

## **FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY, BLYTHBURGH**

### **Chair's Report May 2023**

The aims of the Friends of Holy Trinity are to sustain a broad membership in order to support the fabric and thereby the ministry of Holy Trinity, and to spread information and increase interest in our historic church.

### **Trustees**

Our Trustees at the date of this report, 15 May 2023, are: Sue Powell (Chair and Secretary), Sue Gerrard (Membership & Treasurer), Meryl Doney (Newsletter Editor), Roselyn Crane, and Terry Goss.

### **Membership**

As of April 2023 we had a total membership of 82 Friends (with two Honorary Friends), six up from April 2022.

### **Friends Open Afternoon**

The Open Afternoon 2023 will take place in church on Saturday 20 May and will consist of an illustrated talk by Alan Mackley on his ongoing research into the life and writings of Janet Becker, daughter of the artist Harry Becker, commemorated in our church and buried with her family in our churchyard. The title is 'A Life of Discovery: Remembering Janet Becker'. Everyone is welcome at 2 p.m. for the talk, followed by our usual tea and cake, and a visit to the Becker tomb.

### **Finances**

The Friends balance 31 December 2022 was £80,249.51, an increase of over £9,000 since 2021 and of nearly £7,000 since March 2022, with £70,821 (at 2 February 2023) invested with the Flagstone charity account at a very good rate of interest. Bank balance 31 January 2023 was £9,778.58. Frustration has continued with Barclays' handling of the account and trustees, but an apology has been made and the treasurer has been sent two bottles of wine!

### **Initiatives**

1. The Friends' offer of a substantial grant towards the reglazing of the east window of the church still stands, although PCC discussions have reached a pause, partly because of a need to concentrate on the project to install toilets and a small kitchen in the tower space. Funds have been invested towards any future glazing.
2. The Friends have offered to finance the cost of a new nave altar, designed by Charles Morris and approved by the DAC. The total cost would be likely to be around £3,100, £1,000 of which would come from the contribution of a Friend, John O'Brien, as 'a fitting memorial' to a family friend, Richard Parish.
3. The 2022 Christmas cards had been bought by the Church at the selling cost of £980, with a good profit (cost to Friends £484.55). Thoughts were underway for a 2023 Friends card.
4. There is a Friends display board in church, and Be an Angel cards are left at the end of each pew. Newsletters are sent to Friends in spring and autumn of each year.
5. The Trustees have asked the Parish Council to discuss the reinstatement of the lapsed Welcome Packs to new residents of Blythburgh, to which Friends material would be contributed. This would involve considerable work and is unlikely to happen.

### **Thank you**

I would like to say how gratifying it is that we have a positive and energetic team of Trustees, who work together to raise the profile of, and funds for, Holy Trinity Blythburgh through both regular special events and regular communication with our Friends in church and by email. Sue Powell