



Lound Church

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS 24TH APRIL 2025

1. The meeting took place in Church on Thursday, 24th April 2025. Mr Turner, Lay Chair, opened the meeting with a prayer at 7.04pm.
2. **The minutes of the previous meeting** on the 24th April 2024 were accepted. There were no matters arising and the minutes were signed off by Mr Turner.
3. **Nominations for Churchwardens.**
Mrs L McDonald proposed by Mr A Colton seconded by Mr K Turner.
Mrs J Hobbs, proposed by Mr P Strowlger, seconded by Mrs S Strowlger.
Mrs Hobbs announced that this would be her last year as churchwarden.
4. **Election if necessary.** As there were only two nominations Mrs Hobbs and Mrs McDonald were duly re-elected for another year.

There being no further business the Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 7.10pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 24TH APRIL 2025

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place at 7.10pm following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

1. **Members present** – Mr Miles Campbell, Mrs Ann Colton, Mr Alan Colton, Miss Sarah Hills, Mrs Judith Hobbs, Mrs Lesley McDonald, Mrs Susan Strowlger, Mr Paul Strowlger, Mr Miles Thomas and Mr Kevin Turner (Lay Chair). There were no apologies.
2. **Minutes of the meeting of the 24th April 2024 and matters arising.** There were no matters arising and were duly signed off by Mr Turner.
3. **Annual Reports.** The various reports were circulated prior to the meeting and are reproduced at the end of these minutes.
 - a) **Churchwardens Reports.** See reports below.
 - b) **Hon Treasurer report, approval of accounts and Return of Finance.** See reports below.
Re Return of Finance, Page 2, Regular Givers and Legacies. Mr Strowlger wondered why there were only 8 people classified as regular givers. Mrs Hobbs explained that “regular givers” refers to people who make a regular payment each month via standing order or cash payment. People who donate via the yellow envelopes are not deemed to be regular givers for the purposes of the Return.

There were no further comments about the finance and so Mr Turner proposed adopting the reports and Mrs Colton seconded. All in favour.

c) Electoral Roll The new Roll reproduced below. There were no questions. Mrs Hobbs proposed adoption and Mrs McDonald seconded. All in favour

d) Incumbent report. No report as no incumbent.

e) Deanery Synod report. No deanery synod member so no report.

f) Safeguarding report. Deferred until the new incumbent is installed.

g) Village hall. See report below. Mr Thomas said that the hall committee had decided to put on an exhibition commemorating VE day which would run from the 1st May until the 12th May. Mr Turner wondered if a “songs of praise” style service in church would be welcome as part of the celebrations. He knows someone at Hemsby who might be able to lead it. Mr Thomas will follow up with the hall committee and advise Mr Turner in due course.

4. Election of Deanery Synod representative. No volunteers

5. Election of new PCC. The current PCC members i.e. Mr/Mrs Strowlger, Miss Hills and Mr Campbell were happy to continue for another year. Mr Turner said he would continue on the PCC as Lay Chair until the new incumbent came, then he would stand down. The PCC members proposed and seconded each other and there were no other nominations so no need for any elections. The two churchwardens are ex-officio members of the PCC.

6. Presentation of the Terrier. The inventory of land, buildings and items held by the church showing any changes during the year. There were no changes and the report was signed off by the churchwardens.

FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW PCC

1. Election of:

Hon Secretary – Role shared between Mrs Hobbs and Mr Colton (minutes taker) proposed by Mr Strowlger, seconded by Miss Hills. All in favour.

Hon Treasurer – Mrs Hobbs proposed by Mr Turner, seconded by Mrs McDonald. All in favour.

Vice Chair – Mr Turner proposed by Mrs Hobbs and seconded by Mr Colton. All in favour.

2. Date, time and place of next meeting. To immediately follow this meeting.

The APCM finished at 7.50pm

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOUND

CHURCHWARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT - APCM 24.04.2025

Maintenance:-

2024 has been a relatively quiet year without any major ongoing maintenance work.

It was necessary to call in Pest Control experts last autumn, to treat an infestation of cluster flies. This seems so far to have been largely successful. If the problem persists, the treatment can be repeated to keep matters under control.

The **St. Christopher restoration** and the repainting of the armorial shields is scheduled to begin on 1st May 2025. Scaffolding will be erected in the week beforehand, but should only affect the pews immediately adjacent to the mural, so there shouldn't be any significant disruption to services. The work should take 3 – 4 weeks.

