

THE PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOUND, SUFFOLK 2024



We are part of the Deanery of Lothingland,
which is clustered round Lake Lothing
and includes Lowestoft.

It stretches from Hopton in the north to Kessingland in the south,
from the sea in the east to Herringfleet in the west.

The Deanery is part of Suffolk County but belongs to the
Diocese of Norwich.



WELCOME TO THE PARISH



Sir John Betjeman famously called St John the Baptist 'the Golden Church' because the interior is richly decorated with gold leaf. The rood screen, font and organ case were designed by Sir Ninian Comper, and are excellent examples of his work, helping to restore to the church a numinosity and prayerfulness that were lost at the Reformation. For generations Saint John's has maintained a pattern of worship within the catholic tradition of the Church of England, and draws people from an area far wider than its parochial boundaries.

In order to safeguard the traditional catholic identity of St John's, the PCC requested and was granted pastoral and sacramental oversight from the Bishop of Richborough, who is also an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Norwich. We have welcomed him to our services on several occasions.





Our new priest will need to be a committed pastor, who will visit and be interested in the people of the parish as well as those who come to us from further afield.

Before Covid restrictions there was a sung 'Parish Mass' on three Sundays each month, a pattern which we hope to restore as soon as we are able. Worship is supported by our newly refurbished Harrison & Harrison organ.



We have an enthusiastic new group of bell-ringers which started with an open invitation to 'Ring for the King' upon his coronation in 2023. They continue to ring for services and other special offices.



On High Days such as Ascension and Corpus Christi the local branch of GSS and CBS gather for worship in our beautiful country church.



A major refurbishment programme has been undertaken during the last three years, including a complete rebuild of the organ, replastering of the inside of the tower, repair and reglazing of a stained glass window in the chancel and all the windows in the porch, vestry and nave.



For almost 30 years, Lound has been part of the Somerleyton Benefice, which lies between Great Yarmouth to the north and Lowestoft to the south. The Benefice was made up of six parishes, each with its own distinct pattern of worship and ethos. We have shared many activities over the years, including our Lent Lunches.



Although we are sad to leave the Somerleyton Group, we are now looking forward to working alongside, and building a new relationship with, the parish of St. Mary, Hemsby, to the north of Great Yarmouth, which shares our desire to maintain the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Our Patron is *The Society for the Maintenance of the Faith*. We are members of *Forward in Faith* and *The Society of St. Wilfred and St. Hilda*, and we have a Walsingham Cell.

During that time the Benefice has also produced a monthly magazine, *The Hexagon*. Since this covers not just church events, but the general life of the six villages concerned, we anticipate that those who have contributed to this will wish to continue to do so, and will still to be involved in the friendships and social life and events of the old benefice, as well as looking to the new.

Our Electoral Roll currently numbers 23.

We have our own website www.loundchurch.uk through which we hope to reach and attract a wider congregation. It will be suitably updated when the new arrangement with Hemsby takes place.

We expect to continue following the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard, where we are currently at level 3. We have also adopted the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing.

The parish is committed to playing an active part in the diocese and has consistently paid its parish share in full.

