



## The Mundens with Sacombe Church and Parish Newsletter DECEMBER 2016



### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December

*8.00am	Holy Communion	Standon
10.45am	United Worship	Little Munden

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

*9.30am	Holy Communion	Sacombe
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### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

9.15am	Family Worship	Little Munden
10.45am	Holy Communion	Standon

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

*9.30am	Holy Communion	Sacombe
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### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

10.45am	Nativity Service	Standon
3.00pm	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols	Standon
6.30pm	Carol Service	Little Munden

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

*9.30am	Holy Communion	Sacombe
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### Christmas Eve

3.00pm	Christingle	Little Munden
4.30pm	Christingle	Standon
7.30pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Sacombe
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Standon

### Christmas Day

9.15am	Family Worship	Little Munden
10.45am	Family Worship	Standon

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

*8.00am	Holy Communion	Standon
10.45am	United Worship	Little Munden

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

*9.30am	Holy Communion	Sacombe
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\* service from Book of Common Prayer

Prayers will be said on Thursday mornings at 9.15am in the upper room at Little Munden **except** on 29<sup>th</sup> December. Note also that there will be no service at Sacombe on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December.

Rector: Revd Alan Comfort, The Vicarage, Standon 01920 318864

Churchwardens:

Little Munden	Jeremy White	438575	
Sacombe	Peter Hudson	438379	Derek Wheeler 438875

Website: [www.ubsms.org.uk](http://www.ubsms.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3](https://www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3)

Twitter: @unitedbenefice3



## Bible Readings for December

4 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Romans 15: 4-13, Matthew 3: 1-12
11 <sup>th</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11
18 <sup>th</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	<i>See Orders of Service</i>
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve (Midnight Communion)	Titus 3: 3-7, Luke 2: 1-14
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day	<i>To be advised</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas	Hebrews 2: 10-end, Matthew 2: 13-end

### Letter from the Rector

*Can you really believe Donald Trump will be the next President of the United States? Who would have guessed it? Well, the writers of The Simpsons, Channel 4's irreverent show, did. They predicted back in the year 2000 that Trump would be President. When the show's creator, Matt Groening, was asked about this, he told The Guardian: "We predicted he would be president back in 2000 – but [Trump] was of course the most absurd joke name that we could think of at the time, and that's still true. It's beyond satire." Despite the shock and widespread disbelief, I do hope he surprises us by being a good President, because the world certainly needs him to be.*

*Such shocks remind us how little control we have in this life. The polls assured us that the UK would vote to remain in Europe, but look what happened on June 23rd. Leicester City were 5000/1 to win the Premier League at the beginning of last season, but were fairy tale champions by May. Given the unpredictable times we live in, I'm glad I'm not a so-called 'expert' who tells people what is about to happen, when the 'impossible' seems quite likely, rather than just absurd.*

*For some people, the 'impossible' part of the Christmas Story sits in the way of belief. In the Bible, Luke Chapter 1 tells us an angel appeared to Mary, who was engaged to be married to Joseph, and told her: "You will be with child and give birth to a son". "How will this be?" she asked, having never slept with her future husband. "Nothing is impossible with God" the angel tells her in verse 37. Note the passage does not say, 'everything will be easy', but 'nothing is impossible'.*



*Could the next few weeks of your life help to mend old and painful wounds, or revive a tired and burnt-out life?*

*The Christmas hope is something magical and meaningful, and very real. I remember many years ago receiving a call from a friend from my footballing days. Life had been tough for him and his family, which in part had led to his decision to put Jesus at the centre of his life. He had made mistakes, but longed for his family to have a fresh start. He wondered whether things could ever be different. As he opened his Christmas present from his wife, he found a book about sharing your faith in Jesus, and written inside: 'Please may I be the first person you tell?' That day the impossible happened. There is no doubt that life can be difficult for many of us, but grasping the possibilities God can make possible are just a prayer away. Why not welcome Jesus into your life, your family and your home this Christmas? Have a blessed and happy Christmas with love from all at our three churches.*

**Alan Comfort**

### Churches' Christmas Appeal

This year the churches in the benefice are collecting at their Christmas services for two local charities: **The Living Room**, a centre in Stevenage for people with problems of dependence and addiction, and **Future Living** in Hertford, which works, in addition, with victims of domestic abuse and violence. Members of our churches are deeply involved in both of these charities, and the vital work that they carry out. Your support towards this appeal would be greatly appreciated.

**Jazz Concert  
Walkin' With The King  
with John Petters  
and New Orleans All Stars  
Saturday 4th February, 2017  
at 7.30 pm  
All Saints Church, Little Munden  
Dane End SG12 0PE  
Tickets £15  
Available from church members or  
Barbara Springate 01920 43827**

## LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, the details of which will appear on the website soon in draft form.