The **2024 Quinquennial inspection** listed a great many issues, many of which were deemed unnecessarily picky by the PCC. It was decided that we would tackle those items listed as urgent and then look again at the remainder, and at the funds available.

Jeff Attoe of Norwich has been instructed in connection with the making and installation of a **new cross on the porch**; the cost will be between £1800 and £2200 plus VAT. Jeff has taken templates and photos, and we have obtained List B Permission from the Diocese for the work. Jeff has offered to mortar in the Fisher memorial in the chancel, free of charge, so that we can monitor for possible movement., as per the QIR.

Minor problems such as plants growing in the gutter have been tackled by your churchwarden who, in the absence of any other offers of help, also continues to look after the War Memorial garden. I still hope somebody else will eventually take it on.

Services:-

We have established a regular pattern of 2 services a month, with Fr. Anthony Long regularly officiating on each 4th Sunday, which he greatly enjoys. I hope we may still continue to see him after we have our new priest – he does so like coming here. We are mostly managing to cover the 2nd Sunday with help from our existing pool of retired clergy with LRH as backstop.

After our first Candlelit Advent Service in 2023, the general response was very positive, so we repeated this in 2024, with the singing of the Advent Prose. I hope this will now be an annual event.

We are of course delighted with the **appointment in February of Fr. David Bailey** as our new part time house-for-duty priest. I understand negotiations are ongoing on a house in Hemsby; the date of Fr. David's installation will depend on when that purchase is completed.

On the subject of new appointments, we are also now have a new **Bishop of Richborough**, Fr. Luke Capel who was consecrated at Canterbury at the end of February. I very much hope we shall be able to meet him soon.

Occasional Offices:-

We have had 4 funerals followed by burial, and 2 interments of ashes. The funerals included two longtime supporters of the church, Alec James and Coral Jermy (Phillips). We also had two baptisms. .

Events:-

As usual we held the Lent Lunch, jointly with Blundeston, in March, which was moderately successful. Harvest Evensong was well attended. As ever, huge thanks to our local farmers for their generous contributions of fruit and vegetables, to all who helped decorate the church and to those who helped with the distribution of produce afterwards. The staff at Lound Hall and Bond's Meadow are always so grateful.

Fundraising events included the Patronal Festival weekend and strawberry tea, a popular concert by the Shantymen, the Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride and Tea & Tinsel 3 in the Autumn. Altogether these events raised £1239, so enormous thanks to everyone who helped or contributed in any way. In particular the Festival theme of 'Remembering' proved to be so successful that many people asked if we could do the same again this year. We have set this in motion with the first invitation in the March *Hexagon*. If it is as good this year we could make it an annual event; if not, we'll have to think of another theme for 2026!

As ever, I am immensely grateful to my fellow churchwarden, the 'events committee' for their fundraising efforts, cyclists, and everyone who undertakes all the tasks involved in running a church - readers, intercessions flower-arranging, gardening, catering, cleaning etc. Thank you all; I couldn't manage without you!



The Parish Church of

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOUND

Part of a group of six parishes that form one benefice, known as the Somerleyton Group

CHURCHWARDENS ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2024 PRESENTED APRIL 2025

Members of Staff:

Rector	In interregnum
Reader	
Churchwardens	Judith Hobbs Lesley McDonald
PCC Secretary	Vacant
Minute Taker & Electoral Secretary	Alan Colton
Hon. Organist	Kevin Turner
Organ Tuner	W & A Boggis Organ Builders of Diss, Norfolk
Inspecting Architect	Ruth Brennan Architects 12 School Lane, Little Melton Norwich NR9 3NL
Benefice Safeguarding officer	Rev Helen Jary (Rural Dean)
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC (Current Account) Central Board of Finance, Church of England (Deposit Fund)
Independent Examiner	Mr John Hunt

Members of the PCC:

Ex officio

Rector	In interregnum
Judith Hobbs	Churchwarden (Vice Chairman)
Lesley McDonald	Churchwarden

