

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, BRADWELL

"Living and sharing the love of Jesus"

PARISH PROFILE 2026

Join us on an exciting journey of faith and community, with Christ at the centre of all we do.

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our prayer for you and this church

Welcome!

We are seeking a Rector for this single church benefice on the east coast of Norfolk.



We are a church with a congregation of approximately 85, over two Sunday services.

We describe ourselves as gently evangelical, open to being led by the Spirit, rooted in Bible teaching and prayer.

At the heart of this church is the people who form our church family. Together, we journey in faith through times of joy and challenge, supporting and caring for one another and seeking to serve the wider local community with compassion and commitment.

As you read this profile, we invite you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to this significant role in the continuing story of St Nicholas Church.

With its long and faithful history, the parish offers many opportunities for the right person to serve, lead and grow alongside us.

We look to the future with hope and trust in God's plan, as we wait to discover whom He will bring to St Nicholas Bradwell, to guide and lead us forward, sharing in the life, worship and mission of our church community.

Our Vision and challenges

Building on the strengths of the church, as we prayerfully and confidently seek God's will for the future.

- To nurture and develop our small groups, widening opportunities to study the Bible together, encourage one another in discipleship, deepen our faith and to strengthen our prayer life as central to our shared journey in ***'living and sharing the love of Jesus'.***

- We are committed to investing in church leadership; identifying and supporting new lay leaders so that more people can use their gifts to give glory to God, serve others, support those in leadership and help shape the future of our church.



- We would like to see children taking a more active role in worship and church life, helping them to grow in faith and feel that they truly belong. We also hope to expand initiatives such as Open the Book and Messy Church, strengthening our links with local schools and families.

- We would love to see more young people and younger adults becoming part of our church family and make better use of social media to share our story and invite others in.

- We would also like to deepen our engagement with the wider community through events that welcome people into the church and churchyard, involve us in the local community and support local families at pivotal life events - weddings, funerals and baptisms.

- We are committed to furthering our care for God's creation by building on our Eco Church Bronze Award.

- As we grow, we recognise the importance of having the right support structures in place, including greater clarity around the possible role of an administrator.

We offer a strong foundation for the next chapter

- As a **single-church benefice,** we benefit from a sense of identity and purpose, supported by a congregation with a host of willing volunteers who generously give their time and talents.
- We value the traditions that have shaped us, while recognising the need to keep listening, adapting and reaching out in ways that speak to people's lives today.
- Our worship offers a thoughtful blend of traditional and informal styles, helping us to connect with people of different backgrounds and preferences. We are a welcoming, Bible-believing church, where all are invited to receive God's grace.
- We are committed to **good safeguarding practices** and supporting those in need with compassion and practical care.
- We are blessed by our location, surrounded by the beauty of the countryside, close to the Broads and the sea. We enjoy a unique setting which, although sometimes feels a bit isolated 'at the end of the line', fosters a strong sense of belonging and community.







Faithful worship	Pastoral care	Outward focus
Prayer, scripture and sacrament remain at the heart of our shared life.	**We seek to notice need, offer support and walk alongside people through every season of life.**	**We want our church to be visible, approachable and engaged with the wider parish.**

- Families and young children are warmly welcomed, with provision made to help them feel comfortable and engaged in worship. Our Sunday school is valued by both children and parents, and the participation of children in services and school events reflects a church where younger generations feel at home.

- Strong relationships with local organisations, schools, and the Parish Council enable us to play an active role in community life, while our church hall provides a valued space for local activities and events.

- Through initiatives such as community lunches, Pop Pin craft group, even hosting a beekeeping group, we seek to build connections, serve our community and foster a sense of belonging.

- We enjoy caring for our churchyard and in reducing our environmental impact. We have an eco-church bronze award and are actively looking at the silver standard.









These words were offered by a visiting member of the clergy at the close of a communion service they had kindly covered."

"What you've got here as a fellowship, as a community is very, very special. As you head into interregnum, hold that together and this church, this wonderful community, can only go forward in strength. God bless you."

Confident in calling, open to change and ready for the future.

The Rector we are praying for

Someone who is deeply rooted in faith, led by the Holy Spirit
and passionate about helping others to know and follow Jesus more closely.

