



# The Mundens with Sacombe Church and Parish Newsletter MARCH 2025



## Every Tuesday

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
and Bible Study Sacombe

## Every Wednesday

9.30am Worship & Bible Study Standon

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (Next before Lent)

8.00am Holy Communion Standon  
10.30am Morning Worship Lt Munden

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March (Ash Wednesday)

7.30pm Ash Wednesday service Sacombe

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March (Lent 1)

10.30am Holy Communion Standon

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March (Lent 2)

8.00am Holy Communion Standon  
10.30am Holy Communion Lt Munden

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March (Lent 3)

10.30am Morning Worship/baptism Standon  
6.00pm Choral Evensong Standon

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March (Lent 4)

10.30am Mothering Sunday Morning Worship  
Sacombe

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April (Lent 5)

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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-240BF)  
[www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3](https://www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3)

## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR A challenge for Lent

Dear Friends,

*In our services in Sacombe, we have been following through part of one of the books of the Bible, known as the Acts of the Apostles. Essentially, this is the sequel to the Gospels: what happened next after the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

*It is an exciting story of difficulty and success, miracles and death, kings and slaves, necromancers and saints, all wrapped up in a journey around the ancient world.*

*One thing that we see again and again is the reliability of the record when compared to other sources. The towns and districts described really existed. The cultures described are genuine. The types of people really existed. The types of administrators are accurate, as are their names and their positions. Even the dates match against recorded events. In fact, the description of certain events (like one of St. Paul's voyages) are seen as the best written accounts of a voyage in the Roman world.*

*Why mention all this? Because for over 150 years there has been a constant attack on the veracity of the Bible. Essentially, we are told, it cannot be trusted. Yet my experience is that it can. Of course, you have to compare oranges to oranges, not oranges to apples. Where the Bible is poetry, there is not historical accuracy (like any poetry). When the Bible has parables and other kinds of stories, they are just that. But when it purports to have a historical record, I have found it as accurate (or more accurate) than any contemporary literature. In fact, why should we assume other literature is accurate and the Bible is not?*

*But I write this to encourage, not to try to prove a point. As Lent approaches, why not read the Bible for yourself? It is free on line, we have Gospels in the church, and we would happily lend you a whole Bible. And it can be relied upon. It is the word God has given us. However, as a starter, it is important not to read the "boring" bits, like the law for example. No one ever read a law book for fun! Instead start with the Gospels or Acts, which I mention above. Great true stories, a great read, but also showing how God worked and will work in his world.*

Let me know how you get on! **John Chitham**


[carpetconnoisseurs.co.uk](http://carpetconnoisseurs.co.uk)


[07999 786692](tel:07999786692)


[carpetconnoisseurs@gmail.com](mailto:carpetconnoisseurs@gmail.com)



**Carpets** **Vinyls** **LVT** **Door Cutting**

With 100's of samples to choose from, all in the comfort of your own home.



## COUNTRY MATTERS (12<sup>th</sup> February)

It is too wet to do any field work, and the same in the garden, but at least the days are getting longer.

I said last month that we could expect no calves for about six weeks, starting on January 7<sup>th</sup> (our bull was away, loaned to another farm) but a cow proved me wrong by calving on January 17<sup>th</sup>, a good healthy heifer calf, despite being at least 10 days late.

The last sow farrowed a couple of weeks ago, with ten born, but after losses she has seven lovely piglets, hopefully all spoken for.

We had a welcome visitor recently, a Little Egret in the field next to the kitchen, where it could be seen clearly. Then an unwelcome visitor arrived in the garden; a Sparrow Hawk trying to catch Blue Tits on the feeders, we think.

## BIRD of the MONTH - ROCK DOVE

The Rock Dove is very hard to tell apart from the Stock Dove except for its habitat, which is coastal cliffs and old quarries, where it nests in a crack or cranny. It is from this species that all domestic breeds have evolved, so when they go wild, tall buildings replace cliffs as their breeding habitat. Peregrine Falcons have discovered this and, as pigeons are their main prey, we now have these predators in many of our towns and cities, provided that they have a tall building for their nesting site.

*Tony Spackman*



**THE NEXT  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
7pm on 18th MARCH  
IN LITTLE MUNDEN MEMORIAL HALL**  
For further information please email:  
[Clerk@littlemundenpc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@littlemundenpc.org.uk)

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/>

**On Saturday 22nd March at 2.30pm** I am arranging a meeting in Little Munden church for anyone who has lost a partner! It may be recently or 20 years ago! It will be time for memories or just a chat with others who understand over a cup of tea and cake. If you would like to contact me before the day or just turn up that will be fine. If you need a lift I can arrange for that too.

I also have a group which is held in Standon village hall on the third Thursday of each month from 2 till 4pm and this group has been going for 8 years and it is called New Seasons. We are a group of ladies and gentlemen who are supporting each other through a difficult time but we also enjoy a chat and a laugh over a cup of tea and cake.

