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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE

### BRADFORD CATHEDRAL LAUNCHES ITS CENTENARY WITH EPIPHANY SERVICES AND ARTS LAUNCH



*The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, and the Very Revd Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, together with The Revd Canon Mandy Coutts and The Revd Canon Paul Maybury of Bradford Cathedral, alongside the choir led by Director of Music Alex Berry, in a break in proceedings during the Centenary launch services and events.*

The launch of Bradford Cathedral's Centenary events began on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with the Epiphany Choral Eucharist, led by the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, which saw the Bradford Cathedral choir in full voice alongside a solo performance of *Psalm 100: Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord* by Una Barry, a special composition for the service by Colin Mawby. Bishop Nick also talked about the Epiphany and its importance as a time between Christmas and Easter.

The Bishop also took time to mark the one-hundred years celebration: "2019 is the Centenary of

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**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

Bradford Cathedral. The building has been here for many centuries before, but it was designated a Cathedral in 1919, and through all of that time it strived to offer faithful worship, witness and service of the community in the Diocese of Bradford, which is now part of the Diocese of Leeds. This is a time when we can look back, and look forward, to maintaining that tradition of faithfulness.

“Epiphany is a great day to launch the Centenary year of Bradford Cathedral because the Epiphany is primarily about people going on a journey and when they meet Jesus, and we don’t know what happened there except they brought gifts, they go back a different way. They go back changed; transformed. We don’t know in detail in what way, but it does say you can’t have an encounter with the real Jesus and go away the same. You may reject him but you need to know what you’re rejecting. You may find your life challenged, encouraged, disturbed, warmed, but you cannot go back on the same road.”



*Poet in residence for the Centenary Year,  
Diane Pacitti, reading her poem 'Siting'.*

The Eucharist also saw a reading from Diane Pacitti, the Cathedral’s poet in residence for 2019, entitled ‘Siting’.

“Writing about the Cathedral is a huge privilege; it’s such a wonderful place. [Bradford] is a city of faiths, as well as faith. I see the Cathedral making connections. It’s a still presence which has been here so long, holding the whole city in prayer. To me that’s really important; being faithful and working with [refugees] and the homeless. [The

Cathedral] is involved in the city, as Christianity always has to be.”

The day’s events continued with the formal launch of Eva Mileusnic’s exhibition ‘Counter-Flow’, a collection of 100 pairs of porcelain feet, marking the struggles of migrants whilst embracing the cultural impact of their traditions. The opening was conducted by Artspace organiser Maggie Peel who thanked the audience and introduced the work. “They’ve got patterns on them to reflect the

movement of people across the world. Eva Mileusnic has made all of these especially for us to celebrate the rich and diverse communities that are in Bradford. The themes are memory, migration and identity, and I think all of that comes through in the installation.”

‘Counter-Flow’ was formally opened by Very Revd. Jerry Lepine. “I find this [installation] full of thoughtfulness and what I see is that each pair of feet is a story and that is the same as how each human is a story, but is also a collective: the gathering of humanity, symbolised.”

Following refreshments Bishop Nick returned to the stage to discuss the topic of ‘Going back a different way – being Christian in a populist world’, a topical look at many of the issues facing Christians – and the wider population – in 2019.

The enthralling hour-long talk and question-and-answer session covered many topics including the rise of populism, fake news, Brexit and the rise of far-right politics, and how people – including Christians – can respond to it.

“We can call out inconsistency between articulated policy and delivered reality; but, we can also encourage where hard and costly decisions are made, often with limited foresight and contested will.

“Christians must love the light by looking at the world – and our politics, and our media – in the light of the Christ who is the light of the world. Don’t just look at Jesus – look at the world through his eyes, say what you see – always with the humility that we might be myopic or wilfully blind – and be trustworthy and faithful.”

The Centenary year was launched formally at 4pm with the Festal Choral Evensong, featuring songs performed by the Bradford Cathedral choir and a sermon from Bishop Nick. The day’s services and events came to an end with the cutting of the specially baked Centenary cake.



*The cutting of the cake with Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon, alongside Maggie Peel and Dean Jerry.*

Dean Jerry said of the event. “It was a joyous and thought-provoking beginning to Bradford Cathedral’s Centenary Year. It was ‘cathedral’ at its best with hospitality, beautiful music and people drawn from all over the region and beyond.

“I was deeply touched by the people that travelled a distance to be with us. It showed not only their generosity of spirit but also the affection that people

have for this cathedral. Bishop Nick’s address on Populism and Faith was a brilliant example of someone who is really on top of his subject, giving leadership to the church at this challenging time.

“If you missed the beginning, there’s plenty more coming during the year, which you can see on our website.”

Bradford Cathedral now looks forward to hosting further events in January including a chamber music concert with Tasmin Little and John Lenehan, and an address by Judge Laurence Saffer entitled ‘Torn From Home’, before more events from February through to the actual Centenary date on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, one hundred years after King George V decreed that the parish church of St Peter would become a Cathedral.

**ENDS**

## Notes for Editors

### **About the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds**

The Rt Revd Nick Baines became the first Bishop of Leeds, an area covering West Yorkshire & the Dales in June 2014. Nick Baines was previously Bishop of Bradford (2011-14), and before that was Bishop of Croydon (in the Diocese of Southwark). He read German and French at Bradford University and, before ordination, worked for four years as a Russian linguist at GCHQ.

You can read the blog on which his talk 'Going back a different way – being Christian in a populist world' was based on at <https://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2019/01/06/going-back-a-different-way-being-christian-in-a-populist-world/> and watch back to the Bishop reading the Centenary Prayer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRZtLU7ZFtU>.

### **About Diane Pacitti**

During the Cathedral's centenary year Diane Pacitti is our poet in residence. She will produce a collection of poems based on Bradford and its cathedral. There has been a church on the Bradford hillside since Saxon times and 'Siting' is about its location and purpose.

Diane Pacitti has written poetry since she was a child and has worked with Bradford Cathedral in showcasing her late husband's ceramics and her own poetry. She's visited themes such as Guantanamo Bay, which gained the attention of Nobel Prize-winning British playwright, screenwriter, director and actor Harold Pinter; and has been short-listed for several awards, also winning first prize for Poetry by the Brontë Society in 2014. She has also written a novel, which is being translated into Italian, as well as spending time performing her works across the country and world.

### **About the Centenary**

Bradford Cathedral is hosting events throughout the year ahead of its official Centenary in November 2019. A full list of announced events can be found by visiting [bradfordcathedral.org](http://bradfordcathedral.org),

facebook.com/stpeterbradford/events or by picking up a copy of the Centenary Events booklet around Bradford.

As well as events and installations, The Very Reverend Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, has written a special prayer to mark Bradford Cathedral's Centenary.

### **About Bradford Cathedral**

Bradford Cathedral has been a place of worship in Bradford since the first millennium. It is the oldest building in the city and, alongside being a place of worship, hosts events, arts projects and much more. Bradford Cathedral celebrates its centenary in 2019.

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