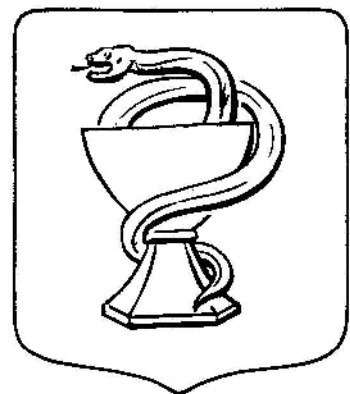


THE PARISH OF  
**ST. BOTOLPH NEWBOLD-ON-AVON**  
WITH  
**ST. JOHN LONG LAWFORD**



**2020**

In the Deanery of Rugby  
Diocese of Coventry

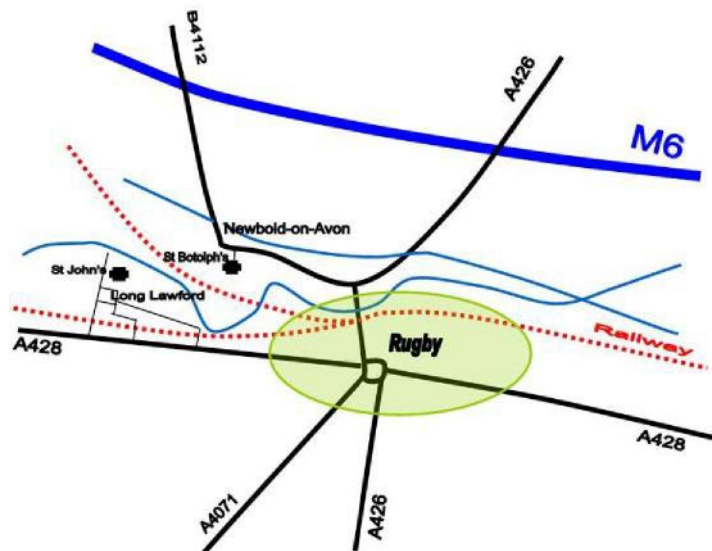
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## 1. THE GEOGRAPHICAL PARISH

The parish of Newbold-on-Avon with Long Lawford in the Diocese of Coventry has a population of 7000 people and lies 2 miles from the centre of Rugby.

**Newbold-on-Avon** is a large village, having grown considerably since WWII to include a number of medium sized housing estates (private and social). It is largely residential but is close to two large factories (ALSTOM and CEMEX) and includes four varied industrial estates, including both manufacture and distribution, and part of a small retail estate. It includes people from those of moderate means to many who struggle to make ends meet. Newbold-on-Avon is considered to be one of the



The church of St. Botolph is to the west of the village centre, away from the majority of houses. Nearer to the centre of the village are a village hall and a Methodist church which has no worshipping congregation but which continues to provide a small number of community services, eg a lunch club.. There is a large performing arts secondary school with around 1,000 students and a primary school with a roll of around 200. There are many young families in the village as well as older people who have lived there most of their lives.

Retail parks less than two miles from the centre of the village include Tesco, a number of the large multiples and the nearest chemist. The village itself has several shops and a post office a Co-operative Foodstore with a small Post Office counter, a chip shop, a ladies' hairdresser and a beauty parlour. There is a small convenience store on the Glebe estate. There are no medical facilities in the village.

The River Avon runs through the village and according to the Guide to the Waterways of the British Isles is canoeable from Newbold Bridge. The Oxford canal also runs through the village and the Church benefits from visits from people using the canal for holidays during the summer months. There are two small but popular country parks, Newbold Quarry Park and The Swift Valley Country Park, each with picnic areas and a nature reserve . "The Quarry" has an extensive lake well stocked with fish and water fowl.