Elected

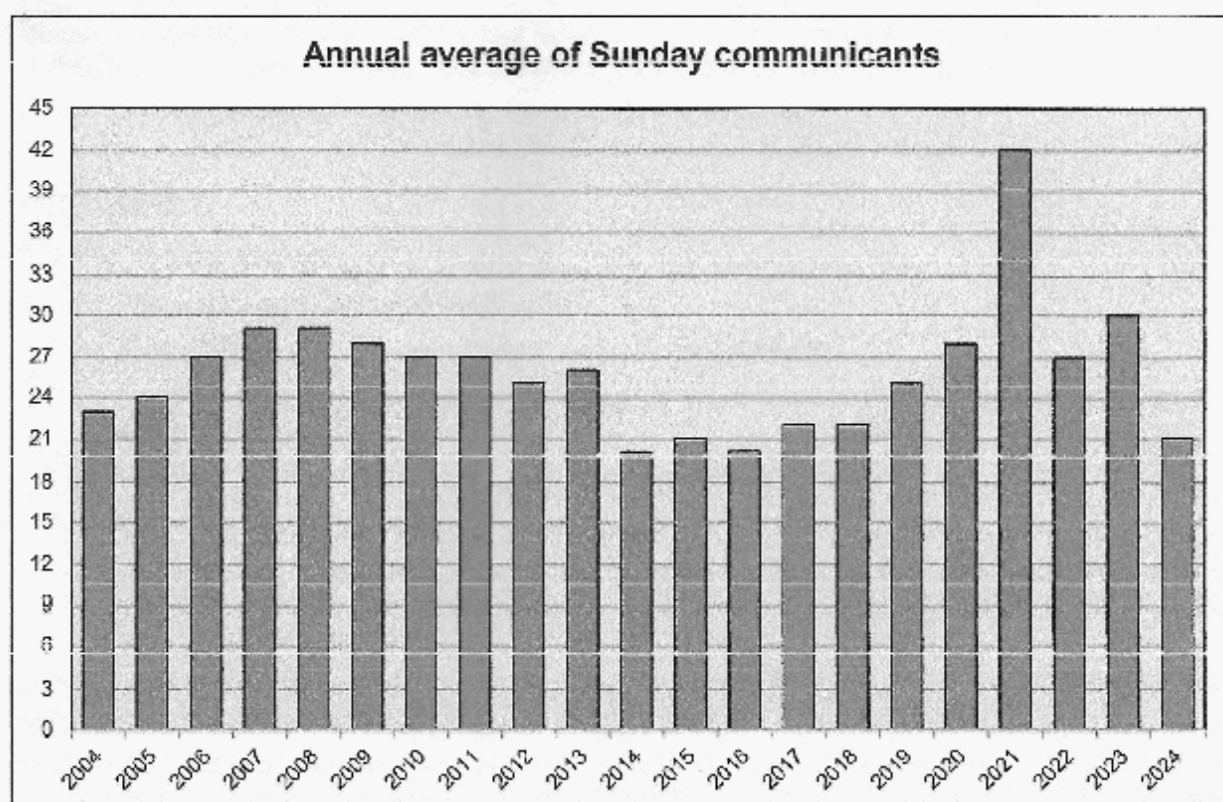
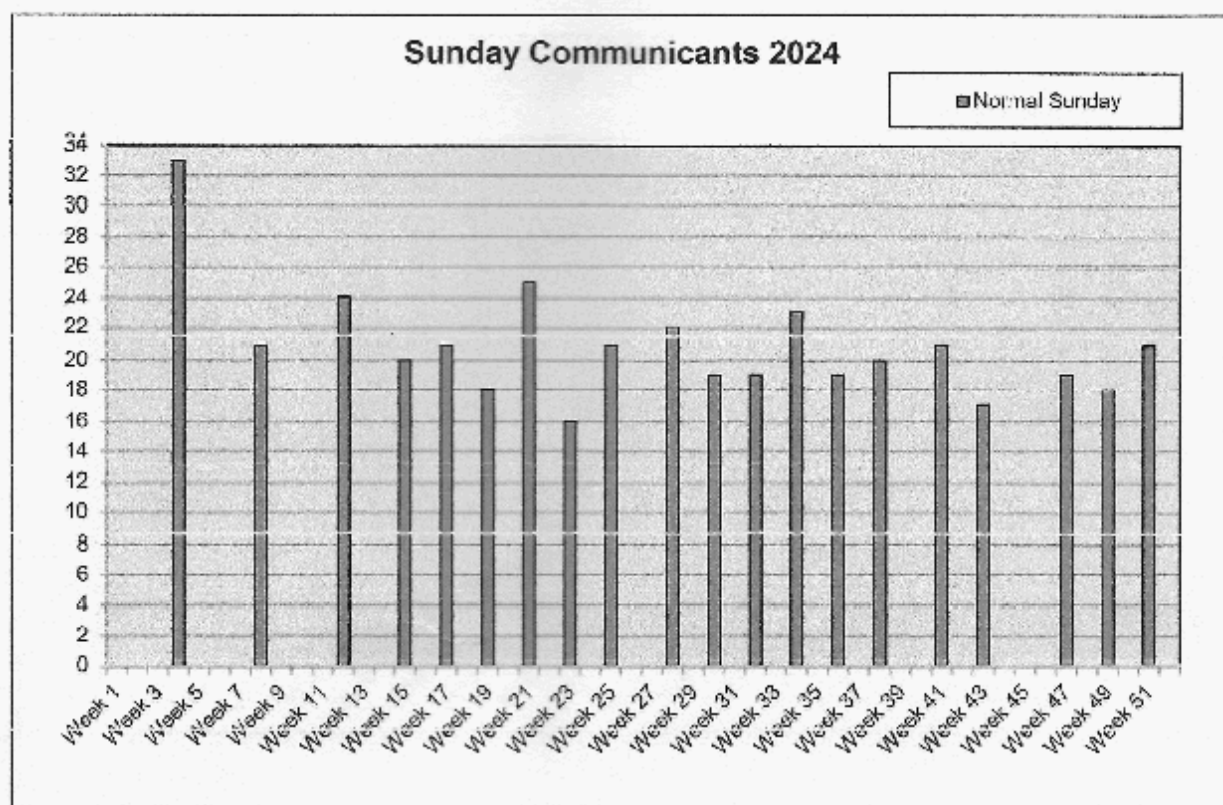
Judith Hobbs	(Vice Chairman) Treasurer
Miles Campbell	
Kevin Turner	Lay Chairman
Sarah Hill	
Paul Strowlger	
Susan Strowlger	

