



FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

Dear Friends

November 2025

As you know, it has been an unprecedented year of work on our wonderful church. First, the maintenance on the bell frame was successfully completed in the early summer. Then the south-side window was restored with clear glass in memory of Peter and Diana Coghill. And finally for this year, we are looking forward to the completion of the tower project in time for Christmas.

There has been a temporary hitch. Thanks to the new limit on the amount of VAT that can be reclaimed on the work, we have an unexpected shortfall of around £21,000. However, plans are underway to address this. Katie Sullivan and Paul Simmons, two of our members, took part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored 'Ride and Stride' to raise funds. And we have a special 'Sponsor an Item' scheme in place, whereby people can cover the cost of things as diverse and useful as a WC fitting, kitchen doorknobs or a galley door! And the good news is that we, as the Friends, are able to contribute £10,000 to an improvement that will make us more able to welcome congregations and all the extra events that take place in the church.

It wouldn't be our autumn newsletter without details of the services over Christmas. Here they are:

Saturday 20 December at 4pm	Carol service
Wednesday 24 December at 5.30pm	Crib service
Wednesday 24 December at 11pm	Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 December at 10am	Family service



But before that, we are preparing for our famed Christmas Market, which this year is on **Saturday 29 November from 11.00 – 3.30pm**. Expect a great selection of goodies for gifts and celebrations, mince pies and mulled wine and hot soup for lunch. And a visit from the Reydon Community Choir.

Also on sale will be our Christmas card for 2025. The image is entitled Snow at Holy Trinity, Blythburgh and is from a linocut by local artist Alan Rutter. They come in packs of 5 with envelopes, for £5, but are only available in the church.

If you're a forward planner, we are pleased to be able to build on the success of this year's open afternoon with an opportunity to meet renowned Suffolk sculptor Laurence Edwards who will be talking about his work with our own Revd Malcolm Doney. **The date is Saturday 16 May.**

It's not too soon to wish you a happy celebration of the Christmas season from the Friends' team here in Blythburgh.

Meryl Doney
For the trustees of the Friends of Holy Trinity

Charities Commission Number 1093734

<http://www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk/>