

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BRADFIELD
Founded 1109, rebuilt 1480
Grade 1 listed building
Encounter God, Belong Together, Love Bradfield

Welcome to the November–January edition of our church magazine.

The last few months have been busy in the life of our church, and there is much for which we can be thankful. Indeed, it has been a season of firsts! For the first time, we have appointed a Church Administrator and a Children and Families Minister. Following interview days in September, we are delighted to welcome Hannah Fytche as our new Church Administrator and Tara Osborne as our Children and Families Minister. We are also pleased that, following a slight delay, our first toilets have now been installed, commissioned and are ready to use! These new appointments, alongside the kitchen and toilet project, mark important steps in the ongoing life and development of our church. We trust that they will play a vital role in supporting our continued growth and enabling us to expand our mission and ministry in the years ahead.

As we look towards the coming months, we enter a season of reflection. November takes us through All Souls and Remembrance, before we move into Advent and the joy and celebration of Christmas.

As I reflect on this season, I find myself drawn to two seemingly contrasting emotions: sorrow and hope. They may appear to be paradoxical, yet I believe they often go hand in hand. There is sorrow as we look at the difficulties and challenges facing our world: the pain, disunity and conflicts that continue to affect so many lives. Yet, alongside this sorrow, we have a hope to hold on to and to share. This is the hope we have already experienced through the Father's gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the very character of God: gracious, generous, compassionate and the embodiment of love itself. It is also a hope that looks forward, as we anticipate all that God will continue to do through Jesus' spirit in his Church: bringing glimpses of his Kingdom into the world and ultimately pointing towards the restoration of all creation.

The Christmas carol *O Holy Night* captures this beautifully in the line: **"A thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices."** This will be our Christmas theme this year as we reflect on the weariness of our world and the hope that Jesus brings. It is a timely reminder that, even in the midst of uncertainty, pain and struggle, the light of Christ continues to shine. It would be a real joy to see you and share in the celebrations with you over the Christmas season.

With every blessing,

Will

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Community news
Throughout the magazine, keep an eye out for news and ads from across the Bradfield community.

Sunday Church Services
We gather for Sunday worship in church, every week at 10.30am.

On first, third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month, we share Communion - a practice that's at the heart of the Christian faith, as it invites us into the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. During Communion services, there are activities for children to enjoy and explore together. On the second Sunday of the month, we have an All-Age service, where our service involves children and families in creative ways to worship and pray.

At all services, we sing hymns, pray together, and reflect on words from the Bible – about what hope and life they bring to our situations and lives. We mainly use two different types of set prayer (liturgy) to structure our worship services – the Church of England's Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer.

1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays: Holy Communion (Common Worship or Book of Common Prayer)
2nd Sundays: All-Age Service

Through the Advent and Christmas season, we have some special services and events – from an Advent Evensong to folk carols at the Old Horns Inn, to a Nativity service and so much more. **See the next page for full details of our Christmas season services.**

A thrill of hope

a weary world rejoices

CHRISTMAS AT BRADFIELD CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday 28th November, 10:30-1:30
Stalls, raffle, family craft, and refreshments.

ADVENT EVENSONG
Sunday 6th December, 6pm
Evensong with carols - quiet reflection on our journey towards Christmas.

HANDBELLS CONCERT
Wednesday 9th December, 7:30pm
Ring in the festive season! Carols and handbells with mulled wine. £6/ticket.

FOLK CAROLS
Sunday 13th December
7pm at The Old Horns Inn

NATIVITY SERVICE
Sunday 20th December, 10:30am
Telling the first Christmas story.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Sunday 20th December, 6:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CAFE
Thursday 24th December, 10am-12
Drop in at church for a cuppa, chat, and time together on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTINGLE
Thursday 24th December, 4pm

MIDNIGHT SERVICE
Thursday 24th December, 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Friday 25th December, 10:30am

FAVOURITE CAROLS
Sunday 27th December, 10:30am

Keep in touch
www.achurchnearyou.com

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER:

Baptisms

Welcome to the Church family.