SERVICES:

During 2024 there were 33 services in Lound Church. We had 4 funerals, 2 interment of ashes, Maundy Thursday service, St John the Baptist service, a Baptism service, and an Ascension Day service. There was also a harvest festival evening song and an Advent Service. Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day Said mass. There was no service for the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary.

We had a Eucharist at Lound on a total of 20 Sundays during 2024.

The tables below show the Sunday communicant numbers:

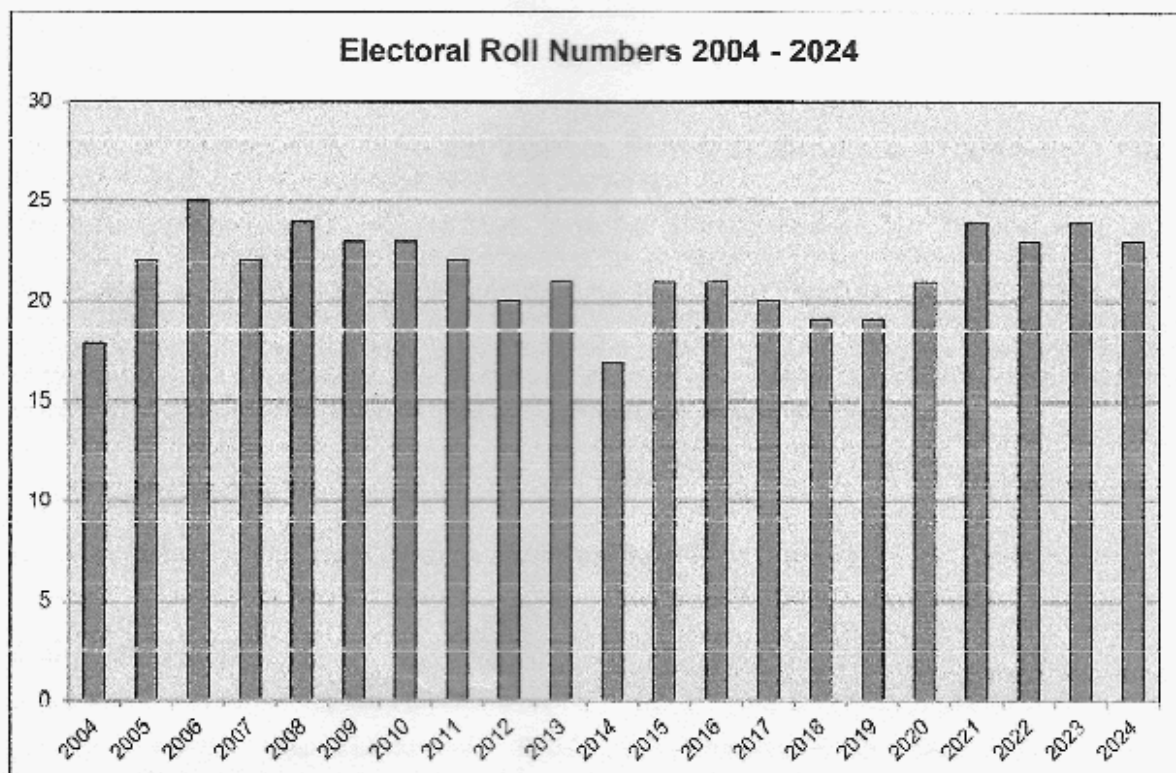


ELECTORAL ROLL:

We had 23 people on our electoral roll in 2024.

This year we have lost two members – Jane McCormick and Mary Critoph. Jenny Poole has joined the electoral roll having resigned from Ashby.

The table below shows the numbers over the past twenty years:



CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICIES

Lound Church adopted a child protection policy in January 1999, which was in line with the then Diocesan Guidelines. The two policies that have been adopted by all six parishes in our benefice, one of these relates to Child Protection and the other to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.

Copies of these policies are displayed in the porch at Lound Church.

FIRE POLICY

The PCC is committed to:

1. The protection of life in the event of fire.
2. Protecting the building and contents of the church against fire.
3. Ensuring the measures provided for fire safety are compatible with the conservation interests of the building, as far as possible.
4. Making all staff and volunteers aware of the importance of fire safety.
5. Reducing danger from fire as far as is practicable and reasonable.
6. The fire safety policy for the church is to be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect changes to use, management or fabric of the building, or changes to the statutory controls that are applicable.

East Fire UK Ltd service our three fire extinguishers annually. They all comply with BS5306 PT3 and can be used on most types of fires. This is in line with the current fire regulations.

In May 2009 Fire Risk Assessments were carried out in all of the different parts of the Church building to bring us in line with current Health and Safety Regulations. Copies of these assessments are filed in the Churchwardens Logbook.