The next meeting will be on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 8pm

In the meantime we wish all residents of the Parish a very Happy Christmas.



### Hertford and Villages Children's Centre Group

We have some new free parenting courses coming up in the New Year which you need to book on in advance to ensure a place.

**Family Toolkit** – a 4 week course to provide lots of tips and strategies to help avoid temper tantrums and difficult-to-cope-with behaviours. The course will help you make family life run more smoothly. (starts Jan'17)

**Happy and Healthy** – a 6 week course aimed to help improve yours and your family's health and well-being. Topics include stress busting, confidence building and self-esteem. (starts Feb'17)

**Parenting Puzzle** – a 10 week course to help parents cope with the ups and downs of family life. Topics include behaviour, discipline and relationships. There is lots of emphasis on the positive aspects of parenting and having fun with your children. (starts April '17)

As always we have **Stay and Play** sessions on Wednesdays at Beane Valley in the morning and Hertford Selections in the afternoon. On Monday mornings at Beane Valley we have **Out to Play** session, where the whole time is spent in our garden playing whatever the weather so please come dressed appropriately.

**Baby Sensory** sessions are on Thursday morning at Beane Valley Children's Centre and Friday morning at Hertford Selections Children's Centre. **Dad's Club** still runs on the first Saturday of the month at Beane Valley and there is a **Saturday Stay and Play** on the third Saturday of the month at Beane Valley and on the fourth Saturday of the month at Hertford Selections.

Please have a look at: [www.hertfordandvillagescc.org.uk](http://www.hertfordandvillagescc.org.uk) to see what is happening in the area. Also like us on our Facebook page: Hertford & Villages Children's Centres.

Our telephone number is 01920 831053 should you have any queries.

## LOCAL CONSTABULARY

Buntingford Rural West includes: Dane End, Green End, Haultwick, Little Munden, Great Munden, Levens Green, Nasty and are covered by PC 553 Les Bridger and PCSO 6135 Steve Blanks Contact: 01992 533329 or 101

### 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.

### EMERGENCY/CRIME OCCURRING NOW 999

**Non-emergency number 101**

Or **01707 354000**

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

**Call anonymously with information about crime.**



## DANE END STORES

### AND POST OFFICE

01920 438984

Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm

Closed Wednesday afternoons

Saturday 8am to 6pm

Sunday 8.30am to 12.30pm

Bank Holidays 9am – 12pm

Magazines and newspapers can be ordered.

## THE MUNDENS WEBSITES

[www.mundens.net](http://www.mundens.net)

[webmaster@mundens.net](mailto:webmaster@mundens.net)

[www.themundenssource.myfreeforum.org](http://www.themundenssource.myfreeforum.org)

[www.hertsmemories.org.uk](http://www.hertsmemories.org.uk)

Walking in Herts [www.walkinginherts.co.uk](http://www.walkinginherts.co.uk)

[www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults](http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults)

## LITTLE MUNDEN MEMORIAL HALL

Children's parties : £10 per hour (up to 6.30pm)

Other functions : £15 per hour

For further information: Jo Wheeler 438875

email: [dane-endhallbookings@outlook.com](mailto:dane-endhallbookings@outlook.com)

## Great Munden Parish Christmas Get Together Friday 9th December from 6-8 pm

at St. Nicholas Church,  
Great Munden

Come and enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies with friends and neighbours  
Great Munden Parish Council



## ISABEL HOSPICE

### 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Lights of Love

#### Herford Castle 4pm- 5pm

At the Lights of Love ceremonies, the lights on the trees are symbolic in remembering and celebrating the lives of loved ones at this special time of the year. Each ceremony has a Book of Love, in which the names of loved ones are entered. The book can be viewed at the ceremony, and then will be on display at the nearest Isabel Hospice shop until the beginning of January. At the ceremony there will be a short service of remembrance, the singing of carols, and a countdown to the lighting of the tree. You will be able to take home a small star to keep and hang on your own Christmas tree. You can make your dedication online at [www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk) or 01707 382500.

### 20<sup>th</sup> December – Carols in the Chapel.

#### Haileybury College, Hertford Heath – 7pm

Join us for a wonderful evening of carols in the beautiful candlelit chapel at the prestigious Haileybury, the perfect way to celebrate the festive season. Buy your tickets online at [www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk) or for more information please contact Megan Sparrey on 01707 382500.

