



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



Every Tuesday

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
and Bible Study Sacombe

Every Wednesday

9.30am Worship & Bible Study Standon

Sunday 12th October (*Trinity 17*)

10.30am Holy Communion Standon

Sunday 19th October (*Trinity 18*)

8.00am Holy Communion Standon
10.30am Holy Communion Lt Munden

Sunday 26th October (*Bible Sunday*)

10.30am Morning Worship Standon
6.00pm Choral Evensong Standon

Sunday 2nd November (*4th before Advent*)

8.00am Holy Communion Standon
10.30am Morning Worship Lt Munden
3.00pm Service of Memories Standon

Sacombe Churchwardens:

Janet Armstrong 07376 249047
Derek Wheeler 01920 438875

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

RETIREMENT OF THE RECTOR

With the news that John and Basma left at the end of September, the obvious question on every one's lips is **"When are we going to get a new vicar?"** This being the Church of England, frustratingly, the answer is 'Not any time soon'.

There is a long set of protocols each benefice has to undergo when a post becomes vacant, all set out by the church 'powers that be'. The first hurdle is that nothing can begin until the current incumbent, John, has actually left. With some leave due to him, that date is not until 20th October. The benefice has three patrons who are almost like non-executive directors. These are Ralph Abel Smith, the Church Pastoral Aid Society and King's College Cambridge. They particularly take an interest when a living goes into vacancy. Our PCCs from the three churches are due to meet with the patrons, the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Hertford in mid-October to start the process.

We need to prepare a Benefice Profile which effectively is a brochure of what the three churches can offer a new Rector, and what in turn we expect from any candidate. Once that is agreed, we can look to advertise. Given the proximity to Christmas when every clergyman in the land is pre-occupied with the busiest time of their year, there will be no point in advertising until January 2026. The process then depends on how appealing our benefice is to potential applicants, and how quickly we can arrange interviews and appoint. If I let you know that the Bishop of Hertford has already agreed to take important services during Easter next year, if needed, you can judge for yourself how soon we might expect the post to be filled. It could very easily be a year, and possibly longer, that we have to function without a Rector.

In the meantime, all the members of the three PCCs, and those who will be involved in the vacancy and the appointment of a new Rector, are determined to keep everything running as normally as possible. I am sure that you'll be pleased to know that our schedule of services will continue as usual, including those held in the week at Sacombe and Standon. Remembrance Sunday and Christmas are being planned and cover arranged as required. We are also busy finding clerical cover for our communion services, which is a big job. Should we not be able to fill all these, then we intend use 'communion by extension' subject to the permission of the Bishop, where the sacraments are consecrated in advance. This would then allow Caroline, our Reader, to officiate. There are no planned weddings on the immediate horizon, and funerals will of course be dealt with in the normal way. God's loving care for us never ends, and any one in need at this time can be assured that we are still here to help and pray for you. A vacancy is the time for us all to share the responsibility of the work of the benefice, and to try to keep things as normal as possible. Anyone with any questions, or anyone who feels minded to involve themselves more and can offer any additional help during this lengthy period, will be warmly welcomed.

Derek Wheeler - Churchwarden of St Catherine's Sacombe, on behalf of the vacancy team.

COUNTRY MATTERS (9TH September)

Rain at last, a useful amount so far, but more would be better. Some farmers have had a better harvest than they expected and have finished very early. This means that they will have more time to get the next year's crops sown in the right conditions.

Weather conditions, on the other hand, have caused nearly half the apples to fall. They needed thinning out, and our pigs are grateful. Our oldest sow had a litter of eight, all doing very well and are all spoken for. We've also had seven calves born during the last 3 weeks.

The flocks of Swallows and House Martins we saw a month ago have gone south, earlier than usual. The only summer visitors I've seen recently have been a couple of Chiffchaffs.

BIRD OF THE MONTH **Black Grouse**

There are no Black Grouse left in the south of England now. I saw a grey hen on Exmoor in 1955, which could have been the last one. There are a few in Wales and more in Scotland, and they are now protected, being a former game bird.



