Here's an angel for you to colour in.

You can make her any colour, but if you want to see how our roof angels were painted when they were first made, look at the one over the door where you came in.





Here's a puzzle for you.

(answers below)

1. The bird who made a nest in the lectern was a _ _ _ _ _
2. The table in front of the stick-carrier sculpture is called an _ _ _ _ _
3. The bench seats are called _ _ _ _
4. The prayer chapel is named after a man called _ _ _ _ _ _
5. This church was built a very long time _ _ _
6. Who is welcome in this church? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
7. Some people like to _ _ _ _ _ a candle when they pray.



The first letter of each answer makes up a name.

What it is? _ _ _ _ _ _ _



Answers to the questions on your journey round the church.
1. A robin.
5. Dirck wrote his name, Dirck Lowersen von Stockolm in 1665.

Answers to the puzzle.
1. Robin 2. Altar 3. Pews 4. Hopton 5. Ago 6. Everyone 7. Light

And the name is – my name – Raphael!!

I'm so glad you visited my church today. I hope you enjoyed it and that it will be one of your favourite places too.

For more information visit www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk

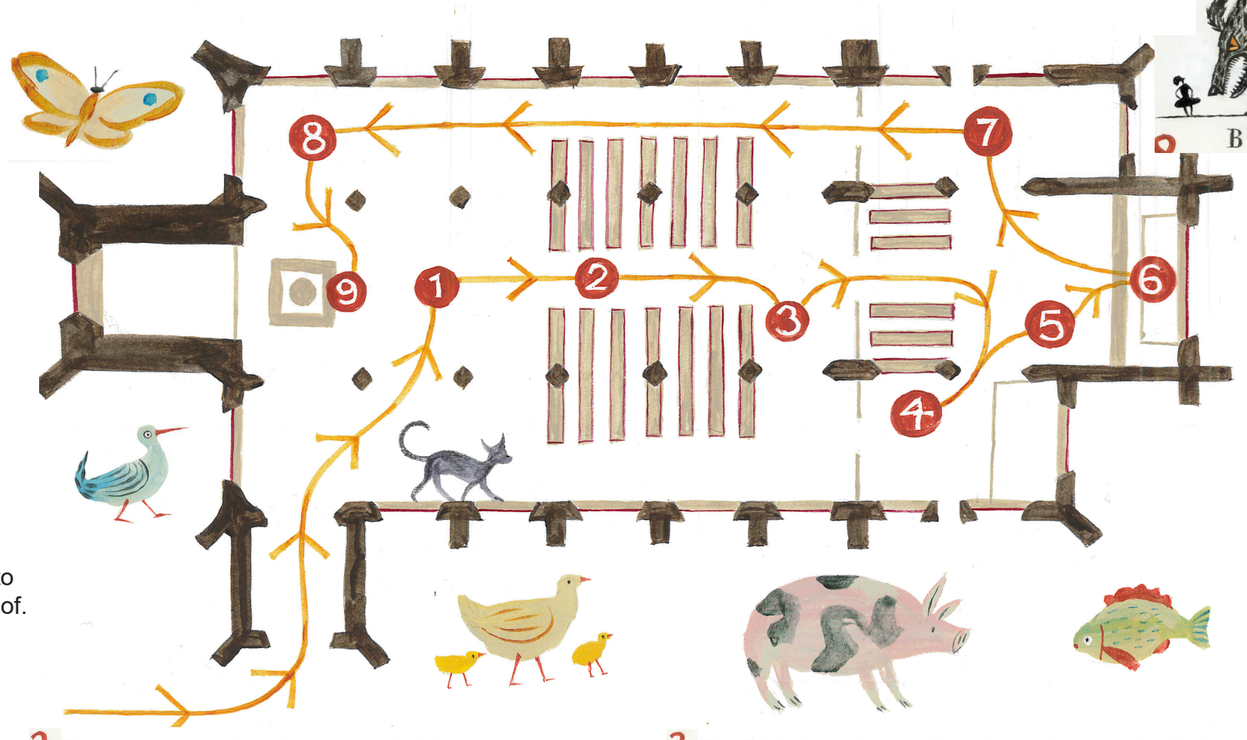
In memory of Raphael, beloved church cat, (2011-2020).



This church is called Holy Trinity Blythburgh, but it's also known as the Cathedral of the Marshes. That's because the church is surrounded by marshes – fields that get very wet in winter – and Cathedrals are the biggest churches. It took years to build, but the work was finished about 500 years ago, in Tudor times.

Churches are special places, and everyone is welcome here. They are large so that lots of people can get together to sing and pray and learn more about God. I like it a lot when music is played and the people sing.

Here is a plan of the church. The numbers show where you can see some of my favourite things. Follow the arrows and I will tell you about them.



1. The very first thing to do in Blythburgh Church is to walk into the middle and look up at the roof. It's full of angels.

Q. How many roof angels can you count?





2. The long seats or benches on each side of you are called pews. You will see that there are carvings on the ends. The carvers who made them had some fun showing some of the things that people get up to.

Q. Can you find the greedy person? Or the lazy one?

3. The Bible is read from this tall, wooden stand called a lectern. Twice in the history of this church a robin has built a nest for her chicks in the hole in the middle. I wish I'd seen that. I'm quite keen on birds!

Q. Can you find pictures of two more robins? Here's a clue. Find the two poles fixed to the ends of two pews and look at their tops.



4. Now come with me through the doors in the wooden screen. There are more pews where the choir or the singers sit. A very long time ago they were used as school desks in the church. A boy named Dirck carved his name on one of the desktops.

Q. Can you find what Dirck wrote and the date he was writing it?

5. Look up to the right and you will see Jack o' the Clock. He's over 300 years old – made about the time of the Great Fire of London. He is dressed in the uniform that a soldier would have worn in those days. He used to hit the bell every hour, but now we ring it when the church service starts.

Q. What is he using to hit the bell?



6. This big table in the middle is called the altar. On the wall behind it is a figure that's carrying some heavy sticks. He's called the Burden Bearer.

Q. Do you think he might be helping to carry someone else's troubles?



7. Round the corner is a special place for people to pray. It's called the Hopton Chapel, after John Hopton who was Lord of Blythburgh Manor and gave money to build it. He is buried in the large tomb on the right. There is a candle stand because some people like to light a candle when they pray. In the corner, there is a small statue of Mary with Jesus on her lap.

Q: Can you see what is fixed to Mary's right arm?



8. Now let's go all the way to the back of the church again. Can you see some dark marks on the big door on the right? A long time ago, so the story goes, there was a terrible storm. An enormous, fiery dog called Black Shuck burst in through these doors frightening all the people. As he left, his flaming claws made scorch marks on the door … though it's just possible that the marks were made by candles burning! But then what would a cat know

Q. Do you think the story is true?



9. Now we're back to where we began. The stone basin above these steps is called the font. It's used to hold the water when people or babies are baptised or christened. I love to climb these steps and look right down the church. It's so big and quiet. No wonder this is my favourite place.

Q. Which is your favourite bit of this church?