



**The Mundens with Sacombe  
Church and Parish  
Newsletter  
JANUARY 2017**



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

9.15am            Family Worship                                  Little Munden  
10.45am          Holy Communion                                Standon

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

\*9.30am          Holy Communion                                Sacombe

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

\*9.30am          Holy Communion                                Sacombe

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

9.15am            Holy Communion                                Little Munden  
10.45am          Family Worship                                 Standon

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

\*9.30am          Holy Communion                                Sacombe

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

\*8.00am          Holy Communion                                Standon  
10.45am          United Worship                                 Sacombe

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

\*9.30am          Holy Communion                                Sacombe

\*      service from Book of Common Prayer

Prayers will be said on Thursday mornings at 9.15am in the upper room at Little Munden

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

Twitter:   @unitedbenefice3

**Bible Readings for January**

8 <sup>th</sup> January	The Epiphany	Psalm 5, Mark 1: 7-11
15 <sup>th</sup> January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Psalm 34, John 1: 29-42
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Psalm 10, Matthew 4: 12-23
29 <sup>th</sup> January	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Psalm 51, John 2: 1-11

## Letter from the Rector

As we start this new year, experience tells me it's often the unexpected shocks rather than good intentions that enable us to make those much needed changes in our lives. Perhaps this explains why the majority of our new year's resolutions are forgotten within days? Out of the 45% of Americans who made new year resolutions last year, only 8% kept them. Good intentions, it seems, don't hold our attention for long. My sister, on the other hand, has just started a serious 'get healthy' regime. Losing some weight and feeling better about herself will be nice, but her reasons are wholly different. Our older sister who died back in September, and our Dad who died the previous year, both suffered from type 2 diabetes due to being overweight. My sister can hear the warning bells ringing as her weight goes up, but she is determined to overcome. If you are trying to make a much needed change in your life, I want to encourage you to hang in there.

Christmas through the eyes of your local churches has been exceptional. The choir-led Carol Services at All Saints and St. Catherine's were heavenly. The Christingle Services were equally beautiful, and our Christmas Village Lunch was a memorable occasion with our Little Munden School children singing Christmas songs and carols to us. (If you haven't been - on the third Thursday of each month, from 12pm, we share great food, company, and some chat for near on fifty mainly older people. Consider yourself invited.)

I can't resist another plug for our brilliant little school. Little Munden C of E Primary School is an exceptional place for our children to grow up in. Mrs. Breeze and her fabulous staff and volunteer team deserve our thanks and support, as they keep alive the unique atmosphere that a small school can offer. If you have small children and are thinking of where to send them, please visit the school and let them show you just how special it is.

Back to those good intentions. Coming to church at Christmas can spark a desire to think our faith through. If Jesus really lived, died, and rose up from the grave, and by so doing can change our lives for good, then maybe it's time to 'come back' to church, to read the Bible, to pray more, to give the notion of faith the chance to grow in us. Yet such a thought often gets swallowed up, like the rest of our new year's resolutions, once the normal busyness takes over again. Eating, drinking and spending less may be very necessary for us as this new year begins, but what about those deeper needs? Like the man who came to me this past year and said he needed to find God because he had tried everything else. The health service could

not help him, other people could not help him, he could not help himself; he needed God. Experience has shown me over many, many years, that when someone needs God's help he or she will always find it. This is more than a good intention. Talk to a Christian friend; come to church or a lunch; ring my number. Faith helps! **Alan Comfort**

## THE BOOT

Happy New Year to all our customers and hope you had a lovely Christmas.

New Years Eve in the Boot was a tremendous success. Thanks to Rachel & Alex behind the bar, the beer and wine flowed throughout the evening and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



The Beer Festival last November was very well attended, many of you came along to sample the beers from The Brewers, Haresfoot, Hoddesdon and Red Squirrel breweries. The band 'Just Dig This' played in the evening and were enjoyed by all.

