e Mundens with Sacombe Church and Parish

Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2025

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

Every Wednesday
9.30am Worship & Bible Study — Standon

Sunday 9th February
10.30am Holy Communion — Standon

Sunday 16th February (3rd before Lent)
8.00am Holy Communion — Standon
10.30am Holy Communion — Lt Munden

Sunday 23rd February (2nd before Lent)
10.30am Morning Worship & Baptism — Standon
6.00pm Choral Evensong — Standon

Sunday 2nd March (Next before Lent)
8.00am Holy Communion — Standon
10.30am Morning Worship — Lt Munden

Wednesday 5th March (Ash Wednesday)
7.30pm Ash Wednesday service — Sacombe

Sunday 9th March (Lent 1)
10.30am Holy Communion — Standon

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
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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR
That's another fine mess...

Some of the old Hollywood black and white comedies are still hilarious; one such is Laurel and Hardy. Like many comedies, they had a catch-phrase: "That's another fine mess you've gotten me into, Stanley". As I look around our situation it seems to feel like that the whole time. Our rivers are polluted; the kind of houses we want aren't built, but the kind we don't want are; our health service is, to put it mildly, struggling; discrimination and racism seem to be on the rise; we cannot control the effects of social media; our young people are increasingly without hope; economic growth appears impossible.

There are, of course, some good things happening, but overall, it appears we are on the slide.

What can we say about all these "messes"? I think it all points to a much deeper malaise. Commentators, thinkers and historians are all suggesting that we are in the twilight years of western civilisation and, as one indication of that, we have lost our uniting "story". That story was, of course, the Christian story. We can see how much of that is lost by our collective ignorance of the story, but also by the loss of the values that were held. Of the 10 commandments, those of theft and murder remain as values we aspire to, and even those two are under threat. Of the so-called seven deadly sins, perhaps only sloth is still seen as negative. The others are pride, greed, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony. Pride is celebrated (e.g. you must have pride in yourself...); without greed and envy our economy would soon collapse; wrath is everywhere on the internet, and the primeval urges of lust and gluttony are celebrated in advert and film. This diagnosis is now commonly accepted, to the extent that there is a call for a return to Christian values, without the faith and the content of the story behind it. Jordan Peterson is one such; Tom Holland another (although it seems he has come to a true faith recently). But it is not enough just to return to the values; we also need to accept the story and the spiritual life for it to work.

In this context, the words of Jesus of Nazareth are truly revolutionary. Your old medieval church may seem old-fashioned and reactionary, but in fact we follow a transforming belief. Our founder said, "Love your neighbour". "Love your enemy". "Lay down your life for your friends". "Give away your wealth". "Seek first God's Kingdom". "Do to others as you would have them do to you". "Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all". "Do not store up treasures on earth". No sign here of greed, or envy, or gluttony. Naturally we Christians fail, and fail often. (And the institution of the church has recently failed even more.) But to these values we aspire. And to the story we hold true.

As Easter approaches, the old story - that Jesus died and rose again, and sent his Holy Spirit - gives us both hope and power to carry on. To some it looks as though the church in the West will die. To me, when I see people hold to the words of Jesus and keep to the story, I know that is impossible. For it is a sign, in the messes around us, that God is in our midst, transforming our community. He will not leave us, because he loves us. He died for us and rose to new life.

In your old medieval churches, we still hold to the stories and to the words of Jesus; indeed, in the words of another old film, "The Greatest Story ever told". You are always welcome! **John Chitham**

COUNTRY MATTERS (January 9th)

Of our winter bird visitors, Redwings are the first to arrive, as most of them come from Iceland which has virtually no berry- bearing bushes, whereas Fieldfares, coming as they do from Scandinavia, have such berries, which they consume before leaving. In the case of Woodcock, which probe soft wet ground for worms, hard frost would prevent them from feeding. As our frosty periods are spasmodic they come here, although just a few are resident in woodland of a certain nature.

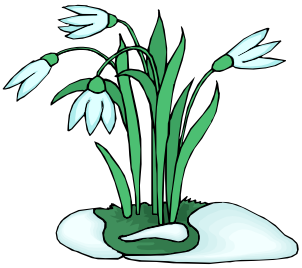
From now until late February we will not be expecting any calves, but it is different with the sheep. The ewes have just had their usual pre-lambing injections, covering six or seven diseases. They are due to lamb from about February 1st onwards.

BIRD OF THE MONTH
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers used to be fairly common here, at least one pair breeding on the farm, but the terrible gales of 1987 broke off the dead branches in which they used to drill their nest holes. There are still a few in areas unaffected by that gale, but I haven't seen one here for several years. In appearance their plumage is similar to their large cousin, being about the size of a sparrow with a barred back.

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/

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

A Date for your Diaries!
Saturday 29th March 10am-12noon
All Saints church LM are holding a coffee morning. There will be cakes to eat there and to take away . There will also be a chance to make a posy of daffodils for Mothering Sunday
(which is the next day)
All donations will go towards the repair of the church roof. Any queries speak to Chris Brown on 07747174758 or Deborah ovens on 07956686749

DAME ENDERS
FEBRUARY 6th 8pm - Memorial Hall, Dane End
Are you concerned about your personal and home security?
Our local PCSO Sally Brooks and her colleagues are coming to talk to us about keeping safe.
New members always welcome.