- We seek a Rector who will walk with us in faith, building on what has been established; who will bring a hopeful vision for the future, rooted in Christ and help us to grow as a church family.
- Strong biblical teaching is essential and the ability to share God's word in ways that are meaningful, relevant, and accessible.
- We value an approachable leader who relates well to people of all ages and backgrounds and takes time to listen.
- We are looking for someone who recognises and nurtures the gifts of others, encouraging people to serve with confidence.
- We are fully aware that ministry with younger and older children along with their families is an area with significant potential for growth. An incumbent who sees this as a vital part of their role would be most welcome.
- We would welcome a Rector with a heart for outreach, eager to strengthen links with the wider community and help the church grow beyond its walls.
- The role calls for a calm, steady presence; flexibility in meeting varied demands; warmth, humility and a sense of humour to lead graciously through change. Someone who can both lead and be part of a team.

Above all, we seek a Rector who will inspire, encourage and equip us
as we serve God and share His love with those around us.

Support for the Rector

Churchwardens
We have two committed churchwardens who have followed God's calling to serve in this role. They are supported by two deputy wardens.

Licensed Lay Minister
We have one Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) who can also officiate at funerals. There is another LLM in training.

Prayer Ministry Team
A small team who offer prayer for individuals after the service.

Communion Services
A team have been trained and authorised to assist with distributing elements at Communion Services.
There is a lay team going into a small number of homes giving communion to those unable to attend Church.

Sunday school
We have a wonderful team who lead and help to lead the children during their time in the hall on a Sunday, using 'Roots' as a basis and who bring the children back in to share with the congregation what they have learnt, been doing and to lead us in a prayer.

Pre-school Children's Worker
We have a paid employee engaged to lead our pre school group two mornings a week.

Other volunteers
A number of volunteers from the congregation read the lessons in both Sunday services and also lead intercessions.
There is a team of welcomers before the 10.30 service and others who serve refreshments afterwards.

Fundraising and hospitality group
A group who meet regularly to plan fundraising and social activities. When we have events, they plan the catering and enlist other volunteers.

PCC
The PCC has a membership of 11 and meets every other month. The PCC is supported by a finance committee and buildings committee, which meet before each PCC meeting and present a report.

Clergy Wellbeing
Our supportive PCC expect and encourage the Rector to take proper holidays and a regular day off each week.

Safeguarding
We fully recognise the importance of ensuring safety and wellbeing of both young people and vulnerable adults and fully comply with all procedures. Everyone is responsible for safeguarding; this and all training is co-ordinated by our trained Parish Safeguarding Officer.

About the church – St Nicholas church building

St Nicholas Church is a grade 2 listed building with a fine example of a Saxon round tower common to East Anglia. It is flint and stone construction built between 1320 and 1390 to replace a smaller building. After a fire, the interior was restored in 1875 .

The Hall was added in 1995, adjoining the church. It is equipped with 2 toilets, a modern kitchen and storage. It is primarily used for Church activities, and we also have regular private hirers.

The buildings are in a reasonable state of repair with all the urgent actions as highlighted by the 2022 quinquennial inspection completed. In addition the east window and one of the south windows have recently been completely restored. We operate a bi-monthly health and safety assessment and a structured maintenance schedule

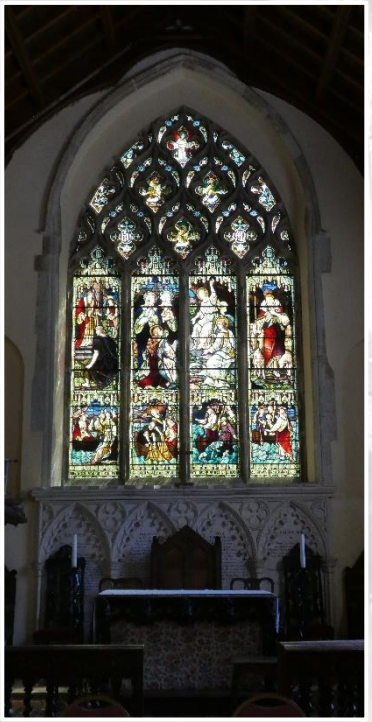
The tower enjoys a peal of 3 Bells which are rung for weddings and can be rung for Sunday Services.

The Church is accessed via a private metalled road, Upper Church Walk, continuing along this and around the Churchyard leads to the Rectory.









About the church – the churchyard

Caring for God's creation matters to us.

In March 2025 we were awarded a Bronze Eco Church Certificate through the A Rocha Uk's Eco Project in recognition of our commitment to connect environmental issues with our Christian faith and mission and respond with practical action. We are now working towards a silver award.

In our 4 acre churchyard we encourage wildlife to flourish by providing bird, owl and hedgehog boxes, a bug church and wild scrubby areas as well as a cultivated herb and flower area. A wildlife Journal is kept recording sightings of our animal visitors. In May 2026 we invested in 2 Bee Hives and training from a local Community Interest Company, promoting community involvement with our land.

