

St John the Baptist Church Timeline

- 1824 John Forster of Southend Hall erected and endowed a Chapel of Ease (now St John's Church Hall). Grade II Listed Building.
- 1855 A village school was opened next to the Chapel of Ease
- 1921 New Vicarage is dedicated by the Bishop of Woolwich on 23 April.
- 1923 With the new Bellingham Housing Estate underway and the proposed Downham Housing Estate expecting 35,000 residents, it is realized the small chapel at Southend Village will not meet future requirements
- 1926 17 July: Foundation stone for the new St John the Baptist Church laid by The Right Honourable Henry William Forster (Lord Forster), grandson of John Forster**
- 1928 28 January: Church consecrated by the Rt. Revd Cyril Garbett, Bishop of Southwark**
- 1932 New vestry added to church
- 1963 St Johns Primary School moves to its new location in Beachborough Road
- 1973 Downham Team Ministry is formed with its first Team Rector
- 1977 Church re-ordered: Altar moved to central location with a corona (by John Hayward)
- 1983 Demolition of old school building
- 2006 Work began on re-ordering of the church
- 2007 Renovation of the Church Hall (former Chapel)
- 2015 New Holy Cross Chapel created inside St Johns church