

**THE MUNDENS WITH SACOMBE  
CHURCH AND PARISH  
NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2019**

**Every Tuesday**

9.30am Holy Communion BCP Sacombe  
*Except 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December*

**Every Wednesday**

9.15am Holy Communion Standon  
*Except 25<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Standon  
10.45am United Worship Little Munden  
6.30pm Advent Service Standon

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

10.45am United Holy Communion Standon

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

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Little Munden  
10.45am United Worship Standon  
6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service Little Munden

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

9.15am Holy Communion Little Munden  
6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols Standon

**Christmas Eve**

3.00pm Christingle Service Little Munden  
5.00pm Christingle Service Standon  
7.30pm Candlelit Carol Service Sacombe  
11.30pm Midnight Communion Standon

**Christmas Day**

9.15am Family Worship with Communion Little Munden  
10.45am Family Worship Standon

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

10.45am United Morning Worship Sacombe

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Standon  
**10.30am** Morning Worship Little Munden  
*Please note new earlier time*



Prayers will be said in the Upper Room at Little Munden on Thursdays 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am.

Rector: Revd John Chitham, The Vicarage, Standon 01920 739483

Churchwardens:

Little Munden	Jeremy White	438575	Colin Jenkinson	438379
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

## Readings for December:

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Advent Sunday
8 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
15 <sup>th</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day
29 <sup>th</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Epiphany

Isaiah 2: 1-5, Romans 13: 11-end
Isaiah 11: 1-10, Matthew 3: 1-12
Isaiah 35: 1-10, Matthew 11: 2-11
Isaiah 7: 10-16, Matthew 1: 18-end (Christingle Services) Luke 2: 8-14
(Midnight Communion) Isaiah 9: 2-7, Luke 2: 1-14 Titus 3: 4-7, Luke 2: 1-20
Ephesians 1: 3-14, John 1: 10-18
Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12

### Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends

*Christmas is coming: the election will be over, the school holidays will begin and the focus will shift to merry-making. And yet Christmas can be the hardest time of year. It can be a time when overstretched households get deeper into debt; a time when there are disputes within families; a time when loved ones are missed; and for many, a time of loneliness. Yet in our villages, where community is stronger than many other places, we still have the opportunity to go beyond this depressing scenario.*

*Christmas does indeed need to be about our communities. It is a time to visit neighbours, to go out to restaurants and pubs, to invite people around. It is a time when a little simple hospitality and care can set us up for the year to come. The original Christmas story, if read carefully, is actually not about "no room at the inn" but Mary and Joseph being given shelter at a time when there was no space for anyone.*

*Christmas still needs to be a time for families. Despite all the stresses that families can bring, if we work at it a bit, and do all we can to build bridges, family life can be renewed as we come together. Presents thoughtfully chosen, sacrificial visits and putting up with some irritations can go a very long way. The first Christmas was not easy for the family either. In all probability Joseph was visiting his family in Bethlehem who suddenly had to put up him and a very pregnant Mary when there was overcrowding for the census. Yet the reward was astonishing: the birth of the Christ-child himself.*

*And yes, Christmas should be a time of spiritual renewal. There is something magical about dark winter nights, the lights on in the church, the choir singing and songs of something beyond ourselves. That magic is intensely spiritual, a sense of wonder and other. The story of Christmas is of a birth. New birth is a miracle for all parents; this is a miracle in that it goes beyond the norms of nature. This is the story of God come to earth with a purpose, a purpose so important that angels sing, and wise men come running. God has come to live among us, not as a majestic king but as a small baby. It is good for us to spend a little time considering the baby: who he is, what he came to do, and what transpired. If we do, Christmas can be transformed into the most wonderful time of year.*

*May you have a very happy Christmas!*

**John Chitham**

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

Only one bunch of nine young cattle remain out now, as it got so wet underfoot that most of them had to come in before they ruined the fields. The sheep do not do the same damage and so they take advantage of the late flush of grass all to their selves. Although we haven't suffered so much in this part of the country, it's still been very wet for a good many

weeks and I've heard of some arable farmers who haven't been able to do any drilling of winter corn yet, which is very serious for them.

