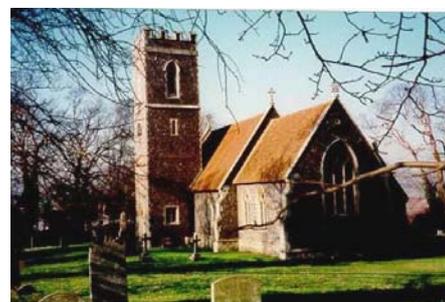


**The Mundens with Sacombe
Church and Parish
Newsletter
DECEMBER 2017**



Tuesday 5th December

9.30am Holy Communion BCP Sacombe

Wednesday 6th December

9.15am Holy Communion CW Standon

Sunday 10th December

9.15am Family Worship CW Little Munden

10.45am Holy Communion CW Standon

4.45pm St Mary's at the School Roger de Clare School

Tuesday 12th December

9.30am Holy Communion BCP Sacombe

Wednesday 13th December

9.15am Holy Communion CW Standon

Sunday 17th December

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Little Munden

11.00am Walking Nativity Roger de Clare School

3.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols Standon

6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service Little Munden

Tuesday 19th December

9.30am Holy Communion BCP Sacombe

Wednesday 20th December

9.15am Holy Communion CW Standon

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle Service Little Munden

4.30pm Christingle Service Standon

7.30pm Candlelit Carol Service Sacombe

11.30pm Midnight Communion CW Standon

Christmas Day

9.15am Christmas Family Worship with Communion (CW) Little Munden

10.45am Christmas Family Worship CW Standon

Sunday 31st December

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Standon

10.45am United Worship CW Sacombe

Sunday 7th January

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Standon

10.45am United Worship CW Little Munden

4.45pm St Mary's at the School Roger de Clare School

Tuesday 9th January

9.30am Holy Communion BCP Sacombe

Wednesday 10th January

9.15am Holy Communion CW Standon



For various reasons, the only prayer meeting this month will be on Thursday 21st December, 9.15am in the Upper Room at All Saints. They will resume regularly on 11th January.

Churchwardens:

Little Munden Jeremy White 438575
Sacombe Peter Hudson 438379 Derek Wheeler 438875
Website: www.ubsms.org.uk
www.facebook.com/unitedbenefice3 Twitter: @unitedbenefice3

Readings for December:

10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent 2 Peter 3: 8-15a, Mark 1: 1-8
17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24, John 1: 6-8 & 19-28
24th December Christmas Midnight Communion Hebrews 1; 1-4 [5-12], John 1: 1-14
31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas Galatians 4: 4-7, Luke 2: 15-21
7th January Epiphany Ephesians 3: 1-12, Matthew 2: 1-12

Letter from the Rector

May I start my Christmas piece by wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas-time from our Church family. Yes, I do realise Christmas is still over three weeks away, and of course much must happen in that short space of time before we can all finally sit down and be 'happy and peaceful', but this is a special time of the year, isn't it? Our thoughts are clearly with those for whom this is a more difficult time, but for most of us it will be a celebration. Whether we are celebrating for the same reasons is another question altogether, as Christmas means many different things to many different people, but Happy Christmas anyway. Given all I have said, may I remind you why Christmas is important to me as a Christian. For me, the purpose of Christmas is indeed a celebration but the reason for this celebration is found in Luke Ch 2 v 10-11: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." As the angels and shepherds sang or gazed in wonder, God had wonderful news that would cause them and us to rejoice and celebrate, and we will!

This celebration unravels the message of Christmas: God loves us. The most famous statement in the Bible is Jesus' explanation of why God sent him to earth: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3 v 16) Can you hear that Christmas message? God loves us so much that he came to earth as a human, so that we could get to know him and learn to trust him and love him back. Theologians call this the Incarnation. God became one of us, a human being, so that we could understand what he is really like.