13th Sept	Angus Patrick Bickmore
18th Oct	Vinnie Michael Brian Lee

Weddings

31st July	Joshua Jonathan Lowe & Eleanor Lily Aldam
1st August	Callum Joseph Harrison & Hannah May Warwick
8th August	Callum John Prosser & Rose Chelsea Tomblin (Wedding Blessing)
15th August	Edward Thomas Appleby & Alison Elizabeth Maughan
22nd August	Nicholas Stanton Gregory & Kerry Michelle Baxter
11th Sept	Matthew Iain Dyson & Laura Rose Martin

Funerals

We offer our sympathy, love and prayers
to families of the following.

Interment of Ashes 2026

4th August	Sandra Mary Gardner
24th August	Revd. Canon Trevor Page
29th August	John Douglas Waterworth
17th Sept	Felicity Hampton

5th Sept Professor Nigel Paul Dunnett
5th Sept Robert John Dunnett

Church Service with Graveyard Burial

4th Sept Kevin Richard Eccles

Bradfield Church is a beautiful building and place of peace and prayer – and it has so much significance for many in our local communities of Bradfield and Sheffield. If you'd like to explore having a baptism or christening, wedding, or funeral at Bradfield Church, please get in touch: we'd love to explore that with you. You can email info@bradfieldchurch.org or find details of our baptism, wedding, and funeral coordinators in the front of this magazine.



Flower Group

The Flower Group at Bradfield Church helps to make our church building beautiful, creating décor and supporting events which reflect the seasons we're in and our worship as a church. Details of upcoming Flower Group events through the Advent and Christmas seasons are as follows, all on Wednesdays:

25 November 10.00am: Wreath-making for the Christmas Fair
9 December 10.00am: Decorating the Church for Christmas
20 January 2027: Flower Group Meal
17 February onwards: usual group meetings begin again

Ethel Marshall

Winners of the Church Draw

Our Church Draw happens monthly – a church fundraiser in which proceeds go towards our church life. The winners of the Draw for the last three months are:

2 August	**6 September**	**4 October**
181 Louise Bird	**190** Rachel Shepherd	**135** Hannah Kay
230 Martin Potts	**279** Josie Bird	**217** Naomi Marples
258 Stephen Helliwell	**102** Ethel Marshall	**153** Charlotte Helliwell

Ethel Marshall


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Reflection: YOUR KINGDOM!

So, how big is your kingdom?

No, I didn't think I had a Kingdom either, until I started reading Dallas Willard's 'The Divine Conspiracy'. Willard says if our Kingdom is the place where our will is done, then most of us have one.

(Thinking about it, I do remember that one of the hardest things about having an operation was that I was too ill to make anything much happen around me afterwards, so I guess I must usually be able to get things done the way I would like them to be!)

So, where is your kingdom: where is it that you get what you want done?!

Home?

Our son has just moved out to set up his own home, and now does things just the way he likes rather than having to put up with us trying to get him to do odd things, like use less plastic and doing washing up by hand!

Work?

I guess when I was teaching, my classroom was to some extent my Kingdom: the place where we worked out rules to help us all thrive. It was my will that we all worked and played together happily and enjoyed all the excitement of learning, but we had to make it work together.

Which, I suppose, brings up two things.

The first is that our Kingdom often has to do with the kind of rules we put in place to get the things done in life according to our will – according to what we want to achieve and the values we have (save plastic; have happy, thriving kids).

And the second is that our Kingdom might rub up against other people's Kingdoms - other people whose wills are not motivated by quite the same aims and values as ours. When you start living with someone else, even someone who you were *sure* thought like you on *absolutely* everything… it can sometimes really rub when you discover that they really don't! Even over such a little thing as the correct way to do the washing!

Ringing any bells?

It's easy to see that on the international stage, isn't it?