Our churchyard is also visited by our local schools facilitating the KS1 curriculum and is a popular place for local people to walk through or rest awhile.

As a church we use it for an annual outdoor service, fire pit prayer meeting, church family bbq, Easter egg hunts and of course the summer fayre, with a variety of community attractions, the school choir and a local ukulele band.

The churchyard is managed through a council grant as well as regular working parties.





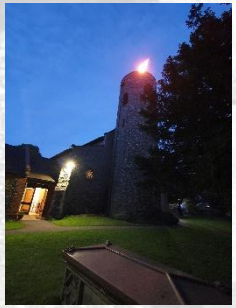
The churchyard is walked through and used daily. It is a peaceful place for reflection, enjoying the wonder of God's creation and can be a busy place, with community and church family events















Your new home – The Rectory

The rectory is a modern, comfortable family home that last year was completely renovated in line with the diocese's carbon-net-zero aspirations. It is one of only two houses in the diocese to receive a full energy-saving retrofit, and the results are remarkable.

Both the pitched and flat roofs were removed and rebuilt with high-grade insulation, triple glazing has been installed throughout, and the house is heated by an air-source heat pump supported by a large solar array and battery system. The effect is simple: the house is warm and comfortable all year round, and the running costs for the incumbent are significantly reduced. In fact, the property is now carbon-positive, producing more energy than it uses. There is also a fast car-charging point at the front of the house.

The rectory sits along its own private drive with a generous forecourt, giving a real sense of space and privacy. To the rear is a wonderful enclosed garden which is safe for pets and children with plenty of room for play, outdoor meals, church events and family life. It's a house that feels settled, secure, and ready to welcome a new incumbent into the heart of the parish.







The church as worshipping people – current pattern of services



Sunday 9.00 2nd,3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Holy Communion

Alternating Common Worship Traditional Language and BCP 1662. This is a Service for those who prefer a more formal, traditional style of worship. Two traditional hymns with organ. Approx 15





Wednesday 9am

An informal communion service, clergy do not robe. Common worship modern language. Approx 15



Sunday 10.30

Parish Holy Communion: First Sunday of each month Common Worship modern language. Clergy robe

Service of the Word: 2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th Sundays.
This is a Service where the worship style is more relaxed and the music is blended, a mix of traditional and contemporary. Mainly led by the worship band, usually with one traditional hymn on the organ. Congregation of approx 65 and up to 10 children

Teaching is Bible based and the children may attend a Sunday school group in the hall. They always return to the main Church for "Show and Tell" and to celebrate church family birthdays.

The Service is presented by PowerPoint via 3 tv screens, sermons are slide show enhanced. We broadcast these services via YouTube.

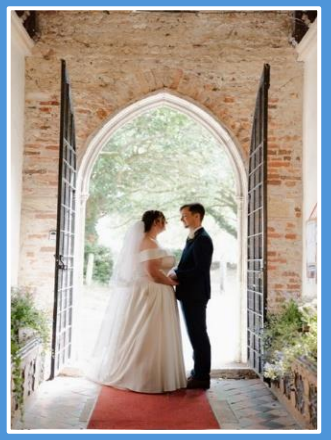
A small group offer prayer for the service beforehand. Prayer is also available for any individual wanting it after the service, facilitated by two of the Prayer Ministry team.

After this service, a time of friendship and fellowship follows in the church hall, or the church, with tea and coffee available.

Occasional services, festival and special services

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

The Church is always available for weddings, funerals and baptisms. During 2025 we had 8 funerals in Church. Our Clergy officiated in 6 funerals at the Local Crematorium. There were 12 interments of cremated remains in the Churchyard. We enjoyed celebrating weddings with 5 local couples.



Festival and special services:

Christmas carol services, community nativity, and Christingle services are always very well attended by the wider community.



Tenebrae, Good Friday and Easter services offer times of reflection and celebration.





Growing in faith and community

Digging Deeper
Church members are encouraged to join one of the four groups who meet for times of friendship, fellowship, exploring and growing in faith, based on Bible readings and themes. These groups meet on Wednesdays, except for the 2nd Wednesday in the month (2 afternoon groups and 2 evening groups)

Prayer Meetings
Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, in the hall apart from our annual *fire pit prayers* meeting in the churchyard. Led by different people in different ways, this is a time of joining together in prayer for the church, the world, community and for individuals. There is currently a core of people who regularly attend and see this time of prayer together as central to our faith. We would love for this to develop wider.



