The United Benefice of St Mary’s Standon
and All Saints’ Little Munden
with St Catherine’s Sacombe

Benefice Profile 2018
OUR BENEFICE “IN A NUTSHELL”
This God-focused, active, rural benefice seeks an enthusiastic and gifted traditional-evangelical minister to lead, teach, inspire and love us in the next stage of our mission for the Kingdom. We offer willing hearts and a foundation of significant achievement in outreach and a desire to build on this as we explore further opportunities.

Recent achievements:
- A new, contemporary Sunday afternoon fresh expression of church, St. Mary’s at the School, (SMatS) that has grown considerably to a typical congregation of 40+.
- Regular Alpha series that have led to several new Christians joining our fellowships.
- Thriving women’s and men’s home groups.
- Messy Church (at SMatS) and intra-service Children’s work.
- A village youth club and young people’s post confirmation discipleship group.
- A monthly village lunch to complement our seasonal weekly café.

Opportunities for development:
- Extending our outreach to bring the good news in an accessible and effective way to every member of our communities, of all ages.
- Translating our values into deliverable, God-ordained priorities and growing and deploying our gifts and talents to fulfil them.
- Balancing our diversity of traditional and contemporary expressions of worship and enabling us to glorify God in worship as a united but not uniform whole church family.

The three churches of our benefice came together in 2006 with a determination to work together right from the outset, seeing this as God’s plan for us. 12 years later, this is being fulfilled in the close co-operation and fellowship between the people of this benefice and its four congregations. We encourage everyone to support all services and join together in ventures aimed at bringing the good news of the love of Jesus to everyone in our communities.

“Within the UK, Christianity has become less of a faith by inheritance and much more of one by choice” (Martin Bashir: Radio Times, 31 March 2018). Our passion is to make our faith a choice that is desired and chosen by the community around us. In recent years, outreach to the community has been significant in our benefice and we want this to continue, building on the work of the two incumbents who have served our united benefice since its formation. As people join our Christian family, they have available to them a variety of worship styles ranging from contemporary to traditional, informal to formal. We long for someone who can help all of us to grow as part of the same worshipping community, acknowledging and loving each and every one of us in our different ways of worship.
WHO WE ARE

Our Values

Service
We serve everyone to show the love of God.

Evangelism
We encourage all, young and old to trust in Jesus – the way to God.

Worship
We enjoy worshipping together using more and less structured styles, drawing close to God through music, song and words.

Discipleship
We trust the Bible to grow and deepen our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Prayer
We pray for all people and ourselves, expecting to see the love and power of God at work.

We are traditional-evangelical in our Bible-rooted theology and fully supportive of the General Synod’s current position on same-sex relationships.

OUR STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

We are thankful that, since coming together in 2006, the three churches have knit together very comfortably, with most members of each congregation happy to travel to other churches to worship, while still holding an allegiance to their own parish. There is a high level of co-operation between the members, and most of the activities that take place are supported, and in many cases run, by individuals from across the Benefice. The people are friendly, welcoming and hospitable, and are involved in all aspects of village life. It is very often to church members that people turn when they are in trouble.

However, all three churches are finding that attendance is slowly reducing, mainly through age and ill health. The two smaller churches, in particular, find the tasks associated with sustaining the life of their respective parishes tend to grow, and to fall to a dwindling number of leaders, as there is a shortage of volunteers willing to commit on a regular basis. Great efforts are made to attract non-church-goers, particularly at baptisms and weddings, the school services, the Little Munden café, and village lunch, and we need to build on this to bring them into a greater involvement with church life. Similarly, the great success of the Holiday Bible Club in recent years shows that there is potentially fertile ground out there. There are new housing developments across the Benefice, and opportunities to support young families facing isolation, economic hardship or the challenges of commuting.

The Benefice’s outreach through SMatS has been blessed with considerable growth, not only numerically but in faith and commitment, but there are many more families to reach.

The diversity in the style of our worship services provides something for everybody across the monthly service pattern. It does however present a challenge in expressing our unity as one church family when we come together for United and Family worship with the varying degree of formality and informality, traditional and contemporary worship styles across and within the individual congregations.

WHO WE WANT TO BE

There have been many exciting developments in our Benefice-wide ministry in recent years, not least in our fresh expression of worship, St Mary’s at the School with Messy Church; regular Alpha courses; thriving house groups and new youth initiatives.