Apart from predators, they can suffer losses from flying into deer fences which are erected around plantations of young conifers.

Black Grouse are famed for their leks, places where males display their remarkable tails with their curved outer feathers.

Tony Spackman

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](tel:07786207091) including who is needed: Police, Fire or Ambulance, where they are needed and what the problem is.

SERVICE OF MEMORIES

There will be a Service of Memories for all who have been bereaved (either recently or at any time in the past) at St Mary's, Standon, on 2nd November at 3pm. There will be the opportunity for a loved one's name to be read out, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

All are welcome.

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT 7 PM
ON TUESDAY
21st OCTOBER**

**IN DANE END MEMORIAL HALL
MUNDEN ROAD
DANE END**

ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

**MUNDEN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED
ON SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER
FROM 10.30 AM -11.30 AM**

**FROM THE END OF PEARMAN DRIVE
TO JUST PAST THE WAR MEMORIAL**

**THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE
AT THE WAR MEMORIAL
WILL BE TAKING PLACE**

**PLEASE USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO
SACOMBE AND THE A602
VIA WHEMPSTEAD**

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 Parish
Great Munden, Nasty, Levens Green,
Rush Green*

**Litter Picking weekend in the parish of
Great Munden!
Saturday & Sunday 8th and 9th November**

Please help keep our beautiful parish tidy and free from rubbish on the verges and foot paths!

Go litter picking anytime to suit you on 8th or 9th November weekend with family and friends. Parish councillors will be out and about cleaning our parish but we need your help!

Plastic sacks and high viz sashes will be left by parish noticeboards in Great Munden, Nasty and Levens Green for volunteers to aid their litter picking for that weekend. They will be at these sites for pick up on Friday afternoon 7th November. Please return your sacks of rubbish and leave by the notice boards when you have finished and we will request East Herts to collect them.

If you would also like to take any photos of the litter picking weekend, please email to the Clerk and we will ask that they be included in the next newsletter.

Email: Clerk@greatmundenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Little Munden Cricket Club had a fantastic season competing in the 3rd Division of the Herts and Essex Borders League. We fielded a full team of eleven for all eighteen league games, losing only five matches over the season. With the final match results leaving promotion hanging in the balance, a strong performance to beat Hoddesdon secured second place overall in the league and earning promotion to the 2nd Division in 2026. Notable effort by this year's captains Ivan, Simon and Tom and as always a huge thanks to the many people involved in keeping cricket alive in Little Munden. With everyone taking a well-earned break for the rest of the year, indoor nets will begin early 2026, and the ground opening up in the spring. If you would like to play or support in any way, please do reach out: ant.collier@gmail.com Full results are available on play cricket.

Our many thanks to all at the The Mundens and Sacombe for all the many individual good wishes and cards, and the wonderful basket of white roses for our 70th Wedding Anniversary on 27th August. It has been an unforgettable and blessed time. Thank you!
With our love, Bert and Audrey

DAME ENDERS

December 4th - Christmas party

January 8th - Jane has very kindly offered to do another of her wonderful musical quiz nights!

February 5th - Games night: either Bingo or Beetle Drive

March 5th - To be confirmed

April 2nd - Afternoon tea with Barbara

May 7th - Meal out

June 4th - To be confirmed

July 2nd - BBQ

Dame Enders - November 6th

at 8pm in the Memorial Hall

**Hedda Campbell will help us to make
Christmas Stars, a Danish decoration.**

**We can guarantee loads of puzzlement and
laughter.**

New members are always welcome

GREAT MUNDEN

RECREATIONAL GARDEN

Willow Christmas workshop

Making stars, 2D Christmas trees and 2D reindeers

Saturday 15th November

1pm to 5pm

£25 per person

One space left!!

Christmas Wreath workshop

Saturday 29th November

1.30pm to 3.30pm at St.

Nicholas Church

£35 per person

Four spaces left!



Yoga with Josie will now move back to the Little Munden Memorial Hall.