The next date for Bingo will be **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, fun starts at 7pm.** Everyone welcome.



Stars in their Eyes is coming to The Boot, **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January from 8pm.** If you sound like or look like your favourite showbiz star then come along and show off your talents - singing, dancing or even telling jokes. Prizes will be awarded for the best look-a-like or sound-a-like.

The next Coffee morning will be **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** come along and bring a friend or neighbour and enjoy some friendly conversation, homemade cakes and coffee or tea. No need to pre-book, just turn up.

The kitchen is now open for traditional pub food, we are still looking for a Cook – so if anyone is interested please contact the pub on 01920 438770. The hours are approximately 15-20 a week including weekends, job sharers would be welcome. Food is served Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 12-5pm and Sunday 12-4pm.

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**

## Reverse Advent Calendar and the Food Bank

We would like to thank all the people who donated towards our Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. We were overwhelmed at your generosity. There were bags and boxes of provisions left in the churches almost every day during December. On 5th January we loaded 3 cars and delivered about a quarter of a ton of provisions to the Harlow Food Bank warehouse. If you would like to continue to donate there is a box for Food Bank items in the churches.



**Jazz Concert  
Walkin' With The King  
with John Petters  
and New Orleans All Stars  
Saturday 4th February  
at 7.30 pm**

**All Saints Church, Little Munden  
Dane End SG12 0PE  
Tickets £15  
Available from church members or  
Barbara Springate 01920 43827**

## 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.**

## Midweek Meditation

**A new weekly Mindfulness & Relaxation  
Meditation Group in Dane End to be held  
every Wednesday starting the 18th January.  
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.**

## Hertford and Villages Children's Centre Group

We have a **First Aid for Babies and Children** course coming up on Saturday 11th March in the morning. This 3 hour course will teach you the basics of what you may need to do in an emergency. The session costs £10 and you will receive a handbook and certificate. Please call the number below to book a place.

**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)

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 to get any updates on what may be happening. Our telephone number is 01920 831053 should you have any queries.

## 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)



*VILLAGE LUNCH*  
*for Dane End and around*  
hosted by Little Munden Church  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January**  
**12 noon**  
**Memorial Hall**

Delicious main course, pudding and coffee.  
Great fun and friendship,  
If you haven't been before,  
do come and join us this New Year  
Suggested donation from £5  
Lifts can be arranged  
Call Deborah on 01920 438436  
or email [deborahovens27@gmail.com](mailto:deborahovens27@gmail.com)

**LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The next meeting will be on**  
**January 15<sup>th</sup> at 8pm**  
**Dane End Memorial Hall**

**The Lagoon**

The farmers in the area that are going to use the Digestate fertiliser are rural businesses keen to be part of the renewable energy sector by using this byproduct derived from the production of electricity from our waste food.

The Digestate fertiliser is a highly regulated product overseen by the Environment Agency to allow the recycling of plant nutrients back to the soil. Not a toxic cocktail as some would believe.

The Digestate may have some short term mild odor when applied but no worse than many other farming activities.

Although not needed, a cover for the lagoon has been incorporated into the design to alleviate any local concerns.

The Lagoon will not require lighting that can be seen from any direction.

The alternative to the proposed lagoon with the 4 deliveries a day between set times and on a set route will most likely be the use of temporary holding tanks or lagoons.

Unfortunately this will require the use of more of the local road network and the greater use of agricultural vehicles and tanker lorries during the spreading period.

Please ask for any information:  
Keith Williams - Green End Farm

**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)

**GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE**

We now have our sights firmly set on the year ahead, building on our successful year last year and with our fingers firmly crossed for good garden weather.

As usual we will start the year with two Snowdrop Sundays, on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The snowdrops started to show their tips in December, but cold weather in December has stopped them getting as ahead of themselves as they did last year and hopefully there will be more cold weather to ensure that bugs and slugs are killed off too, so we don't have to face quite so many eating up our annuals in the Italian Garden.