Much emphasis has been placed on outreach and this has borne fruit, with many unchurched men, women and children coming to faith and being discipled within the Benefice.

There is still much to be done and outreach remains a priority, along with addressing the challenge of expressing our unity as one church family.

We recognise that our work with families, children and the youth of our communities is vital in sustaining and growing the ministry of God and in sharing the Good News in our villages and we are committed to this. We have good relationships with the schools within the Benefice and see these as important ways in which we can continue to make Jesus known to parents and children.

We are a generous but not complacent church, which looks to extend our love, care and practical help to those in need in our parishes, and to be increasingly known for our selfless love for all.

Not least, we are a church that holds fast to and is guided by the infallible and unchanging word of God and inspired by his living
Holy Spirit.

WE CAN OFFER

- A family of four congregations, knit together in a caring fellowship and keen to work with you in furthering God’s kingdom in this community;
- Administrative support, home-based (there is no church office);
- Three diverse buildings in sound condition, backed by generally sound finances;
- A comfortable home in a central location in our largest village, in the midst of beautiful rural surroundings, within easy reach of Cambridge, London and Stansted airport;
- Excellent education facilities for all age groups;
- Our wholehearted and prayerful support.

OUR NEW INCUMBENT

We are extending an invitation to a minister who shares our values and has a vision for building a united worshipping family within the diversity of our benefice and continuing to reach out to those who have not yet invited Jesus into their lives. We are seeking an incumbent who will lead us to grow further in the fruit and gifts of the Spirit.

If you feel that God may be calling you to work here, we hope that you will:

- Preach effectively from scripture, relating this to people’s everyday lives;
- Encourage a diverse range of styles of worship, appreciating the value of our various musical traditions, whilst also exercising your experience or gifts in leading us in united expressions of worship;
- Encourage growth in the various children’s, youth and adult ministries;
- Lead with authority, working collaboratively with existing leaders, while discerning the gifts of others and helping them to develop;
- Convey your love of God and neighbour in your dedication to pastoral care;
- Be able to manage change and deal lovingly with issues that may arise;
- Be able to relate easily to all and help us to build up our congregations of all ages in faith and numbers.

We hope our next Rector will bring:

- Experience in unifying a Benefice of congregations which comprise people leaning towards a traditional, choral and a contemporary, charismatic-evangelical expression of worship, not just within the Benefice but within the same congregation
- Commitment to:
  - Delivering services which both build up and encourage believers and are also accessible and attractive to the unchurched/non-believers;
  - Meaningful evangelism among adults of all ages, children and youth;
  - The discipleship of all members of the church, for example through house groups, training courses and study groups;
  - Sharing the love of God through every work of the church.

We know that may be asking too much of one person but, above all, we hope that you will lead us prayerfully, laugh with us and love us.
WORSHIP

Our liturgical tradition

The churches have a strong evangelical influence, and have been accustomed, in recent times, to incumbents from that tradition with an emphasis on biblical teaching. However, there is also a representation of people from other Anglican traditions, as well as an increasing number of people from nonconformist, free church, house church and previously unchurched backgrounds. We also attract a number of people who live outside the Benefice but who enjoy what our churches provide. The variety across the range of our services and throughout the year tends to reflect the diverse backgrounds of the worshipping, and our members support each other in their choices.

The Ministry of Music

There is a strong tradition of choral singing in each of our churches and shortly after the formation of the United Benefice, the three choirs came together under one Director of Music. The choir currently has 35 members, including 8 young people. They rehearse together weekly in term-time, lead the music at all main morning services and occasionally have opportunities to deputise for cathedral choirs. Choral Evensong is held regularly at St Mary’s, usually on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The choir sings for various special services including Good Friday, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas Carol services.

An instrumental music group, usually comprising violin, cello, flute, recorder, oboe and trumpet and led from the keyboard, plays monthly for worship at All Saints.

Each of the three churches has an organ which is used for our regular worship.

Music at our monthly Family Worship includes modern worship songs, led by one or two singers with keyboard accompaniment, alongside traditional hymns led from the organ.

There are teams of bell-ringers at St Mary’s and at All Saints’ with some playing an active role in church life, and in the local bellringing community.