Alpha, Bible Course, Prayer Course
Developing a clear pathway for discipleship, we have offered Alpha, the Bible Course and the Prayer Course as a way of supporting and equipping people as they grow in faith, serving both those exploring Christianity and those already within the congregation. As groups formed through these courses, some continued as home groups, giving people a natural way to stay connected and keep growing together.

Creative circle
Designing and creating projects for decorating the church for special events and seasons.



Pop-Pin
People from the community and church members come together and share their love of knitting, sewing and other crafts.

Community lunch
A shared meal and friendship.



Children's work

Sunday services

At St Nicholas, children are central to our vision of growing church. At present numbers vary, up to 10 for a 10.30 service. We actively set out to warmly welcome families and seek to involve children whenever the opportunity arises. Each week after the children's activity- led song, they go to the Church Hall to complete their fun-based and biblically-based activities. They return towards the end of the service, presenting what has been discussed, displaying their amazing artistic and dramatic talents and finishing with a child-led prayer. All of this is made possible by our awesome team of volunteers – who are on a rota and ready to assist every week.

Many of us help out with **Messy Church** which takes place every few months- these sessions are well attended with the children being totally involved in a range of definitely MESSY projects, A number of children orientated services happen throughout the year with a special focus such as the Nativity Service and Christingle - even a visit from Mr Christingle himself!











We aim to help children of all ages on their journey to discover the love of Jesus as an integral part of our church family, where people of every generation can worship, serve and grow together.

Pre school groups and links with schools

Pre school groups

We have recently appointed an enthusiastic Pre-School Group Leader for our 2 weekly term time sessions **Tea, Toys and Toast.** Together with church volunteers, we provide a fun, welcoming and supportive community for children and their carers at this important stage of life. A local childminders group uses the hall facilities on a weekly basis.

Links with schools

There are 3 local Primary schools, all with good Ofsted reports.
Homefield Primary School is our local Church School. A new school is currently being built, which offers exciting opportunities. We have long established links which include assemblies taking place both in Church and in school, We have in the past enjoyed sharing 'Open the Book' sessions in the school and this is under active consideration to restart soon.
In more recent years our relationship with the other two Primary Schools has grown with children coming in for craft activities and a talk, leading up to Christmas and Easter. In the future we would love more engagement with our local schools.

There are 3 secondary schools close by in Gorleston as well as a sixth form college with over 90 courses and pass rates above 90%

From the Headteacher Homefield C of E VC Primary School

Our close association with the Church enriches pupils' understanding of Christianity in a meaningful way and helps embed Christian values across school life. It supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, complementing the curriculum through a lived expression of faith.

Pupils and staff value regular collective worship, held both in school and in church. These opportunities foster belonging, reflection and shared purpose, reinforcing the school's Christian ethos and supporting spiritual development.

Working with the Church has strengthened RE provision, shaped our school vision and prayer, and enhanced the Christian distinctiveness of the school. The partnership also offers valuable support to the Governing Body as it works for the best outcomes for our children and community.

Local scouts and guide groups come to the church at times of remembrance and celebration. They have been involved in craft activities, including building the owl boxes for the churchyard and the Christmas tree festival in 2025.

Thoughts from the congregation

Has a passionate faith and wants to share God's love with all.

Down to earth and approachable

Strong spiritual depth with practical people skills.

A Rector who truly loves everyone in the body of Christ here.

A sense of humour

Will compassionately guide us

Not too formal or long winded

Someone with humility who listens to God.

Someone who will continue the good work in the community

Gentle and kind.

Happy to help us

Strong and engaging in Bible teaching.

Talks so we can understand.

Someone who sees us (children) as part of their big family.

Understands that we all have different talents and different challenges



Bradwell and surrounding area

Bradwell is a thriving village situated on the eastern edge of Norfolk, close to the Suffolk border. It is just over a mile from the stunning coastline with an award winning beach at nearby Gorleston. It is close to the popular seaside resort of Great Yarmouth, renowned for its wide sandy beach, bustling seafront, leisure facilities, and a wide range of restaurants, cafés, and family attractions. The surrounding villages and the Broads each add their own unique character and charm to this attractive area. The beautiful and historic cathedral city of Norwich is located just 20 miles away.

Today, Bradwell has a population of just over 12,000, with continued growth driven by major new housing developments on the southern edge of the village. The majority of homes in and around Bradwell are privately owned.

The village enjoys a range of local amenities that serve residents of all ages. In addition to the historic Saint Nicholas Church, Bradwell also has a Methodist Church. Healthcare is well provided for, with two GP surgeries, each supported by its own pharmacy, two dental practices, a nursing home, and a residential care home.

