

THE PARISH OF

ST. BOTOLPH NEWBOLD-ON-AVON
WITH
ST. JOHN LONG LAWFORD



2008

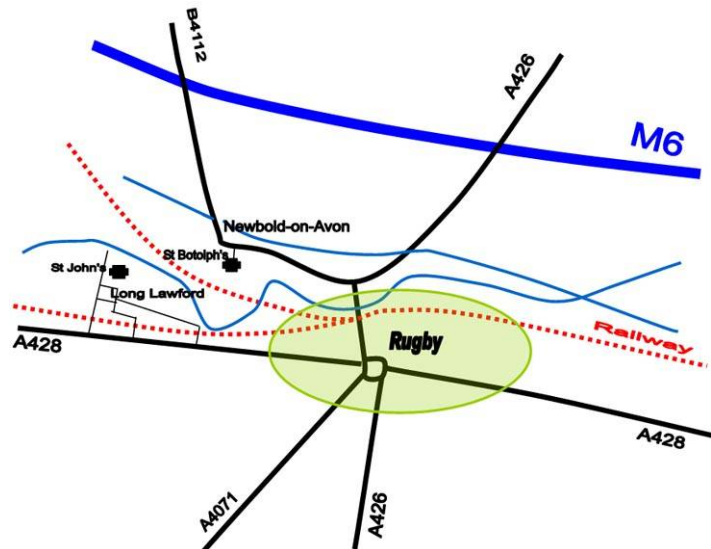
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1. THE GEOGRAPHICAL PARISH

The parish of Newbold-on-Avon with Long Lawford in the Diocese of Coventry has an estimated population of 6000 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 most deprived areas of Rugby Borough.



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 few members. There is a large performing arts secondary school and primary school. There are many young families in the village as well as older people who have lived there most of their lives.

A small retail park, less than two miles from the centre of the village, includes TESCO, a number of the large multiples and the nearest chemist. The village itself has several shops and a post office. 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. Coventry, Birmingham and East Midlands international airports are all 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 relatively modern council estate. Like Newbold-on-Avon there are areas of moderate affluence and of deprivation. There is a post office and shop but no medical facilities and the only school is primary school. 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 is part of the same circuit as Newbold-on-Avon. 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.

The organ was installed in 1858, having been Rugby School Chapel's organ from 1800. It is used for every service but is in need of a major overhaul. The simple sound system is to be extended to incorporate an induction loop for the hard of hearing, and an extension into the Church Tower.

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 200th 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 only complaints coming as a result of any service for which the bells are not rung.

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

An asphalted car park has been laid.

GENERAL

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

Tree surveys have recently been carried out at both churches and consequent tree work has been undertaken.

3. MINISTRY

The Ministerial Team

The ministerial team consists of a Vicar, the Revd. Paul Wilkinson, a Licensed Lay Minister, Mr. Arthur Webster (who supports worship in both churches) and a Licensed Lay Minister, Mrs. Jackie Gare (who supports worship mainly at St. Botolph's). The preaching and ministry, of both Lay Ministers, are parish-focused.

The Parish support no full time employees other than the Vicar. Four organists support worship at St. Botolph's and another volunteer organist plays for morning services at St. John's. 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).

<i>St. Botolph's Newbold-on-Avon</i>	<i>St. John's Long Lawford</i>
8 a.m. - (third Sunday) Holy Communion (BCP) (6)	9 a.m. - Holy Communion (20)
10.45 a.m. - • Family Worship 1 st 3 rd and 5 th Sundays. • Holy Communion 2 nd and 4 th Sundays (30)	4 p.m. - Family Service (2 nd Sunday) (20)
6.30 p.m. - Evensong (BCP) Holy Communion 1st Sunday (18)	

Seasonal special services: These include very well attended Christmas services (including Christingle, Midnight Communion and candlelight services), Lent and Holy Week services and special services for Easter, Wake, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. Some services are held jointly with the Methodist Church. There is no tradition of civic services within the parish. The Mayor attends at the annual Wake patronal service in Newbold-on-Avon in June. Local schools hold 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. Parents attend a preparation meeting before their child is baptised.

Marriages: 20 per annum Marriage preparation is given.

Funerals: 50 funerals and/or cremations. Funeral services take place in either church or at local crematoria. Both churches have burial grounds and gardens of remembrance where ashes are interred.

Confirmations: 4 people go forward for Confirmation each year.

5. THE CONGREGATIONS NOW

The Electoral Roll is currently 88.

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. We believe that, because some people no longer worship in church every week, the number attending on a regular basis is higher than the current Electoral Roll. Regulars aged between 20 and 30 are relatively few; they tend to support the family services. Few children attend other than family services. At St. Botolph's this service is attended by the uniformed organisations on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

A weekly fellowship Bible study and discussion group meets in the Vicarage attended by half a dozen regulars. 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 who if they all appeared in the church at the same time would number about 200. We have some children and teenagers but most of our congregation is aged over 50 and some considerably more than that.