Newbold-on-Avon and Long Lawford are served by good road and rail networks. The M1, M45, M6, M69, A5, A45 and A14 are within a few miles of the village. Rugby, on the West Coast main line, is one hour from London on a fast train. Whilst Rugby is not in the commuter belt a large number of people who live in the area work in London. Newbold-on-Avon is about 2 miles from Rugby rail station. Birmingham and East Midlands international airports are both easily accessible

**Long Lawford** is a village which has grown to almost the same size as Newbold-on-Avon. There is a number of farms, some Victorian properties, a large number of new build homes and a large council estate. Like Newbold-on-Avon there are areas of moderate affluence and of deprivation. There is a Co-operative Foodstore but no medical facilities; there is a primary school with a roll of around 500. For many years the two villages have shared an Anglican Priest and indeed St. John's church was built as a chapel of ease for St. Botolph's. There is a Methodist church which has no worshipping congregation but which is the base for a pioneering ministry initiative, the Lawford Lighthouse, which was established in 2016 and which is run by a non-stipendiary lady priest who is licensed as both an Anglican Associate Minister and a Methodist minister. There is a village hall ("the Memorial Hall") in the older part of the village. St. John's own church hall was sympathetically converted into a church some years ago when the original building became unsafe for worship.

The River Avon forms the boundary between the two villages and it, together with the main railway line to Birmingham, forms a considerable barrier to convenient vehicular traffic between the two parts of the parish. No direct bus service joins the two.

## 2. CHURCH BUILDINGS



**The Church of St. Botolph** is the parish church. It dates from the fifteenth century but was built on the site of an earlier church and consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, north and south porches and a west tower.

The building is constructed mainly of red sandstone with some limestone rubble. It is situated at the very western edge of the village, backing onto fields and glebe land and overlooks the River Avon.

It is a Grade 1 listed building with no church hall or church rooms. It has a small servery in the tower to enable tea and coffee to be served. It also has a toilet (but no disabled facilities) in the base of the tower, accessible via a narrow stairway. The limited road-side car parking can, if used carefully, take 20 vehicles.

The large, very well kept Churchyard has often featured in the Diocesan Best Kept Churchyard competition, and won first prize in 2005.

A Makin Thirlmere two-manual digital organ was installed in 2015 to replace an ageing pipe organ. There is a simple sound system which has been extended to incorporate an induction loop for the hard of hearing.

St. Botolph's bells have rung out over Newbold-on-Avon since the mid sixteenth century or earlier. Since the recasting of the 6 bells in 1792 by John Briant of Hertford the bells have been added to, rehung and augmented to 10 in 1992 to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1792 six. The resulting excellent handling and tone of the bells means that they are in much demand by ringers visiting from throughout the country and from overseas. Compliments are often received from members of the village.

### ***The Church of St. John (the Evangelist) Long Lawford***

The old Church of St John had to be closed in 1995 when its structure was deemed to be dangerous. The neighbouring Church Hall was taken into use as a Church and gradually all secular use was discontinued. The first service in what is now the new St John's Church was the Communion Service at 9.00am on 26th November 1995.

The building was erected in 1936 on land was sold to the Church by Herbert Kay (who retired from the Headship of the village school in 1939 after serving in that capacity since 1906). A course of bricks is engraved with the initials of the Sunday School children of that time and of others who each bought a brick to help to build the Hall.



The new St John's Church has been carefully and lovingly refurbished. It has been completely redecorated. The font and altar have been transferred from the old church.

The seating is in the form of individual upholstered chairs each of which was donated as a memorial.

Exterior and interior doors have been provided for the former exterior porch and this is now a welcoming foyer. The windows have been double-glazed and each has a stained glass cross motif. The floor has been completely carpeted - the cost being met by an anonymous donor. Infra-red heaters and a tasteful lighting system have been installed. The former kitchen has

been converted into a Vestry and one of the former cloakrooms has been equipped as a small servery. The church has a ramped entrance and there are toilet facilities which are suitable for disabled users.

An asphalted car park has been laid.

St. John’s churchyard is well kept and still in use. The adjoining old churchyard is a recognised nature conservation area under the care of The Friends of St John’s Churchyard working according to an ongoing maintenance plan.

