

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

Newsletter for the week beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026 (36/26)



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.

## JUST BEING

BY REVEREND GARY FLEMING

The Alpha course that we are currently running has spawned many great conversations. The theme of this week was how to have faith and why have faith. The videos we watch often talk about personal encounter with God. And indeed many people relay their personal encounters when they have felt God at work in their lives. But not everyone has a big bright light moment. For some it is a slow gradual realisation that God is with them. For some the sense of knowing that Christ

is along side them is a gentle, slow realisation. But for many, these events happen when we are just being, when we allow ourselves to encounter God as He is acting in our lives. We know that God is ever present, but we remain distracted. This weeks Alpha video used the painting Jesus, Light of the World. This shows that Jesus simply waits at the door of our lives, waiting to be invited in. We can welcome Jesus onto our lives in many ways and one is to simply open that door and welcome Jesus using words of welcome such as Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Sometimes just stopping to make the conscious effort to welcome Christ and acknowledge what he is doing can help us see more clearly where He is present in our lives. Amen

## Services

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**11.00am - Holy Communion and Harvest**

**Lunch (GF) Arkesden**

**4.00pm - Evensong (GF) Berden**

**Midweek Services Each Week - Services**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> October**

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

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

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

**4.00pm - Sacred Space (GF) Wicken Bonhunt**

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## Readings

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Ezekiel 18 1-4,25-end

Matthew 21 23-32

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Isaiah 5 1-7

Matthew 21 33-end

## Harvest Festivals

Deuteronomy 26 1-11

John 6 25-35

## Prayers

### Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday of Trinity

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Benefice Prayers

This week we pray for the Parish Councils and Meetings who serve and support villages within the benefice.

We pray for the leaders, secretaries, treasurers and those who service roles that support the functioning of our villages. We pray for those who support our village halls and committees. We give thanks for their hard work and the time they give to ensure that local matters and facilities are managed and led.

We pray for unity and harmony amongst different community groups and a sense of joined up working for the benefit of all. Amen



## Bible Study

We are currently reviewing the Bible study programme and will be issuing a new proposal shortly. Watch this space.

### 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   |



## 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:

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

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** - Clavering - The Cricketers pub

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** - St Mary's Church - Arkesden

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** - St Margarets Church - Wicken Bonhunt

Contact Reverend Gary Fleming if you would like more details.

## 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

## HARVEST SERVICE DATES AND VENUES 2026

**ARKESDEN** – 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER,  
11.00AM, ST MARY'S CHURCH.  
HARVEST SERVICE AND LUNCH

**WICKEN BONHUNT** – 18<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER, 09.30AM, ST  
MARGARETS 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](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)