



FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

Dear Friends,

As I write this autumn newsletter, we are slowly getting back to normal after all our Covid troubles and life in Holy Trinity church Blythburgh is beginning to pick up the pace. Our first item of news is that we have changes to the Friends' trustee team. Jenny Allen is stepping down after 19 years' service and we welcome new trustee Roselyn Crane. I have also retired as Chair, (though I will continue as a trustee) and Dr Susan Powell has agreed to take on the role.



Flowers for Jenny as a 'thank you'.

Wine tasting

As part of the church's harvest festival celebrations, the Friends' Wine Tasting evening was a great success. Many thanks to Blythburgh resident Sonia Boggis of Blyth Valley Wines, who presented us with a range of four wines, ending with a Fonseca Port from the Duoro Valley in Portugal. As well as enjoying a lovely opportunity for the Friends to get together, we were able to raise £275 for our funds.



A world premiere

The William Alwyn Festival concerts held in the church have been outstanding this year. For those who have not come across his work, William Alwyn was a composer of works for the stage and concert hall as well as over 200 pioneering film scores. He lived in Blythburgh with his wife, the composer Doreen Carwithen. This year's concert featured the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece by Elis Pehkonen commemorating the tragic death of US airman Joe Kennedy, when his aircraft exploded over Blythburgh Fen during the second world war.

A US Navy (USN) PB4Y-1 Liberator, the type of aircraft that Lts. Kennedy & co-pilot Willy would have flown on their mission. Painted for us by John Constable Reeve.

Children's Guide

Thanks to two other Blythburgh residents, artist and illustrator Jeff Fisher and cartoonist Lucy Robinson, we have a new Children's Guide to the church. It features our late-lamented church cat Raphael, who guides visiting children round the church, outlining its history, and introducing our many treasures.



Remembrance Sunday

After a one-year gap due to Covid, we are looking forward to hosting the Service of Remembrance jointly with St Andrew's church Walberswick on **14 November at 10.50am**.

Christmas in Blythburgh

The Blythburgh Church Christmas Market has become an essential fixture in the Christmas diary. After a year-long break, it makes a welcome return this year on **Saturday 27 November, from 11am until 3.30pm**. People will gather from far and wide to buy hand-crafted seasonal gifts from local producers, and to eat and drink delicious Christmas provender.

Christmas services

The first of our Christmas events will be our ever-popular service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, led by the Blythburgh Singers, which will take place **at 4pm, Saturday 18 December**.

A crib service for children will be led by Jenny Allen at **5pm on Christmas Eve**. The service of Midnight Eucharist is on **Friday 24 December at 11.30pm** and the family service at **10am on Christmas Day**.

I hope you have been keeping safe and look forward to seeing some of you very soon.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Meryl Doney', written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Meryl Doney, on behalf of the Friends of Holy Trinity