I didn't see the first Redwings until October 28<sup>th</sup>, which is much later than usual, and up to now no fieldfares at all. Today (Nov 10<sup>th</sup>) I flushed my first woodcock of the season, although there may have been some here earlier than that. It's always a fine sight to see the sun shining on their plumage as they rise noisily from the brambles, but once clear of cover they fly silently.

At least five of us at Standon Green End have a walnut tree, and this autumn they all had an average crop of nuts, but this time more squirrels, crows and rooks have helped themselves more than ever before; I don't think there are many left for us!

### BIRD OF THE MONTH LAPWING

I usually describe a bird that I see fairly often, but this month I've picked one that I rarely see nowadays. Thirty or forty years ago we had large flocks spending the whole winter in one or other of our fields, with a few pairs breeding on neighbouring fields, even one year on one of ours.

I think they're such handsome birds, with a really wild cry which always makes me think of wide open spaces like marshes and river estuaries.

If you watch them feeding, they have a way of listening then suddenly prodding the ground, bringing out a grub or worm. Often I've seen a common gull with a dozen or so lapwings who would steal a worm from it, if the



worm was too big to swallow straight away. They hardly build any nest and don't hide their eggs, relying on camouflage (dark spots on an olive background). Always four eggs, placed pointed ends to the centre to take up a minimum of space because, like most waders, the egg is large, hatching a large strong chick which can run almost straight away and feed itself.

**Tony Spackman**

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

As in previous years, our three churches, All Saints, Little Munden, St Catherine's, Sacombe and St Mary's, Standon, would like to invite you to join in our Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. This year we are supporting the Foodbank in Buntingford.

To take part, we ask that on every day during Advent you put an item into a box or sack for the Foodbank. This does not have to be rice, beans, cornflakes etc., but they are always needed.

The Foodbank always needs long life juices and bottles of squash.

Items such as tinned sponge puddings (which could be eaten from the tin) are welcomed.

Chocolate bars, as well as being a small luxury, can provide an energy boost.

People do not necessarily have the means to cook food, so items (such as instant mash or pot meals) which do not need to be cooked or can be prepared with boiling water are useful.

If people have to make a choice between feeding the children or providing them with new toothbrushes and toothpaste, food always takes precedence, so toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, toilet rolls, sanitary products, shaving foam, razors would be useful.

Nappies and baby food are always needed (but not baby milk, please!)

People do have pets (how often have you seen a homeless person with a dog?) so pet food could be included.

We will be making this appeal a 'prayerful' event, and ask that you pray for the eventual recipients as you put each item in the box or bag.

We will have reception points at the back of our churches, and you can leave your donations there each week.

If you are not a member of the church but would like to join in, the churches are open during daylight hours every day, and you can leave contributions at any time.

## CHRISTMAS 1948 IN LITTLE MUNDEN

*The Rector at the time, John Bounds, wrote:*

*"There has been a remarkable spirit of generosity abroad during the Christmas season, with the result of £33 clear money from our Christmas Bazaar, on behalf of the Church Missionary Society, and the sum of £14 10s. 0d. from our Youth Club Carol Singers (including three donations) for the "Darby and Joan" Tea Party. Our singers met with much kindness during their tour of the parish, and we are extremely grateful to those who made our visits so encouraging. We certainly captured*

