

Rectors of Great Munden

A wooden church stood on the site in Saxon times. There is no record of the Priests, but the names of The Lords of the Manor are known:

944	Aethelgifel	
946	Elfwold	
1060	Eddeva the Fair wife of Earl Harold	
1066	Earl Alan, son of Eudo	Earl Alan was the son of sister a of William I's
1089	Alan Niger	
1093	Stephen Niger	
1100	Alan Niger	The Norman church of St Nicholas was built by Alan or his son Conan sometime before Conan's daughter married Geoffrey Plantagenet, son of Henry II and the Advowson thus passed to the Crown, after it was granted by the crown to Tenants in Chief.
1120	Conan	
1189	Constance	

Between 1189 and 6th Aug 1269 we have no records, but St Nicholas, like all new churches, was certain to have been busy. In 1077 Paul of Caen had begun work on a huge Norman Church at the top of Holywell Hill in St Albans, using a largely Saxon workforce, and the Abbey Church was dedicated in 1115. St Albans was also home to Nicholas Breakespeare, the only Englishman ever to become Pope. He was born in 1100 at Bedmund Farm, and his father worked at the Abbey, which qualified him to be taught at the Abbey School, although in 1118 the Abbott refused him a place in the monastery as he considered him to be insufficiently educated. The Monastery flourished as a centre of learning and in the production of scripts and was home to Mathew Paris who wrote *Chronica Majora* from 1235 until his death in 1259.

List of Rectors

Bishop	Rector	Institution	Reason	Patron
Wells	Richard de Cornay			
Gravesend	John de Maydenstan	6 Aug 1269		Sir Gerard de Furnivall
Gravesend	Simon de Sturney	13 July 1274	Death of above	Gerard de Furnivall
Dalerby	Ralph de Gorham	2 May 1304	Death of above	Christiana de Kyrkeby
Gynwell	Reginald de Sidestern	7 July 1349	Death of above	The Crown
Buckingham	William de Sanford	9 July 1363	Resignation	Sir Guy de Boys
Buckingham	Hugh de Whitchirche	12 Nov 1365	Resignation	Sir John de Roos
Buckingham	John Befford	28 Jan 1375		Gerard de Ulvesflete
Buckingham	David Mitchell	24 May 1380	Resignation	
Buckingham	John Maryn	19 May 1381	Resignation	
Buckingham	Thomas de Hertford	9 July 1393	Resignation	
Beaufort	Thomas Frauncey's, cap	9 Oct 1400	Feoffees of the Manor	
Beaufort	William Monard, cap	6 Mar 1402	Resignation	Feoffees of the Manor
	John Boulan			
Repingdon	John Fuery	13 Nov 1412	Resignation	
Fleming	John Roo	21 Oct 1420		Walter Perot & Margaret
	Thomas Poyner			
Rotherham	John Wode, prb	11 Dec 1473	Resignation	Elizabeth Bastarde widow
Rotherham	Thomas Bird			
Rotherham	Simon Turner	14 Nov 1475	Death of above	
Smith	Robert King, cap	19 July 1510	Death of above	Willaim Seynnley
Longland	John Copsheff, Clk	20 Dec 1538	Death of above	Henry, Earl of Essex
	Richard Atkinson dd			
	George Bullocke stb	9 Sept 1556		
	Richard Dennys	1557		
	William Curley	1559		
	William Kinge stb	3 May 1575		

Chadderton	George Downham std	10 Sept 1601		Himself
Neal	Samuel Ward std	8 Feb 1616		The Crown
Williams	John Lightfoot std	12 Sept 1636	Ejected	The Crown
Winniffe	Simon Mason			The Crown
Saunderson	Thomas Tyrwhit, Clk stb	31st Oct 1660	The Crown	
Saunderson	John Lightfoot STP	13 Dec 1660	Restored	The Crown
Barlow	Ralph Widdrington std	17 Dec 1675	Death of above	The Crown
Barlow	John Cole Clk MA	30 Aug 1688	Death of above	The Crown
Wake	Robert Dobyns Clk MA	4 Nov 1713	Death of above	The Crown
Gibson	Thomas Wishaw MA	18 July 1718	Death of above	The Crown
Thomas	Timothy Gibberd MA	16 July 1756	Death of above	The Crown
Green	William Fonnereau Clk	25 Mar 1773	Death of above	The Crown
Tomline	James Price MA	25 Apr 1817	Death of above	The Crown
	Henry Dawson	15 Sept 1846	Death of above	The Crown
	Charles William Maud	14 Apr 1863	Death of above	The Crown
	Alfred Johnson Tuck MA	1888		King's Cambridge
	Alfred George Langdon	4 Mar 1905		King's Cambridge
	Leonard Alfred Pollock MA	24 Aug 1928		King's Cambridge
	Sidney Harold Johnson MA	8 July 1935		King's Cambridge

St Nicholas was deconsecrated in 1989, and with it the Advowson was lost.

Historically the Patron was granted the advowson by the Church Establishment in return for their financial commitment. For a wealthy living or one held by a notable or Royal patron – and Great Munden was at different times all these – this right could attract the greatest divines of the day to an otherwise unprepossessing area. Though only a rural parish, three rectors of St Nicholas were Lady Margaret Professors of Divinity at Cambridge University and many others held senior positions within that University. ■