

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**A WELCOME RETURN TO THE NORTH FOR GRAHAM THORPE: BRADFORD CATHEDRAL APPOINTS NEW SUB-ORGANIST AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**



Bradford Cathedral will be welcoming Graham Thorpe to the team in August as the new Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music.

The role involves attending the rehearsals and services at which the Cathedral Choir is singing, contributing by playing the organ for services, broadcasts, recordings and tours with the Cathedral Choir. Graham will work with individual choristers and groups of choir members in order to improve their vocal technique, sight-reading and musicianship, working to deliver a bespoke musical curriculum.

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**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

The role is an important part of Bradford Cathedral's vision; to be a centre of excellence for traditional church music and musical education within the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, as well as seeking to bring people to the Christian faith through worship and music of a high quality.

The new Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music position is at the heart of that vision as the Cathedral continues to recruit new choir members and to build up its congregations.

For the last few years Graham Thorpe has been studying in London alongside freelance work and this has built on a life-long passion for music.

Graham Thorpe:

"I grew up in a musical family in which organ music was frequently played on CD and LP. I started as a pianist, then took up the trombone and finally, the organ.

"I have visited many cathedrals and it is one of the friendliest churches at which I have played. I am impressed by the Cathedral's commitment to the highest quality of liturgy and music in order to bring people in. The move will also be an extremely welcome return to the north, having grown up in County Durham. I am extremely excited to be joining Bradford Cathedral in its centenary year. I am thoroughly looking forward to getting to know everyone, and becoming part of the community."

Graham is enthused at the prospect of joining the Cathedral Team, having previously been part of a visiting choir to the Cathedral and having also given one of the 'Wednesday@One' organ recitals.

Alex Berry, Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral:

"I am delighted that Graham Thorpe will be joining us at the end of August. Graham is a highly skilled musician who will bring his experience of enriching the worship of cathedrals and churches across the south-east to Bradford. The music team is really looking forward to welcoming Graham, and helping him to settle into his new life in Yorkshire."

*You can find out more about the work of Bradford Cathedral by visiting the website at [bradfordcathedral.org](http://bradfordcathedral.org). There you can also find links to the various social media accounts.*

## **ENDS**

### 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.

For further information please contact:

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