CHURCH INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The policy is with Congregational & General Insurance the cover is:

Buildings £2,322,859

Contents £38,966

Organ £142,562

TOTAL = £2,504,387

Property damage section

The cover is in respect of Fire, Lightning, Explosion, Earthquake, Subterranean Fire, Smoke Damage, Storm and Theft. An excess of £250 applies to our policy.

The cover is provided on a First Loss Basis. What this basically means is that in return for a greatly reduced annual premium, we are covered for all of the above perils up to a value amounting to 20% of the declared value of the church and its contents. The Congregational have said that the current declared value of the church and its contents is approximately £9.19 million. Therefore, if any of the above cause damage to the church we can claim up to a maximum of £1.85 million to carry out repairs. In the event of total destruction of the church this should give us enough to at least make the ruin safe. If we were to insure the church to its full value the annual premium would be prohibitive.

Theft Section

Cover for theft if provided up to a maximum amount of £7159 per occasion.

Liabilities Section

The following covers are supplied as standard:

Employers' liability	Limit of indemnity	£10,000,000	Current certificate displayed in south porch
Public Liability		£5,000,000	
Products Liability		£5,000,000	

Legal Expenses Section

Cover for legal costs incurred in defending a criminal or civil action. *Limit of indemnity* £100,000

DISABILITY ACCESS AND UNIT

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) placed a responsibility on all churches to enable and encourage the full participation of all people, including those with disabilities and special needs. Because of this all PCC's were strongly urged to undertake an assessment of their Church building and prepare an Accessibility Audit Report.

LOUND PCC

Treasurer's Report for APCM – 24.04.2025

Funds at 31.12.24 were held as follows:-

- CCLA No. 1 deposit account (unrestricted funds) **£10,000**
- CCLA No. 2 deposit account (restricted funds) **£2051**
- Lloyds Bank plc current account , including unpresented cheques **£1178**
31/12.24 share valuation was **£121157**.

