



FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

14 October 2020

Dear Friends

Who would have thought it? Here I am, writing to you in the autumn, from a church community still subject to Coronavirus restrictions. But that's where we are.



One item of good news is that we are able to have the church open to visitors from 9am until dusk every day. This involves a concerted effort by members of the church, but it is a service we are keen to provide. As Holy Trinity is so spacious, we have also been able to begin meeting for normal services, albeit spaced out in the pews and wearing face coverings.



The first Sunday of October saw the return of the Blythburgh Singers for the resumption of Choral Evensong. A very happy and much appreciated occasion. We also managed a Harvest Festival eucharist in the church – though not the planned picnic in the churchyard.

In my spring letter I mentioned the fact that many visitors to Blythburgh church say how special the atmosphere is, and some take time to stop for a few moments to pray, to think, or to remember loved ones. We are glad to say that we have been able to continue this service by making the Hopton Chapel a space for personal prayer. Everyone is welcome to use it, to light a candle or leave a prayer request on the board.

The Hopton Chapel, open for prayer.

We have all been learning fast as we take to the internet for some of our services. It has been heartening to be able to continue our fellowship in this way, and to welcome more visitors than usual online. Although some of these may not continue into November, we have one new online service which will continue – the Prayer Book order of Compline. This is available on Zoom every Thursday at 8.30pm and is something that you, as a Friend of Holy Trinity, are welcome to join from anywhere in the country. The liturgy will appear on your screen and the service takes about 12-15 minutes. It is a quiet and peaceful way to end the day. If you would like to join us, please email our Trustee, Jenny Allen at jennyanddick@aol.com. She will send you the link each Thursday.

Also taking to the internet is our hugely popular Blythburgh Christmas Market. For understandable reasons it will not be possible to host the event in the church this year. However, we've moved online, encouraging stallholders to present their wares directly to you. This means that people can browse the goods on offer and contact the virtual stallholders to make purchases. Visit **www.blythburghchristmasmarket.org.uk** to see what's on offer in our Christmas hamper of goodies, including cakes, decorations, hand-crafted gifts and more. The site will be open until Christmas Eve.

And while we're talking internet, there's a treat for all visitors to the Holy Trinity website. Visit **<https://www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk>** to see the video *Arc of the Sky*. The Voice Project's stunning vocal performance was inspired by a bird's-eye view of Holy Trinity Church, the landscape it sits in - the Blyth estuary - and the coastline.

As we look towards more normal times ahead, we would like to thank you for continuing as our Friends and to wish you good health and peace this Christmas.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Meryl Doney', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Meryl Doney, Chair on behalf of the Friends of Holy Trinity