

The Mundens with Sacombe Church and Parish Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026



Every Tuesday
9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) and Bible Study — Sacombe

Every Wednesday
9.30am Worship & Bible Study — Standon

Sunday 1st February *(3rd before Lent)*
8.00am Holy Communion — Standon
10.30am Morning Worship — Lt Munden

Sunday 8th February *(2nd before Lent)*
10.30am Holy Communion — Standon

Sunday 15th February *(Next before Lent)*
8.00am Holy Communion — Standon
10.30am Holy Communion — Lt Munden

Ash Wednesday 18th February
7.30pm Holy Communion — Sacombe

Sunday 22nd February *(Lent 1)*
10.30am Morning Worship — Standon
3.00pm Choral Evensong — Sacombe

Sunday 1st March *(Lent 2)*
8.00am Holy Communion — Standon
10.30am Morning Worship — Lt Munden

Sacombe Churchwardens:
Janet Armstrong 07376 249047
Derek Wheeler 01920 438875

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

MORE BUILDING WORK !

In March you will see the erection of scaffolding at Little Munden Church as work begins to re-felt and re-tile several sections of the roof. This will cover the side chapel and the main chancel where the roofing is no longer capable of keeping out the wet.

Internally, from 23rd March, the tombs will be boxed in and the side chapel will be curtained off as work begins there. We hope to do much of the disruptive work, if all goes according to plan, in the Easter holidays and the aim is to have everything complete by mid to end of May.

However, we have seen building work at our sister churches, St Mary's Standon and St Catherine's Sacombe, overrun considerably. Work on Standon's tower, (which was starting to slip down the hill!), is nearly complete and once the bells have been cleaned, ringing will once again be possible. Sacombe also had a lot of work done to its roof and gutters last year.

This means all three churches have undergone major repairs at roughly the same time. Huge thanks go to all those who have helped fundraise, and to those who have made generous donations and grants. Construction work on churches is never cheap, so it is a testament to their enduring nature that the community has supported the works. There is a common misconception that the Church of England is rich, so it can afford to look after its buildings. If only . . . The Church does indeed have large funds, but these are often restricted in what they can be used for, and much of the rest goes on clergy salaries and pensions. Every parish is obliged to pay its own running costs and repairs – however vastly expensive this might be.

Any new Rector will be delighted to know that they can concentrate on ministry. Whilst money remains important, they will not be pitched into an exhausting fundraising initiative as soon as they take up the post.

In terms of the recruitment process for a new Rector, our advert is live online on the diocese and benefice websites, and it will be published for four weeks in the printed Church Times from 23rd January. That will then remain online until applications close on 25th February when we will know what the take up has been like. Should we not be successful then we must start advertising again. We will have more news at the end of next month.

Whilst the repair work takes place, our work for God in our villages will continue in regular worship, prayer and outreach. Do join us for services and for the weekly Wednesday cafe. A warm welcome awaits.

Ray Salmons on behalf of the PCC of All Saints, Little Munden

Dane End Memorial Hall
Is Taking Bookings
Landline: 01920 438875
Email: dg_wheeler@hotmail.com

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!

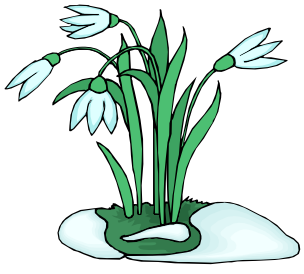
MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING
Coffee and Cake or
Russells famous sausage rolls for £6!
at the
Christmas Tree Farm from 9am – 12.30pm

On Friday 20th February…..

AND
The Monthly PIZZA and Wine/Beer etc.
From 5pm – 10.30pm
Eat and drink all day!
Ring and order your pizza
or a cheese platter if you prefer:
07773 195025



Soup & Snowdrops
at St Catherine's



You are warmly invited to come along to
St Catherine's Church, Sacombe
Saturday 21st February 12 until 2pm
Delicious home-made soups, bread and cheeses
Proceeds towards the work of the church

COUNTRY MATTERS *(7th January)*

Prior to 1960 many British cattle were not de-horned. This meant that there was a risk of cowmen getting injury; I have also seen some terrible wounds inflicted on cattle. Our herd of black Aberdeen Angus are naturally polled, which means that we don't have the unpleasant job of de-horning calves at a few weeks of life.