We have not needed to sell shares this year so still hold 1930.42. So far they continue to perform well, but in these uncertain times, who knows what the markets will do!

Despite our numbers being somewhat down, we managed to pay the **Parish Share** in full. Interest from the unrestricted deposit account had to be used to help make up the final total, but we haven't touched our capital reserve. Our Unrestricted Reserve at 31.12.24 was £10,008. and our Restricted Reserve £3221.

We still need to increase individual giving, and regular church income from Standing Orders. We are very fortunate in having Chris' money to help defray running costs. Without it we would struggle, and the cost of electricity, water and insurance keep going up; we need to be careful not to waste electricity in particular.

Sunday collections are usually not much more than £100 – a drop in the ocean when we have to raise over £19000 in the year.

Apart from running costs, we also need to keep raising money, in order to limit what we have to withdraw from our capital fund for such work as the St. Christopher restoration. We have now obtained grants totalling £8,000 as against the likely total of £9,500. We should, I hope, still be able to retrieve the VAT, notwithstanding the new government limitations on the funds available for this.

Independent Examiners Certificate

Report to the trustees/ members of:

LOUND PCC

On accounts for the year ended:

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity no (if any):

N/A

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of []~~ ☐. Delete [] if not applicable.

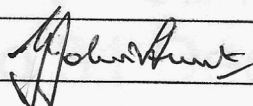
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below*)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:



Date:

28/2/25

Name:

GRAHAM JOHN HUNT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

Address:

OULTON LODGE, BORROW ROAD

LOWESTOFT

NR32 3PW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH LOUND



**Statement of Accounts
for the year
01 January 2024
to 31 December 2024**

The Parochial Church Council of
St. John the Baptist Church, Lound

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2024

Total balance brought forward 1/1/24 was **£19446** made up as follows:-

	<u>General Fund</u> <u>(unrestricted)</u>	<u>Chris James Fund</u> <u>(restricted)</u>
	£	£
	10937	8509
Receipts:-		
Grants for St. Christopher restoration (col. 5&6)		1750
Gift Aid receipts (column 2)	6513	
Gift Aid recovered from HMRC (7)	2449	
Church collections (3)	1341	
Donations (4)	3159	
Fundraising (10)	1239	
Interest on CCLA No.1 deposit a/c (8)	417	
Interest on CCLA No.2 deposit a/c (4)		272
Sales of cards, magazines etc. (6)	487	
Fees (5)	2597	
Charity (Remembrance Sunday) (9)	75	
Online receipt from Diocese (4)	114	
<u>Total receipts 2024</u>	<u>18391</u> 29328	<u>2022</u> 10531
Payments:-		
Parish share (paid in full) (2)	19245	
Group expenses (14)		300
Utiities [note 2]		3307
Maintenance costs [note 3]		1830
Expenditure on supplies [note 4]		1633
Honorarium to organist (8)		100
Donation to Royal British Legion (13)	75	
Membership subscriptions (12)		140
<u>Total payments 2024:-</u>	<u>19320</u>	<u>7310</u>
<u>Net carried forward 31st December</u>	<u>10008</u>	<u>3221</u>

The Parochial Church Council of
St. John the Baptist Church, Lound

Year ended 31st December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>The total funds of the church are:-</u>		
Unrestricted General fund	10008	10937
Restricted Funds *	<u>3221</u>	<u>8509</u>
	<u>13229</u>	<u>19446</u>

These funds are held as:-

Lloyds Bank current a/c:-	
Balance at 31.12.24	8012
Less unrepresented cheques	
849	
100	
5431	
454	<u>6834</u>
	1178
CCLA (01/549-00) unrestricted deposit a/c	10000
CCLA (02/551-00) restricted deposit a/c	
(Chris James Fund)*	<u>2051</u>
	<u>13229</u>

*In 2014, the Church invested funds from the Chris James bequest in 5638.17 shares (purchase cost £150,000) in the **CBF Church of England investment fund**. This investment remains as part of the **Chris James Fund**.