Saturdays 10am £10 per class

French Club - Sundays 12pm

If you need to improve your language skills, for business or pleasure or just wish to meet other francophones in the area. £1.50 per adult. Venue changes regularly. Please get in touch to find out more.

Please contact gisele.russell@hotmail.com for any of the above.

LITTLE MUNDEN

PARISH COUNCIL

WILL BE HOLDING AN ACT

OF REMEMBRANCE

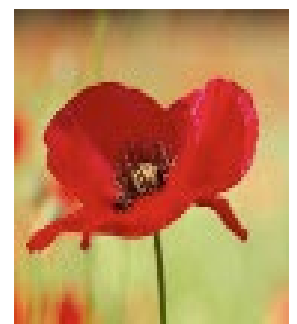
ON SUNDAY 9TH

NOVEMBER 10.50am

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

DANE END

(opposite Horses Meadow)



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!

Little Munden Parish Council

Late Summer Fete

I just wanted to thank everybody that came down to enjoy the day, we were blessed with lovely weather and the entertainment from the Silver Creek re-enactment group was mesmerising and loud, the adults enjoyed it as much as the children. The afternoon was filled with entertainment, and we had a good variety of stalls with local produce, including produce grown on our Community Allotment what an achievement in such a short time, well done to all involved. The evening was then spent at the Christmas Tree Barn with live line dancing and a DJ and of course the lovely Pizza's. The whole day brought a great sense of community seeing all generations coming together to enjoy the day just because they can. We are looking forward to the next one and there is talk of Pirates taking over the day with cannons plundering the village, we will brace ourselves for that one. Date to be announced.

Purchase of Horses Meadow

Finally, we have some good news regarding the purchase of Horses Meadow, the money has been paid to the solicitor, and we are just waiting for the Bank to carry out their final processes and then our community will own the land. We will be celebrating this momentous occasion with a glass of bubbles at our next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 21st October at 7pm do come along and join us.

Horses Meadow Access Road & Other Updates

We have been working with Russell Parkins at Dane End Christmas Tree farm to try and resolve the ongoing issue with traffic at Christmas time travelling along the lane to Green End. We have decided to lay a Nidagrass or similar product from the main gate straight up the side of Horses Meadow into the Christmas Tree Farm. This will be in-filled with soil and seeded with grass and by spring will look the same as the main meadow. This will make it far safer, during the month of December and we will ensure the meadow is safe for other pedestrian users and further details will follow nearer the time.

The benefits:

Should an ambulance need to get to the top part of Horses Meadow it will be able to drive safely without getting stuck. Future fetes and other events, cars will be able to drive up that side of the meadow and park on the road which will again be better for the meadow.

The drawbacks:

Whilst works are being carried out access to the meadow may be restricted at certain times of the day while heavy machinery is in operation.

Conclusion:

As part of our rejuvenation of Horses Meadow we will be looking to obtain grants from early next year to move and install new play equipment further down on the main meadow. We will also be looking to purchase a white line machine to mark out a 7 a side pitch. Repairs to the current fencing and repaint of wood preserve will be taking place this autumn. Erection of new fencing along the front of the meadow will also take place this autumn. Longer term plans will see us move the war memorial to the area next to the car park and a garden of remembrance will be created there, we feel that this will be far safer for those wishing to remember their loved ones throughout the year.

Remembrance Service

This years' service will take place on Sunday 9th November at the War Memorial in Dane End. Please arrive by 10:50 am. We will be applying for a road closure for 1 hour while the service takes place.

Seniors Christmas Lunch

Our annual luncheon will be taking place on Friday 5th December at 1pm, if you wish to come along please contact either Tracey or Gerry via the following emails clerk@littlemundenpc.org.uk or tracey.harding@littlemundenpc.org.uk or by knocking on our doors or coming along the next Parish council meeting. We will need to know numbers and any dietary requirements. We look forward to seeing you at this joyous event.



