



**The Mundens with Sacombe
Church and Parish
Newsletter
JANUARY 2025**



**Services in the Benefice
in January/February**

Every Tuesday

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
and Bible Study Sacombe

Every Wednesday

9.30am Worship & Bible Study Standon

Sunday 12th January (Epiphany 1)

10.30am Holy Communion Standon

Sunday 19th January (Epiphany 2)

8.00am Holy Communion Standon

10.30am Holy Communion Lt Munden

Sunday 26th January (Epiphany 3)

10.30am All Age Worship Standon

6.00pm Choral Evensong Standon

Sunday 2nd February

8.00am Holy Communion Standon

10.30am Morning Worship Lt Munden

Rector: Revd John Chitham 01920 739483
The Vicarage, Standon

Sacombe Churchwardens:

Janet Armstrong 07376 249047

Derek Wheeler 01920 438875

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-240BF
www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

The other Christmas story

Dear friends,

I hope you had a joyful and fulfilling Christmas! We had an extremely busy but lovely time with many services in Sacombe and Little Mundens. However, as Christmas is now passed, I began looking again at the last part of the Christmas story, the part rarely read in or out of Church.

After the Wise Men left, there is the extremely disturbing account of the brutal King Herod seeking to kill the baby Jesus (you can read about it in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2). It is true both to history (Herod was indeed an extremely vicious king) and to present experience (all over the world there are brutal regimes doing terrible things).

Joseph was warned in a dream by God and fled into exile with Mary and Jesus. They went to the land of Egypt, the nearest safe country to Bethlehem and where there were other Jews residing from long before. This is typical of asylum-seeking experience: fleeing to the nearest safe space, if possible to where there are others from your community. Joseph and Mary were unusual in that they had valuable, transportable capital with them: the gold, frankincense and myrrh! God had provided for them in a most practicable way! It leaves me reflecting on the fate of many asylum seekers today: in greeting them we are, spiritually speaking, greeting Jesus himself. Are we willing to love the other: a different religion, language, culture and lifestyle, when they are in desperate need? Or to put it another way, are we willing to love our neighbour, as Jesus himself later commanded?

The Christmas story of Jesus being born as the saviour of all humankind still remains: his love, his sacrifice, his conquest over death. That is the story we follow over the next few months. But it is important not to skip on to Easter too fast. Jesus himself was forced into exile, and could only return when the evil regime ended. As you look at the world news today, please pray for those places and peoples where there is an evil regime bent on ethnic cleansing, persecution and even genocide.

Meanwhile, as we live in a beautiful part of the world and country, this all seems very far away. But there are still injustices around us: environmental, hidden poverty, medical waiting lists and so on. We too can do our part to help others in need this year.

With all best wishes for the New Year,

John Chitham

THANK YOU

I would like to say 'Thank you' for all the kind thoughts following the death of my partner Tony. His children will be organising his funeral and due to his death being very sudden and abroad we have no date as yet.

I will advise further when I know anything using 'Spotted'/social media.

Thanks again.....**Vicky Thomson**

COUNTRY MATTERS (7th December)

The last three calves were born inside the cattle yards luckily; it wouldn't have been very good for them if they still been outside, with the unpleasant weather we've had so far this winter. On November 18th we had our one in four years TB test, which is a mammoth undertaking as all but the calves are injected in two places on the neck; the skin there is measured by pinching the skin at the same time and the reading recorded for each and every animal. Three days later the same place is measured again and if there's a certain increase, it is a reactor. Thankfully all our cattle were clear but it's always a worry. In the 64 years we have had cattle we've never had a reactor. In some districts where there are more herds of cattle and a higher number of badgers, farmers often have breakdowns. It's a very unpleasant experience for them to go through, resulting in the slaughter of the infected animals.

And now the next big job is plucking and trussing the turkeys, another job made less arduous thanks to the "willing pluckers".

Bird of the Month: Oystercatcher

You know an Oystercatcher as soon as you see it: about the size of a pigeon, with black and white plumage and a long red bill and legs. Added to this their piping call makes them so easy to spot. They frequent most of the coasts of the British Isles, especially areas of rock pools, searching for crustaceans or molluscs. They have fairly recently spread their range of habitat to include inland stretches of water and rivers. In fact, I once saw one fly over our farm. Their nest is a scrape, usually near water, and little trouble is taken to hide it because of their plumage, but they make up for this by defending their three eggs or chicks when approached by a predator or larger bird.

Tony Spackman



Sacombe Charity Xmas Trees A Thank You note

This is a short note to say a huge "Thank you" to all those of you who purchased a Charity Christmas tree from us in 2024 or in previous years.

Thank you also to The Feathers and to St. Edmunds College for allowing us to advertise the selling of our trees.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped on each of the days.

