

Date: Thursday 20th May 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

And they're off! Cyclists to pass the baton from Bradford to Wakefield as the Cathedrals Cycle Route arrives in West Yorkshire for World Bicycle Day



Maurice Manktelow, Bradford Cathedral's 'Cathedral Cycling Champion', ready to set off with his Pilgrim Passport

Cyclists from Bradford Cathedral will join a network of riders from every Church of England Cathedral, putting the new Cathedrals Cycle Route to the test for the World's Biggest Bike Ride when it is launched in Bike Week on 30 May, with the Bradford to Wakefield leg taking place on Thursday 3rd June – World Bicycle Day.

Twenty cyclists will ride between Bradford and Wakefield Cathedral, via Dewsbury Minster, passing on a specially commissioned baton to the next group of riders, in a unique relay event that launches the new routes. These routes link all 42 English Cathedrals and the

route helps promote greener travel and better mental and physical wellbeing.

The baton is etched with the words "some days you need a hand... other days you are called to lend a hand"



'Serving Christ and transforming lives through welcome, worship and encounter'

Bradford Cathedral, Stott Hill, Bradford, BD1 4EH

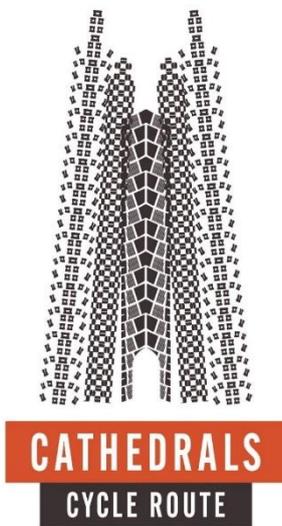
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The West Yorkshire cyclists will be putting on their helmets, oiling up their chains and fuelling up ready to tackle the twenty-mile journey – or, for some, parts of it – to Wakefield Cathedral, a journey which takes in the beauty of the Spenn Valley Greenway and will feature a refreshment break at Dewsbury Minster.

The first group of cyclists will set out from Newcastle Cathedral, the most northerly Anglican Cathedral, on Sunday May 30th and a group is expected to return to Newcastle 42 days later (weather permitting) having cycled every Church of England Cathedral. The relay will coincide with The World's Biggest Bike Ride, marking the opening day of Bike Week (May 30 – June 5 2021), organised by Cycling UK.



The Cathedrals Cycle Route is a unique partnership between Sustrans, Cycling UK, the British Pilgrimage Trust and the Association of English Cathedrals. It measures 2,000 miles in total, and has sections of long and short rides to suit all abilities.

It is the invention of academic, entrepreneur and keen cyclist Shaun Cutler, from Northumbria University, and is designed to help us all out of lockdown with opportunities for short cycle rides between cathedrals, new partnerships and fundraising for physical and mental well-being activities.

Shaun says:

“The Cathedrals Cycle Route is about connecting our historic cathedrals and enjoying the spaces between them.

“Now more than ever, after a year of living with the coronavirus pandemic, this is a way to support people’s mental and physical health and promote the mission of England’s cathedrals through pilgrimage, wellbeing and heritage.”

The relay ride will raise money for Cycling UK’s Break the Cycle appeal, which aims to improve people's wellbeing through the charity’s community cycling clubs, activities and projects nationwide. Some riders will also be supporting the work of Bradford Cathedral through online donations.



On a local level, the Bradford to Wakefield leg has seen Bradford Cathedral team up with the University of Bradford Union of Students, and Bradford's Capital of Cycling.

Sarah Mitchell, chief executive of Cycling UK, says:

“This year’s Bike Week event is all about how cycling boosts well-being: physical, mental and emotional. Apart from the obvious health benefits of getting active and reducing our reliance on polluting vehicles, cycling gives us time to think, to reconnect with the outside world, and to meet other people. Our community projects around the country help people come together to ride, to chat, and to learn a skill that gives them mobility and independence, and we are delighted that the launch of this route will also raise funds to help this valuable work.”

It is hoped that the relay ride will become an annual event and will encourage more and more people to get on their bikes this year and beyond.

Each cathedral has a dedicated cycle champion to improve the cycle-readiness of its building, ensuring a warm welcome for visiting cyclists and increasing the number that currently arrive on two wheels.

Bradford's Cathedral Cycling Champion, Maurice Manktelow, says of the event:

“As a keen and passionate cyclist, I was excited to become one of the champions for the Cathedrals Cycle Route. This is a great event for cathedrals to work together, as well as with many other groups, and through establishing this relay and the routes will help encourage positive physical and mental health in those taking part, as well as supporting a sustainable way of travelling!”

Adam Tasker - Student Development Leader, at the University of Bradford Union of Students, says:

“UBU have trained up a group of students who have never cycled before to join us on this ride. It will be a wonderful challenge and a great achievement.”