**Heather Jackson 07909065550**

## LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

**18th MARCH 7pm**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
DANE END MEMORIAL HALL

**15th APRIL 7pm**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND APM  
DANE END MEMORIAL HALL

**19th MAY 7pm**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
DANE END MEMORIAL HALL

**17th JUNE 7pm**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
DANE END MEMORIAL HALL

## OTHER EVENTS

**6th JUNE**

THE OLD BOOT BIKERS  
SUMMER BASH  
HORSES' MEADOW

**8th MAY**

VE DAY: VICTORY IN EUROPE  
COMMERATION in HORSES' MEADOW  
BEACON LIGHTING

**14th JUNE**

STANDON OPEN GARDENS

**28th JUNE**

DANE END OPEN GARDENS

FOR UPDATES AND NEWS PLEASE CHECK  
OUR WEBSITE:  
[LITTMUNDENPC.ORG.UK](http://LITTMUNDENPC.ORG.UK) / CALENDAR



### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Coffee and cake or  
Russells famous sausage rolls for £6!  
at the

Christmas Tree Farm from 9 - 12 noon  
On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March.....

AND

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

### DAME ENDERS

**Our dates for the coming year are:**

**Thursday 6th March** in the Memorial Hall  
Ruth Warman will be showing us how to do some  
simple beginners Quilling - very useful for making  
Birthday and Christmas cards!

If you would like to come and you are not a  
member there will be a charge of £3 on the night.  
You will also need to bring along a pair of small  
scissors and a ruler or tape.

Thursday 3rd April : details to be confirmed

Thursday 1st May : details to be confirmed.

Thursday 5th June : details to be confirmed

Thursday July 10th BBQ

Thursday September 4th Our planning meeting

Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup> : details to be confirmed

Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> : details to be confirmed

Thursday December 4th Christmas meal in the hall,  
subject to change depending on the Parish Council  
Panto.

**LOCAL CONSTABULARY** Buntingford Rural  
West includes: Dane End, Green End, Haultwick, Little  
Munden, Great Munden, Levens Green, Nasty and are  
covered by: The local PC 926 Ryan Willis  
[ryan.willis@herts.police.uk](mailto:ryan.willis@herts.police.uk) and PCSO 6161 Sally  
Brooks [sally.brooks@herts.police.uk](mailto:sally.brooks@herts.police.uk)

Non emergency call 101

Emergency always call 999

Or online at Hertfordshire Police Report a Crime

### 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.**

**Westmill Garden Centre**

**Westmill Farm, SG12 0ES**

**Website: [www.toppots.co.uk](http://www.toppots.co.uk)**

**Telephone No: 01920 465026**

Westmill Garden Centre (formerly Top Pots) was  
established in 1991 and is located in Westmill  
Farm leisure complex. The garden centre  
incorporates its own nursery along with Westmill  
Landscapes Ltd a commercial landscaping business  
based on the same site.

Over the years, the garden centre and nursery has  
grown enabling us to now grow a large amount of  
our own seasonal plants. Our plants are grown  
using peat reduced compost wherever possible.

As a business we pride ourselves on giving our  
customers professional advice and our ability to  
source quality plants, if not grown by ourselves  
from local UK growers. Should we need to import  
plants they will be purchased from reputable  
growers and come with a plant passport.

We are renowned for our beautiful hanging  
baskets and supply a large number to the  
hospitality sector and the wider public.

Our stock also includes soft fruits and vegetables  
for allotment holders and gardeners a like.

In our shop we have a compressive range of tools,  
fertiliser, pesticides, compost and lawn seed for all  
types of gardens. We also stock a wide range of  
bird seed, feeders, coal, logs and charcoal.  
Westmill Garden Centre is perfect for all types of  
gardeners.



**Dane End Memorial Hall Are Taking Bookings**  
**Landline: 01920 512535**

**Email: [hallbookings1924@yahoo.com](mailto:hallbookings1924@yahoo.com)**

**Mobile: 07785663225**

**Available for hire by the hour or mornings,  
afternoons and evenings**

**If you want to arrange a birthday party, start a  
bridge or table tennis club.....**

**Give us a call!**

## MONTHLY POEM

A Local Bard of 30 years ago wrote a selection of poems about people in the community, places and events locally. The collection has been kindly given by John Grisbrooke.

Last month the poem was of course of Albert Springate senior and junior in their Forge!  
This month the poem isn't so easy!



### IMPASSE

*When morning broke the day did not begin:  
Those huddled knots saw only no way out.  
The fallen trunks belied their doubtful might,  
The crossroads blocked – the only sure way in.*

*Come rain, come snow, the flooded road-side  
Bourne, impediments to gainful to and fro...  
Curtail the madding rush for just a while,  
But nothing like that catastrophic morn/dawn.*

### AND FINALLY A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

It's a Medley of Moans from me this month!  
My first moan is in the unlikely event of  
the culprit who lets their dog mess in our  
lane on an almost daily basis reading this  
Newsletter!



This is the lane past the cottages leading to the cricket field at Green End.

Their dog leaves its deposits either outside our gate, on our verge or that of our elderly neighbours gates and verge.