This is all lovely, but what difference does the Christmas message make? The baby born in Bethlehem did not stay a baby. Jesus grew up, and modelled for us the kind of life that pleases God, taught us the truth, paid for every sin we commit by

dying on a cross, then proved that he was God and could save us, by coming back to life. An American writer named Rick Warren said it like this in his little book 'The Purpose of Christmas': 'When the Romans nailed Jesus to a cross, they stretched his arms as wide as they could. With his arms wide open, Jesus was physically

demonstrating, "I love you this much! I love you so much it hurts! I'd rather die than live without you!" The next time you see a picture or statue of Jesus with outstretched arms on the cross, remember, he is saying, "I love you this much!"

Come and hear more. Come and celebrate.

Come and worship this Christmas.

Rev. Alan Comfort - Rector of All Saints & St. Catherine's

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING AT ST CATHERINE'S

The people of Sacombe Church are very grateful to everyone who helped them to celebrate their anniversary weekend at the end of November. The coffee morning raised over £1,200 for the church development fund, which will be a useful contribution towards the cost of the proposed toilet and kitchen facilities, for which plans are well under way.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH
for Dane End and around

hosted by Little Munden Church

Thursday 7th December

12 noon

Memorial Hall

Delicious main course, pudding and coffee.

Great fun and friendship,

and a short thought from the Rector.

Suggested donation from £5

Lifts can be arranged

Call Deborah on 01920 438436

or email deborahovens27@gmail.com

Here is Love!

(a musical extravaganza)

will take place for one night only

on

Saturday 3rd February

at 7.30 pm

in All Saints Church

Little Munden

Tickets: £15

Drinks and canapes will be

Served during the interval

Parking available

Tickets available from Barbara Springate

01920 438277

Take time for yourself!

Dane End Midweek Meditation Group

Did you know that regular meditation can help you to reduce stress, lower blood pressure/cholesterol, improve sleep – as well as aiding emotional stability, positive thinking and a sense of inner peace?

Come and join our friendly weekly meditation group held in:

Easington Road every Wednesday evening between 7.30 and 8.30pm, in a comfortable and relaxing environment.

Sessions cost only £5 per week.

Please call Kim on 07400 546246 to find out more, or to book your place.

1-2-1 meditation sessions are available.

BENINGTON AND WALKERN GARDENING CLUB - NOVEMBER

Our advertised speaker was replaced by Mr Andrew Babicz who spoke on the same subject Seasonal Container Planting. He was a very knowledgeable and interesting speaker who showed his remarkable photographs on the large screen in Benington Village Hall. Unfortunately the lights were turned off so I was trying to write a report in darkness.

After introducing himself, he started talking about containers. Clay pots had the disadvantage of cracking in the frost. Lead pots although expensive, are so heavy they are difficult to move, and cannot be stolen, unlike mine that were taken a few weeks ago from my drive. Bulbous pots or ones wider at the top, stop snails getting in, as apparently snails don't like going upside down. He showed various pot trollies that can be bought or made if you are clever, and different ideas for containers, for example, old boots, drainage pipes, cans and even old toilets. He doesn't put his plants directly into the container's soil but plants individual pots in the soil which can be taken out when finished. When feeding plants he recommended using the cheapest tomato fertiliser as it contains potassium, and is therefore good enough for everything in the garden.

We saw pictures of container planting at Hyde Hall, Sissinghurst, Wisley, Beth Chatto's among others plus container planting in private gardens. It shows that there are many ways to display your plants. Everyone present enjoyed this talk and loved his enthusiasm for his subject.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas social on **Wednesday 20th December**.



You may by now have heard the news that Keith Jeakings has passed away.

Margaret phoned to say that after many months of illness, he had died at the nursing home where he lived. It hasn't been easy for her as sadly she is losing her sight and is unable to drive any more. We are sure she will be in everyone's prayers and thoughts.

Good wishes, Bert and Audrey

Another thank you to those who helped with the church yard clear up in November. We will break only for December, meeting again on 4th Saturday of every month. **January 27th will be the next one, between 10am-12pm.** As usual there will be refreshments provided. Do come along and help.