All Saints’ and St Mary’s are popular venues for hosting a range of concerts.

Contemporary worship music has played an increasing role, particularly in United and Family Services. This is welcomed by those members of the congregation who find a greater freedom helpful in their expression of worship.

Our new rector will have experience of both traditional and contemporary worship and encourage them both to grow, bringing more and more people to know the power and love of Jesus in their lives, whatever their preferred style.

Our People

We are a relatively small rural community yet here you will find a wide variety of people, reflecting the differences in British Society in general. Among the church family are Christians who are variously: new, re-committing, less engaged or on fire for the Lord. While we don’t have ready access to the same range of talents and breadth of resources that may be available to town or city churches, we aim to use and encourage the gifts and talents of our members and are always seeking to develop others’. We believe that it is important to be as inclusive as possible, so that people will feel welcomed, loved and enabled to worship in differing ways. Our desire is to be a benefice that is not afraid to explore new expressions of worship, confident that in all we do our sole objective is to glorify our Lord Jesus and make him known to every resident of our parishes and every visitor.
Standon, Puckeridge and Dane End are the main centres of population - friendly and thriving villages with a good range of activities and facilities at hand.

The area is within the jurisdiction of East Hertfordshire District Council.

The United Benefice of Standon and The Mundens with Sacombe, within the diocese of St Albans, straddles the A10 about eight miles north of Hertford and Ware, and midway between London and Cambridge, each about 25 miles away. It covers a number of villages and small settlements with a total population of about 6,000.
The Community

- The Benefice is in a rural setting, where agriculture is still important, although the close proximity of London and Cambridge as well as other local towns means that many people commute to work.
- The social and economic mix is a wide one, and over the years there have been successive phases of building which have included everything from local authority housing to commuter mansions.
- At Libury Hall, near Dane End, there is a residential home for people with enduring mental illness, and there is some sheltered housing in Puckeridge.
- Within the parish of Standon there are two small Roman Catholic churches, a congregational chapel and a small, independent free church fellowship.
- There are good local shops and post offices, a health centre, village halls and community centres.
- We are within easy reach of mainline railway links to London and the north; bus links connect various parts of the Benefice with Bishop's Stortford, Royston, Stevenage, Ware and Hertford, and the vicarage is 14 miles from Stansted airport.
- There are lots of local clubs, societies and activities, and many of these are reflected in our church membership.
- Little Munden Primary School adjoins the church, and its small modern hall is often used for church events. There is also a Memorial Hall in the centre of the village of Dane End.
- In Standon, there is a small Village Hall within yards of the church, and a modern Community Centre sited on the borders of Standon and Puckeridge; both are used for Benefice activities.

Education

- Within the Benefice we have two Primary Schools and a First School, two of which are Church of England schools; the other is Roman Catholic controlled. There is also a local authority Middle school and St. Edmund's College, an independent Roman Catholic co-educational day and boarding school.
- The churches have good relations with each of these and are represented at governor level in two of them, in which we also lead assemblies and offer occasional pastoral support.
- Our two church schools, Roger de Clare (302 pupils) and Little Munden (76 pupils), and Ralph Sadleir middle school (384 pupils) hold their school services in our churches.
- Pupils of secondary age resident in Standon normally attend schools in Buntingford or Bishops Stortford; those in Dane End tend to travel to Hertford or Ware.
- Further education is available at Hertford Regional College, as are a number of evening classes.

Leisure and Recreation

- There is a recreation ground on the borders between Standon and Puckeridge, and a leisure complex on the northern edge of Ware.
- There are swimming pools in Buntingford, Hertford, Ware and Bishops Stortford, and cinema and theatre facilities in Bishop's Stortford and Hertford.
- There are six pubs in the Benefice. Some are used for our regular dinners for men, primarily those within the worshipping fellowship.

