



# The Mundens with Sacombe Church and Parish Newsletter



**JANUARY 2026**

## **Every Tuesday**

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
and Bible Study Sacombe

## **Every Wednesday**

9.30am Worship & Bible Study Standon

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January (Christmas 2)**

8.00am Holy Communion Standon

10.30am Morning Worship Lt Mundens

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany 1)**

10.30am Holy Communion Standon

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany 2)**

8.00am Holy Communion Standon

10.30am Holy Communion Lt Mundens

## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany 3)**

10.30am Morning Worship Standon

3.00pm Choral Evensong Sacombe

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February (Epiphany 4)**

8.00am Holy Communion Standon

10.30am Morning Worship Lt Mundens

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)

## **OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW AT SACOMBE**

St Catherine's Church has had to say a reluctant farewell to the pipe organ which has accompanied our services for the last 50 years. Every organ needs to have an overhaul every few decades, and while this one had been regularly maintained by its builders, the time for such an overhaul had come. At our Carol Service last year and at the next choral service it was necessary, at a moment's notice, to resort to an electronic keyboard which, fortunately, we had standing by.

A complete overhaul would have been an expensive business, and the church council decided that the money would be better spent on a digital instrument. We have been able to purchase an ex-

demo showroom model, which was delivered in time for the Christmas services. The good news is that the old pipe organ has been acquired by St Edmund's College, where it can be used as a practice instrument by their students.

The new organ offers a wider range of sound colours, with some 27 stops over its two manuals and pedal board, against the single manual with 5 stops of the previous instrument. The speaker system will allow it to be heard by the choir in the chancel, without being uncomfortably loud for those sitting nearby. Apart from its use in the church's worship, it is suitable for recitals and concerts, and it is hoped that it will also be used by local aspiring young organists. Do come along to the Choral Evensong at 3pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January to hear it in action!

So why might our churches use an organ in worship? The organ's sustained tone helps to guide and strengthen the entire congregation's singing, making it easier for everyone to stay in tune and on the beat, even over background noise. Its wide range of sounds, from soft and reflective to loud and majestic, creates a fitting mood for different parts of the service, from quiet prelude to triumphant Easter celebration. It accompanies choirs, leads hymns, marks key festivals such as Christmas, and provides music for weddings, funerals and civic events, adding solemnity or joy. Many feel that the organ's sound helps people perceive the splendour of faith, connecting them to God, and carrying an evangelising quality through its beauty and power.

The organ has been used in Christian worship for centuries, becoming deeply ingrained in the musical heritage of many denominations.

"Praise him with the timbrel and dance;  
praise him with stringed instruments and organs"  
*(Psalm 150 verse 4)*

*Peter Hudson, Secretary,  
St Catherine's Church  
Michael Smith, Benefice Director of Music*

## COUNTRY MATTERS (10<sup>th</sup> December)

The cattle have been in for nearly two months now, while the weather has been windy and very wet at times, and the grass has been growing, to make up for what it couldn't do in the spring. However, this has been lucky for the sheep. When the ewes start lambing around Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> they should be in very good condition.

Since our arable neighbours employed a couple of deer cullers, we no longer have to put up with our grass being eaten. The few deer we do still get at times don't really matter to us.

The wood over the road from us is again this winter being used as a roost by the Kites, about 20 so far. It's been good to hear a Song Thrush adding its song to the Robin's chorus.

### BIRD OF THE MONTH: CHOUGH

I've written about all the British crow family except the Chough. It's not a common bird, as it only haunts steep and rugged sea cliffs. When flying, which it does in spectacular manner, it resembles a Jackdaw. It has bright red feet and its long thin curved bill is red. Its main food is ants and other small insects, which it can only find in short turf grazed by sheep. It nests in a crevice in cliffs, and when it flies nearby you will hear its cry of "Chuff Chuff"

It was once of great importance in Cornwall, where it was shown on the County crest, but has died out in recent times. Happily, recent conservation work has brought back a few pairs.

*Tony Spackman*



St Catherine's Church, Sacombe

*Join us for*

## Choral Evensong

Sung by the Benefice Choir

*with the new Johannus Ecclesia organ*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 3pm**

*The service will be followed by refreshments*

**All welcome!**

*Please note that this is instead of the usual 6pm service of Choral Evensong at St Mary's*

### THANK YOU

The people of St Catherine's thank everyone who supported their Coffee Morning & Sale in November. Over £1,500 was raised for church funds.

*Join us for*

### Midweek Music at St Mary's, Standon

**Wednesday 28th January**

11.30am refreshments

12.30pm concert

#### Music for piano and organ

played by Marion and Michael Smith

Concerts take place monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month (except for August and December).