Big powers who want their wills to be done, to achieve their own ends because of the things they value and are important to their interests. The total waste and destruction and loss of human life which results when powers just don't agree and try to force their wills on each other is just horrific.

I wonder whether the same can ever be true, small scale, of us? 'My way or the highway.'

I wonder how this relates to the line we recite so often as part of the Lord's prayer: ***Your*** Kingdom come, ***Your*** will be done'?

God's kingdom: the place where His will is done. Where justice and joy and compassion and love and mercy and hope and truth and challenge and lifting people up and all that is GOOD reign. The kingdom Jesus kept saying, is near.

Every time He reached out to heal someone – it was near. When He released Zaccheus from being separated from his community by his love of wealth – the kingdom of God had come. When He opened blind eyes to understand the truth of what He was about, or told parables to help people understand the truth of the way the world works best – He was bringing God's kingdom close. When He told a story to help people understand the tremendous compassion of God, and people got it and acted on it, God's kingdom, His will being done on earth as in Heaven, was there!

People sometimes call God's Kingdom an upside-down Kingdom: one where the person who reigns is at the bottom - loving, serving, wanting to lift up others and help them to thrive. It was a kingdom modelled by Jesus as He took off His cloak and knelt to wash His disciples' feet; modelled as He died on the cross. It is a Kingdom which makes me ask hard questions about my kingdoms:

- Who am I wanting to benefit here… is it all about me and my agenda and me being the boss, or do I genuinely want what is good for others, good for us all?
- And if it is the latter… wanting what is good for all, how can I work with the One who made us and has so much wisdom about that good? Could prayer come into it: quiet little prayers throughout the day, asking for His guidance, His help in the decisions I make, help with the way I am with people?

Ummm… something to think about as I try to convince my newly- retired husband that MY way of doing the washing really is the right way!

Sara Goodman, Associate Minister at Bradfield Church

News from the Bell Tower

On Sunday 18th October, we rang a Quarter Peal:

Yorkshire Association
Bradfield, South Yorkshire
St Nicholas
Sunday, 18 October 2026 in 42m (11–1–0 in F)
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 Naomi Marples
2 Dominic Kirk
3 Rosalind Fox
4 Andrew Kirk
5 John Marples (Conductor)
6 Jack Marples