**GENERAL**

The fabric of both churches has been well maintained over the years.

The Diocese holds responsibility for the accommodation provided for the Vicar. The vicarage is next door to St Botolph’s church. This is a 4-bedroomed house which was built in the garden of the old vicarage in 1979. It has a large wooded garden and fronts Main Street. There is no vicarage in Long Lawford.

Tree surveys are carried out at both churches at appropriate intervals and resulting work is put in hand.

A Fire Risk Assessment has also been carried out at both churches in line with current legislation and is reviewed annually.

**3. MINISTRY**

*The Ministerial Team*

The ministerial team consists of a Vicar and a Licensed Lay Minister Limited assistance is given by the Pioneer Associate Minister.

The Parish has no full time employees other than the Vicar. The only paid worker is the organist, who receives an appropriate honorarium plus fees for occasional offices. A team of volunteers looks after church flowers and churchyard maintenance and the churches are cleaned on a rota basis again by small teams of volunteers.

**4. PATTERNS OF WORSHIP**

**Regular services:** The general pattern for regular services is as follows (with average numbers attending shown in brackets).

<b>St. Botolph’s Newbold-on-Avon</b>	<b>St. John’s Long Lawford</b>
	9 a.m. – Holy Communion (12)
10.45 a.m. (25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning Worship - 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.</li> <li>• Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</li> </ul>	
6.30 p.m. (10 – 15) Celtic Worship – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Evening Prayer (CW) – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion (CW) - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evening Prayer (BCP) – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month there is a service for the whole parish held at 4.00pm, alternating in venue between the two churches.

**Seasonal special services:** These include very well attended Christmas services (including Midnight Communion and candlelight services), Lent and Holy Week services and special services for Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. There is no tradition of civic services within the parish. The Riverside Academy holds seasonal services in St. Botolph's church.

**Services** are taken monthly in a sheltered housing complex and Holy Communion is taken to the sick in their homes as required.

**Occasional Offices:** Average Annual numbers and notes are:

**Baptisms:** 50 baptisms per annum. Baptism policy is fairly open.

**Marriages:** c10 per annum. Marriage preparation is given.

**Funerals:** 30 funerals. Funeral services take place in either church or at local crematoria.

Both churches have open burial grounds and gardens of remembrance where ashes are interred.

**Confirmation:** People are prepared and presented for Confirmation as required.

## **5. THE CONGREGATIONS NOW**

The Electoral Roll is currently 63

The congregations of both churches are drawn almost entirely from the villages, though one or two people who live in surrounding parishes and have links with Newbold-on-Avon and Long Lawford join us for worship. Usual Sunday Attendance is c50 (35 at Newbold and 15 at Lawford); a very few people worship at both churches, but the vast majority worship at either one church or the other. Few children attend other than family services.

A mid-week Bible Study/discussion group meets during Lent and Advent. The parish does many things together, spiritually, practically and socially (see Section 8).

Financial giving must increase if the parish is to achieve all that it wishes for the future (see Section 7).

### ***St. Botolph's Newbold-on-Avon***

Despite its position on the edge of the village, St. Botolph's is a thriving church. Many remark on the friendliness of the congregation and its ability and willingness to welcome new members.

It has a faithful congregation, most of whom are aged over 50.

The congregation expects a high standard of liturgy and preaching. There is an opportunity to take communion in one or both of the Churches most Sundays. The special non-Eucharistic services that take place tend to attract large and appreciative congregations. There is a strong group of people who act as sidesmen/women and read the lessons.

As with all congregations we have our weaknesses. We certainly need more people to share the load of ministry to our community and the lay tasks associated with the churches and their churchyards.

### ***St John's Long Lawford***

Most of the congregation are aged above 50, with only a small number of younger regular worshippers,

As well as its use on Sundays the Church is used for a number of social occasions (eg Harvest Festival and Passover meals) and church meetings during the week. A deputy warden at St. John's ensures, amongst other

things, the care of grounds and building and prepares the church for services. As with St. Botolph's there is a strong group of people who act as sidesmen/women and read the lessons.

