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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE

# Make monthly Mondays memorable with a new season of cathedral conversations



The **monthly Monday Fellowship** meetings return on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, launching a new year of exciting and informative talks which will include **Nigel Burton** in March talking about his **life as a countryside volunteer**, and in April Diane Hadwen revealing all about **Joe Hardcastle**, who was a **bell-ringer at Bradford Cathedral from 1888**.

The programme begins in January with a talk entitled '**On the Way – the pilgrimage of faith**', delivered by the **Very Revd Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford**, which fits in with the national theme of 2020 as a 'Year of Pilgrimage', organised by the Association of English Cathedrals:

"I'm going to be talking about journeys in the Bible, that pilgrimage is at the heart of the understanding of our faith. Pilgrimage is about exploring. It's about discovering. It's about walking, even if that's metaphorically speaking. Often with companions, along the Christian Way.

"I shall talk about the mini-pilgrimage walk that each cathedral has got during this Year of Pilgrimage, and I will also look back at a pilgrimage that I did in 2000.

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**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

“You could say [that pilgrimage is] just going for a walk, which is healthy for you, particularly if it’s through beautiful scenery, which can be very uplifting. But not everybody is able to travel in that way. **Pilgrimage is important** because when you’re on the Way, and on the walk, you’re sharing with others, and learning from others, about faith.

“There is a huge wealth of experience of faith that we can share with each other, and don’t always. Often we just hear a preacher talking about it, and actually there’s a considerable amount of insight about faith that we can share together, that each of us have got, whoever we are.

**“So whether you’re able to do a pilgrimage walk or a pilgrimage of the heart, I hope that 2020 will be a year of spiritual renewal.”**

Next month’s talk, in February, will be from **Martin Cosgrove**, who will ask and answer the question **‘Is it possible to be a Christian in the military?’**

The monthly Monday Fellowship meetings are **open to all** and make up a series of thought-provoking **talks on a wide range of subjects**. There is always the opportunity to meet the speakers during the session and **refreshments are available**.

**Everyone is invited** to the talks, whether you can attend each month or just one particular session. They take place on the **second Monday of every month** (except April’s on the third Monday) from **2pm – 3:15pm in the Parish Room at Bradford Cathedral**.

Future sessions in 2020 will be led by other members of the cathedral clergy, alongside the annual **strawberry tea in August** and the special **Christmas Fellowship in December**, which includes carols, anecdotes, stories and festive food. Each session usually begins with a hymn and a short prayer ahead of the talk, which range in style and can include presentations or objects to explore and offer a time for Q&A.

Previous themes in 2019 have included the environment, pottery, and charity work, and the team are always on the **lookout for people with interesting hobbies, occupations or interests** to come along to present at future talks.

Maggie Myers, Director of Education and Visitors at Bradford Cathedral, co-ordinates the monthly talks:

**"Every talk is different** and it is a wonderful way to spend a Monday afternoon. There is a very **relaxed and informal atmosphere** and we always finish with **refreshments and time for a chat**.

**"The existing members of the group are so friendly and welcoming** and it would be lovely to see more people enjoying these interesting and often thought-provoking talks.

"There is no requirement to attend every month; come along to the ones that appeal to you. You don't need to be a member of the cathedral congregation; you might be someone who has never been to Bradford Cathedral before. **Everyone is very welcome to come along"**

**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.

### **Monday Fellowship Talks (January – April)**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January:** Dean Jerry Lepine: On the Way, the pilgrimage of faith

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** Martin Cosgrove: Is it possible to be a Christian in the military?

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Nigel Burton: My Life as a Countryside Volunteer

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April:** Diane Hadwen: Joe Hardcastle – A Bellringer’s Tale

Each session begins at 2pm. More information can be found at [bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/cathedral-groups/#MF](http://bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/cathedral-groups/#MF), by calling 01274 77 77 20 or e-mailing [education@bradfordcathedral.org](mailto:education@bradfordcathedral.org).

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