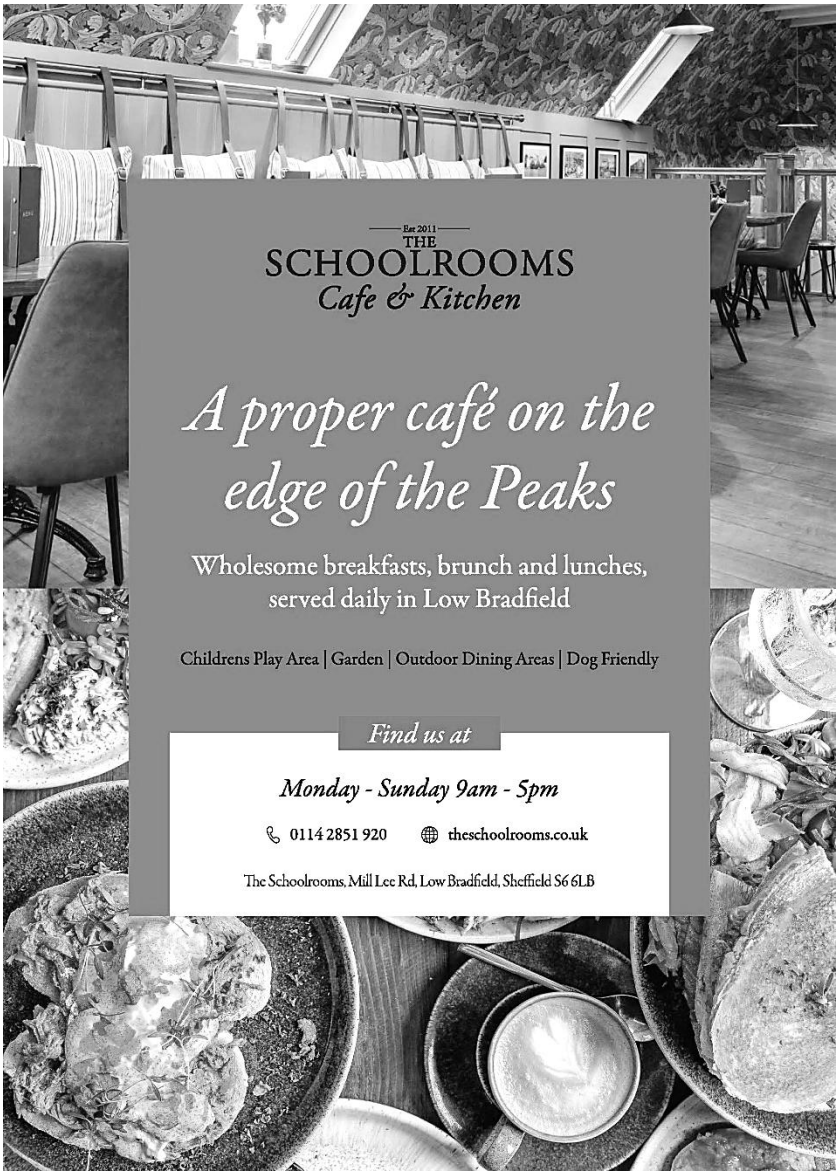
In memory of Margaret Kirk 7/5/32 - 13/9/26. Mum to Andrew, Gran to Dominic. Also to celebrate the birth of Rory Oliver Kirk on 18/9/26. Grandson to Andrew & Nephew to Dominic.

Fancy a go at playing handbells?

Bradfield Handbell Ringers are a small friendly group who meet on Wednesday evenings in St Nicholas' Church, Bradfield between 7-9 pm. We are looking to welcome some new bell ringers. Being able to read music is an advantage but not essential. If you are interested, please contact us on the email: bradfieldhandbells1@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jean Panniker and Gill Vallance


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A Safer Church

I am Naomi and am the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at Bradfield Church.

On Thursday 9th October we held another safeguarding training day in church, led by the Sheffield Diocesan trainer. During the session, we focused on Basic and Foundation training in the morning and then Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse in the afternoon. Those attending the training were very positive about it and found it very informative. We all had the opportunity to raise anything we wished to raise and to discuss anything we wished to discuss.

We shared lunch together, which was a great social opportunity.

For those who were unable to attend, we will be organising another session at some point in 2027, so look out details.

I would like to take the opportunity to reassure people that there is no test or exam associated with this training in church at all. It is simply an opportunity to find out more and what we can do to help.

If you would like to chat to me about Safeguarding to find out more, I am available on Sunday mornings or by email pso@bradfieldchurch.org

Naomi

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Looking Back

As a church we seek to encounter God, belong together, and love Bradfield. Here's a glimpse of how that's looked over recent months.