Humbug!

All employees planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public.

This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers.

Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well-publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic gifts resins that may evoke allergic reactions.



Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Merry Christmas !

THE BOOT

Little Munden Cricket Club held their annual Presentation Evening and Race Night on **Friday 10th November**, it was a very enjoyable evening for club members and the many supporters in the village, and raised £260 for the club. Don't forget if you are interested in playing for them next season check out their website at www.mundencricket.wordpress.com.



Bingo

The next meeting will be **Monday 11th December**, starting at 7pm

Boot Coffee Mornings

Our next two coffee mornings will be **Friday 5th January and Friday 2nd February 10.30am - 12.30pm**. Come along and enjoy a selection of homemade cakes with your tea/coffee, and some great company.



Supper Club

The next Supper Club will be held on **Thursday 25th January**. Please book your place by calling **01920 438770** or behind the bar. Food to be served from 7.30pm.

Sunday Lunches

Served every **Sunday 1 – 4pm**, booking essential as limited availability.

Food is served
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6-9pm,
Saturday 1-5pm and Sunday 1-4pm.



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.

Christmas Opening Hours:

Christmas Eve	1pm - 11pm
Christmas Day	12 noon - 2pm
Boxing Day	1pm - 4pm
Wed 27 th /Thurs 28 th	2pm - 9pm
Fri 29 th / Sat 30 th	12noon - 11pm
New Year's Eve	12 noon - 4pm
& 7.30pm - 1am	
New Year's Day	1pm - 4pm

Kitchen closed from 24th December to 3rd January.

Mick & Matt

LITTLE MUNDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting
Will be held on
THURSDAY 18th January
at 8 pm
in

LITTLE MUNDEN MEMORIAL HALL
Munden Road
Dane End

**ALL PARISHIONERS
ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like the Parish Council to consider any concerns or comments you may have, please contact the Clerk who will be happy to put these forward at the meeting.

Geraldine Ward (Clerk)

Email: g.osullivan789@gmail.com

Tel: 01920 438145

THE MUNDENS WEBSITES

www.mundens.net

webmaster@mundens.net

www.themundenssource.myfreeforum.org

www.hertsmemories.org.uk

Walking in Herts www.walkinginherts.co.uk

www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

littlemundenmemorialhall.co.uk

LITTLE MUNDEN MEMORIAL HALL

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

Other functions : £15 per hour

For further information: David Hart 438976

email: dane-endhallbookings@outlook.com

To find out more about the hall, it's current activities and how to hire it, please visit the website:

www.littlemundenmemorialhall.co.uk

EMERGENCY/CRIME OCCURRING NOW 999

Non-emergency number 101

Or 01707 354000

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

[Call anonymously with information about crime.](#)



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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are currently experiencing an increased demand of non-emergency 101 calls to our control room.

Did you know you can report incidents or crimes online now? <https://www.contacthertspolice.uk/>

We also have a web chat facility where you can contact an operator online:

www.contacthertspolice.uk/Contact/NonEmergency.aspx

Please always dial 999 in an emergency.

Angel4Elders - Giving back independence for elders

Phone: Karen Smith 0785 448 9088

Email: karen@angel4elders.co.uk

Website: www.angel4elders.co.uk

Update on Unauthorised Development at Wheelwrights Farm, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Herts SG12 0JY. Planning Application Ref: 3/17/0781/FUL (Retrospective Application). WE HAVE ACHIEVED PUBLIC INQUIRY STATUS!

*****DATE OF INQUIRY 15TH-17TH MAY 2018 at 10.00am*****

VENUE: East Herts District Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8EQ

Friends of Rowney Lane (FORL), on behalf of local residents, have successfully lobbied the Planning Inspectorate and the Appeal Hearing has been escalated to a Public Inquiry. FORL has also obtained Rule 6 Status, which will allow us to participate in proceedings on an equal level with the Appellant, their Agents and East Herts District Council. Given that East Herts Council received over 500 objections from concerned local residents regarding this unauthorised Gypsy development, we felt an Inquiry was right and proper in this case.

