FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

1 November 2026

Dear Friends,

As we turn towards autumn this year, we have some great news to impart. The Sole Bay Team ministry now has two (yes two) new full-time priests to cover its eight churches. In October the Right Revd Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, came to St Edmunds, Southwold to conduct the induction of the first of these – the Revd Alix Taylor. Alix has already been serving as Interim Assistant Curate and her appointment as Team Rector is wonderful news. Secondly, the Revd Dr Sarah West has been appointed as Team Vicar. Sarah has been Assistant Curate of Great Shelford in the Diocese of Ely. We are eagerly awaiting her licensing on 10th November at 7.30 at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Wangford. As we welcome them both, we look forward to a new adventure in worship, service and community.



Revd Alix Taylor



Revd Sarah West

A special afternoon in June

Here are the current Trustees together with our guest speaker for the Open Afternoon, Laurence Edwards (centre). In conversation with Malcolm Doney, he talked about his practice as a sculptor, known specially to us as the maker of our altarpiece.



An exciting season of services

On 23rd August, 62 dogs, five horses and three cats added their voices to the singing of hymns in our Animal Blessing service. The collection was sent to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Wilder Schools Project which helps students to understand Suffolk's natural environment.

On 6th September we welcomed the Trustees and Friends of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust for their Annual Service of Choral Evensong, and we were delighted that their Patron, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Mr Mark Pendlington, was also able to be with us. The service was led by Revd Alix Taylor, newly installed as our Team Rector just five days previously in a joyous service at St Edmunds, Southwold. The preacher was The Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk, no stranger to Holy Trinity.

Then on 20th September the windowsills and altar were adorned with the colours of autumn for Harvest Festival and tables set round the font for a tasty meal to follow the service.

We won!



In our Spring newsletter we happily announced that the Tower Project had been completed and was in full use. There is now more news to impart. Charles Morris' design and the skill of Blue Door Construction have been recognised as winners of the Suffolk Joint Construction Committee's Craftsmanship Award, 2026.

Christmas services

It wouldn't be our Autumn newsletter without details of the services over Christmas. We begin in fine style with carol singing round the village on Tuesday 22 December at 6.00pm. All are welcome – and we finish up at the home of our Church Warden, Jenny Allen, for mulled wine and mince pies!

Services include:

19 December at 4pm	Carol service with the Blythburgh Singers
24 December at 5.30pm	Crib service for young and old
11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 December at 10am	Family Christmas Day

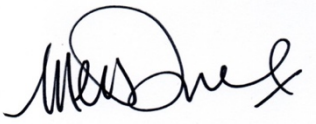
Meanwhile, we are happily preparing for our famed Christmas Market, which this year is on **Saturday 28 November from 11.00 – 3.30pm**. If you can make it, you can expect a great selection of goodies for gifts and celebrations, mince pies and mulled wine and hot soup for lunch.

Christmas cards

The linocut Christmas card by Alan Rutter was such a success last year that we have asked him to design us a new one for 2026. They will be on sale at the Christmas Market and are available in the church now. They come in packs of 5, with envelopes, for £5.



We do hope you can join us for some of these services and events, but I know many of you support us from afar. Thank you so much for your continued support and wishing you a very special and peaceful Christmas wherever you are.



For Sue Powell, Chair of the Friends of Holy Trinity