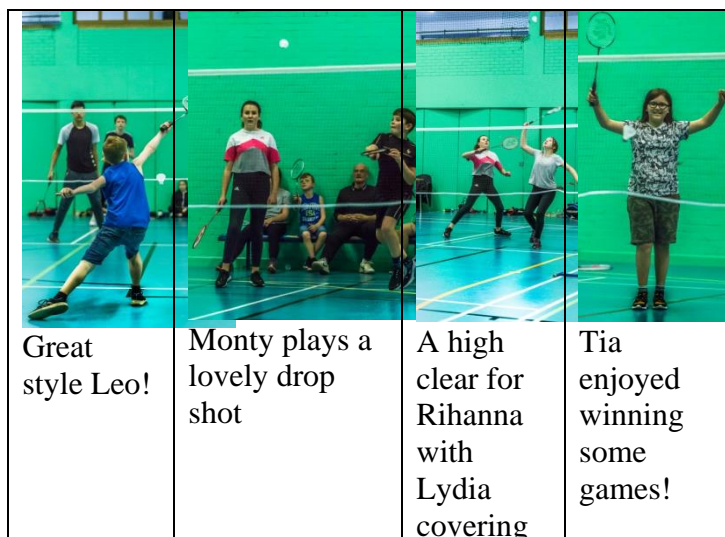
*the traditional spirit of Christmas, and I believe we gave some little pleasure to our hosts. The children, too, have reason to thank most heartily their teachers, and friends of the Church School, for the bumper Party and Christmas tree, School prizes, and end of the term Christmas dinner. The children's Carol Service in the Parish Church was appreciated by a large congregation, and the Nativity Play by the Girl Guides (which deserved a much larger audience), revealed an excellent effort to dramatize the Christmas story. May the thrill of the Incarnation continue to inspire our lives, to holier and happier living."*

**Come and try our  
Yoga Class  
Every Tuesday in the Village Hall  
7.15 p.m. to 8.45p.m.  
£7 per session**

## BADMINTON

A few weeks ago five of our juniors played against seven other teams from across the county at Gosling Sports Park, WGC. They were fairly new to the sport, most having only played for a year or less. They were up against players up to four years older (and, in some cases, four feet taller!) who had been playing for much longer. Although we did not win, the enthusiasm and commitment they showed was outstanding. I am very proud of them all.

Here are a few photos James took for me.



We were missing one of our more experienced players as Archie had injured his foot. I'm pleased to report that he's better now.

The junior club is expanding with some new players joining us but there is always room for more players. If I can't add to current groups, additional sessions can be added.

The senior players continue to meet on a Wednesday evening and new players would be very welcome.

For more information, please contact me on 438561 or [fullmasher@freeuk.com](mailto:fullmasher@freeuk.com) **Brian**

## Tuesday

*Why are we here? Is it to sit and watch  
When the ships stray into the harbour?  
To meet up with your fellow co-workers  
And fall in love with the archer?  
The world, so big, so filled with us,  
How many people hold up the mighty Earth's truss-  
Which- in a way- seems like our journeys on the 9 o'clock  
bus;  
Taking bumps and curves away treasonous,  
And meeting the tall one that starts to cuss  
When you perch on the seat next to hers. Or, in true  
fashion these days,  
You look outside the window, a group of teens crowding  
the takeaway's pick-me-up.  
Then the rows of 1960's houses buzz by with their  
sprinklers and swimming pools,  
With the cool taste of ice cream melting on little one's  
noses,  
And screams of laughter when they are hit with garden  
hoses,  
But there! with a heated cuppa and a pleated tabletop,  
I push the button, causing the bus to stop.  
I hop out into the breeze, being swept away,  
And into my favourite seat, on my favourite day.*

\*\*\*A\*\*\*

## **BENINGTON & WALKERN GARDEN CLUB NOVEMBER**

Our speaker this month was Claire Robinson talking and illustrating on the subject of Animal Senses. She said most people think of animals as just the mammals, but the word covers all species except plants. There are 1 million species of animals, with mammals a very tiny portion of the animal kingdom.

Cnidarian – corals, jellyfish, worms etc. 9,000 species of these

Echinoderms - spiny animals

Arthropods – insects, spiders, bees etc

Molluscs - soft bodies eg. slugs, snails

Vertebrates – fish, birds, reptiles, humans.

Nematodes – parasitic worms

And Arthropods are the largest group with jointed feet.

All animals have mouths, independent movement, are multi cellular, and have senses.

You will notice that all predators have eyes facing forward, but their prey have eyes on the side of the head so they have a wider range of vision. Birds have the best eyesight in the animal kingdom and nocturnal animals have very large eyes. Many animals have colour vision especially insects. Although we have colour vision, most mammals have very little. The horse apparently has the largest eyes of all the mammals. Claire then talked about hearing, which animals had ears and their uses. Elephants, cats, rats and dogs have very good hearing. But the highest hearing of any animal belongs to the Great Wax Moth. Claire then talked of the sense of smell and said that elephants can smell water 12 miles away. After, she spoke of various ways that animals touch.