St John's is also used for worship on two Saturday mornings a month by a local congregation of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARISH**

Two churchwardens are elected for the Parish plus a deputy churchwarden for St. John's. The PCC has three Deanery Synod members.

The *Parochial Church Council* usually meets about 8 times per year. It currently has 15 members (6 ex-officio and 9 elected).

The *Standing Committee of the PCC* comprises the Vicar and Lay Minister, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer. It meets when needed.

The PCC also has a Mission Group operating as a sub-committee.

## **7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The annual accounts for the parish are available on request. The parish needs to increase its income.

**Finance Management:** The Accounts and Planned Giving records are computerised. The PCC Treasurer provides regular reports for consideration by the PCC.,

**Planned Giving:** A volunteer administers The Planned Giving scheme. About 35 members contribute via Gift Aid (for many of the remainder of regular givers, Gift Aid is not possible as they do not pay sufficient tax.)

## **8. CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

The parish has a range of activities both to support its own congregations and to serve the wider community. Many members of the congregations work out their Christian lives through an involvement with the community – such as meals on wheels, school governors, support for charity work, volunteer youth work.

### ***Worship***

- Members of the congregations participate in church services in a number of ways:
- Reading lessons and acting as sidesmen/women
- Serving tea and coffee after morning service at both churches.
- Bellringers: collaboration with other parishes in the Rugby Deanery and the training of new recruits ensures that our 10 bells are rung for appropriate services and weddings. The Ringers also endeavour to support ringing for weddings in other churches of the Deanery.

### ***Service to the Church***

- Gardening
- Churchyard maintenance
- Handyman work
- Electrical, carpentry and building work

- Fund raising
- General Estate management

### ***Pastoral and Outreach***

Outreach and Mission have developed and stimulated a number of initiatives over recent years, including:

- provision of church history booklets at St. Botolph's;
- creation of the parish website [and Facebook page](#)
- parish suppers, barbeques and other social events
- concerts and organ recitals
- annual Christmas Tree festival
- the annual church fete

### ***Social***

Both churches offer refreshments after the main Sunday service and on special occasions. The parish also comes together in a number of social occasions through the year e.g. Passover and Harvest Suppers. Parish-wide events include musical evenings, concerts, quiz nights, etc..



## **9. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CHURCHES**

There is a remnant of Methodist activity within the parish which we support in various ways as appropriate. Our Pioneer Associate Minister is also licensed as a Methodist minister

## **10. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

The Vicar is involved in many aspects of village life as well as providing support and care to individuals who seek help.

The Riverside Academy regularly visits St. Botolph's and holds services in church. The Vicar takes assembly regularly at both the Riverside Academy and at Long Lawford School.

The uniformed organisations (Scouting and Girlguiding) are organised on a village basis and not by the church, though they attend church as a group on occasions such as Remembrance Day.

Members of the congregation also have direct relationships with local organisations as officers or trustees e.g. as school governors and voluntary youth and organisation leaders.

## **11. WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHERE DO WE PLAN TO GO?**

The inadequate heating system, lack of a separate room and limited toilet facilities all hinder our growth as a church and our retention of older and more infirm members. We seek a way to encourage young families with children into the church. We attempt to ensure that families who present children for Baptism remain in touch (baptism anniversary cards are sent out for the first two anniversaries) but we recognise there is room for further development.

We remain in touch with bereaved families, with particular contact being made around six weeks after a funeral and again after twelve months.

The PCC also recognises that the pattern of giving by regular church goers may be more of a habit than a considered contribution to the upkeep of worship and the church. There has been some improvement in recent years with gift aid envelopes being completed at baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as normal services.

## **12. FURTHER INFORMATION**

See our website: [www.stbotolphstjohn.org.uk](http://www.stbotolphstjohn.org.uk)

See our Facebook page: St Botolph's Newbold and St John's Long Lawford