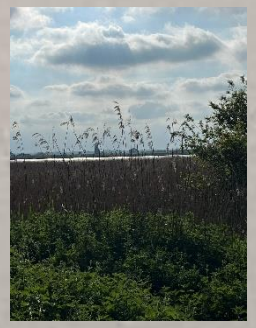
Community facilities include two community centres, a library, funeral directors, hair and beauty salons, and a modern indoor swimming pool with a fully equipped gym and fitness centre.

Residents also benefit from a public house, a post office, two supermarkets, a traditional butchers, a petrol filling station and takeaway food outlets. There are two sports playing fields, with facilities for football, cricket and bowls, children's play areas and a scout hut.

Bradwell also benefits from nearby services, including the James Paget University Hospital in Gorleston, an industrial estate, and a retail park. The crematorium, is only a short distance.

Bradwell has a regular bus service, and rail links to Norwich, the Midlands, and London. Norwich Airport and London Stansted are also accessible for wider travel.

With its coastal location, growing community, local facilities and transport links, Bradwell offers a friendly, convenient and attractive place to live, visit and enjoy.

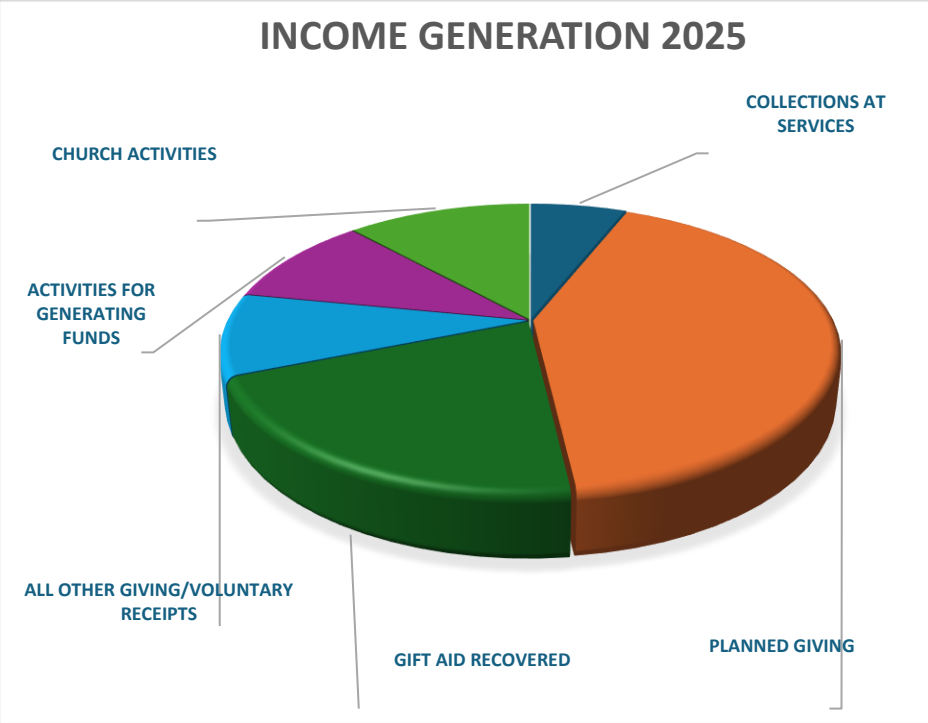





Finance

Bradwell Parish Church is primarily a self- financing Church. Much of the income is regular voluntary giving. This is supplemented by fees, donations and tax reclaim. Our teaching on giving is that we are only returning a small portion of the bounty God has lavished on all of us. It is believed we should be responsible for funding our own Church though love and generosity.

There are several events throughout the year which significantly contribute to fundraising.
However, we feel that community events are primarily about hospitality and raising our profile throughout and within the community.



Expenditure

The majority of our unrestricted income goes towards paying the Parish Share.

We have fully paid our parish share for the last 4 years.

We have a part time pre-school children's worker funded by the Young-peoples fund. All clergy and day to day running expenses are fully reimbursed.

The Churchyard is maintained by a restricted fund

The Finance committee produces a budget annually and a full report of the Church accounts is presented at every PCC meeting. The finance committee make recommendations to the PCC for discussion.



Heavenly Father, we thank you for your faithful guidance and unfailing love for this church family.

We pray for all who read this profile as they discern their future ministry.

If you are drawing them towards ministry among us, stir their heart with courage, wisdom, and joy. If you are leading them elsewhere, guide and bless them as they continue to serve you faithfully.

Keep each of us open to your call on our lives, and help us to follow faithfully wherever Christ leads.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen