



**ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH,
BRADFIELD**

**Founded 1109, rebuilt 1480
Grade 1 listed building**

Dear friends,

The past few months have been wonderful. Seeing the community come together over the Christmas period was truly amazing. We welcomed nearly a thousand people through our doors across our Christmas events, while also raising hundreds of pounds for various charities. It was a remarkable achievement, filled with a real sense of joy.

As we have entered the new year, we launched our Alpha course at the Old Horns Inn. There, some of us have been gathering to chat through some of the big questions of life and faith. Each week we explore a core topic, question, or belief of the Christian faith, taking time to unpack and reflect together. I have been struck again by the historical significance of the person of Jesus. The evidence, impact, and reputation are staggering, which leads us to the question: what do we do with that? If Jesus is who he says he is, then it means everything—for both you and me.

We are currently in a sermon series exploring Christian unity. While the Church has had some questionable examples of unity over the years, one thing it has consistently got right is modelling this truth: if Jesus is who he says he is, then it really

does mean everything. The more we are formed into his likeness, the more we reflect the unity and love found in God.

Over the Lent season, we will continue to explore this theme of Christian community—what it means for us to be people who look to Jesus as our example, and how we live that out together. To support this, we will be using the book “Seven Sacred Spaces” by George Lings, which will help us think about how we form communities that enable us to thrive in Christlikeness.

Our Easter events are currently being finalised, so please do keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for further details in due course. We are also in the process of setting up a contact database and email newsletter. If you would like to be added, please email **info@bradfieldchurch.org** expressing your wish to join the mailing list.

Lastly, I would like to offer a special thank you to Jane Gregory and Josie Bird, who have spent many hours working on our kitchen and toilet project. In mid-January, we learned that the project had been given the green light to begin in mid-February. As you can imagine, planning and securing permissions for a project of this scale in a Grade I listed building is no small task, and it simply would not have been possible without Jane and Josie’s time, commitment, and energy. We are really looking forward to the project and to the huge asset it will be to the life of the church.

Revd. Will Gowers *Curate in Charge at Bradfield Church*

Sunday Services at 10.30am

The pattern of Sunday services each month is usually as follows, excepting some special days:

1st Sunday: Common Worship

2nd Sunday: All Ages Service

3rd Sunday: Holy Communion (BCP)

4th Sunday: Common Worship

5th Sunday: Holy Communion (BCP)

(BCP – Book of Common Prayer)

Special Dates to note:

Details of services and events will be provided nearer the time:

18th February Ash Wednesday

15th March Mothering Sunday

29th March Palm Sunday

3rd April Good Friday

5th April Easter Day

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

FEBRUARY

- 1st M. Ingham & J. Bird
- 8th P. & J. Reynolds
- 15th S. Barrand & C. Leichert
- 22nd G. Vallance & J. Bird

MARCH

- 1st J. & M. Bird
- 8th E. Walker & J. Panniker
- 15th R. Pettinger & J. Cass
- 22nd J. & M. Bird
- 29th J. & M. Wilkes (Palm Sunday)

APRIL

- 5th P. & J. Reynolds (Easter Sunday)
- 12th M. Ingham & G. Vallance
- 19th S. Barrand & C. Leichert
- 26th M. Sheldon & J. Bird

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

October 2025 to January 2026

Baptisms

Welcome to the Church Family

19th October 2025

Albert John Hayes and Wilfred Samuel Hayes

Funerals

We offer our sympathy, love and prayers to the families of the following: Church Service with Burial,

28th October 2025 Pamela Ann Hodgson
Wadsley Cemetery

25th November 2025 Ruby Littlewood

9th December 2025 George Edward Graham

Service with Cremation: Grenoside Crematorium

5th December 2025 Sandra Mary Gardner

Cremation Grenoside Crematorium

9th January 2026 Olive Mavis Andrew

Please note: A Memorial Service for Olive Andrew will be held at St. Nicholas Church, Bradfield on Saturday 28th February at 11.00am.

The Life of Olive Andrew

Olive, a member of our congregation died in December last year just before her 91st birthday.

A strong confident woman she was full of optimism in life with a heart for the Lord which she wanted to share with the people around her. She gave her life to Jesus when she was nine years old after a children's evangelist had visited her Sunday school in Sheffield where she had attended since she was 3 years old. She trained to be a Primary School teacher and later went to Bible College to then work for the Church of England in various places in Lancashire. She then entered a time of darkness, depression, doubts and a sense of failure. During this time however she was happily married and it was not until her husband's death that God drew her back to himself. His hand was over her through all the spiritual dark years. She began attending St Nicholas Church where she felt at home.

She was a woman of inspiration and intellect and for the past eight years she ran a Bible Study group, read the lesson in Church services and regularly wrote inspiring articles for the Church Magazine.

In 2016 Malcolm and I introduced our friend Wungtei to Olive. He was from Nagaland in India and was studying for a PhD at Sheffield University in the Department of Biblical Studies.

He missed his family and lived alone as a student so Olive's friendship became very precious to Wungtei. She became his mother figure in a foreign land. He shared his concerns, spent time in prayer with her and she became his teacher in many invisible ways learning from her experiences and wisdom. He remembers meals together and fish and chips from across the road! They had wonderful times together, shed tears in prayers and encouraged each other.

As Olive loved writing short articles for bulletins, church magazines and newsletters Wungtei saw this passion and suggested, with help, to document them altogether in a book that might inspire people. In 2024 the book *Cherish* was published containing 43 short articles written by Olive.

Olive was a great friend to me and I visited her regularly each week to chat and do a bit of shopping. She was a strong personality but had a great sense of humour so we laughed a lot.

Just before she died she told her husband's cousin that she wanted to go home. He said that wasn't possible but then she replied, "I know that, I want to go to my real home."

Gill Vallance

Children and Families

‘Even the Sparrow finds a home and the swallow builds a nest and raises her young at Your altar’. (Ps. 84.3)

Two- year-old legs dangling, face rapt with wonder, there was one of our youngest Church-members busy learning how to play the organ and enjoying the organist’s company at the same time. And the organist, I think, was very much enjoying hers!

We have a little group of families with their children beginning to make their home at Bradfield Church now, including, most weeks, that of Rector Will, Lucy and their three children.

I have loved watching how different people have warmed and softened and lit up as they are welcomed into Church, not only by friends of their own age, but by much younger friends too. People have even been seen to abandon their coffee cups and sit and enjoy crafting with the youngsters after the Service!

Our aim is for children and families to know that Church is their home too: that they can learn and contribute and be a part of all that we do together.



We have a lovely toddler area where the youngest can listen as they play and we are now beginning to set up an activity each week which connects with the Service. Last week one little lass made a

brilliant visual illustration of what we had been thinking about...saying so much more than all the words I had used trying to communicate it!

Our next step is to make 'pew bags' so children can have activities to do sitting alongside their parents in the pews... making it easier to engage with what is going on upfront.

So.... if you are a family (and if you are not) and have been thinking about Church, do give it a try – we will do our best to welcome you.

And if you are thinking, 'I would love to but.....' or 'Church would be great if only.....' let us know about that too (email below). It might not happen

overnight but we will definitely try. And this year we are excited to be able to advertise for a Children's and Youth worker which will open up all sorts of possibilities.....!

saragoodman@bradfieldchurch.org

Vision Sunday

Bradfield Church has been given the opportunity of a national church funded project. As part of this project we will work closely with Wadsley Church as well as get financial support for a part time children's worker and operations role. Over the next few months, we will be forming plans for this and having a Vision Sunday to launch the project. On Sunday 26th April, we will hear a bit more information about what the next stages are and how we can be involved. After the service we will also be having a lunch followed by our APCM where we celebrate the previous year and look to the year ahead. You would be very welcome to join us!

Revd. Will Gowers

MOTHERS' UNION PROGRAMME 2026

February

February 5th Candlemas Lunch at the Old Horns Inn at
12pm

March

Thursday 5th March "Season of Lent" with Revd. Sara
Goodman

Friday 6th March World Day of Prayer 2.00pm
Brightholmlea Methodist Church, 252 Main Rd.
Wharncliffe Side S35 ODQ. Further details below.

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday 10.30 am
with Enrolment of new Mothers' Union members

April

Thursday 2nd April: Maundy Thursday Service of Holy
Communion with Revd. Will

** We are hoping to fundraise during the year and
would need empty water bottles please. Only the
smaller ones not the 2litres!

If you have any please could you give to either Mary,
Pauline or Josie. Thankyou **

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women of a different country each year. The service has a special annual theme - this year 2026 from Nigeria is- "I will give you rest, come" based on St. Matthew ch11 v28-30 focusing on spiritual rest. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian Sisters offer insights into finding rest and peace in God,

The service will be held on Friday 6th March 2.00pm 2026 at Bightholmlee Methodist Church Wharncliffe Side with representatives from Churches in the local area. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy fellowship, faith and Love, No doubt tea and cake too!

Date for your diary:

Thursday 4th June at 11am in St.Nicholas' Church.

The St.Nicholas' Branch of the Mothers' Union are celebrating 100 years of Mothers' Union in Bradfield and 150 years of MU Worldwide.

Mary Sheldon

Remembering Sandra Gardner

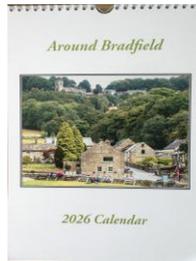
Sandra and her husband John were always a big part of the St. Nicholas Church family. Sandra was a long-time member of the Mothers Union being a leader earlier in her life.

Her Craft and Knitting skills were amazing and she once knitted a whole farm with animals, as well as Noah's ark and all the animals, two by two. No child went without a knitted Nativity which has since travelled as far as USA . Sandra always had a love of animals and rescued 14 donkeys one of which came to St. Nicholas on Psalm Sunday and on another occasion went to the Cathedral.

