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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

# World Bicycle Day: Bradford cyclists pass on the baton during the Cathedrals Cycle Route relay leg to Wakefield Cathedral



Bradfordian cyclists joined 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 launched in Bike Week on 30 May.

The Bradford to Wakefield leg took place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – World Bicycle Day – and saw twenty-five cyclists take part, made up of members of Bradford Cathedral, Bradford's Capital of Cycling, the University of Bradford Union of Students, the Queensbury Queens of the Mountain all-female cycling club, and more.



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

**Bradford Cathedral, Stott Hill, Bradford, BD1 4EH**

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 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

The group rode from Bradford to Wakefield Cathedral, via Dewsbury Minster, carrying a specially commissioned baton, with three members of the group then travelling onto Sheffield Cathedral to deliver the baton to a new set of riders.

One cyclist even took on the challenge of travelling the 20 miles from Bradford to Wakefield dressed in a banana costume, to highlight the Fairtrade work of Bradford Cathedral!

The Cathedrals Cycling 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"



The first group of cyclists 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 to every Church of England Cathedral. The baton arrived at Bradford Cathedral on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, brought in by a team from York Minster.

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.

The Revd Canon Michael Smith of York Minster passes the baton to Revd Canon Paul Maybury of Bradford Cathedral, and CCR Cathedral Cycling Champion Maurice Manktelow

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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 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](https://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](https://englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/cathedral-pilgrimage-day) and at [englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/cathedral-pilgrimage-in-a-day-2](https://englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/cathedral-pilgrimage-in-a-day-2)**

**More photos from the Bradford > Wakefield leg can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w3p5okety95e7ul/AAAqh7ArgWC0gNcPz6CBa2pNa>**

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

For further information please contact:

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