At the time of writing this (Jan 7th) the bad weather continues; it means the garden birds are feeding continually, consuming a lot of food, but I consider it's worth it.

BIRD OF THE MONTH: CORMORANT

The only bird to resemble a Cormorant is its close relation the Shag, which is entirely a sea bird, whereas the much larger bird is the Cormorant. They have a distinctly hooked tip to their beak for gripping fish, which they dive for. There are always some to be seen near the Amwell Reserve where they nest in the willow trees on the island.

Tony Spackman



Join us for
Midweek Music at St Mary's, Standon
Wednesday 25th February
11.30am refreshments
12.30pm concert
Musicians from
St Edmund's College
Concerts take place monthly
on the 4th Wednesday of the month
(except for August and December).
Retiring collection
for our three benefice churches.

Church flowers appeal.



The ladies of **All Saints Church, Little Munden** are trying to raise funds and help to maintain the regular supply of flowers within the church. We have **no** funding from the church for this, and rely solely on donations and gifts to supply the flowers for services.

If you would like a display created in the church in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or an anniversary or birthday for that person, please let either Christine Brown or myself (Hazel Penn) know, and we can organise this for you for the cost of the flowers.

Christine's number is 07747 174758
Hazel's number is 07867 676638

We are also asking for help with regard to anyone who may be interested in creating a display for the church services, and who would be prepared to join a small group of ladies on a rota basis to create flowers for the front of the church on a fortnightly basis. If this is something you would be able to help with, then please contact Christine or Hazel.

Many thanks - Hazel Penn

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 is PC 926 Ryan Willis and the local PCSO 6161 is Sally Brooks.
Contact: 01992 533329 - non emergency or 101
Emergency always call 999

DEAF, HARD OF HEARING?
Please text 07786 207 091 including who is needed: Police, Fire or Ambulance, where they are needed and what the problem is.



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.**

DAME ENDERS

On February 5th

at 8pm in the Memorial Hall

A Musical Quiz
devised by Jane

We can guarantee loads of puzzlement and laughter.
New members are always welcome

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 2
Email: admin@littlemunden.herts.sch.uk
www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk

January 2026
Happy New Year from all at Little Munden School.

It's been a quiet start to the term so far, but a breezy and sometimes very chilly one up here!

We are pleased to say the promised boiler and heating system works are now going ahead, after a year long delay on the start date. We are looking forward to finally having an efficient and cost effective system across the whole school by next winter.

We are very fortunate that following on from our business plan, Herts County Council are funding the whole project as this is certainly not something we could afford from the school budget.

The contractors will be introduced to the children next week in an assembly, however the majority

of the works will take place overnight to minimise the disruption to the children and their learning. So far, the contractors have mainly been busy throwing back the tennis balls that have ended up in their compound in the playground!

The deadline for applying for Reception places for September 2026 has now passed and all applicants will know in April if they have been given a place at our school. We are now collating applications for our Nursery starters. If you have, or know of a child born between September 2022 and August 2023, we are accepting applications now and will be confirming places offered at the end of February. Please check our website for the application form Admissions | Little Munden C of E (VC) Primary School and send back, either electronically to the above email address or in paper form.

If you would like to visit our school as a prospective parent, for any year group, please call to make an appointment for a personalised visit with our Headteacher. 01920 438271 option 2.

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Well we are firmly into 2026, Christmas and New Year seems like months ago now.

This year we are planning some exciting updates to the village, once we have secured funding we will be moving the War Memorial over to Horses Meadow where there will be a memorial garden designed and seating. This will allow us to quietly reflect on those we have lost without the need to keep watching out for traffic. Also on Remembrance Day we will be able to hear those speaking more easily.



We are planning some more open cinema nights in Horses Meadow and another Big Band celebration at the Christmas Tree Barn.

Details will follow.