The Walled Garden is quickly returning to a productive and attractive kitchen garden. Through 2016 we picked and jammed, jellied and chutneyed the fruit in the garden. So, for 2017 we are looking forward to a bumper crop and to harvest and make available the produce, in particular at the Apple Day planned for September 17<sup>th</sup>. But before that, from the first Open Day of the season on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, visitors will see the new fruit trees blossom and the major progress we have made in bringing under control and planting up the far end of the garden.

We are looking forward to the new year and bringing current projects through to completion and starting new ones. How about joining us, as volunteers and/or as visitors? or contact us to arrange a talk about the gardens or a private group tour. Information: call 01371 876979 and leave a message or email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk)

**THANKS**

My mum and I would like to thank everyone involved with the monthly Village Lunch for all their hard work. When the Lunch was first mentioned to us we were a bit sceptical and not sure if it was really our thing. We went along to the first one just out of curiosity and were absolutely amazed. The village hall looked fantastic and everyone was so warm and welcoming and the food is always delicious. We have been to every one so far and the Christmas lunch was a lovely way to round off the year - the children from Little Munden singing at the beginning and everyone joining in with carols after lunch.

So if anyone is thinking about going along to the Lunch but - like us - is a bit unsure, my advice is to give it a go; you will be really pleased you did! !

**Anthea and Joyce Cook - Great Munden**

*Aphorism* - a short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation, or a general truth:

*Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.*

*A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.*

*Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?*

*No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.*

*Always be yourself, because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones that do mind, don't matter.*

## Badminton

We hope you all had an excellent Christmas and that 2017 is kind to us all.

Our badminton players have been busy both within the village and around the Country.

The junior and senior clubs continue to play on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and are flourishing, though new players will always be made very welcome.

On December 4, the junior clubs of East Herts met at Ware Drill Hall for a friendly tournament. Ciaran and Troy played with youngsters from other junior clubs in the district and, although they didn't win, they played some excellent badminton.

Charlie Windebank and Alastair and Daniel Bennett met and played with Marcus Ellis on December 16 at the university courts in Hatfield. Marcus, with Chris Langridge, won bronze medals at the Rio Olympics last Summer. They were able to maintain rallies and managed to play some excellent winning shots. As Chris couldn't be there, Zach Daniels, one of Hertfordshire's top players, made up a four and was very impressive. Our young players were not daunted by the reputation of their opposition and played so well some of the other coaches present wanted them to join their clubs! And we got a photo:-



Charlie has been busy playing in both Badminton England (BE) national tournaments and County matches recently. Although it has meant some very early mornings and lots of travelling it has been well worth it. In October Charlie and his partner won a bronze medal at the BE Under 12 doubles tournament in Leicester. He followed that with

bronze in the singles and gold in the boy's doubles at the BE Under 12 tournament in Warwick in November and then won silver in the singles and gold (plus an impressive trophy!) in the boy's doubles at the Herts Schools Badminton Association's Under 11 tournament the following day. Just before Christmas he won two bronze medals at the BE DKWay Under 14 tournament - one in boy's doubles, the other in mixed doubles. Charlie is also Captain of the Under 12 County squad that plays in The Shires League - an intercounty team competition - and has contributed 7 wins from the 8 matches he has played so far. Hertfordshire Under 12s are currently lying second out of 17 teams so onward and upward in 2017. Charlie's success has spurred him on and he is looking forward to gaining more experience, and hopefully success, at tournaments over the coming months.

Alastair entered a tournament and played for the Under 14 County team against Berkshire. Although he only won one of his four matches, he was proud to have been picked. Alastair also played well in the Under 11 Herts badminton tournament and won the bronze medal in the singles competition. Dan was picked for the Under 12 team but tennis clashed I'm afraid and that wins with him.