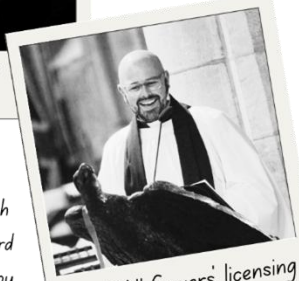
Harvest Barn Dance



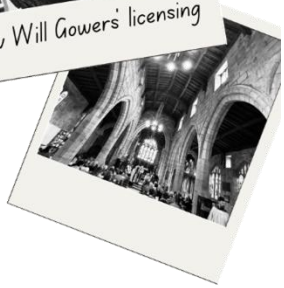
Farmers' Lunch



Baby loss awareness service



Rev Will Gowers' licensing





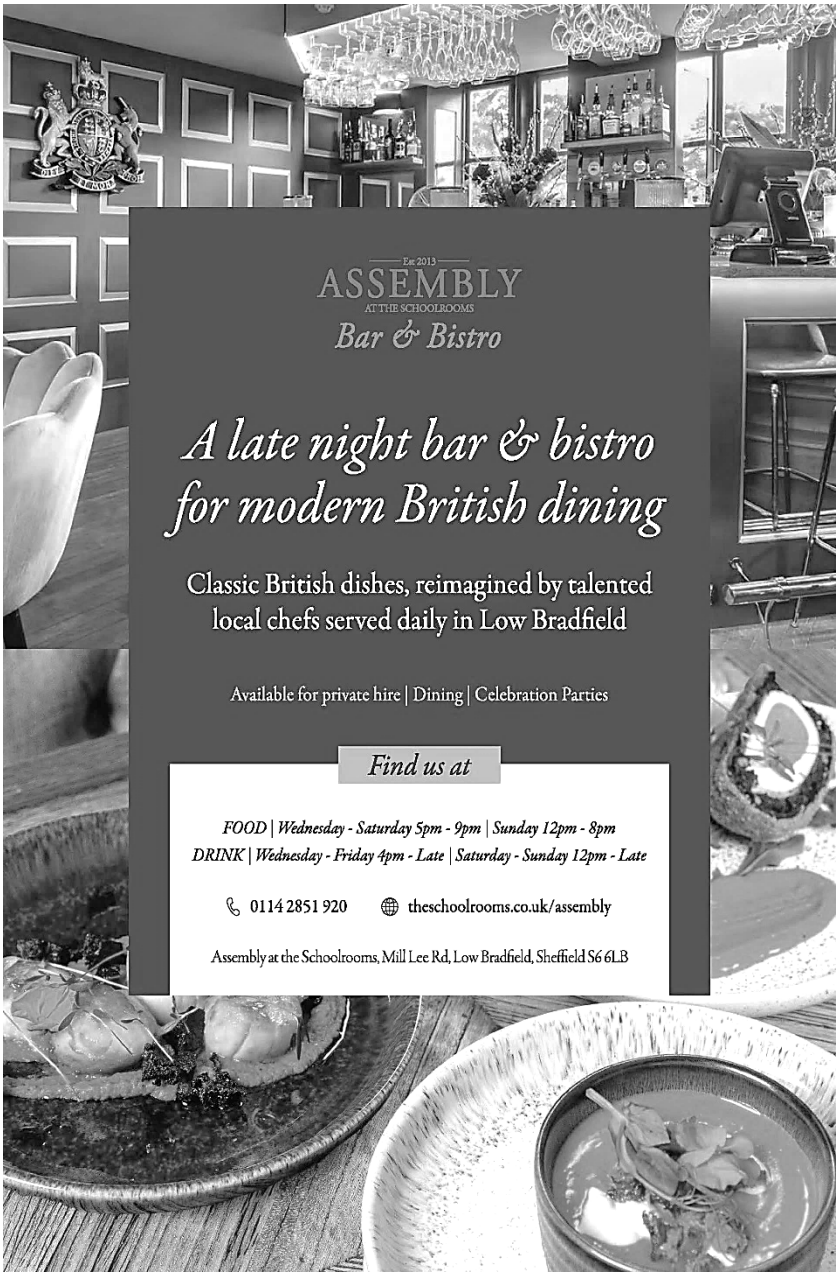






Harvest service, donations, and crafts

We've also celebrated opening our new church kitchen, after much hard work -and with much joy for all it enables us to offer. The Macmillan Coffee morning in October also raised over £900 for Palliative Care at Northern General Hospital.


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Bradfield Church Mothers' Union

Bradfield Mothers' Union has been gathering here for over 100 years. **We usually meet the first Thursday of the month, 10:30am in church,** for conversation and fellowship as well as crafts, activities, and work in support of those who are vulnerable. Mother's Union is all about Christian care for families worldwide, and we hope that you can join us.

