

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**BRADFORD CATHEDRAL'S CENTENARY  
FESTIVAL WELCOMED THE COMMUNITY  
IN FOR A DAY-LONG CELEBRATION**



*Some of the clergy, staff, volunteers, congregation, helpers and visitors gather at the start of the day to make the shape of '100' to mark the half-way point of Bradford Cathedral's Centenary year, including the Dean of Bradford, the Bishop of Bradford and Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe*

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**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

Over 250 people were welcomed to Bradford Cathedral for their Centenary Festival for a day packed with activities, talks and services to highlight many of the amazing things it does, from its worship and music to its arts and events. The Parish Church of St. Peter was granted Cathedral status on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1919, and this festival was one of many events held throughout 2019 to mark this 100 year anniversary.

The 11-hour long event began with a welcome from the Very Revd Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, and a reading of the poem 'I Come From' by Centenary poet in residence Diane Pacitti, a piece inspired by the poetry highlighted at the BBC's 'We Are Bradford' campaign earlier in the year.



*Dean Jerry Lepine in conversation with Wahida Shaffi, DL.*

The festival was then formally opened by Bishop Toby Howarth and Leader of the Council Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe, before the day's programme began, a programme which included children's activities, give-it-a-go stitching, and a free afternoon tea, which served over 120 people. There were also talks throughout the day, including conversation pieces with Syima Aslam, Director of the

Bradford Literature Festival, and Deputy Lieutenant Wahida Shaffi. There was also the opening of the Prayer Labyrinth in the grounds of the Cathedral which is available to use now for prayer and reflection until at least the end of August.



*The Very Revd Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, the Revd Canon Paul Maybury and the Revd Canon Mandy Coutts explore the Prayer Labyrinth at Bradford Cathedral.*

As the festival ran into the evening there was an exciting talk all about the Battle of the Steeple, and how the Cathedral protected itself with wool-sacks – with several example ones hung specially from the tower – and pop-up Shakespeare performances from ACT, who will be performing ‘Romeo and Juliet’ at the Cathedral in July.

Throughout the day visitors had also been enjoying the ‘Bradford Cathedral: A Visual History’ exhibition, looking at the photos as well as adding their own memories to the timeline. Following this, Graham Relton of the Yorkshire Film Archive formally introduced the trailer of archive footage ahead of October’s ‘Bradford on Film’ event, a trailer which followed a short series of memories

from some of the Cathedral congregation.

Shortly afterwards the Parish Room was packed out for a special 'Come and Sing... Pick a Hymn' session, just one of the many music-themed sessions throughout the day which also included a special organ recital and choral matins.

The evening concluded with a fifty-person strong indoor street party, accompanied by live 1920s-1940s music from Upright Vintage before the Salvation Army band led the festival peacefully into a night prayer, which saw the congregation move around the Cathedral in prayer.



*The street party, which began at 19:19, to reflect the anniversary, saw staff, volunteers, the congregation and visitors enjoying a selection of great food.*

With over £150 raised in donations through the day to help the Cathedral to do good work in the community and any left-over food being used to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged who come to the Cathedral, it was also an event that would continue to help in the days after.

Bradford Cathedral hopes to run another festival next year and if you have any ideas and feedback to make next year even bigger and better, or would like to get involved, you can e-mail the events team on [events@bradfordcathedral.org](mailto:events@bradfordcathedral.org).

*Bradford Cathedral's Centenary year continues with events throughout 2019, culminating with its actual Centenary day on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. You can find out more by visiting [bradfordcathedral.org](http://bradfordcathedral.org).*

**ENDS**

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Notes for Editors

### **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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