The congregation expects a high standard of liturgy and preaching. There is an opportunity to take communion in one or both of the Churches every Sunday and this is appreciated by the congregations some of whom attend both churches. 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 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 adult members of the congregation are aged between 50 and 85, with only a small number of younger regular worshippers, together with a few who attend when home from school and university. However, the Family Service is well supported by young families and their children.

Although there is such a diverse age range, the congregation is very loyal, united and works well together.

As well as its use on Sundays the Church is used for Harvest Festival and Passover meals and church meetings during the week. The two deputy wardens who look after St. John's ensure, amongst other

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

6. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARISH

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

The *Parochial Church Council* usually meets 8-10 times per year. It currently includes 14 members with equal numbers of ex-officio and elected members.

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

The PCC has the following other committees:

- Buildings
- Restoration appeal fund raising working group
- Outreach and mission

Each of these makes recommendations for the Parish budget but does not hold a separate budget.

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts for the parish are available on request. The parish needs to increase its income. Additional income will also be needed to fund the required restoration work at St Botolph's.

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.)

Parish Appeal: We have launched a major appeal for funds to carry out repairs at St Botolph's. The first phase of this work entails essential repairs to the tower and to the stonework, and improved disabled facilities.

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
- Serving tea and coffee after morning service at St. Botolph's and Family Service at St. John's.
- Bellringers: collaboration with other parishes in the Rugby Deanery and training 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

- Laundering of vestments (sacrister)
- Clock winding
- Secretarial support to committees and the Vicar
- Fund raising
- General Estate management

Pastoral and Outreach

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

- production of a monthly Parish Magazine; “Roundabout”, distributed free of charge to every household in the Parish
- provision of church history booklets at St. Botolphs;
- creation of the parish website
- parish suppers, barbeques and other social events
- concerts and organ recitals
- annual Christmas Tree festival
- the annual church fete

Teaching and Spiritual Growth

At St Botolph’s, the service on the third Sunday of the month places special emphasis on young people. The uniformed organisations and young people are encouraged to take the role of readers and sidesmen at the family services.

A group meets weekly at the Vicarage for Bible Study and discussion and are joined other members of the congregations for special Lent study groups.

Preparation is provided for both baptism and marriage.

Support for Charities

Members of the congregations are actively involved in fund-raising and support for a number of charities. Particular activities include:

- Children’s Society
- Harvest goods are given to local elderly and needy people
- The parish is committed to the concept of Fairtrade and stalls of Fairtrade products are provided at the church fete and on other occasions. Fairtrade coffee and tea served after services.
- The congregations support a number of activities relating to Christian Aid, including the organisation and execution of the annual Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection.
- Support for CMS and especially for Susan Essam our Mission Partner in Jos, Nigeria
- Providing ad hoc support for a number of other charity’s events e.g. Leukaemia Research Bikeathon and Mission to Seafarers

Social

St. Botolph’s offers 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. Links with the local Methodist Churches have grown stronger in recent times. Finally, the annual Parish Fete, Christmas carol singing and Christmas Tree Festival are examples of occasions where members of the congregations work together at events that combine fund-raising with outreach to the local community, as well as providing an opportunity for our own fellowship and enjoyment.

9. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CHURCHES

There are strong links with the local Methodist Churches and there are regular meetings and informal contact between Vicar and the Methodist minister. The Methodist minister contributes to "Roundabout" and the Methodist services appear in that publication. There are a number of joint ecumenical events during the year.

The PCC supports the Anglican/Methodist Covenant signed in 2003 and there is considerable enthusiasm for closer working with the Methodists. Regular meetings between Anglican and Methodist church members consider aspects of greater unity, and these have led to some combined social events, discussions on further activities which could be undertaken together and an occasional exchange of preachers.

10. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Vicar and the Lay Ministers are held in high regard by the local community and have become involved in many aspects of village life as well as providing support and care to individuals who seek help.

The local Schools regularly visit St. Botolph's and hold services in church. The Vicar and Lay Minister take services and assemblies in the schools.

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 the Remembrance Day Service, Christingle and parade services.

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 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 but we recognise there is room for further development. We could use one of the halls in the village - Methodist church, the village hall or schools to run young people's activities, or a mid week mums and toddlers club. These possibilities are being explored as part of our search for ways to increase our support to the more deprived members of our community.

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 an improvement over the past 12 months with gift aid envelopes being completed at baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as normal services.

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from:

The Revd Paul Wilkinson - The Vicarage, Main Street, Newbold-on-Avon, Rugby CV21 1HH