



FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY BLYTHBURGH

18 October 2019

Dear Friends

It's been a busy summer in the Cathedral of the Marshes. On Trinity Sunday, our **Patronal Day**, we concluded our service with a celebratory brunch, featuring delicious sausages from Union Farm which is in our parish.

We helped launch Blythburgh Day in August with an open-air service in the priory ruins and followed on by hosting the ***Blythburgh Summer Exhibition: a celebration of a creative village***. This new venture featured the work of some 14 resident artists.

And I can't resist including a picture taken at our hugely popular service for the **Blessing of Animals**.



The artist Harry Becker (1865-1928) settled in Suffolk in 1913 after a relatively successful artistic career in London. He shunned the commercial art world in favour of drawing and painting rural landscapes and working people. His work continues to inspire local artists, who form the **Inspired by Becker Society**. We had the privilege of hosting their annual exhibition this year, which was especially fitting as Becker's entire family are buried in our churchyard.

Autumn brings with it **Harvest Festival**, one of the loveliest times of the year. We held a celebratory service and 33 people sat down to a locally prepared lunchtime feast in the church. The service offering went to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Looking ahead towards the Christmas season, the **Blythburgh Christmas Market** has become an essential fixture in the Christmas diary. It takes place this year on **Saturday 30 November, from 12 noon until 4pm**. People will gather from far and wide to buy hand-crafted seasonal presents from local producers, to eat and drink delicious Christmas provender, and soak up the unique atmosphere of this ancient, welcoming building. We hope some of our Friends will be able to come along too. Admission is free.

Plans for the Christmas celebrations are well advanced.

- **Sunday 1 December at 6pm**, the Blythburgh Singers will be leading a service of **Advent Carols**.
- **Sunday 22 December 4pm: Candle-lit service of Lessons and Carols** (with the Blythburgh Singers)
- **Christmas Eve 5pm: Crib Service** – a favourite with families
- **Christmas Eve 11.30pm: Midnight Mass**
- **Christmas Day 10am: Christmas Morning Service** (no communion)

And talking of Christmas, talented member of the Friends Mary Gundry is happy to let us use one of her paintings of the church for our new Christmas cards. We are very pleased to be able to offer these to our Friends. An order form is enclosed with this letter – and while we have the opportunity – we have included a few other items featuring Holy Trinity, which may be just the thing for friends and family.



Please send the form to the church treasurer, Mrs J J Allen, enclosing a cheque made payable to Blythburgh PCC. Her address is Wolsey House, Chapel Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk IP19 9LW.

I do hope we will see you over the festive season. Wishing you all the best.

Meryl Doney, Chair of the Friends of Holy Trinity

#### **Privacy Policy**

In accordance with our obligations under the new General Data Protection Regulations, the Trustees confirm that we will make every effort to keep your personal data up to date and store and destroy it securely. We will not collect or retain excessive amounts of data and will ensure that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect it from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure.

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