

FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

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Dear Friends

In our last Newsletter I said, 'If all goes to plan, a centre-piece of our Friends Open Day next year will be the dedication of the newly installed medieval window glass.' I'm very glad to report that the process of conserving and returning the glass is finally under way and that we are able to plan for a dedication service. This is booked for **Sunday 25th September** – St Michael and All Angels day – and will include an 11.00am service of dedication, lunch and an afternoon's illustrated talk on the enjoyment and conservation of medieval glass. More information will follow nearer the time.

However, before then, we are planning a special service for our **Patronal Day, Trinity Sunday 23rd May**. The service will start at 11.00am and be led by the Revd Malcolm Doney. It will be followed by a Bar-B-Que lunch in the churchyard – or in the church if the weather is inclement.

New Trustees

I am delighted to welcome two new trustees of the Friends, both of whom live in Blythburgh.

Mrs Sonia Boggis is founder of independent wine merchant Blyth Valley Wines. She is also a Chartered Chemist, a member of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers and a nationally qualified heritage interpreter with Angels & Pinnacles. This is an initiative of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich as a new way of highlighting the unique heritage of Suffolk churches.

Dr Susan (Sue) Powell is Emeritus Professor of the University of Salford. Her fields of interest include medieval and Tudor religious and devotional texts.



Children make the Easter Garden and hear the story.

Special mentions

Blythburgh Church has had two really nice mentions recently. Firstly India Knight, in an opinion piece in the Sunday Times Magazine, said: *'We were driving back from lunch last weekend when we detoured via Blythburgh church in Suffolk, the 'Cathedral of the Marshes', which has an angel roof – 12 insanely beautiful 15th-century wooden angels*

carved along its ceiling, wings unfurled, gazing down at the congregation (saved, somehow, from Puritan destruction/desecration in 1644, presumably by virtue of their great height). I love these roofs and wanted to show my daughter. It so happened that the choir was rehearsing. We sat, looked up, listened for a while, and then traipsed wordlessly out, dazed and transported. I genuinely can't think of a comparable experience anywhere outside of a place of worship."

The second mention came at the beginning of a programme about Thomas Tallis' *Spem In Alium* in BBC Radio 4's series Soul Music. Worth a listen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008tn7d>

Travelling bands

And continuing on a musical note, our Tower Correspondent, Peggy Meredith, reports that travelling bands of bell ringers enjoy coming to ring peals at Holy Trinity Blythburgh because – as one noted campanologist chimed – it has perhaps the finest bells in Suffolk.

Augustinian Priory

Holy Trinity Blythburgh has a loose association with Merton Augustinian Priory (established in 1117 on the River Wandle), since the church shares historical roots with the 12th century Augustinian priory, whose ruins are in the gardens of a private house in the village. On 3rd May, the anniversary of the opening of Merton Priory, the ancient service of Nones will be said by a number of churches around the country with Augustinian links – though not in Blythburgh this year.

Finally, in order to mark our grateful appreciation of their generous legacy to the church, the PCC has purchased a beautiful, brass baptismal ewer, which has been inscribed in memory of Leslie and Rosemary Reynolds.

With greetings to all our Friends, near and far, and looking forward to meeting more of you this year.



Meryl Doney
Friends' Secretary