The Vicarage

The four-bedroomed vicarage was built in the late 1970s, and is situated in Standon, on the A120 about half a mile from St Mary’s Church. It is within easy walking distance of the First and Middle schools. It has gas central heating, is largely screened from the road by trees, and is double glazed on the side facing the road. All Saints’ and St Catherine’s churches are about a 10-minute and 15-minute drive, respectively, from the vicarage.
**OUR TEAM**

**MINISTERIAL TEAM**
- Rector
- Reader
- Acting leader of SMatS (lay)
- Director of Music
- Oasis Leaders (lay)
- Men’s group leader (lay)
- Children’s work leaders (lay)

**WIDER TEAM**
- Benefice Group for World Mission (BGWM)
- Benefice Administrator (14 hours per week)
- Red Balloon Foundation (RBF), our professional youth work partners
- Professional leaders for our annual Holiday Bible club
- Churchyard maintenance teams

**COMMUNITY**
- Little Munden café team
- Dane End village lunch team
- Pastoral visiting team
- Bereavement visiting team
- Bereavement afternoon tea team
- Libury Hall visiting team

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND PCCs**
- Standing Committee
  - Three PCCs meeting six times a year ( benefice plenary session, followed by individual PCC meetings)
  - Standon finance committee
## PATTERN OF SERVICES

### Sunday Services

Our current Sunday service pattern is:

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**Weekday services:**

- There is a Prayer Book Communion Service at Sacombe each Tuesday at 9.30am and a Common Worship Communion Service at Standon each Wednesday at 9.15am.
- Prayer meetings are held at 9:15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Standon, and at 9:15am on Thursdays in Little Munden.

### Other services

- St. Catherine’s Church is also used for services for which its small size is most appropriate, such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension Day services, and a number of special united services, including a candlelit carol service on Christmas Eve and a picnic service in mid-summer.
- A group from the Benefice holds a monthly service at Libury Hall, a residential home near Dane End for people with enduring mental illness. Some of these residents are also brought to services in our churches.
- Remembrance, Harvest and Carol Services are held in all three churches.
- A Christingle service is held in both All Saints’ and St Mary’s on Christmas Eve.
- Other services in the Benefice include a Service of Memories (supporting those recently bereaved) and a Good Friday dramatisation of Christ’s trial and crucifixion.
- The annual Women’s World Day of Prayer is observed jointly with other denominations within the benefice, and churches in the neighbouring parish of Braughing.

### Occasional Offices

On average there are each year about 15 baptisms, 10 weddings and 30 funerals. Families who bring children for baptism are asked to attend church regularly before dates are fixed, and attend a preparation class, often at SMatS. Wedding couples are also asked to attend regularly and must attend a wedding evening early in the year and a marriage preparation course.
OUR CHURCH LIFE

Traditional Sunday Worship
SMatS (contemporary worship)
Weekday Communions
Prayer Meetings
Women’s Oasis group
Men’s group
Monthly Discussion
Lent Course
Occasional Courses
Baptism Prep
Friends of Standon Churchyard
Choir
FOSM Fundraisers
Little Munden café
Village Lunch
Music Group
Alpha
Messy Church (at SMatS)
Village Youth Club (VYC)
Young people’s discipleship group
Children’s work within Services
Libury Hall Services
Funerals, Weddings & Baptisms
School clubs
School assemblies & services
Benefice Group for World Mission
Marriage Prep
Food Bank
Occasional Breakfasts
Men’s dinners
Pastoral care teams
Concerts
Link with CPAS Ventures
**DISCIPLESHIP**

- The women’s ‘Oasis’ group, meets weekly midweek, attended by around 28 women.
- The Men’s Group meets fortnightly, led by a lay member, attended by about 12 men.
- Other one-off series of courses have included ‘Contagious Christianity’ and ‘Purpose-Driven Life’. A Lent course is usually run, often in parallel with the regular groups, and attracts a typically more traditional segment of the congregation.
- Under the last incumbency we have run Alpha courses twice yearly.
- Mothers’ Union meetings are held jointly with the neighbouring parish of Braughing.

**PASTORAL CARE**

As representatives of God’s Church in our community, we work hard to take pastoral care of everyone we come across. To supplement the care traditionally provided by the Rector, we have in place several teams:

- The visiting team, who look out for those who might be lonely or housebound
- The bereavement visiting team, who visit specifically those who have suffered the loss of a loved one
- The bereavement ‘afternoon tea’ group, who meet monthly and offer friendship to the bereaved
- Those who support this ministry through prayer. This includes those who meet to pray; individuals who pray at home and several praying groups who are linked by social media. Prayer requests can be shared on the prayer board in St Mary’s, or communicated through the weekly notices sheet or via social media, as well as verbally.

