



The Parish of  
**St Lawrence Newland**

**Local Information**



**Appendix 2 St Lawrence**



## St Lawrence Profile

St Lawrence is situated on the estuary of the river Blackwater. The majority of the land is farmed while on the low-lying area adjacent to the river a popular holiday and water sports settlement has developed residentially.

### **St Lawrence Church, Buildings**

The Church is located in a beautiful setting on a hill overlooking the estuary of the River Blackwater. The building was constructed in 1877; it has a simple traditional layout of a nave, chancel, north porch and a south vestry. The walls are in Kentish Rag stone with a peg tiled roof and a spire over the nave.

The building is in good condition with all recommendations in the Quinquennial report being carried out promptly. A recent legacy has enabled us to proceed with the building of an annexe to the Church which will enhance its use, both for worship and community activities, with the provision of indoor toilet and kitchen facilities. Work commenced in September 2015 and should be completed ready for a Service of Dedication in March 2016.

The Lych Gate, which is also the parish War Memorial, has suffered somewhat from age and probable vehicular impact damage, rendering a thorough overhaul essential. This has now been made possible by a 75% grant from the War Memorial Trust and it is hoped that the work will be completed by early 2016.

### **The St Lawrence Church Centre**

The Church Centre, established in 1971, is situated in St Lawrence village. The Centre has been used for the many village activities. Some of the larger groups have moved to the new Village Hall but the Centre still provides a valuable meeting place for events.

In addition to the Church Café Extra, the Coffee Morning, Bridge Club, Hobbies and Craft Club, and Exercise Club meet weekly, while the Parish Council meets monthly.

The Library van attends fortnightly, while the Waterside Caravan Park Committee meets three times a year. During the winter months the St Lawrence Singers practise here weekly. It is also used a polling station on election days.

Most importantly, there is a service in the Church Centre every Sunday morning at 10.00am. and Pebbles meet weekly.

A programme of renovation and improvement has been undertaken, including insulation and double glazing.



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### The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and committees

The parish has its own PCC, elected and conducted according to the Church Representation Rules, which meets monthly. The Church Centre is managed by Deputy Churchwarden Shirley Lea, supported by a committee

### Finance

St Lawrence Newland Church is a Platinum parish and has always paid the family purse in full, in recent years by regular monthly direct debit.

Financially the parish is currently in a sound position.

### 2015 Statistics

Electoral Roll members	27
Average weekly communicants	12
Average attendance at special services (6)	55
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Attendance	52
Nine lessons & Carols	70
Easter Day Attendance	57
Baptisms	4
Weddings	4
Funerals	10
Average Service Attendees at Centre	11 per week
Average Pebbles Attendees Pebbles (Adults)16 per week (Children) 17 per week	

### Pebbles/Youth work

The opportunity within St Lawrence for work among young families is met by Pebbles for mothers and toddlers who meet on Mondays in the Church Centre. This is within the remit of “Fresh Expressions” of the church.

We have a short time of worship, story and prayer. The children between the newborn to 4 years age, are catered for with toys and play. The accompanying adults are able to hear the gospel and respond as they feel. Pebbles is operational throughout the year excluding Bank Holidays. During school holidays older siblings accompany the younger ones. There are group outings to local places of interest.



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### Social Fundraising Events

The church and the 'Friends' organise regular events, typically including a Christmas Fair, a Harvest Supper, a Strawberry Fair and entertainments such as talks and concerts.

Some more ambitious projects have proved a great success. A black-tie Dinner and Ball, an Afternoon Tea with talk and demonstration on the making of the Royal Nosegays both proved splendid events.

Refreshments follow the services at the Centre and our special services at the church. Church Breakfast has been introduced following the Communion on the third Sunday of the month at the church giving the opportunity to socialise, important in our parish where there are numerous scattered houses.

### The Heritage Discovery Church

The establishment of the Rural Discovery Church in 1990 placed St Lawrence in the forefront of the movement to widen the use of church buildings. This has been instrumental in bringing hundreds of people into the church, highlighting for some that it is also the centre of worship in the parish.

Exhibitions are held every summer covering a variety of themes with a local flavour. In addition well-supported talks, concerts by local and higher profile musicians including the cellist Orlando Joplin and the Hermitage Quartet, and other activities have been arranged.

Each season there is an Art Show, providing a showcase for local artists. Subjects of our general exhibitions included Sport in the Dengie Hundred, story of the River Blackwater, Osea Island and its exciting wartime secrets, the Hundred Churches and many others

In 2014 the exhibition on World War I with special reference to the Dengie Hundred was most successful. These activities take place in harmony with the principal function of the building as an active place of worship.

### Friends of St Lawrence Newland Church Trust

The Friends was formed in 2004 "to maintain, repair, restore, preserve, improve, beautify and reconstruct for the benefit of the public the fabric of the Church of St. Lawrence Newland, ..." ensuring the future of the building. There are about 80 "Friends", 10 of whom are elected as Trustees who organise fund raising events. Some highlights have included a Folk music evening, Traditional Jazz evening, Maldon Youth Orchestra, the Camerata singers, The St Petersburg Hermitage Ensemble, Orlando Joplin's Bach Cello Suites and a packed audience with our late Patron Tony Benn. Popular annual events include Christmas and Spring Suppers and our Midsummer Garden Lunch.

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