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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FROM TIN CANS TO TUNNOCK'S TEA CAKES:  
LOCAL ARTIST DISPLAYS MULTI-MATERIAL  
SACRED ART AT BRADFORD CATHEDRAL**



Bradford Cathedral's latest exhibition invites visitors to explore the cathedral on the trail of Christian sacred art, discovering the eighteen Icons created by local artist Chris Czainski.

You can also find out about how the pieces were created through the displays of preparatory work, which include sketches, research into sacred geometry, work with paint colours, and photos of her sketch-book, as well as the rules of being an Icon painter!

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**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

The eighteen Icons are displayed around the cathedral and further information can be found by picking up a leaflet which details the history, inspiration and work behind each piece, which include *The Dog Headed St Christopher*; *Do Not Lament Me O Mother*; and *The Angel With Golden Hair*. There is also a *Madonna and Child* fashioned out of materials including a tin can, and a *Madonna* made from acrylic paint, beads and wrappers from several Tunnock's Tea Cakes!

Iconography is the original tradition of Christian sacred art, and has been an integral part of the worship and mystical life of Christians since apostolic times. Referred to in the Eastern Christian tradition as "windows into heaven", they have inspired and uplifted millions of the faithful, and have at times been the instruments for demonstrating God's miraculous intercession in the life of mankind.

Chris Czainski, a full-time artist based in Yorkshire, has been painting Icons for about ten years as part of her general artistic practice but using contemporary techniques. For the last two years she has been principally concentrating on the painting of Icons and has been receiving training in the traditional techniques of Icon painting, and is continually studying the history and theology of Icons.

In this exhibition there are examples of both types of her work, some very traditional using the ancient medium of egg tempera on board with gilding, and others painted in acrylic and decorated with jewellery and fabric.

Chris says of the exhibition:

"I'm hoping people will come and discover something for themselves about iconography and its relevance to us today, as both an art form and its spirituality for Christians. I hope the icons themselves will speak to people when they see them. Last year at the Staithes Festival I did an installation and called it A Sacred Space and displayed the icons in the living room of our house, and lit candles and played music in the room to create a sacred space.

"We reckon about a thousand people came to our house over that weekend and it was incredible

how people came into that room and met with the icons. Some people were so captivated by the spirit of the icons and this kind of peace that comes out of them.”

You can find out more about the new exhibition by visiting our website at [bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/artspace/icons/](http://bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/artspace/icons/), where you can read a blog post by the artist. You can also register for your free place at the **meet the artist** event on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6:30pm where you can find out more about how the Icons were created. There is also an **Icon painting workshop** on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 10am – 4pm, with only limited tickets left for this.

## **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.

#### **About the exhibition**

The exhibition runs at Bradford Cathedral until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October. You can **meet the artist** on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm (free entry) and attend an **Icon painting workshop** on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 10am – 4pm (tickets are £40 + booking fee). Places can be booked for the two events at [bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/artspace/icons/](http://bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/artspace/icons/), by calling the cathedral on **01274 77 77 20** or by **visiting the cathedral office during opening hours**.

#### **About Chris Czainki**

Chris is a full-time artist living in Yorkshire but born and raised in Blackpool, Lancashire, enjoying the best of both counties. Chris has been painting Icons for about ten years as part of her general artistic practice but using contemporary techniques. For more visit her website at [czainki.co.uk/](http://czainki.co.uk/)

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