In addition, there are many individuals in our church family who visit informally those who are ill or in hospital, lonely or just in need of a friend.

**MISSION**

**Support for Worldwide Mission**

The Benefice Group for World Mission advises the Rector and the PCCs of the benefice on mission abroad and at home. This cross-benefice group is able to bring a more unified approach to world mission as, historically, some of these causes have been a particular concern of individual parishes. The group brings our attention to prayer needs around the world and researches potential recipients for our financial appeals.

We have three main appeals per year: Lent, Harvest and Advent, in addition to our support for the food bank all year round and Operation Christmas Child in the autumn.

In the last 2 years our Lent appeal has supported Purulia hospital in West Bengal and Kisiizi hospital in Uganda. At harvest we tend to support Tearfund and in the Advent appeal we have generally supported more local charities such as The Living Room, Future Living, Herts Young Homeless and Emmaus.

All three churches have had close links with All Nations Christian College going back many years, and through that association they are ongoing financial supporters of a hospital in Uganda and of two couples, both former students, presently working abroad.

One of our members chairs the local branch of the Bible Society.

The congregations are keen to respond to individual emergencies as they arise.

St Mary’s maintains a Tithe Fund, to which they allocate 10% of any bequests to the church, and this fund is often used to supplement what is given by individual donors. All Saints’ and St Catherine’s practice tithing from their income.

Boxes are available in each of the churches to receive contributions for the Food Bank in Harlow, which also serves Bishop’s Stortford. A full car-load is delivered every three or four weeks.

Collections at St Mary’s on Remembrance Sunday are given to the Royal British Legion and those from the Christingle services are sent to the Children’s Society.
Children and Families

Work with Young People

We take very seriously our commitment to bringing young people to faith and discipling them as they mature in that faith. In order to help us fulfil this commitment, we have enlisted the help of the Red Balloon Foundation (RBF), a professionally run Christian charity which partners churches in providing youth work. All its staff are professional youth workers with experience in working with young people from every background, and they work with a team of volunteers from the benefice. We are in the process now of negotiating our contract for the 2018/19 academic year.

Children’s work is offered during the sermon at several services, in the Upper Room at All Saints’, or in a side aisle of St. Mary’s. In the past Standon Village Hall and Little Munden School have also been used, given their close proximities to the churches.

At St Mary’s at the School on Sunday afternoons, all ages worship together before the children head off into a classroom for their own Bible-based Messy Church activity. When timing allows, the children return for a ‘show and tell’, before everyone enjoys refreshments, conversation and prayer ministry.

From September we plan to provide more structured Bible-based teaching for the older children.

Lay co-leaders have assumed leadership of the SMatS and All Saints’ children’s work during the vacancy. Another co-leader is now leading the children’s work at St. Mary’s.

On Sunday afternoons, with the help of RBF, we offer a free youth club for youngsters in the villages from year 6 upwards. This is held in the Community Centre in Puckeridge, where there is ample space for outdoor activities as well as indoor games. During the session, we provide an optional time of Bible teaching, linked with an activity, and a large proportion of the young people join in. Of the 60 or so registered, we usually have around 30-35 attend on any week.

As this is an outreach work its Christian content is “light touch”, but the young people who attend are aware that we provide this club as an expression of our ministry within the community. From September we plan that those responding to the Christian message at the VYC will join the older children at SMatS for a time of biblical teaching.

During the week in term time, we collaborate with RBF to provide an afterschool club at Little Munden School, a lunchtime club at Ralph Sadleir School and an evening discipleship course for our older youngsters with an established Christian faith and commitment. This last course has nine participants, of whom seven have been confirmed and all have attended residential Christian camps. It is based around Bible study and discussion of faith-related matters relevant to their lives.

In addition, both our Incumbent and our Reader visit each of our church primary schools once a month to lead collective worship. This means that the children see someone from church in school every other week on average.

A Holiday Bible Club runs annually during the Easter holidays, attracting around 40 local children from Reception to Year 6, for a varied programme of music, drama, Bible stories and craft. In recent years this has been held in Roger de Clare School and is run by a couple employed – and hosted – for the week, supported by a large number of volunteer helpers from across the benefice.