Retiring collection  
for our three benefice churches.

### LITTLE MUNDEEN PARISH COUNCIL A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Will be held on**

**TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026  
in LITTLE MUNDEEN VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7 PM**

[Clerk@littlemundenplc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@littlemundenplc.org.uk)

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

### GREAT MUNDEEN RECREATIONAL GARDEN

Wishes to thank everyone for their support throughout 2025 and wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year from the Trustees!

## GREAT MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be 13th January 2026 at 7.30pm  
in St Nicholas Church, Great Munden.

### Dane End Memorial Hall Is Taking Bookings

Landline: 01920 438875

Email: [dg\\_wheeler@hotmail.com](mailto:dg_wheeler@hotmail.com)

Available for hire by the hour or mornings,  
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If you want to arrange a birthday party,  
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## Little Munden

### C of E (VC) Primary School

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Matthew 7, verse 24

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[www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk](http://www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk)



## December 2025

The children have had a wonderful finish to the school year. We visited Beam in Hertford so see the Panto, Christmas jumpers were worn at our Christmas lunch and the children of Acorn and Beech classes gave wonderful performances at their nativities.

To round off the year all the children participated in our second annual Rudolph Run in aid of Isabel Hospice. Our very generous families helped raise over £300 for the run and also donations given at the nativities.



Acorn Class took part in a history workshop, where the children learnt about history through Nursery Rhymes. They learnt about how to get water hot for Polly put the Kettle on, without having any

electricity. They also learnt about how people used to wash their clothes before washing machines.



In Beech class the children have absolutely loved their History topic of The Great Fire of London. The children all designed their very own Tudor house in Design and Technology and then we acted out the fire by Mr Brown our wonderful caretaker setting them all on fire on the playground! We then had a Great Fire of London workshop in class and the children were fabulous at sharing everything they've learnt!



### 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.**

**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.

**LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

This months shout out has to go to all the volunteers for helping me organise another wonderful Seniors Christmas Lunch and what a very spectacular event it was!



There are simply no words that can cover everything my panto team pulled off this year, from the amazing scenery to stage props. The hours and hours of time spent learning lines and coming to rehearsals. Finally a huge thank-you to our lovely community members who came along to watch and support us you all made the events come alive with your audience interaction.

Thank you also to Santa's helpers putting up the village trees and thank you to the Christmas Elf for delivering the Christmas potatoes to the participants of the Seniors' lunch, grown by our enthusiastic gardeners at the Community Allotment!

What a great community we live in, here's to more adventures in 2026 and we hope to see you all there! *Tracey Harding - Chair*

**HERE'S TO ANOTHER YEAR OF FUN AND LAUGHTER! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**Dame Enders - January 8th**  
**8pm in the Memorial Hall**  
**A Musical Quiz - devised by Jane**  
 We can guarantee loads of puzzlement and laughter.  
 New members are always welcome

**Dame Enders - February 5th**  
**8pm in the Memorial Hall**  
**Join us for a Games Evening**  
 New members are always welcome



**SANTA ISN'T THE ONLY ONE FLYING this Christmas.**  
 Festive fundraising in aid of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

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*Christmas Tree Collection*

**A.P SOLUTIONS**  
 This year we are raising money for Herts and Essex Air Ambulance.

To date we have raised: £7170

£10 donation  
 For the collection of your tree, with all trees being chipped and Recycled on a local Hertfordshire farm.

Collection dates start from 1st January  
 Based in the following towns on the dates below:  
 Hertford - 1st & 5th  
 Ware - 2nd & 6th  
 Stansted Abbots/Hoddesdon - 3rd & 7th  
 Stevenage - 4th & 8th

Text 07584066998 or 07753826067 to get booked in for your collection

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year from everyone at A.P Solutions

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# PIZZA MENU



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Topped with Garlic & Parsley	
Margherita .....	£8.00
Tomato-Mozzarella-Oregano	
Florentine .....	£9.00
Mushroom-Spinach-Roasted Garlic-Black Pepper	
Spicy Salami .....	£9.00
Salami Piccante-Pepperoni-Chilli Rosso	
Ham & Mushroom .....	£9.00
Ham-Pancetta-Mushroom-Mascarpone	

**Drinks**

Bottled Beers from .....	£3.00
Stout-Ale-Lagers-Cider	
Red-White-Rose-Sparkling Wine	
Glass 175ml .....	£6.00
Bottle .....	£18.00

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**On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January.....**  
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**On Friday November 21st**  
**From 5pm – 10.30pm**  
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**JANUARY 23rd**



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