



FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

30 October 2024

Dear Friends

What a summer we've had here at Blythburgh! We were again able to hold the traditional Blythburgh Day 12th -century service in the ruins of the Priory in the village, and host the Horticultural Society summer show in the church. Our annual service for the blessing of animals was a great joy, as ever. It was attended by 116 humans, 60 dogs, three horses, two cats, one rabbit and a toy yak, and toy whale!



Rev. Malcolm Doney with his horse Neville

The Friends' grant for the new nave altar

We welcomed the Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich to Blythburgh Church on Sunday 9 June to dedicate our magnificent new nave altar table. Since Covid, we've held all our communion services in the main body (nave) of the church but didn't have a dedicated altar table to serve from. But now we do, and it's a thing of beauty! It was designed specifically for the space by member of the Friends and of



our congregation, Charles Morris. The grant from the Friends, together with a generous gift from John, Ann and Laura O'Brien in memory of Richard Parish, made this possible. The table is constructed from seasoned oak donated by Sir John White. Symbolic details have been included using 3,000-year-old bog oak provided by cabinet maker Philip Baldwin. The table was constructed thanks to the craftsmanship of Sean Featherstone of Woodland Joinery.

Chair of the Friends Sue Powell, Warden Rachael Wilks, Rev. Russ Gant, Sean Featherstone, Bishop Mike, Charles Morris and Warden Matthew Sullivan at the service of dedication.

See us on TV on Sunday 24th November

For two nights at the end of June, Holy Trinity Blythburgh was transformed into the set of the epic Benjamin Britten opera, *Curlew River*, as part of the Aldeburgh Festival. In mid-September, one of its lead singers Willard White made a return visit to Holy Trinity, with a BBC film crew, to shoot an introduction to the TV broadcast of the production which, we're told, will be transmitted on BBC4 on 24 November. Check with the BBC for details.

Celebrating Christmas


Now, of course, we are looking forward to all our Christmas services

Advent Carol Service	Sunday the 1 December, 6.00pm in place of choral evensong.
Carol service	Saturday 21 December at 4pm
Crib service	Christmas Eve at 5.30pm
Midnight eucharist	Christmas Eve at 11pm (NB half an hour earlier than usual)
Family service	Christmas Day at 10am
Team service	Sunday 29 December at St Peter & St Paul, Wangford. No service in Blythburgh.

Save the date: Friends' Open Afternoon 17 May 2025

As you know, we were not able to hold our Open Afternoon this year, due to the ill health of Revd Malcolm Doney. The good news is that he has fully recovered, and we are well advanced in our planning for 2025. The date is 17 May 2025. Look out for more information in our Spring Newsletter.

Thank you so much for your continued support and wishing you a warm and happy autumn and winter and a special Christmas this year.



Meryl Doney, on behalf of the Friends of Holy Trinity

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