

Date: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **What on Earth are we going to do? Bradford Cathedral's EcoExtravaganza returns for second year as a four-day online environmental festival**



*Some of the people you'll be able to see during the four-day EcoExtravaganza, covering many environmental issues under the banner topic of 'What On Earth are we going to do?'*

Following the first EcoExtravaganza, held in autumn 2019 as part of the cathedral's centenary year, Bradford Cathedral are excited to announce that this year's follow-up has expanded into a four-day online festival that will cover a range of live events, pre-recorded videos and a special Harvest Festival service that will all explore the question 'What on Earth are we going to do?' about the environmental issues of the day.

|

**HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.**

The four-day online festival will run from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will feature a keynote event each day as well as pre-recorded videos scheduled up across the weekend which can be watched live or later via the cathedral's website, social media channels or YouTube.

## Key Note Speakers (Online)

All these free talks are now bookable online via the Bradford Cathedral website.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **7:30pm - Dr Ruth Valerio: How to help the planet by living sustainably**

Dr Ruth Valerio is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund. An environmentalist, theologian and social activist. Ruth holds a doctorate from King's College London, and honorary doctorates from the Universities of Winchester and Chichester. She is Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral and her home church is part of the 24/7 Prayer Network. She enjoys living sustainably - practising what she preaches and inspiring others as she does so - in the South of England with her family. She is the author of *L is for Lifestyle: Christian Living that doesn't cost the earth* and *Just Living: Faith and Community in an age of Consumerism*, and has written the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent book, entitled *Saying Yes to Life*.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **7:30pm – Rev Ruth Newton: Church of England - Carbon Neutral by 2030?**

Revd Ruth Newton is the parish priest of St John's Sharow, a silver Eco-Church which manages its churchyard as a country wildlife site. She is an Area Environmental Champion for the Ripon Episcopal Area and author of the blog site [Greeningthelectionary.net](http://Greeningthelectionary.net). As a member of the General Synod, she recently voted for the target of 2030 for carbon neutrality in churches, and is part of the General Synod Environment Group. She is currently studying for a doctorate in Practical Theology looking at Ecological practice and Christian belief.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**2:30pm - Green Christian and its Programmes**

John Payne, one of the Trustees of Green Christian, will give an introduction to the work of Green Christian – its purpose and scope, its groups, its programmes and its vision. He will show a brief video about the organisation and introduce its web site and the resources available on it for personal and group reflection and action. He will also answer any questions about Green Christian and its work

**3:30pm - Green Christian: A taster for Radical Presence**

John Payne will introduce the Green Christian 'Radical Presence' programme, a short programme of conversations, in which people come together for God's word in this strange time of Covid-19, to hear from contemporary writers reflecting on the pandemic and reflect on the consequences of the pandemic for ourselves and the future of our world. John will introduce some of the questions the programme poses and there will be break-out groups to have a brief discussion on some of the issues raised.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**7:30pm – Ben Comeau Live: What on earth are we going to do? (Live-streamed)**

Ben Comeau is a London-based pianist, composer and organist, active in classical music, jazz and more. He graduated top of his year in music from Cambridge University, UK, where he was organ scholar at Girton College for three years, and he subsequently taught pastiche composition and practical musicianship at the university. He also studied postgraduate jazz piano at Guildhall, London, and in Cologne. Much of his recent work explores the possible roles that music can play in environmentalism.

"I will be mostly performing improvisations as immediate responses to texts and photographs about the climate and ecological emergency. These will cover a wide spectrum of emotions, separately employing both the piano and the cathedral organ. I will also include my composition, originally commissioned by the Union Chapel, Islington, to commemorate murdered environmental activists on Good Friday 2018, based on the Lutheran chorale 'O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded'."

## Other Events and Videos

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

- 9am – 5pm | An eco/environmental/green themed collaboration with the online **Bradford Street Market**. You can find out more about the weekly market at [www.facebook.com/events/611588799503055](https://www.facebook.com/events/611588799503055)
- 5pm | Canon Mandy presents highlights of the work done by Bradford Cathedral including their **solar panels, recycling initiatives and insect hotels**
- 6pm | **Ten Pledges to Save the World** - a video exploring how ten pledges can help you become more environmentally friendly. Led by Jemima Parker, Diocese of Leeds Environment Officer, it includes contributions from Katherine Grasham (Diocesan Disability Officer); Anita Shaw (Headingly Churches Team) and Dawn Savidge (Diocesan Children and Youth Team)

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

- 12noon | A special **Children's Space** activity for families to take part in. Send us in photos of your completed project to [info@bradfordcathedral.org](mailto:info@bradfordcathedral.org)
- 5pm | A video exploring the **Bradford Cathedral Woodland Project** at Gaisby Lane
- 6pm | **The role of procurement in addressing the sustainability / environmental agenda**, by Ian Westlake, Head of Procurement at Bradford Council

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020

- 1pm | **Tim Farron MP** explores some key questions around politics and the environment
- 5pm | A video looking at the work of the **Friends of Queensbury High Street**, in particular their litter picking sessions
- 6pm | Rev Ruth Newton presenting a short talk on **Bible and Ecology**
- 7pm | Exploring **plastic free periods** with Fialuna

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

- 10:30am | The **Harvest Festival Eucharist** on Sunday morning, streamed live, including a sermon preached by Rev Ruth Newton
- 12noon | A special online **Messy Harvest**
- 2pm | Rev Ruth Newton presenting a short talk on **Churchyards As Wild Spaces**
- 3pm | A video exploring the environmental work of **St Stephen's Church** in West Bowling
- 4pm | Going plastic-free with Helen Miller of **Plastic Free Denholme**
- 5pm | **Our Green Spaces** with Bob Thorp, Senior Parks and Green Spaces Manager (Trees and Woodlands) at Bradford Council

There will also be a series of videos all about the importance of **Fairtrade** and other pop-up videos over the four days.

Mike de Villiers of the EcoGroup:

“Talk of climate emergency can be depressing, but we’re aiming for an event which will tell good news stories and give us some practical tips on the changes we can make to help the planet.

“There will be a variety of online formats, including talks, webinars and short films, and you will be able to catch up on anything you miss for a month. There should be something for everyone, locally or further afield, with relevance whatever your faith (so tell your friends!)”

**For more information about the event please visit**

**<https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/whats-on/eco-extravaganza/>. Please note that the line-up may be subject to change. Always check the website for the latest.**

**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.

For further information please contact:

*Philip Lickley*

*Communications, Marketing and Events Officer*

t: 01274 777720 (*please leave a message and I will get back in touch with you*)

e: [commsandevents@bradfordcathedral.org](mailto:commsandevents@bradfordcathedral.org)