



FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

29 October 2017

Dear Friends

Guess who came to Blythburgh church in August this year? Penelope Keith spent a day filming in and around the church and village for an episode of her popular Channel 4 TV show, *Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages*. We're not sure when it will be broadcast, but do watch out for it.

In fact we are becoming quite a magnet for television people. In July Travel Channel of America brought presenter Max Hug Williams (yes, that's his name), to explore evidence of the infamous Black Shuck legend. We obliged of course, showing him the 'claw marks' on the North door. I'm not sure you will be able to access his programme.

Space for the village

Holy Trinity continues to be a popular space for all kinds of church and village activities. This year the Horticultural Society filled the nave and aisles with prize-winning produce, flowers and baked goodies. And not to be outdone, the church was beautifully decorated with floral displays fruit and vegetables for the Harvest Festival service and lunch.

The ever-popular Animal Service followed, the congregation swelled by the addition of four horses and a pony – and two chickens!



With the help of the Friends

As Dr Alan Mackley's latest book *The Restoration of Blythburgh Church, 1881-1906* set out in detail, Blythburgh church had a special relationship with textile designer and social activist William Morris. As a result, the church has inherited a length of fabric made in his workshop. This year, the PCC decided to put this to good use as a curtain for the north priest's door. Congregation member Ruth Holt, herself a fine art weaver, has made a wonderful job of it's making and the Friends were happy to foot the bill for materials. The Hopton Chapel is now relatively draft-free!

And so to Christmas

Back by popular demand is the Blythburgh Christmas market, on Saturday 25 November from 12.00am till 4.00pm in the church. There will be 31 stalls

selling all kinds of Christmas decorations and gifts. Mulled wine and mince pies will be there to tempt you as you enter and a choice of soups and sausage rolls, tea and cake will be served throughout the day.

This year we are furthering our welcome to our local community by staging a new Christmas nativity musical in the church. Entitled *A Lion for a King*, it is based on an ancient legend in which the three wise men who followed the star to the stable in Bethlehem, journeyed along the silk route from China. We have a cast of some 15 to 20 youngsters from across the benefice keen to join in and the performance will take place on Saturday 16 December at 4.00pm.

A LION FOR THE KING

A Christmas musical
for all the family
based on a legend from ancient China.



Saturday 16 December
Blythburgh Church
4.00pm

A production for the Sole Bay Team of Churches.
Admission is FREE
There will be a retiring collection to cover expenses.



December will also offer a feast of Christmas services and carols:

3	Advent Carols with the Blythburgh Singers	6.00pm
16	Lion for the King, a children's nativity musical	4.00pm
21	Carol singing round the village	7.00pm
23	Carol service with the Blythburgh Singers	4.00pm
24	Midnight Christmas Communion Service	11.30pm
25	Christmas Morning Service led by Revd. Malcolm Doney	10.00am

We do hope you can visit us, but if not, then think of us and we'll think of you!
With greetings to all our Friends, and wishing you a very Happy Christmas.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Meryl Doney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Meryl Doney, Chair of the Friends of Holy Trinity

Meryl Doney, Chair of the Friends, The Birdhouse, Old Angel Lane,
Blythburgh, Suffolk IP19 9JW / 01502 478 229 / Mobile 07976 574 703
Charities Commission Number 1093734