A huge Thank you for the generosity of the late Patrick Perry and his family for making it all possible.

This year we made just short of £6,000 from the sale of the trees, which was again shared between St. Catherine's Church, Sacombe and Hertfordshire Community Foundation. Over the 5 years we have now been selling our trees, and with your generous donations, we have raised in excess of £20,000 for the church and the Charity. THANK YOU

(That note of thanks was inserted by Martyn Dewhurst of Sacombe Green, but the people of St Catherine's Church would like to add their thanks to Martyn for all his own efforts over the years.)

Soup & Snowdrops at St Catherine's (now with added scaffolding)



You are warmly invited to come along to
St Catherine's Church, Sacombe
Saturday 15th February 12 until 2pm
Delicious home-made soups,
bread and cheeses
Proceeds towards church building repairs.

Visit our village Facebook page LOVE DANE END
Its for all the community to share positive stories
about our wonderful parish, activities, events and
to promote our communities in neighbouring
villages. The link is: LOVE DANE END
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/874448604284212/>

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Coffee and cake or
Russells famous sausage rolls for £6!
at the
Christmas Tree Farm from 9 - 12 noon
On Friday 17th January

AND

The Monthly Cheese and Wine Get Together
From 7pm
Eat and drink all day!

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2025**

At 7 pm

**IN LITTLE MUNDEN MEMORIAL HALL
MUNDEN ROAD
DANE END SG12 0LH**

Email: CLERK@LITTLEMUNDENPC.ORG.UK

DANE END DEFIBRILLATOR & VETS NUMBER

Please be aware there is a Public Access Defibrillator situated in the telephone box in a locked cabinet next to Dane End Stores. **The code for the cabinet can be obtained by ringing 999.** However there is also Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) that enables up to 10 "good neighbours" to assist pending the arrival of the emergency services. VETS uses a simple memorable number unique to the village (**01920 282999**). This system can also be used for any emergency where additional help is required from neighbours, whether Cardiac Arrest or not. VETS volunteers are also aware of the code to access the cabinet if it is required. VETS does not replace 999 calls. **Always ring 999 first in an emergency.**

GREAT MUNDEN RECREATIONAL GARDEN

Movement to Music with Natalie

There is now a class in **Little Munden Memorial Hall** on **Thursdays at 11.15am** throughout the winter months. £7 PAYG. Do contact Natalie if you need a ride: **07735 654828** info@getmobile.uk

Yoga with Josie

Yoga classes at Little Munden Memorial Hall starting on **18th January.**

The classes would be held on Saturdays at 10am and cost £10 per session.

Please register your interest so we can decide whether it is a viable option.

Le French Club

Come along and meet other adult French speakers in your neighbourhood. With a French native speaker on hand to help with grammar and vocabulary. **Meeting on Sundays at 12pm at the Whitehill Golf Club** during the winter months. £1.50 per person, £1 for concessions.

For further information: gisele.russell@hotmail.com

Looking for a New Year's Resolution which would help your local community?

Little Munden Church is an integral part of our village and school life. We are in real need of more volunteers to help with keeping the church clean. Whether you are a church goer or not, please could you consider helping us? If we could get three extra volunteers, we'd be able to continue with each helper (or pair of helpers) only needing to spare one hour or so every other month - only 6 times a year! All cleaning products are provided and it involves hoovering, mopping and general cleaning tasks.

It's not a huge commitment - but one which would be very helpful and much appreciated!

If you think you can help by joining our rota please call: **Pauline on 01920 438518.**

Line Dancing with Sarah

**Thundridge Village Hall, Ermine street SG12 0SY
STARTING FRIDAY 10th JANUARY 12 NOON**

There are so many benefits to line dancing
Line Dancing is a low impact form of exercise, which promotes weight loss/calorie burning, flexibility, balance and muscle strength, strengthens legs and core, boosting overall fitness and is ideal, for those with orthopaedic conditions.

Enjoy music and movement in a fun, friendly and welcoming environment.

No partner required.

Bring a friend if you like, but please be assured that this isn't necessary, as you will soon make many new ones, so join me and become part of an amazing Line Dance Community and discover a passion you never knew you had. **Contact Sarah 07899 076 843** £7 per class.

Save The Boot Pub!

How You Can Help:

We need more skills and support from our community! If you have experience in areas like legal services, chartered surveying, or fundraising—or any skills to contribute—please get in touch.

Contact us at contacttheboot@gmail.com to offer your support.

LITTLE MUNDEN SCHOOL PANTOMIME



Little Munden C of E (VC) Primary School

Building Good Foundations.

Matthew 7, verse 24

Church Lane, Dane End, SG12
0NR Tel: 01920 438271 option 3
Email:

admin@littlemunden.herts.sch.uk

www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk



November & December 2024

It was a busy time at Little Munden as we geared up for Christmas!