Charlie, Alastair and Daniel would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Dane End Juniors Badminton Club, and Brian in particular, for their support and generosity in subsidising the boys' County squad fees again this season. It is very much appreciated.

Should you or any of your family wish to join us, please contact Brian 438561 or [fullmasher@freeuk.com](mailto:fullmasher@freeuk.com). You don't need to be County standard to enjoy this game. Brian, Carole and Carolyn.

### Saturday Sports

The Sports Club meets weekly on Saturday mornings in term time at Little Munden School 10-11am. There is touch rugby and football, for boys and girls aged 5-15 years. Why not come and give it a go? Dads are welcome to join in too, and it's all free.



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

We spent Christmas in Devon and had a wonderful time with 'our boy' Henry, he really is such a happy chappy and so good. Christmas morning having accidentally left his toys at home, he found the service sheet to be of great interest and sat through the church service chatting away to himself. Emily thought he may get fed up and be a nuisance but he wasn't at all...it was Nano Jacko who **was!**

Emily had been up at the front being a prop for the vicars sketch, when she returned, I got out of the pew to let her back in (which was the very last one at the back by the vestry), I stepped back, not realising there was a deep step behind me, wallop...backwards I plunged, flailing my arms trying to find something to hold on to but the only thing at hand was a wooden disabled ramp which I pulled over, landing spectacularly on my back with the ramp on top of me!

In the few moments it took to fall and land, I remember thinking 'thank goodness Pete had closed the vestry door when we sat down', it was ajar and very draughty, had it have been open, I would have flown backwards into the room!

My recollection as I lay there with Pete and Emily trying to get me up off the floor (Emily with Henry in one arm!) was of the congregations heads swivelled backwards looking over their pews to see what had happened!

Once I was upright, I dusted myself down and assured them that I hadn't YET had a drink!

Thank goodness Aidan wasn't there when mother-in-law was at it again!



As usual we took our pets away with us; Noodle (dog) and Topsy and Patch (cats).

We went from Devon to Gower but sadly had an upset a couple of days later.

I put Topsy and Patch out in the garden to 'powder their noses', Patch was the aged of the two, blind, with a heart murmur and on blood pressure tablets.

She had been getting more and more frail over the last few weeks.

I never leave her out for long due to her aged status. When I went to get them back in, I was devastated to find Patch dead on our terrace, she had only just died.

Although I have had cats all my life, I have never had one pass away like this, it was such a shock....

Our menagerie is shrinking thus our travelling is getting easier, one has to say, being very aged herself, goodness knows how much longer Noodle will last.

Emily and Aidan bought us a ramp to get her in and out of the car; Emily was horrified that Pete was lifting her in and out; he has been doing so all the years we have had her.

She used to be able to get in and out on her own but refused once she saw Pete having to lift our aged Honey, Noodle wanted the same minimum effort treatment!

However, now she too is aged, her arthritis is too bad to get in and out on her own!

Anyhow, I secretly felt the ramp could be waste of money as I feel we won't get our monies-worth!

Pete has spent some considerable time trying to get her to use it....she doesn't like it at all and Pete ends up by carrying her up and carrying her down the ramp in the hope she will get the idea!

Over the years Pete has tried numerous contraptions to get her in and out but short of a block and tackle, none have been in the slightest successful so until the time comes when Noodle will join our other pets Over the Rainbow Bridge, I will hang on to the surgical truss I keep handy 'just in case'!

Happy New Year to one and all!

**MORE THANKS!**

We want to say a very special thank you to all those involved in making the monthly 'Village lunch' such a wonderful gathering and for working **so** hard in preparing and cooking such a veritable feast!

The last lunch of 2016 was a truly joyous occasion starting off the Christmas celebrations with a splendid Christmas meal, carols and even presents!

We can not thank each and every one of you enough for all your hard work and for the wonderful fellowship you have created.

**Margaret Casbard and Pete Morris - Green End**

*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)**

February deadline  
27th January