In recent weeks the Travellers have obtained a mains electricity supply, broadband connection, undertaken further unauthorised works and there are now floodlights switched on 24 hours a day, which we note has caused the local deer population, (and therefore likely other wildlife), to alter their migratory routes. Furthermore, contrary to the appealed application being for one Gypsy family, FORL members and residents have noted there are now people living in the static mobile home, the touring caravan AND in the stables. It would appear that the additional "residents" are in fact employees of the Appellant, which would suggest that they are continuing to run a business from the site - all of which is prohibited.

The Inquiry is scheduled to last three days and all interested parties are invited to attend; indeed we would encourage as many of you as possible to please do so. The more people attending will demonstrate to the Inspector the strength of local feeling on this issue. Please remember, if permission is ultimately granted on Appeal, **this is likely to be the thin end of the wedge with regard to future Traveller developments at Wheelwrights Farm and surrounding local areas!** As parking is limited at the Council Offices, we are happy to arrange transport for parties interested in attending. Please email friendsofrowneylane@yahoo.com or give Gary Abbott a call on **07763 127719** if you would like to join us and require transport to and from the council offices. If you are disabled, you are also encouraged to call Planning Officer Lisa Page directly on 01992 531578 for information on facilities available for people with disabilities at the Council Offices.

If you would like to view documents regarding the planning application, please visit <https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk> and in the search criteria, type in the Application Ref: 3/17/0781/FUL. Once again, FORL would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Friends of Rowney Lane.

Mistletoe

*Those frozen bodies living in a frozen past see it fist;
The weather storm always ricocheting left and right.
The blight poisoning the insides and darkness
blackening in their dimly lit eyes
That have lost their spark so many years ago.*

*The rotting of scars being buried deep in snow,
Covering like a blanket; camouflaged in societies
endless stools
That drools in customers all around, the specks of dust
being sold for a pound,
For a useless present left to be forgotten.*

*Yet in the midst of the storm,
If you're lucky, a light from above swarms,
Flushing out the past, no questions being asked,
Leaving a trail of Carollers in the precast.*

*The cloudy crisp of white is left behind,
Where all the children dive in making snowballs and
angelic shapes.
And all the silver plates and the shadowing courts are
dismissed,
To thank and dance in the snow-formed bliss.
The star-crossed lovers, a Christmas kiss.*

*****A*****



Apply for your September 2018 Reception class place at Little Munden Church of England (VC) Nursery and Primary School now!

The perfect start to your child's education

Little Munden Nursery and Primary School in Dane End is rated by Ofsted as a "good" school. We pride ourselves on being a small but vibrant school that provides children with a welcoming, stimulating and supportive learning environment in an idyllic countryside setting.

Apply for your September 2018 Reception class place now!

Your child can start in Reception class in the September following their 4th birthday. Therefore, if you have a child who was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 you can now apply for a Reception class place to start in September 2018. The deadline for applications is **Monday 15 January 2018**. More information about the admissions process and details on how to apply for a Reception class place can be found on the Hertfordshire County Council website at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

At Little Munden we welcome children from Dane End and all surrounding hamlets, villages and towns. To find out more about our school, or to arrange a visit, please telephone us on 01920 438271. We look forward to hearing from you!

www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk

COUNTRY MATTERS (November 6th)

After a very "grassy" autumn, the grass is at last coming to an end for the cattle, the majority of which we will get into the yards tomorrow Nov 7th, which is a week later than usual. It seems that we can expect some more rain soon, so we don't want to damage the fields by leaving the cattle out longer than necessary. Any grass that is left will soon be hoovered up by the sheep.