A growing number of young people are attracted to joining the choir, and this has been found to be an effective way of retaining them within the fellowship of the church, at an age when they might otherwise be drawn away by other activities.
OUTREACH

St Mary's at the School

This Benefice initiative has evolved from a Messy Church origin. Meeting most Sunday afternoons at Roger de Clare School with the support of the Head Teacher, it reaches out primarily to the unchurched in the local community, welcoming them to a worship of God in a familiar community location. Services include live or recorded contemporary music plus multimedia content where appropriate, a 15-20 minute message with a varied mix of discussion, prayer and testimony, concluding with a time for refreshments, chat and prayer ministry. The children join with the adults for worship before heading into their own teaching groups.

St Mary's at the School has hosted special events to witness to the community, including:

- ‘Walking the Nativity’, a contemporary, Bible-based dramatisation of the Nativity story infused with some topical humour and featuring live animals, attended by up to 200 people.
- ‘Tough Talk’, a ministry of former ‘hardmen’ and weightlifters attended by around 55.
- A family breakfast with a former Premiership footballer attended by over 80.

Little Munden Café and Village Lunch

All Saints’ runs a Café in the church on Wednesday afternoons from April to October, offering hot and cold drinks and home-made cakes to visitors. Its customers include families as they collect their children from the school adjoining the church as well as other local residents and occasional visitors such as walkers. Generous support is given from across the Benefice, both in staffing and in the provision of cakes. This work has evolved to include a fun Bible-based activity for the children. Opportunity to extend this witness further to engage the adults attending has recently been identified but not yet developed.

A monthly Village lunch at the Dane End Memorial Hall provides a home-cooked two-course meal followed by tea and coffee, a short reflection from the Rector and a parting favour with Bible verse. This has been very well received and is attended by up to 50 people. It is financially self-supporting through diners’ donations and occasional grants.

Open Churches

All three churches are left open, though generally unmanned, during daylight hours, and we attempt to minister to the unseen visitors as best we can. Whether they come to admire the buildings’ features, to research their ancestry, or simply to appreciate the solace and peace that they find, we aim to provide material that will satisfy their curiosity about the buildings and their history and will also feed their spiritual needs.

We work hard to make our churches welcoming and accessible to all.
OUR CHURCHES

Standon

St Mary’s Church, which is listed Grade I and dates back to Saxon time, is situated in Standon High Street, close to the adjoining village of Puckeridge. The six bells are rung regularly for services and by visiting bands. There is a fine organ, re-built in 2000 by Saxon Aldred. A new sound system was installed in 2013. In 2017 major reordering work was undertaken, installing a disabled access toilet and kitchen in the north west corner of the nave, a central dais platform, glazed west doors, reinstating the side chapel, and replacing some pews with flexible seating. New lighting is being installed during 2018.

Little Munden

All Saints’ Church stands on the edge of the village of Dane End. The church, listed Grade I, is one of six in the county with visible Saxon work. In 2009 a toilet, kitchenette and small upstairs room were added in the north-west corner of the church, enclosed by two glass screens crafted to complement the existing architecture of the church. At the same time, the pews in the north aisle were replaced by chairs. The small, single-manual organ by Norman Hall is sited in a loft at the west end of the church. Two of the tower’s six bells pre-date the Reformation (1456 and 1470). New lighting and audio systems have recently been installed.

Sacombe

St Catherine’s Church stands in an isolated position mid-way between the settlements of Sacombe Pound and Sacombe Green. With a population of fewer than 200, the civil parish is served by a Parish Meeting, which meets in the church. There are no other public buildings in the parish.

The church building is listed Grade II*, and while it was heavily restored in the 19th century, the oldest parts date back to the beginning of the 13th century. The three bells, dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, are no longer rung. The small pipe organ was built in 1975 by E W Johnson of Cambridge. The church is presently not served by any facilities other than electricity, though plans have been approved to add a toilet and small kitchenette.

The churchyard is designated as a County Wildlife Site, and the maintenance regime aims to keep it tidy while preserving its rich variety of flowers and grasses.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY’S (FOSM)

FOSM is an independent charity which exists to raise funds to support the PCC in maintaining and improving the fabric of St. Mary’s. Half of its committee members are nominated by Standon PCC. Since 2000 it has raised £364,500. It runs regular fund-raising events as well as welcoming donations and legacies.