#### Midweek Meditation

**A new weekly Mindfulness & Relaxation Meditation Group in Dane End to be held every Wednesday starting the 18th January 2017. The sessions will run from 7.30-8.30pm and will be only £5 per session. Contact me on 07400 546246 for more information and to book your place.**

#### **Reverse Advent Calendar and the Food Bank**

In last month's newsletter, we invited people to put aside an item for the Food Bank each day in the run-up to Christmas, and to put their contributions into the box provided in each of our churches. It may be that you will want to provide items of a festive nature, and these will be greatly appreciated. The Food Bank organisers aim to enable those who rely on their help to have as good a Christmas as may be, and indeed some 30 families will be given supplies to enable them to have a "proper" Christmas dinner. Please be aware, however, that it will be necessary to bring Christmassy goods to one of our churches by **Sunday 11th December**, in order that they may be taken to the warehouse in the following week, and sorted out for the eventual recipients the week after that.

Other goods will be held back here, so that a "Bumper Offering" can be taken over at the beginning of the new year. They are always very glad to receive fruit juices (they never have enough), and have particularly mentioned hot chocolate, coffee, instant mash, sponge puddings and tinned tomatoes.

## THE BOOT

Little Munden Cricket club held their presentation evening which included a Race Night on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, great fun was had by all.



Don't forget to come and join us at our **next Coffee Morning on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10am – 12 noon**. A cup of coffee/tea and a slice of homemade cake for £2.50. No need to pre-book, just turn up and bring your friends/neighbours.

For those of you who enjoy reading our **Book Club will be holding it's first meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30pm onwards.**

We are still planning to open the kitchen **on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** to serve traditional pub food. We are still looking for a Cook – so if anyone is interested please drop your CV or a letter into the pub or e-mail [hevans33@yahoo.com](mailto:hevans33@yahoo.com). The hours are approximately 15-20 a week including weekends, job sharers would be welcome.

The next date for Bingo will be **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, fun starts at 7pm**. Everyone welcome.



If you are interested in holding a party or any event in the pub please either call Matt on 01920 438770 or pop in during opening times.



#### Opening Hours:

Monday 5pm – 10pm  
Tuesday – Thursday 5pm – 11pm  
Friday & Saturday 12noon – 11pm  
Sunday 12noon – 10pm

#### **Mick & Matt**

#### *VILLAGE LUNCH*

*for Dane End and around*

hosted by Little Munden Church

**Thursday 8th December**

**12 noon**

**Memorial Hall**

Delicious main course, pudding and coffee.

Great fun and friendship,  
and a short thought from the Rector,  
maybe even another joke!

Suggested donation from £5

Lifts can be arranged

Call Deborah on 01920 438436

or email [deborahovens27@gmail.com](mailto:deborahovens27@gmail.com)

## STOP LAGOON AT DANE END APPEAL UPDATE

Indegro did not respond to the Inspectorate (by the 25th Nov deadline) regarding East Herts District Council's request that the appeal be subject to a Public Hearing. Indegro had asked to submit only in writing - this being a simpler process and at zero cost to themselves. However, given unprecedented community objection, EHDC Planning feel that a written appeal is not be the public interest and that it should be considered properly at a Public Hearing. A Public Hearing is expected by East Herts to span a number of days at significant cost to all parties. Now the Inspector will decide by which process the public interest, in this Appeal, is best served and we are told to expect Appeal Validation in the first week of December.

At this point Indegro's appeal documents will be made available for us all to read.

### 5 -WEEKS CLOCK TO OBJECTION DEADLINE

Upon Validation, a 5-Week clock will immediately start ticking by which time all objections will have to be submitted for consideration.

### SLADE COMMUNITY FORMAL OBJECTION

On the day of validation, SLADE's planning and legal consultants will be instructed to evaluate and submit detailed reports on Indegro's appeal documents. Further evidence to underpin the Planning Committee's 'Refusal' will be compiled and presented. This extensive, well planned span of works will be submitted by SLADE to the Inspectorate. We and our consultants will have just five short weeks to complete.

### What Can You Do?

#### WAR CHEST: £5000 SHORTFALL

We need to raise £15,000 in total to cover our costs. We are short £5000 to pay our planning/legal team. All our funds must be in place before Validation – **before the clock starts**. Obviously we can only instruct work that we have money already in place to fund. So please don't wait - make your donation urgently NOW before it's too late.

### POSTERS & OBJECTIONS

Posters need to go up in the windows of every home. Sacombe Pound and Munden Road will be the most impacted by 16 massive, 6-axel tankers thundering past their doors every day. Please let people know you care.