We had a very enjoyable day on Sat Oct 28th at the County Ploughing Match, held this year at Great Gobions farm, near Stapleford. There was a great number of competitors using a wide range of tractors, from vintage models of the 1940's and 50's to the latest monsters, while two teams of Heavy Horses did their bit as well. There were also three competitors for the

hedge laying event; many people were watching them with interest. I recommend anyone interested in the countryside to attend this annual event, which is held in different areas of the County each year, and it is free.

The colder weather recently has brought a great number of birds to the garden bird feeders, more Blue Tits and Great Tits than anything else, but our neighbour had a Ring-necked Parakeet on his bird table just recently for one day.

We had the first Redwings here on Oct 13th, but the Fieldfare didn't appear until Nov 1st, while two days later I saw two Red Admiral butterflies, a small Tortoiseshell and a Small Copper, probably the last sightings for this year.

Bird of the Month WREN

The largest thing about the Wren is its Latin name (Troglodytes troglodytes) but it also has, for its size, a very loud song. Contrary to popular belief, it is not our smallest bird; the Goldcrest and the Firecrest are both lighter in weight and build. The reason for its huge population is its ability to survive in so many different habitats, not only in gardens and woods but in reed beds and remote treeless islands. It is even to be found on Iceland; how it ever got there is a mystery to me, as it never flies very far at a time. The cock bird builds one or more domed nests; the sites vary from outbuildings, bird boxes, brambles, ivy and many other places. When a female decides which nest to occupy, it is lined with soft materials and usually six eggs are laid, which are white with fine red spots. They usually have a second brood, so they soon recover from a crash in population following a hard winter, and are reputed to be our commonest bird.

Tony Spackman



St Mary's at the School - Breakfast with Linvoy Primus

Around 80 people filled Roger de Clare School's hall on Saturday 4th November to enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast and refreshments prepared by school caterers Annette and Sharon and a team from St Mary's at the School.

Guest speaker, ex-Premiership footballer Linvoy Primus, spoke from the heart about his successful football career with Charlton, Barnet and Portsmouth but how he found true peace and fulfilment when he accepted Jesus into his life. His Portsmouth team mates were so struck by the positive change in Linvoy that nine of the first team accepted Jesus too. When asked on one occasion by a reporter where the players were, Harry Redknapp replied that they were "probably in a prayer meeting"! St. Mary's at the School is an informal church for all ages that meets at Roger de Clare on Sundays at 4.45pm. With modern Christian music, videos, refreshments and fun 'Messy Church' activities for children, our aim is to help people discover for themselves how faith makes a real difference in today's challenging world.

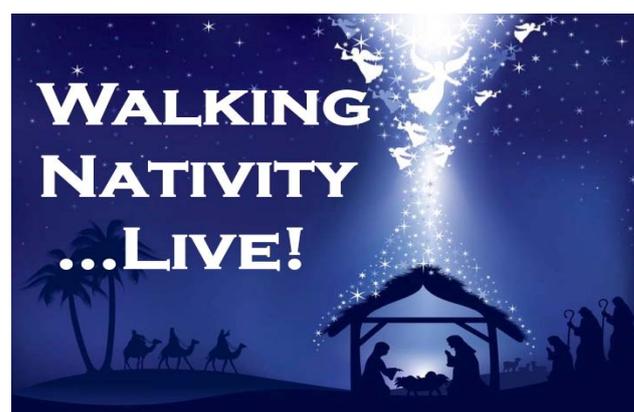


Linvoy Primus meets guests Amie and Macey

Sunday 17th December...11 am... Roger de Clare School

"The best Nativity play ever" was one comment from our guests last year. Join us for some festive fun as we walk together through the Nativity story with our homegrown actors, live animals, carols and refreshments. Come and discover how 'Strictly' and a certain football team fit into the story of Christmas in our new script for 2017. Free of charge, donations at your discretion.

Another community event hosted by
St. Mary's at the School



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**

JANUARY DEADLINE
5th JANUARY