Standon has a long tradition of celebrating May Day, when the High Street is closed to traffic and filled with all manner of stalls. Standon’s own team of Morris Dancers and the Scout & Guide Band perform, and a May Queen from the local primary school is crowned. Every opportunity for outreach is taken; FOSM mans one of the stalls and provides day-long refreshments in the Village Hall, while St Mary’s welcomes visitors with various exhibits, activities and live music.
COMMUNICATION

A Notice Sheet is produced every week, drawing attention to the week’s services, the churches’ activities in the following week, the prayer needs of parishioners, and any other relevant notices. This is placed in all four churches and online.

St Mary’s publishes a monthly Parish Newsletter in the form of a tri-fold, which is distributed to every household in the parish.

A monthly Mundens and Sacombe Church & Parish Newsletter is published jointly by the churches and by the local parish councils. Church members play a major role in its production and distribution to every household in these two parishes.

The Benefice runs an independent website, which is regularly updated. The Sunday services and other occasional messages are also shared via Twitter and Facebook.

St Mary’s at the School maintains a Facebook page and Instagram account and posts weekly ‘teasers’ for the forthcoming meeting. Social media are also used extensively by the home groups for the sharing of encouragement and prayer requests.

3,000 copies of a quarterly community newsletter entitled PS (i.e. Puckeridge and Standon) are distributed throughout those two villages, as well as being available in neighbouring hamlets. Church services are advertised and a letter from the Rector is included. This well-presented document is funded by local advertisers.
APPENDIX A: FINANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Share (2017)</th>
<th>Standon</th>
<th>The Mundens</th>
<th>Sacombe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£50,880</td>
<td>£17,292</td>
<td>£6,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (Deficit) for 2017</td>
<td>(£4,019)</td>
<td>(£3,430)</td>
<td>£2,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reserves</td>
<td>£148,000</td>
<td>£113,000</td>
<td>£104,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinquennial Concerns</td>
<td>External Stonework (non-urgent)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Need for toilet / kitchenette facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMatS currently makes no financial contribution and has been sponsored to date by St. Mary’s.

APPENDIX B: ELECTORAL ROLL AND ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electoral Roll</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standon</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Munden</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacombe</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMatS</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

08:00am: 15 adults
10:45am: 70 adults; 6 children
09:15am: 47 adults; 6 children
10 adults (Tuesdays)
42 adults and children

Owing to the frequent united services, there is significant overlap in our congregational numbers.

APPENDIX C: USEFUL LINKS

Benefice Website:
https://www.ubsms.org.uk

SMatS Facebook: @StMarysAtTheSchool; SMatS Twitter: @StMarysAtSchool

Benefice Facebook: @UnitedBenefice3; Benefice Twitter: @UnitedBenefice3

Roger de Clare C of E (VC) First School, Puckeridge:
http://www.rogerdeclare.herts.sch.uk/

Ralph Sadleir (Middle) School, Puckeridge:
http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/

Little Munden C of E (VC) Primary School, Dane End:
http://www.littlemunden.herts.sch.uk/

Freman College (13-18 years), Buntingford:
http://www.fremancollege.herts.sch.uk/

The Bishop’s Stortford High School (11-18yrs Boys, with a co-educational Sixth Form), Bishop’s Stortford:
http://www.tbshs.org/

The Herts and Essex High School (11-18yrs Girls, with a co-educational Sixth Form), Bishop’s Stortford:
http://www.hertsandessex.herts.sch.uk/

Birchwood High School (11-18 yrs), Bishops Stortford:
http://www.birchwoodonline.co.uk/

Hockerill Anglo-European College, a Day and Boarding School (11-18 yrs), Bishops Stortford:
http://www.hockerill.herts.sch.uk/

St Edmund’s College (Independent), a Roman Catholic Boarding and Day School (4-18 yrs), Old Hall Green, nr Standon:
http://www.stedmundscollege.org/

Bishop’s Stortford College (Independent), a Boarding and Day School (4-18 yrs):
http://www.bishops-stortford-college.herts.sch.uk/

Haileybury College (Independent), a co-educational Boarding and Day School (13-18 yrs) and Lower School (11-13 yrs), Hertford:
https://www.haileybury.com/

Hertford Regional College, Ware:
http://www.hrc.ac.uk/