This was an excellent talk by a very knowledgeable lady and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

**Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January when**

the talk will be on The Gibberd Garden and on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February Mr R. Ha will talk about Wild Flowers and Orchids. All talks in Benington Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Come along and enjoy. *Janet Giblenn*

**We are your local village school Little Munden Primary School at Church Lane, Dane End, SG12 0NR.**



We accept children from age 3 to age 11. If you are interested in joining our school we welcome parents and children to visit and see us in action.

Please contact the school office to make an appointment on either 01920 438271 Option 3 or via email [admin@littlemunden.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@littlemunden.herts.sch.uk) Applications for September 2020 Reception places can only be made via [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk) following the link to School Admissions. The deadline for these applications is **15th January 2020**. If you would like your child to join our Nursery in September 2020, please contact the school office direct for an application form. The deadline for nursery applications is **28th February 2020**. Visit our website for more information too [www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk](http://www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk)

**Hot dog stall & homemade cake stall  
at**

**Little Munden Christmas Market  
Saturday 14th December**

**10:30am-3:30pm**

**Dane End Memorial Hall**

**Please come & support 6 local  
teenagers!**

Eulalie, Sophia, Tabitha, Sophie,  
Hannah & Eleanor

**Raising money for a trip to  
Mexico 2020**

**to build a house for a  
disadvantaged family.**



### **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](mailto: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](http://www.littlemundenmemorialhall.co.uk)

## THE BOOT

### Bingo

The next bingo will be **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 7pm.



**Boot Coffee Mornings** next coffee mornings will be

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am - 12.30pm.** Come along and enjoy a selection of homemade cakes with your tea/coffee, and some great company.

**Stars in Their Eyes** on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov was a fantastic evening, thank you to everyone who participated, there were some amazing costumes and the singing was superb! Thanks also to Sam and Rhonnie behind the bar who worked tirelessly to keep nerves at bay and vocal chords well oiled !!

### Sunday Lunches

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

### Fish & Chips

Don't forget Fish & Chips Friday – eat in or takeaway 6 – 9pm.

**Food is served Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 1-4pm and Sunday 1-4pm.**

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

### Christmas Opening Hours:

Christmas Eve	2pm - 11pm
Christmas Day	12 noon – 2pm
Boxing Day	1pm – 4pm
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> /Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	3pm – 10pm
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> / Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	12noon - 9pm
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	3pm – 10pm
New Year's Eve	1pm – 4pm & 7.30pm – 1am
New Year's Day	1pm – 4pm

Kitchen closed from Saturday 21st December, Opens Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** to all our customers, thank you for supporting us throughout the year.



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Mick & Sandra**

## EDWARD AND THE CHRISTMAS GRUMPS!

Hello, some of you may remember Edward and the Christmas Grumps from last year's Little Munden Christmas Fair, Santastic news! The paperback version of the magical Advent adventure for 8-12 year olds is now available in the local Dane End Stores at the promotional price of just £5!

In the adventure, "Edward no longer likes Christmas, but won't even tell his big sister why! Can the enchanted gifts hidden within a magical Advent calendar help Edward rediscover his love of Christmas or will he surrender to General Grump and his mean gang of grumbling grumps?"

Enjoy a door a day during December for an extra special Christmas countdown. 150 illustrations and online video of the Grump Grumble song from the story.

Take a sneaky cheeky peeky on Facebook for more details. *Chrissie*

**DANE END STORES**  
[www.daneendstores.com](http://www.daneendstores.com)  
**01920 438984**  
**ALSO ON FACEBOOK**  
**@ Dane End Stores**



"What it really comes down to is a question of values . . . Is a delicious, succulent turkey, baked to perfection, worth a few whacks on the nose with a newspaper?"

**Big thank you to those who helped with collecting for the Poppy Appeal this year, and to every-one that donated. We raised £789.41p from around the villages.**

*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: [jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.ann.morris.1956@gmail.com)**

JANUARY DEADLINE:  
FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