5 November: 10:30am: MU Annual General Meeting.
28 November, 12:45, outside Sheffield Cathedral: Rise Up Vigil (see below for details)
3 December, 10:30am: Advent Candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love.
9 December, 2pm, Oughtibridge church: Deanery Advent Service
January: no meeting due to unforeseen winter weather

The Rise Up Vigil is a response to gender-based violence. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone from any walk of life. It's our goal that Mothers' Union members and churches will work together to be a part of the change and will get involved with our RISE UP challenge: **R**espond, **I**nform, **S**upport, **E**mpower, **U**nite, **P**ray.

Pauline

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Reflection: Giving and Receiving

During the past months, the main theme of the services has been "Generosity". Generosity is something we show in our relationships with others. Our first thoughts may be that it is about giving money, but the fact is that it has a much wider meaning than this. Generosity is about giving of ourselves for the benefit of others, and this can include giving our time, our skills, our resources, hospitality and care.

As we approach Christmas, we will be thinking about shopping and what we will buy as gifts for our family and friends. Each gift is a representation of our connection to the person who will receive it and a cost to ourselves. Often it seems, we worry about its value and how much it reflects about the person' s value to us. But should this really be at the heart of our giving?

When I was a child not long after the Second World War, there was little money to spare and some foods were rationed. Nevertheless, it was a time for the community to come together for social and seasonal activities such as carol singing, sledging (weather permitting) and of course the Church nativity. For us as children, it was a time of excitement which brought new aromas into the kitchen and anticipation of a visit from Santa Claus. What would he bring for us?

On Christmas morning we found a long stocking at the foot of our bed; it was filled with an orange, nuts, a small toy and a net bag of chocolate coins! We were delighted at such treats and pleased that Santa had not forgotten us. Expensive gifts could not have made us any happier. What was important was the surprise and the recognition that we were valued, that our

parents had cared to show their love however difficult and hard their situation.

Nowadays, it seems that love is measured by the cost of gifts, that givers are made to feel mean if there is no great value in what is given. But Christmas should not be the time for a 'guilt trip'. For some with no money to spare, giving gifts will not be possible and their food rationed by the need to visit food banks. So we should remember that generosity is as much about our time, skills, hospitality and care, and not just about presents. Doing or giving small things can be as valuable and worthwhile as the bigger gestures because of the love with which they are given. We need to give with love and receive our gift with gratitude for the love shown to us. It is this which reflects the spirit of generosity as we do what we can within our means and capabilities.

And most of all, at this Christmas time, we must not forget the greatest gift to us…God gave His Son to show His love for the world and humanity. How will we show our gratitude?

EW

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Introducing…

I'm Hannah, the new Church Administrator at Bradfield Church. I've lived in Sheffield for the past year with my husband Will (up over Fox Hill/Grenoside way) and I've loved getting to know Bradfield as I've started work with the church here over the last month or so.

I'm here to enable Bradfield Church to grow in community and worship – to keep doing what we do well, and to step into new things as opportunities arise. I'm here to help with church bookings, publicity, orders of service…anything administrative, really, that supports our church and community. I'm also great at making coffee – and fairly good at troubleshooting the church printer.

My normal working days are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and you can find my contact details on the inside cover of this magazine.

As I've begun working here, I've loved hearing the language of home and belonging that's woven into how Bradfield Church describes faith and community. The Psalms are a collection of ancient poems and songs in the Bible. They are expressions of hope, longing, celebration, grief – the whole range of human emotions. One of those poems or songs includes a beautiful image of small birds like sparrows and swallows finding a home near God's altar – finding shelter in a place of worship, peace, beauty and the presence of One who is so much bigger than us. (You can find that image in Psalm 84.) That's my hope for my part in our life together at Bradfield Church – to help us all belong together, and to find home near to God who loves us.

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Thanks to our supporters, we've already raised over £200! Every new shopper helps us raise even more.

For more information or help getting started, please speak to Jane Gregory or email Jane.Gregory@bradfieldchurch.org.

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