Sold 05/02/19 052.00 shares
Sold 02/03/21 569.07 shares
Sold 11/01/22 177.42 shares
Sold 03/05/22 828.79 shares
Sold 20/06/23 451.64 shares
Sold 04/07/23 630.13 shares

Market value 1 st January (1930.42 shares)	115273
Market increase/decrease in value during year	<u>5884</u>
Value at 31 st December	<u>121157</u>

The Parochial Church Council of St. John the Baptist Church, Lound

Year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the accounts

1. These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
2. <u>Utilities:-</u>		
Electricity (3)	730	574
Water (2)	81	69
Insurance (4)	<u>2496</u>	<u>2230</u>
<u>Total running expenses:-</u>	<u>3307</u>	<u>2873</u>
4. <u>Maintenance costs:-</u>		
Organ tuning & repair (8)	454	310
Fire extinguisher service (5)	106	100
Building/contents repair & maintenance (6)	390	1674
Churchyard maintenance (7)	880	1508
<u>Total maintenance costs:-</u>	<u>1830</u>	<u>3592</u>
5. <u>Supplies/miscellaneous running costs:-</u>		
Hexagon, printing & advertising , website costs (10)	1474	395
Cards & booklets, sale items (9)	110	90
Sundries (11)	49	54
<u>Total miscellaneous costs:-</u>	<u>1633</u>	<u>539</u>

Mrs. Judith Hobbs,
Nether End Cottage,
Blacksmith's Loke,
Lound, Suffolk NR32 5LS

Dated 5 February 2025

Signed Frank Hobbs

PCC Treasurer

Included Churches

Churches Included

☒ Lound: St John the Baptist

Fresh Expressions of church included:

Names:

No.

Description

Incoming Resources

Receipts

Voluntary receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted
1 - Regular giving	£6,627	£0
3 - Collections at services	£1,341	£0
4 - All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£3,234	£0
6 - Gift Aid recovered (regular giving and one-off donations)	£2,449	£0
7 - Legacies received (capital value)	£0	£0
8 - Grants (Include recurring and one-off)	£0	£1,750
TOTAL	£13,651	£1,750

Activities for Generating Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted
9 - Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)	£1,239	£0

Investment income	Unrestricted	Restricted
10 - Dividends, interest, receipts from property etc.	£417	£272

Church Activities	Unrestricted	Restricted
11 - Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)	£2,597	£0
12 - Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising	£487	£0

Other receipts	Unrestricted	Restricted
13 - Other receipts/income not already listed PLEASE NOTE BRIEF DETAILS IN COMMENTS BOX IN SECTION E	£0	£0

Total Receipts/Income (from Financial Statements.)

Unrestricted	£18,391
Restricted	£2,022
Combined Total	£20,413

Regular Givers and Legacies

Regular Givers And Legacies

14 - Number of regular givers	8
16 - Number of new legacies received in year	0
For your information, weekly average total regular giving per total regular giver	£15.93

Resources Expended

Payments

Costs of generating funds	Unrestricted	Restricted
17 - Costs of fundraising activities	£0	£49

Church Activities	Unrestricted	Restricted
18 - Mission giving and donations	£75	£765
19 - Diocesan parish share contribution	£19,245	£0
20 - Salaries, wages and honararia	£0	£100
21 - Clergy and staff expenses	£0	£0

Church expenses	Unrestricted	Restricted
22 - Mission and evangelism costs	£0	£0
23 - Church running expenses (Including Governance)	£0	£4,626
24 - Church utility bills	£0	£811
25 - Costs of trading	£0	£110

Major capital expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted
27 - Major repairs to the church building	£0	£0
28 - Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	£0	£0
29 - New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing, or other PCC property	£0	£0
SUB-TOTAL of all expenditure payments items above:	£19,320	£6,461

	Unrestricted	Restricted
99 - Other payments not already listed	£0	£849

Total Payments/Expenditure (from Financial Statements)

Unrestricted	£19,320
Restricted	£7,310
Combined Total	£26,630

Cash and Investment Balances

30 - On which basis were your accounts prepared?

