Mary and St Clement, Clavering (DA)

11am - Family Messy Church Service, Manuden (GP)

Readings

Sunday 2nd August

Isaiah 55 1-5

Matthew 14 13-21

Sunday 9th August

1 Kings 19:9-18

Matt 14.22-33

Prayers

Collect for the Ninth Sunday of Trinity

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Benefice Prayers

This week we offer prayer for the community of Berden and for their continued church restoration project. We pray for all the workmen undertaking the work in such hot conditions. We pray for their wellbeing.

We pray for the local farming communities and for all who have worked the land under such difficult conditions. We pray for the local Parish Council and Social Club and all who support the village hall. We give thanks for all who make Berden such a thriving community. 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 10th 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:

PLEASE NOTE NO WALK IN AUGUST

September 25th - Starting from St Johns Church, Langley

Contact Reverend Gary Fleming if you would like more details.

SACRED SPACE - SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 4PM AT ST MARGARETS WICKEN BONHUNT

This Sunday the 2nd of August we will be holding the latest in our series of Spritual Services focusing on aspects of Christian Spirituality.

The service this Sunday will reflect aspects of Celtic Christianity. This is a very ancient aspect of Christian worship in these isles. Before 664AD and the Synod of Whitby, two dominant approaches to worship existed, one being driven by Rome and the other by the location in which the faith was growing in these isles. The celts focused much more on their relationship to experiencing God through the living world and word.

The service on Sunday will reflect aspects of this and include some hymns, which may or may not be sung. This gives the service a feeling of what the Celts might have maybe acalled a late evening service, and we might call evening prayer.

I do hope you feel this is worth trying and previous feedback from services has reflected that the service offers a peaceful place for reflection and wind down from what can sometimes abe a very busy life, weekend or week.

No need to book or bing anything with you. I look forward to seeing you on the 2nd at 4pm.

Grace and peace to you, Gary

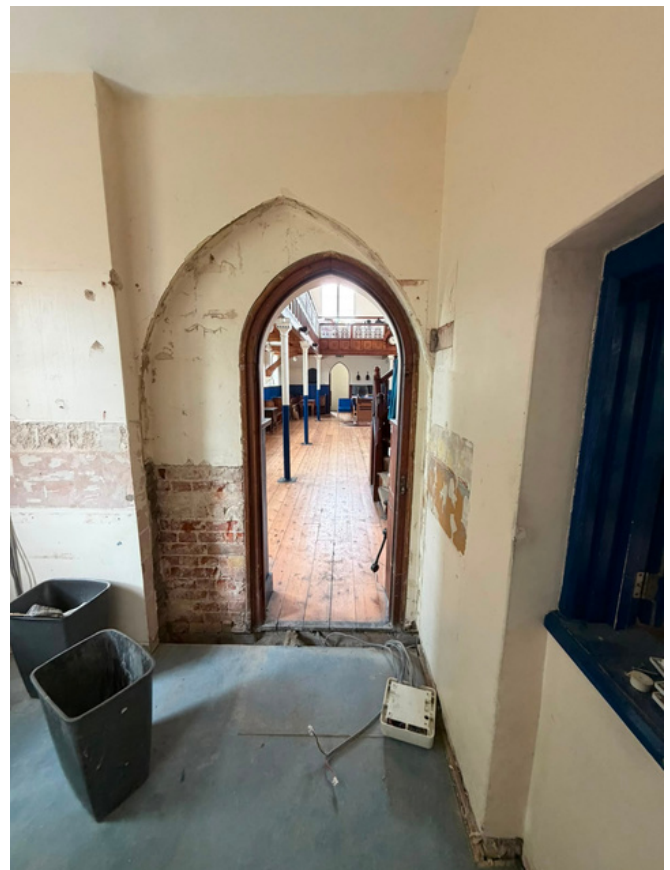
Clavering Christian Centre Update

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 kichen 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.



OPEN DOOR YOUTH CLUB

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
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.

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**