Road signs to match our posters will be posted all along our lanes in December. Objections from each one of us will need to be made direct to the Inspectorate once the clock start ticking. Please get yours ready or find the ones you made before – with small adjustments, these can be sent again. We will circulate submission details when we have them.

Thank you for your support. Together we will beat this!

Carolyn Marlow - Chair of SLADE community group



## Little Munden Church of England (VC) Primary School The perfect start to your child's education!

Little Munden Nursery and Primary School in Dane End provides children with a welcoming, stimulating and supportive learning environment in an idyllic countryside setting. Caring teachers work with each child, tailoring work to their individual ability within an exciting Creative Curriculum.

### Apply for your September 2017 Reception place now!

If you have a child who was born between **1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013** you need to apply for a Reception place in a primary, infant or first school now. Applications for admissions opened on **Monday 7th November 2016** and the deadline for applications is **Sunday 15th January 2017**.

At Little Munden we welcome children from Dane End and all surrounding hamlets, villages and towns.



*"This is a good school... Achievement is good."*

*"Teachers are highly dedicated to their pupils; they model enthusiasm for learning and share a strong rapport with them."*

**Ofsted - February 2014**

Why not arrange to visit our school, meet our Headteacher, Mrs Breeze, and find out what Little Munden can offer your Reception aged child?

To find out more about our school please visit our website or, to arrange a school visit, please telephone us on **01920 438271**.

We look forward to hearing from you!  
[www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk](http://www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk)

**AND FINALLY  
A WORD FROM THE EDITOR!**

During the summer, Pete and I went to stay at Emilys in Devon, we had a wonderful week indulging ourselves with Henry. One evening we all went to an open air production of Peter Pan in a nearby National Trust house garden, it was an absolutely perfect evening, warm and still.

Emily made up a picnic and we met some friends of hers there, it was a lovely social event.

We took a couple of fold up canvas garden chairs we had come across in a house clearance and had taken down for Emily.

They were in plastic bags and nice and clean and felt they were a preferable option to sitting on a blanket on the grass...we just cant do that nowadays!

All sitting suitably comfortable - at the front - with drink in one hand and plate of food in the other, the performers came on stage and then, we heard a soft sound, the sound of tearing....and Pete with great elegance slowly disappeared through the seat and landed on the grass below! It caused a lot of sniggering from the people around us, Aidan looked vaguely like: 'they are **not** with us'!

Having clambered out of the seat frame, Pete then spent the first half of the performance on the blanket with the others whilst I sat regally in my folding chair! During the interval, I had Henry on my lap, a family nearby with four young children were very taken with him so I put him on the grass where they then all entertained each other.....thankfully as it turned out.....

The performers came back on stage and prepared to start their spiel when.....**RRRRRiiiiiiPPPPPP**.....! The canvas on my chair gave way with a whopping loudness and wallop, landing me on the grass with my backside right through, my knees up at my nose...all this whilst wearing a skirt....!!

Everyones head swivelled, including the Peter Pan cast! Pete rushed to my aid as did a lady nearby and the pair of them tried to heave me out whilst trying in vain to preserve my dignity, I was also most concerned that I had landed on my bottle of cider, carefully placed **under** my seat thus avoiding getting knocked over by passing peoples feet!!

The gathering ladies assured me my cider was unbelievably still upright unlike me, I was by then in a stooping posture as, although I had been 'stood up', my backside was wedged into the frame, so I had to suffer the indignity of a third person being summoned to prise the chair from my rear end!!

Emily and her chums were collapsed with laughter whilst Aidan had a sort of....'oh no, mother-in-law is at it again' look!!

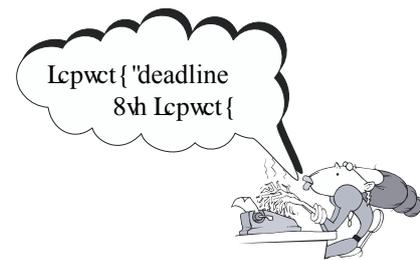
One of the little boys who had been playing with Henry during the interval very sweetly came and gave me a hug asking if I had hurt myself, I reassured him I hadnt

although secretly felt it was my modesty that was wounded!

Needless to say, the Peter Pan cast waited until I had dusted myself down and Pete and I had retreated to one of the very grand wrought iron benches right in front of the N.T. house that only an earthquake could have collapsed before they embarked on part two of their performance!

*Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor.*

**Please take your news to Barbara Springate at:  
Horseshoe Villa, Munden Road or  
email [jackiemorris@tesco.net](mailto:jackiemorris@tesco.net)**



## **JAPANESE SINK HOLE Repaired in two days.....**

Come on Hertfordshire County Council  
Highways Department.....  
If they can do it....  
**So can you!**