☒ Receipts and Payments
☐ Accruals

Cash and Investment Balances

	Unrestricted	Restricted
31 - Cash and deposit balances (Receipts and Payments) OR Net Current Assets (Accruals) as at 31 December	£11,178	£2,051
32 - Investment assets as at 31st December	£0	£121,157

Looking back across 2024, was there any exceptional financial activity affecting movement on cash and investment balances? Please provide details in this box

Box 99 - £849 joint payment with St. Mary the Virgin Hemsby for Church Times advertisement. Half of this payment was reimbursed to Lound by Hemsby but not until 2025.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOUND CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

1. CAMPBELL Mr. M.
2. COLEMAN Mr. G.
3. COLTON Mr. A.
4. COLTON Mrs. A.
5. CONWAY Mr S.
6. DUCKMANTON Mrs. P.
7. FAULKNER Mr. B.
8. HARROP Mr. G.
9. HARROP Mrs. J.
10. HILLS Miss S.
11. HOBBS Mrs. J.
12. HUDSON Mrs. B.
13. JAMES Mrs. B.
14. JAMES Mrs. S.
15. McDONALD Mrs. L.
16. NEWARK-MILLER Mrs. P.
17. POOLE Mrs. J.
18. ROBERTS Mrs. N.
19. STROWLGER Mr. P.
20. STROWLGER Mrs. S.
21. TURNER Mr. K.

Any enquiries concerning the Electoral Roll please contact Mr Alan Colton
01502 341241 or email alan.colton@talktalk.net

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT 2025

This year has seen a complete renewal of the Electoral Roll. We've not had renewals from five people – Angela & John Nichols, Mary Roberts, Rosalind Weston and Stephen James. New members on the Roll – Mrs. Pamela Newark-Miller, Mr. Stephen Conway and Mrs. Barbara James. So this year the Roll total is 21.

Alan Colton
Electoral Roll Officer
23rd March 2025

Lound Village Hall Report 2024-5

It has been a busy year for the Village Hall. There have been several clubs that have used the hall successfully. The Art Group and Craft Group have met alternate Mondays throughout the year and have proved pretty popular with a large number of participants. The Quilting and the Patchwork clubs have met on Wednesday afternoons and evenings and brings in a wide circle of participants all thoroughly engaged in their creations. The Warm Welcome Project has thrived this year with larger numbers using the facility thanks to improved organisation. The formation of the Lound Community led by Wendy has thrived. By putting on an event a month such as coffee mornings and Craft Fairs which have been very popular. The largest event was an all day music festival held in August on The Green, "Lound Makes Music", which was a well attended event with a lovely "vibe". Wendy and Jill applied for a start up grant to provide weekly exercise classes for residents called Fit, Flex, Fun. This started in January on Tuesday Mornings and regularly attracts about 13 participants. It is lovely to see these events and other bookings which have been due to a fair amount of creativity in thinking of different events but also by much improved advertising. We would like to thank East Suffolk Council for their continued support financially and more importantly the goodly numbers of volunteers who have made this happen.

The Hall fabric has again been improved this year. We have replaced the Hob in the kitchen and installed "boost heating controls" on immersion tank and kitchen heater which will prevent these being left on for long periods. Again with the lights Brian has replaced these with LED low energy lights with automatic timers. The fire alarms and electricity circuits have been fully tested this year and updates made where required. The Lound Archive has almost been completed, scanned and stored in the office upstairs and the main area upstairs has been converted into a meeting area with comfortable seating for 12 folk around the main table. We have also been lucky that the Virtual Computer Club donated some of their funds which we have spent on a Display Monitor which makes meetings which would otherwise have needed the projector downstairs much easier to hold. We are in process of constructing a cupboard upstairs to make it easier for regular Hall users to store their "bits and bobs" rather than have to bring them each session.

Outside the Green has been kept by Jonathan Baker and we have also employed Dan Goldsmith to trim the hedges which were in desperate need of attention. The bowling green, which has out of use for about 5 years, was been repurposed. With a Grant from East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Council Sam Perks has created a Car park that can be used by allotment holders. This can also be used as an overspill parking for Village Hall and Church Events. The area beyond is envisaged to become a conservation area.

The committee has changed this year with Bob O'Neill standing down and we would like thank for his service. Stuart Day has settled into the role of treasurer and does far beyond this remit. Wendy Hargadon has become Vice Chair and brings an Organisational Skill that has enhanced our events and advertising. These latter two are working on an online booking system which will make booking the Hall much easier by using an online calendar and email systems. We have submitted two applications in the last year, one unsuccessful, for funding for Solar Panels which we will hope will reduce our energy costs considerably.

We would also like to thank our internal and external contractors, Eileen and Jonathan, for making the Hall look clean and welcoming.

April 2025