Years 1 and 2

The children visited Allenburys Sports & Social Club for Hertford & Ware School Sports Partnership's Every1in event. They had great fun learning archery, yoga, golf, dodgeball and even Salsa!



Whole school Pantomime

We decided on an in-house Pantomime this year and our children and staff were thoroughly entertained by M&M Production's performance of Cinderella.

FoLM Christmas Fayre

Our Community helped raise a staggering £3,826 at this year's Christmas Fayre. Even Santa braved the stormy weather to join us. We would like to thank everyone who attended, bought raffle tickets and helped in other ways to support our FoLM committee. The funds are being used for some much needed resources and amazing events for the children, such as the pantomime, Guy Fawkes, Stone Age and WWII workshops.

Rudolph Run for Isabel Hospice

On Wed 18th December we participated in a Rudolph Run in aid of Isabel Hospice. Once the initial winds of the stormy weather had died down, we ran around the Queens Canopy next to the school field. The bonus was it was also Christmas Jumper day so we had some very colourful reindeer! We once again are grateful to our school community who sponsored the children and helped to raise a phenomenal £799.

We hope you have all had a very Happy Christmas and send best wishes for the New Year!



Little Munden C of E (VC) Primary School

Church Lane, Dane End,
SG12 0NR

Tel: 01920 438271 option 3

Email:

admin@littlemunden.herts.sch.uk

www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk



Need a Reception place for September 2025?

Deadline for applications is **15th January 2025**

The formal application process for Reception places, for September 2025, is now open. Admissions information is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and all applications must be made using this link.

Little Munden Primary School is a friendly, forward thinking village school for children aged 3 to 11. We are small enough for children to feel secure and confident, but big enough to be able to offer an extensive range of curricular and extra-curricular activities.

In February 2023 Ofsted graded our school as 'Good' and reported that pupils enjoy coming to school and are supported by kind and nurturing adults who have a united vision with high expectations for the education offered to pupils. All the children commented they feel safe and happy in school. Our distinctive Christian character gives all our children inspiring and motivating learning experiences which help them to achieve their full potential.

We welcome prospective parents to arrange an individual visit to meet our Headteacher and see the school as it is on a normal school day.

Please contact us on 01920 438271 option 3, or email admin@littlemunden.herts.sch.uk

If you are interested in a Nursery place, for children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022, please contact the school office directly.

In the meantime, please check our website for more information about our school

www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL FROM THE CHAIRLADY TRACEY HARDING

Well what a month December was! I would like to thank all those involved in our Panto: 'A Christmas Carol not as you know it'. People gave up hours of their time as volunteers once again to bring some Christmas cheer to the start of Christmas. I would like to thank Cllr Ken Crofton for his donation towards our pantomime costs it really is appreciated.

The annual Seniors Christmas meal was great fun for all who came along. Once again I would like to thank the volunteers who gave their time, organising and delivering such a fabulous event.

We now turn the page to the first chapter of 2025, what fun, dreams milestones await us all. The excitement of new beginnings, fulfilling planned events written a while ago in diaries and adding new ones.

The Parish Council once again will be preparing another year of events and we will publish the list very soon.

With the closure of The Boot last year sent a real blow into the community but other people stepped up to try and pull the community together once again, from the Cheese and Wine nights and the Cafe opening up once a month for people to come together over a delicious sausage roll or cake at Dane End Christmas Tree Farm and also Whitehills Golf Course welcomed us to join them at events and also offering lovely Sunday Lunches.

We have over the last couple of years started the foundation blocks to create a stronger community and it gives us great pleasure seeing old friends and making new ones at our events. We are reminded how lucky to live in such a supportive community and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Finally the Parish Council would like to wish each and every parishioner.....

A Happy & Prosperous New Year!

**THANK YOU TO THE WONDERFUL CAST
OF THIS YEARS PANTO
'A CHRISTMAS CAROL NOT AS YOU KNOW IT'**



PARISH NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

As you would have seen, each month the back page is dedicated to our loyal advertisers, their support raises much needed funds to cover the cost of printing the Newsletter.

The printing costs are paid 50% by the Parish Council and 50% by the Church Council.

I hope you have availed yourselves of some of their services. I can personally endorse a number of them and am especially grateful to those who are not connected with the village and yet are willing to support us.

In April another year of advertising will commence, it is £10 per month, 12 months @ £120 per year payable in advance.

We have a distribution of 650 hard copies, a large number sent by email and posted on the Parish Council website.

If you would like to support us by advertising, please contact myself:

jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com or our Parish Clerk: clerk@littlemundenpc.org.uk

Please email your news to:
jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com

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DEADLINE
JANUARY 31st



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