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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE

**HIDDEN LIVES EXPLORED AS TOUCHSTONE REVEALS PEOPLE'S EXTRAORDINARY DRAWERS IN BRADFORD CATHEDRAL EXHIBITION.**



*A Jewish-Japanese Fusion Drawer, one of over twenty photographs of drawers that appear in the exhibition. “This chest is a Japanese Sendai Tansu. The drawer contains decorative serving dishes; a silver goblet to bless the Sabbath or Festival at the beginning of the meal; and a Venetian pitcher which holds water to wash the fingers of our guests after eating. The drawer shows a fusion of cultures – Japanese and Jewish – and is frequently in use.”*

The second Artspace exhibition of Bradford Cathedral’s Centenary year begins on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 as Touchstone brings out its ‘Extraordinary Drawers!’ installation.

The photograph exhibition uses the hidden life contained with drawers to share insights into the everyday lives of ordinary people.

“Personal stories are so often private, but we invited people to share something of their ‘hidden’ lives by taking a photograph of a drawer that says something about them. We were given ordinary

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stuff that tells some extraordinary stories of life, faith and culture in Bradford.”

Included in the exhibition are drawers based on prayer times; one that holds Sikh turbans; a drawer full of onesies; and one that has become a graveyard for old technology. There is also a photograph of a drawer from Sarah Maybury, a Lay Reader in Training at Bradford Cathedral, entitled ‘Wooden spoons from around the world’.

“When I travel I collect wooden spoons that local people make. In my spoon drawer is a long, flat “Mealie meal” spoon from Lusaka, Zambia, where I visited and helped feed children in 2010. There are hand crafted spoons from Romania from a local market in Baia Mare and a painted spoon from a Budapest market. There is also a spoon with a flower pattern I wood burned on to a bog standard wooden spoon, country of origin unknown.”

Rev. Jenny Ramsden of Touchstone says:

“We have found that viewing the Extraordinary Drawers exhibition has inspired people to share their own stories with each other and to see each other with fresh eyes”

The previous exhibition at Bradford Cathedral, Eva Mileusnic’s ‘Counter-Flow’, will continue alongside ‘Extraordinary Drawers!’ with the porcelain feet that make up the installation migrating elsewhere around the building until Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

The ‘Extraordinary Drawers!’ exhibition runs in Bradford Cathedral until March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019. Look out for some special photographs in the run up to the exhibition as members of Bradford Cathedral reveal their own extraordinary drawers as well!

**ENDS**

## Notes for Editors

### **About Touchstone**

Touchstone is a Methodist organisation based in the heart of Bradford and has worked alongside and with diverse communities for over twenty-five years. One of Touchstone's primary aims is to enable people of different faith and cultural backgrounds to come together in order to understand each other, to share stories, to form friendships, and to work together to build peaceful and just communities. You can find out more at <https://www.touchstone-bradford.org.uk>.

### **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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