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL
The next meeting will be on
18th February at 6.30pm
THE ALLOTMENT MEETING
Followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7pm
In Little Munden Memorial Hall, Dane End
clerk@littlemundenpc.org.uk

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRLADY
Well, we are now all looking forward to the brighter, warmer days of spring in the not too distant future.
With that in mind, we as a Parish Council have been thinking about the allotments and how best they can serve the community. For much of the year a number of plots have been left unloved and so we have made a decision to split the area into two key areas. The plots towards the top end will be left as individual plots and the lower section will be cleared and made into a Community Allotment.

We feel this will be easier to manage and help bring the community together. Many people would love to get involved but cannot afford the time for managing a whole allotment. This way people can drop in as and when to come along and help maintain the area. This will be designed to meet all abilities; everyone from the very young to the more mature residents can get involved.

We will be holding a meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18th February in the Memorial Hall.

We look forward to seeing as many residents as possible at the meeting to look at the proposed plan and discuss any concerns they may have or suggest new ideas.

On another note, we have been busy planning events for the year and more details will follow in next month's Newsletter. **Tracey Harding**

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Tuesday 15th April 7.30pm
Annual Parish Meeting
All residents welcome to attend and have your say!

5th June - The Old Boot Bikers
Custom bikes and vintage cars
Horses Meadow

6th September - LMPC Village Fair

Throughout the summer there will be outdoor cinema events on Horses Meadow.
Dates to be announced.

Autumn - Halloween Party
Christmas - Panto Again!
Dates to be announced.

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 – 07947 653380
Yoga classes at Little Munden Memorial Hall . Saturdays at 10am and cost £10 per session.
Le French Club
Come along and meet other adult French speakers in your neighbourhood.
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

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING
Coffee and cake or
Russells famous sausage rolls for £6!
at the
Christmas Tree Farm from 9 - 12 noon
On Friday 21st February …..
AND
The Monthly Cheese and Wine Get Together
From 7pm
Eat and drink all day!

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.**

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

January 2025

Beech Class
Beech class having been learning about China this term so celebrating Chinese New Year fitted in nicely. The children made crowns, miniature dragons and learned all about the festival.

Hazel Class

Hazel Class enjoyed a Stone Age workshop just before Christmas, with the wonderful Adam coming to school to help us do lots of activities. We were archaeologists, digging for artefacts and then sorting how old they were; we had a go at archery; we learnt lots of stories and had lots of fun.

School Choir

Little Munden School Choir has been very busy, taking part in the joint schools carol service in Ware as well as being involved with our benefice carol service here at All Saints. We enjoyed singing with the grown ups from the church choir, and Angel even sang a solo!

Love shouldn't hurt.

Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline

08 088 088 088

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

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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.
For this month the poem will be instantly recognisable by many of our readers!

FIREWORKS

Horses were shod by appointment
At the forge by the stream near the pub
Where the sparks of the blue welded metal
Caught the eyes of father and son.

Filial friendship betokens
A fusion engendered by flux,
Chains vie with wrought-iron railings
At the hands of father and son.

Bello-fed embers burn bright in the hearth
As orange-glow, anvil and clump
Form fire-dogs and fenders, or pergola plaits
In the souls of the father and son.

Save The Boot: A Community Pub for Generations to Come

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The Save the Boot committee have been working in the background to ensure we have the where-with-all to save the Boot and this message is a plea to you all to help us save the pub.

We are at a pivotal moment for Dane End. Our much-loved pub, The Boot, is at risk of permanent closure. Once lost, this treasured village hub cannot be replaced.

Our plan is simple yet ambitious: to establish a Community Benefit Society (CBS) that will own and manage The Boot for the good of all. This means the pub will belong to the community—to *us and NOT to a property developer!*

What we need: To make this dream a reality, we need to raise c.£600,000 in total. The funds will cover:

- **£5,000** for essential surveys and professional advice (immediate need!)
- **C.£380,000** to purchase the building
- **C.£215,000** to restore and relaunch The Boot as a thriving pub

We hoped to secure up to £200,000 in grant funding from the Community Ownership Fund (COF) which was a government scheme to help gain funding for saving community assets such as pubs, shops, etc. However, the COF was paused for the election and has now been closed by the current government.

This leaves us with a huge sum to raise in order to secure the Boot for the community. The lions share of the amount needed must come from us—the local community. Every pound pledged brings us closer to owning and preserving this iconic building for future generations.

Why it matters: The Boot is more than just a pub. It's a place where friendships flourish, stories are shared, and community bonds grow stronger. Imagine The Boot buzzing with life again—a warm, welcoming space where we can gather for a pint, a meal, or a village event. Saving The Boot is about preserving our heritage and creating a lasting legacy.

How you can help right now: We need to know if the community is able to dig deep into their pockets and help fund the purchase and renovations of the Boot. You can pledge support by emailing us on the address below. We need to know who you are and how much you are willing to pledge.

NB: the forming of a CBS will mean owning shares in the Boot. More details on this will be shared once we know we can usefully strive forward.

Once we know that we can raise funds from the community (or not) we can move forward very swiftly.

Please act today. Every contribution and every pledge , large or small, makes a difference. Together, we can ensure The Boot's future as a community-owned pub.

Ways to pledge:

- Email us at: contacttheboot@gmail.com

Let's rally together to make this happen. The Boot is more than just bricks and mortar; it's the heart of Dane End. Let's not let it slip away.

Thank you for your support. Let's save The Boot and create something truly special for our community.

Warm regards,

Save the Boot committee.

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

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