

Interfaith Week 2020

Exploring Sacred Spaces and Special Things

This year Interfaith week falls from the 8th – 15th November. Bradford Cathedral is proud to be part of Bradford's diverse community and we aim to welcome and work with children and adults of all faiths and none.

For more information about national events for Interfaith week visit:

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/> or follow the Interfaith Network on Twitter -

<https://twitter.com/IFWeek>

Information about interfaith in the UK may be found in the Government's booklet; click on this link ['Face to Face and Side by Side'](#).

Each year, Inter Faith Week begins on Remembrance Sunday, and runs until the following Sunday.

Diversity in Bradford

This information is taken from the BMDC website. You can find out more here: [Ethnicity and Religion](#)

The latest population figures produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 22 June 2017 show that an estimated 534,300 people live in Bradford District - an increase of 3,100 people (0.6%) since the previous year.

Bradford District is the fifth largest metropolitan district (in terms of population) in England, after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester although the District's population growth is lower than other major cities. In the last year Bradford's population has grown at a rate of 0.6% which is similar to last year.

The increase in the District's population is largely due to "natural change"- there have been around 3,600 more births than deaths, although this has been balanced by a larger number of people leaving Bradford to live in other parts of the UK than coming to live here and a lower number of international migrants. In 2015/16 the net internal migration was -2,600 and the net international migration was 2,300.

A large proportion of Bradford's population is dominated by the younger age groups. More than one-quarter (30.2%) of the District's population is aged less than 20 and nearly seven in ten people are aged less than 50. Bradford has the third highest percentage of the under 16 population in England, after the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and Slough Borough Council.

The population of Bradford is ethnically diverse. The largest proportion of the district's population (63.9%) identifies themselves as White British. The district has the largest proportion of people of Pakistani ethnic origin (20.3%) in England.

The largest religious group in Bradford is Christian (45.9% of the population). Nearly one quarter of the population (24.7%) are Muslim. Just over one fifth of the district's population (20.7%) stated that they had no religion.

The city is also home to Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and also to a very small Jewish community; there are also people resident in the City who follow a variety of other religious pathways.

Bradford Cathedral a Christian Sacred Space

Even if you have no religion, Interfaith Week, provides an opportunity to explore religion and sacred spaces in Bradford. In lockdown, or with limited physical access to buildings, it is still possible to visit many sacred spaces through accessing virtual tours. This is a link to the Bradford Cathedral 360 degree, virtual tour. It is a good place to start [Virtual Tour](#).

To find out more about the Cathedral as a sacred space and how it has developed as a place of worship over time please visit our [Cathedral Blog](#). This also explains a variety of special things and artefacts that are important to Christians and used in prayer, worship and rituals.

Bradford's Faith Trail

Currently once a month from April through to October it is possible for adults to take part in a faith trail covering aspects of BD3 and BD4. The trail, which participants traverse on foot, takes in a Catholic church, a gurdwara, mandir, mosque and Bradford's Anglican (Church of England) Cathedral. There is great diversity in Bradford and many different sorts of churches, mosques, mandirs, gurdwaras and (across the city in Manningham) a synagogue that caters for Bradford's tiny Jewish community; originally a Reform synagogue, Orthodox Jews now also worship in the building. It is important to remember that the 'sacred spaces' visited on the trail provide only a glimpse of the diversity of religious belief and practice in the City, but it is a very good way to start to improve one's knowledge and understanding of religion, belief and practice. Find out more here : [Bradford Faith Trail](#)

Churches and chapels in Bradford can really help children and young people to understand the range of diversity within a single religion. In the vicinity of the Cathedral, there are Catholic churches, evangelical churches, buildings that were once Methodist and non-conformist places of worship; across the City you can find Black Pentecostal churches, Serbian Orthodox, Polish Catholic, Ukrainian, German Protestant and Moravian churches to name but a few, Unitarian and Quaker meeting houses also feature!

Very often mosques, mandirs and gurdwaras are found in buildings that started life as something quite different, a house, warehouse or old chapel for example.

Your own Faith Trail

It is more than possible to research, plan and plot your faith trail in the area of your school; a walk around the area will often provide evidence in the built environment of religion and also the changing population of the area over time. This makes a faith trail a really good RE, geography, history and citizenship project. It also means you can 'visit' these places without actually having to gain access to the building.