Panto – Snow White ‘not as you know it’

Yes, it's true we are doing a Panto again this year.... It looks to be a really funny story where good conquers evil with a dash of love and a lot of laughter. Rehearsals have been underway for a couple of weeks now and are going well. A lot of time and effort goes into making this production and we hope to see you all there.

Panto this year will be run over 2 days with an afternoon performance once again, the dates are **Friday 12th at 7pm and Saturday 13th December 3pm and 7pm**. There will be a bar and snacks available to purchase on the night.

Please order your tickets in advance by emailing: Clerk@littmundenpc.org.uk. This will save queuing on the night!

This local event is a non-profit event bringing some joy in what is a busy month for everyone, so stop, purchase your tickets and get ready for a night of fun and laughter.

Question is will I remember my lines this year? Oh yes I will, then again...oh no I probably won't!

TRACEY HARDING - CHAIR
LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE TO OUR USUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DATES FOR THIS MONTH ONLY

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF WEEK THIS MONTH

Coffee and cake or
Russells famous sausage rolls for £6!
at the
Christmas Tree Farm from 9am – 12.30pm
On Friday 24th October

There will be no Pizza Night this month

FISH AND CHIPS
FRIDAY 12th, 19th and 26th OCTOBER
5pm - 8pm
And every other Friday from thereon!

The Fish n Chip van will be in Horses Meadow. Serving all things found on the menu of a normal chippy and can also do gluten free food items. So save the date, no cooking! Enjoy freshly cooked fish 'n' chips either back at home or in Horses Meadow.



HALLOWEEN
AT DANE END CHRISTMAS TREE FARM
PICK YOUR OWN PUMPKINS & VISIT OUR CAFÉ

4TH & 5TH OCTOBER
11TH & 12TH OCTOBER
18TH & 19TH OCTOBER
9AM-5PM

OUR FULL HALLOWEEN EXPERIENCE OPENS ON 24TH OCTOBER
SPOOKY SCENES - PUMPKIN PATCH
HALLOWEEN WOODLAND TRAIL - CAFÉ

24TH - 31ST OCTOBER
9AM-5PM

Dane End Christmas Tree Farm,
Highview Farm, Green End Lane,
Dane End, SG12 0FF

No booking required
Just turn up and enjoy!
Large car park on-site

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
HALLOWEEN PARTY
DANE END CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

31 OCT | **FREE ENTRY** | 5:00 PM

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■ Wheelwrights Farm Planning Application

Have Your Say – Make Sure Your Views Are Heard

East Herts District Council is currently considering a planning application (Ref: **3/25/1063/FUL –PP-14120074**) to expand the Wheelwrights Farm site in Dane End.

The proposal seeks to:

- Extend the existing caravan site by 5 additional pitches
- Allow up to 12 extra caravans (5 static homes)
- Lay new hardstanding and access areas

Why This Matters Locally

■ **Tripling of site size** – the 2023 Inspector only permitted 4 pitches (6 caravans) for **named families**.

This application would expand to 9 pitches (18 caravans), converting it into a large-scale site.

■ **Loss of countryside character** – hedgerows removed, fencing installed, making the site more visible from Whitehill Road.

■ **Traffic and safety** – narrow lanes unsuitable for extra vehicle movements.

■ **Infrastructure pressures** – drainage/sewage approved for 4 pitches, not 9.

■ **Fair distribution** – Little Munden already carries disproportionate provision compared to its small parish size.

Your Right to Comment

Everyone has the right to make their views known on planning applications — whether in support, opposition, or to raise specific issues.

How to Comment

- Visit the East Herts Council planning portal: www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning
- Search using reference **3/25/1063/FUL – PP-14120074**
- Submit your comments online or in writing before the consultation deadline.

Why Your Voice Matters

- ✓ ■ Local views are formally recorded and must be considered.
- ✓ ■ High engagement ensures transparency and accountability.
- ✓ ■ Comments highlight local knowledge — traffic, flooding, services — often overlooked.

Remember:

This leaflet is **not telling you what to say**. It is encouraging all residents to be aware of the application and to make sure their views are included in the planning process.



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jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com

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Sunday 8am to 8pm

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