

## FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

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Dear Friends

I am very pleased to be able to report the welcome of 10 new members to the Friends this year.

All your contributions, plus two generous bequests, have enabled us not only to support the work on fabric following our five-year review, but also to begin the process of rescuing and reinstating the last of our stored medieval glass in the church windows. So a big THANK YOU to all.

### **We've had a wonderful summer:**

In May we hosted the exhibition *Speak of Angels*, when artist Derek Nice brought his driftwood boats and angels to join our own roof angels. 1,257 visitors enjoyed this very thoughtful and inspiring show.

As you know, last year we held our first ever **Friends Open Day**. Back by popular demand, this year's event was held on Trinity Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. 112 people joined us for the day, which included a service at which Revd Wendy Gourley preached, and lunch in the church. We were sorry that Derek Nice was prevented by ill health from being present, but he sent a message of introduction for us to read as we toured his exhibition. If all goes to plan, a centerpiece of our Friends' Open Day next year will be the dedication of the newly installed medieval window glass.



Derek Nice and MP Therese Coffey  
at the opening of *Speak of Angels*

Because of its size and wonderful acoustics, Holy Trinity is a popular venue for concerts and festivals, not to mention weddings. This summer we have hosted the **Amici**, a Diss-based a cappella choir from Luxemburg, and the **Kingfisher Ensemble**. Also concerts in association with the **William Alwyn Festival** and the **Aldeburgh Festival**.

### **Community events**

We are very pleased to be able to hold many village and community events in the church. A **Café and Mini Market** is held on the last Friday of each month (except in the depths of winter!), in the church, hosted by a team of volunteers from Blythburgh.

On August 1st we played host to the **Blythburgh Horticulture Society Flower & Produce Show**. This was held in the church for the first time last year, and it worked so well that it made a welcome return.

### **All change**

The big change this autumn has been the departure of **Revd Joan Lyon**.

Joan has been our vicar for the last four years, and has made a warm, lively and imaginative contribution to our church life. Her friendly, pastoral presence will be much missed in the village, too. We wish her a rich and fulfilling time as she takes up a new post in in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Joan's departure, and a reordering of our ministry Team, means that we now have a new pattern of worship

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday      11am a joint service, in St Andrew's Walberswick (our sister church).  
6pm Choral Evensong, led by the Blythburgh Singers.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday      11am joint service of Holy Communion with Walberswick, at Blythburgh.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday      9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday      9.30am Morning Prayer, lay led.  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday      Team Service (see our website for details).  
Wednesdays: 5pm Service of Evening Prayer or Compline (Night Prayer).

### **Looking ahead to the Christmas season**

We're hosting the **Blythburgh Christmas Market** again this year, on Saturday 28 November, from noon until 4pm. It's the perfect opportunity for buying Christmas gifts – there'll be as many as 20 stalls selling crafts, jewellery, cards, and more. Homemade soups and a winter barbecue will warm the body, and the concluding carol singing will kindle the soul.

**Christmas Services** begin in December with **Choral Evensong** on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm, with the Blythburgh Singers. On 19<sup>th</sup> we have a service of **Lessons and Carols** at 4pm, and on Christmas Eve, a **Children's Crib Service** at 5pm. There will be no Midnight Communion at Holy Trinity this year, but the **Christmas Day Service** begins at 11.00am.

Once again, a hearty thank you from us all for your willingness to be Friends, and contribute towards the maintenance and beauty of the Church as we seek to serve our wider community in Blythburgh.

With very best wishes



Meryl Doney  
Friends' Secretary