Sandra was a wonderful baker as she baked scones for Church refreshments each Sunday, popping them in the Aga at 6am to sell on our fundraising stall. Her Lemon drizzle cakes were another of her specials, always appearing at the Easter Art and Craft Fair. It was Sandra who, years ago, first noticed the need for a new kitchen and that's how with ongoing support and many years of fundraising, we are now able to begin our project in February.

We will miss her quiet presence and wisdom, and thank her for her kindness and friendship.

AROUND BRADFIELD CALENDAR 2026



Thank you very much to everyone who bought the calendar to raise funds for St.Nicholas' Church, Bradfield. A special thank you to The Horns Inn, Cricket View PO and Stores, The Schoolrooms Team and RIVA who sold the calendar on behalf of the Church. The total raised after printing costs was around £510 and is much appreciated.

Flower Group.

February 18th 2pm in Church

Please bring a low bowl, wood to make a frame, twigs and first tulips.

March 18th 2pm in Church

Please bring a basket, catkins and daffodils

April 4th Decorating the Church for Easter

Meet 10am in Church. All welcome to help.

There will be no other April meeting

Ethel

CHURCH DRAW WINNERS

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2 nd November | 146 - Inga Gardner 238 - Judy Hodson 267 - David Hague |
| 7 th December | 227 - Natalie Kennerley 110 - Max Stroud 195 - Emily Hague |
| 4 th January | 112 - Chris. Connelly 263 - Lesley Wild 251 - Alwyn Gardner |

If anyone would like to join the draw, it is £1 per month and is drawn on the 1st Sunday of the month. All profit goes to Church funds.

Ethel Marshall

Peak Wesley Way Pilgrimage

Sara and Bill Goodman are thinking of walking some of the Peak Wesley Way starting on Wednesday, 22nd of April and ending on Saturday, 25th of April. We will pray along the way, especially as the days will be leading up to our Church Vision day. We are only just starting to organize it, but it would be lovely to have people join us for different parts of it so if you are interested, do let us know.

You can find out more at: peakwesleyway.com Sara's email is: sara.goodman@bradfieldchurch.org and phone **07591 411950**

News From the Bell Tower.....



Our younger members of the team, those aged up to 18, have the opportunity to ring with the Yorkshire Tykes, put photos and videos on Facebook of their achievements with this but have never explained what it is.

The Yorkshire Tykes has around 30 members, aged up to 18 years, who meet monthly and also take part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest which is held around the country. To support the participation of as many young ringers as possible they rotate the towers visited each month around Yorkshire as far as possible and also target towers where there are young ringers who might otherwise struggle to get to meetings.

Numbers are continuing to grow steadily, with very little drop out, and most ringers stay until they are 18, occasionally making return visits to help with events

or peal attempts. Not all come every month but most of those will attend throughout the year and a core number will come each month.

They also visit towers that give the opportunity to achieve something new like ringing on higher numbers. They regularly include heavier bells, or 10 and 12 bell towers, because why not?!

Most leavers at 18 go on to continue ringing either at university and beyond or at their home towers. The main success factor is the unique opportunity to ring with your peers in a relaxed and fun environment. Their evaluation process is listening to our young ringers and hearing their ideas.

Two of our young ringers rang at Selby Abbey and Bubwith this week with the Tykes.

We are very fortunate at Bradfield, and perhaps almost unique, in having such a large age range of ringers. Our youngest is currently 14 and the oldest 74. We have just taken on 3 new learners to join our team.

Want to join us? Speak to John or Naomi Marples
07557 880513.
Naomi Marples

As Spring is coming.....

Have you heard of Cecil Frances Alexander? She was an Anglo-Irish poet born in Dublin in April 1818. Hymns attributed to her are the Christmas carol “Once in Royal David’s City” and “There is a green hill far away” which we often sing in Lent or at Easter. Yet most famously, she is known for writing “All things bright and beautiful”, a hymn which celebrates God’s creation and His greatness. As spring approaches and the season brings emerging new life, you may like to recall the lovely images in this hymn of God’s natural world:

“All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.”



EW

Good News!

The faculty for the kitchen and toilet plans has now been officially signed meaning we are now able to begin our project. As we hope to begin in February the build will take approximately 12 weeks. The church will be open as usual for our many services and activities as we screen off the work taking place. We wish to thank everyone for their ongoing support.

Josie Bird and the team

Coffee Rota

February

- 1st C. Leichert & S. Barrand
- 8th J. Ogle & R. Wragg
- 15th R. Pettinger & J. Cass
- 22nd J. & M. Wilkes

March

- 1st G. & M. Vallance
- 8th P. & J. Reynolds
- 15th The Panniker Family
- 22nd C. Leichert & S. Barrand
- 29th J. & M. Bird (Palm Sunday)

April

- 5th J. Ogley & R. Wragg (Easter Sunday)
- 12th S. Barrand & M. Sheldon
- 19th R. Pettinger & J. Cass
- 26th J. & M. Wilkes

CRICKET VIEW CAFÉ & SHOP

Fresh Sandwiches, Lovely Cakes &
Pastries, Ice-cream and Treats

Hot and Cold Drinks

***Great place for a snack
or your shopping basics***