This really is so anti-social!

One can only assume the dog is off its lead, doing its business whilst the owner is oblivious to what its up to! Our postman has to navigate the piles and the piles at our neighbours gate, she has carers three times a day and they too have to watch where they tread!

### BE AWARE OF WHAT YOUR DOG IS DOING!

And that goes for the footpaths through the village, there have been many reports of fouling.

### BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER!

The next moan and an alert to 'goings ons' is regarding the taking of metal items that are not destined for scrap! A number of residents have told me they have had items out by their front door waiting to either be moved in doors or to be collected for further use elsewhere. They have been enraged to find their items have been taken, one assumes by the scrap man.

This also happened to us when we had left a replacement washing machine at a friends door, the plumber arrived to install it only 10 minutes to discover it had gone!

These items were not out on the pavement or outside their gates. The scrap dealer has accessed their gardens by going through their closed gates and walking through their gardens!

One local resident told me they had an old/vintage car taken from their driveway! Items have also been taken from the access road around the back of the houses in Founceley Avenue and bikes from front gardens.

### Please be vigilant of trucks or vans cruising around the estates!

Lastly, if you have events or notices to be published in the Newsletter, **PLEASE** send them to me at least a month before they take place!

You must consider the time for printing, being collected, distributed and finally delivered.

The deadline is always on a Friday, it is ready at the printers by Monday. **Timings are out of my control after that.** If you have an event for the beginning of the month it is very likely parishioners will not get to see the notice until too late.



Please email your news to:  
[jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com)



## DANE END STORES

We are here to cater for all your needs.

Can't see it in the shop?

Let us know what you want and we will get it for you!

Tel: 01920 438984



Monday to Saturday 7am to 9pm  
Sunday 8am to 8pm

## Plans For Building

Straightforward Drawings for Building Design

- Concept
- Planning Permission
- Building Regulations
- Simple Pricing

T: 01920 438095

M: 07779 152081

Email: plansforbuildingdesign@gmail.com

Visit: www.plansforbuilding.co.uk

## New Marque Motorhomes

Whether you're looking for a family home away from home, seeking a road-trip adventure or yearning for a cosy weekend getaway, you're in the right place. Trusted by a community of adventurers, festival-goers and families, New Marque Motorhomes is your go-to motorhome hire, based in Cambridgeshire. Embark on a holiday with a difference and explore our fleet of pet-friendly, luxury Motorhomes.



Call Luke: 01223 904000

www.newmarquemotorhomes.co.uk

## G.S. Pickett Butchers of Distinction



A huge variety of meats including speciality sausages,  
Home cooked hams, Pig Roasts and all outdoor events catered for

17, The Green, Ware SG12 0QW Tel: 01920 463240

LOCAL DELIVERIES FREE WITH ORDERS OVER £25

## Andrew Dexter

Painting & Decorating  
Handyman Services  
Garden Maintenance

T: 01920 438746

M: 07971 973067

www.andrewdexter.com



Working together in Hertfordshire

## FOR ALL YOUR ESSENTIAL... GARDEN MACHINERY, GARDEN EQUIPMENT & TOOL NEEDS

15% OFF  
FIRST SERVICE  
ALL NEW GARDEN MACHINERY  
COMES WITH A 10% FIRST SERVICE  
DISCOUNT FROM OUR BRANCH



STEIN HONDA ECHO STIHL KIRCHNER BOSCH Husqvarna HATZER ATCO

BENINGTON  
WHEMPSTEAD ROAD, STEVENAGE SG2 7BZ  
TEL: 01438 869251

ernestDOE  
Where you buy with confidence



## DERRICK BRIDGES & CO

SOLICITORS AND NOTARIES

Established solicitors with  
over 70 years experience

www.derrickbridges.co.uk

Tel: 020 8449 7326 · email: solicitors@derrickbridges.co.uk

12 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 4BQ and 175 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5SU

## JP Oil Boilers

Oil Boilers & AGA s.  
Servicing & Breakdowns

01920 438483

Email: Info@jpoilboilers.co.uk

Visit: www.jpoilboilers.co.uk

Registered  
Heating  
Business



## TOP POTS NURSERY

Westmill Farm, SG12 0ES

(opposite Ware Recycling Centre)

www.toppots.co.uk 01920 465026

A grower's oasis!! Home-grown vegetable and bedding plants.

Gorgeous hanging baskets to order. Perennials, shrubs, composts, fertilisers,  
tools, seeds, Gardena irrigation systems, wild bird food, coal and logs.

## HOWE ENGINEERING

LOCAL FAMILY-RUN GARAGE BUSINESS  
WITH GOOD SERVICE

Land Rover Specialists  
ALL OTHER MAKES WELCOME

- MOT testing • Servicing • Tyres
- Diagnostics • Air Conditioning
- FREE Courtesy Cars Available

Stones Cross, Hare Street,  
Nr. Buntingford, Herts SG9 0DY  
Tel: 01763 289 521

e-mail: Howe.Engineering@gmail.com