Aggie Maxwell, Outreach Officer, Capital of Cycling says:

"Increasing cycling in Bradford will make our city a happier, more prosperous place, by reducing congestion and air pollution, making people healthier mentally and physically and by reducing the many costs of transport. This ride celebrates the strength of the cycling community in Bradford and the hope we have in its future."

Revd Simon Cash, Rector of Dewsbury Team Parish based at Dewsbury Minster and Area Dean of Dewsbury and Birstall Deanery says:

"Our buildings are cleaned, ready and open as a Covid-Secure Venue for any activities which provide Personal Well-being as their purpose.

"The Cycle Riders and supporters 'pausing for refreshment' on 3rd June 2021 are in a long line of Pilgrims over nearly 1400 years who are welcome to Worship and give and receive support and refreshment of spirit in the 2020's. We are cautiously awakening and learning step by step and we need your help to learn with us."

Revd Tim Carroll, Wakefield Cathedral Curate and Cycle Champion says:

"We are really looking forward to being involved with the Cathedral Cycle Route this year, a fantastic initiative promoting cycling across the country.

"As a keen amateur cyclist who enjoys riding my bike to work every day I am a big supporter of promoting cycling as both a means of transport and a means of exercise.

"Whether you are wanting to get involved with the Cathedral Cycle Route relay event - be it the full 29 miles to Sheffield Cathedral or a shorter route - or simply looking to get back on your bike in 2021, Wakefield Cathedral offers a warm welcome to all cyclists, any day of the year."

The relay riders will leave from Bradford Cathedral at 10am on Thursday 3rd June, with a stop-off at Dewsbury Minster around 12noon before heading to Wakefield Cathedral for 1:30pm, after which it will be on to Sheffield Cathedral and the rest of the month-long relay route.



All places on the route from Bradford to Wakefield are full – places were limited to help ensure Covid-security – but cyclists are encouraged to visit the Cycling UK website to discover and take part in the routes and, where possible and when safe to do so, to cheer on the riders on Thursday 3rd June.

The Cathedrals Cycle Route is a network of rides between every one of the Church of England cathedrals. There are short and longer routes to suit every ability, and you can find them at cyclinguk.org/cathedrals-cycle-route-challenge

The launch of the Cathedrals Cycle Route follows a similar initiative last year between the Association of English Cathedrals and the British Pilgrimage Trust that established a pilgrimage route to every Church of England cathedral taking in established wayfarer routes, other places of faith, spiritual pathways and lesser known pilgrim ways enabling visitors to arrive on foot.

You can find them all at englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/cathedral-pilgrimage-day and at englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/cathedral-pilgrimage-in-a-day-2

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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. In 2020 Bradford Cathedral won the gold award for 'Small Visitor Attraction of the Year' at the White Rose Awards.

Press are invited to Bradford Cathedral for either Wednesday 2nd June at 1pm* to see the baton handover from the York Minster team or 10am on Thursday 3rd June for a photo of the team as they set off towards Wakefield Cathedral. Please contact the cathedral on the details below if you would like to cover the arrival or departure. *The arrival time of the York Minster riders may vary depending on progress on the day.

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

About Dewsbury Minster

Dewsbury is a focal point from which Christianity was spread in Yorkshire and was founded in 627AD by St Paulinus. The original Parish was 400 square miles and spanned from Whalley in Lancashire to Pontefract. As a Mother Church of West Yorkshire there was a stone Saxon Minster in Dewsbury from the 9th Century.

The Diocese of West Yorkshire currently Leeds Diocese was carved out of the original parish over Centuries. Dewsbury Parish Church was reconstituted as a Minster in the 1970's just as Leeds Parish church was recently reborn as an Urban Minster.

Dewsbury Minster has been rebuilt several times over the Centuries, on the same site, and there are stones reused within the building originally used in Saxon times. The building was re-ordered in the 1990's and reflects the deep history in modern format ready to Minister to the Area in the 21st Century.

www.dewsburyminster.org.uk



About Wakefield Cathedral

Wakefield Cathedral exists in order to worship God and point others to him. We seek to help people live as disciples of Jesus Christ, and to share his love with the world. We are set in the heart of the city of Wakefield, and endeavour to offer a warm welcome to all who enter or pass by our doors. We have made public our desire that everyone who lives in Wakefield District will come inside at least once a year. We try to give priority to people who are needy or disadvantaged. We hope to be a place of conversation for people of all faiths and none, and a cultural hub in the city centre.

wakefieldcathedral.org.uk

About UBU

The UBU – the University of Bradford Union of Students – is where you will find everything you need to compliment your student life, whether that is expanding your skills through sports, societies, media areas or volunteering; meeting new friends or enjoying our entertainments; joining with like-minded students in areas of politics; or getting academic or social advice and support.

bradfordunisu.co.uk

About Capital of Cycling

The Capital of Cycling is a coalition of cycling organisations, community groups and charities who work to support and connect some of the fantastic cycling work, events and opportunities that are already going on in The District. They have a cycling hub in the centre of Bradford, opposite City Hall, next to The Bradford Hotel.

capitalofcycling.org