Work will be starting shortly to repair the fence at Horses Meadow and new fencing will be put along the Whempstead road boundary to ensure no children or much loved pets can run straight onto the road. We will also be having an annual collection of the branches that fell off over the winter and a general tidy up.

The football goals will be receiving new nets soon, we do ask that children do not climb up the nets and sit on top as this has led to the damage of the current nets and it is also dangerous. During the later spring and summer months we will be marking out a 7 a side pitch.

As you may have seen the new industrial units at Home Farm are coming along now, regarding the housing for that site the land is still with the receivers as no one at the present time has purchased it, lets hope that changes soon.



The community gardeners are still busy working away setting out and planting seeds, please feel free to pop down either in the week or at weekends and join in, you are welcome to bring children along it is a lovely way of getting involved as a family and meeting new people. If you want you can simply pop down to sit and read if no one is there or potter about, or just have a chat if people are around.

Please come along to the monthly Parish Council meeting to listen to what is being discussed as this will be of interest to you as you are a parishioner. We also have an agenda point which allow members of the public to raise concerns or ask questions. We would love to see you there.

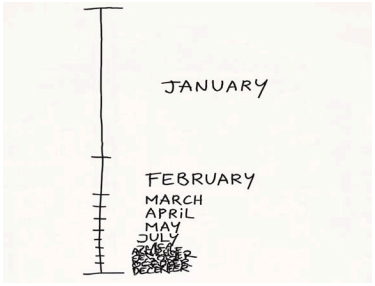
Finally the woodland area that was planted a couple of years ago by some of you but was then hit with excessive heat and freezing temperatures meant that some trees did not make it. I have been working with Hertfordshire County Council and will be receiving a delivery of some new trees and wild flower seed and will be putting a plea out on Love Dane End for helpers.
Lastly, thank you for reading and we look forward to seeing you around the Parish throughout the year!

Tracey Harding – Chair

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Will be held on
TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY
in LITTLE MUNDEN VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30pm
Clerk@littlemundenplc.org.uk
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

AND FINALLY
A WORD FROM THE EDITOR!

Christmas has been and gone and now we are in the dreary January/February months we eagerly look forward to spring.



We spent Christmas in Devon where we were blown sideways with the gale force icy winds. We then went to Gower (South Wales) for New Year and were blown and battered by the storms there. Being partial to wild swimming, it was off the agenda this festive season although I could have swum in the flooded lanes on Gower!

The main lanes have been a problem for many years despite the council putting in new drainage and clearing ditches. The issue is worse when the tide is in as the water flows into the rivers and out to sea; when the tide is in it has nowhere to go.

There have been many accidents with cars and even dustcarts going off the road and ending up in a flooded ditch!

Thankfully we live in a rural community with wonderful farmers always willing to help. They bring shopping to the elderly who are cut off, ferry folks to and fro through the floods and of course, help those who have got marooned in the flood waters.

But despite the flooding, the Gower Peninsula is a beautiful place and with the added bonus of having its own microclimate. Many a time Swansea and beyond are having dreadful weather but on Gower we are bathed in sunshine however, there has been many a time Swansea is being bathed in sunshine and we cant even see the end of our garden due to the low lying cloud!

Spring arrives very early on Gower with Daffodils flowering after Christmas, this year they were flowering before! The next thing we look forward to is the arrival of new born lambs.

Last year the farmer had his pregnant ewes in our field and by the time we got there they were arriving at regular intervals through the week which was a joy to see however, one morning whilst drinking our morning cuppa and watching the news lambs springing around, a fox strolled across our garden, popped through the sheep fence and went to the sheep feeder then bold as brass, proceeded to hoover up the remains of the grain!

It then didn't take the fox long to decide the new borns were a handy snack and after a number of fatalities, mums and lambs were moved to a safer area.

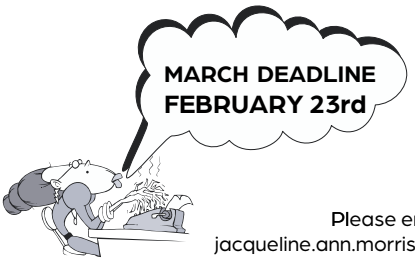
Isn't nature is wonderful....and sad!

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