

PRESS RELEASE

Bishop of Leeds appoints Bradford Cathedral's Canon Precentor as acting Dean ahead of Dean Jerry Lepine's retirement this July

- The Revd Canon Paul Maybury, Precentor, becomes acting Dean
- The Revd Canon Philip Gray, becomes interim Canon Precentor



*The Revd Canon Paul Maybury,
Precentor at Bradford Cathedral*

The Right Reverend Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, has issued the following statement following February's announcement by the Very Revd Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, about his upcoming retirement:

"The Dean of Bradford will retire on 31 July 2021 and the process for identifying his successor has now begun. I am required to appoint an acting Dean for the duration of the vacancy.

"Following consideration of options and discussion with interested parties, I have asked Canon Paul Maybury to take on this responsibility with the support of myself, the Deans of Ripon and Wakefield, and the cathedral community.



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

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“In order to support this, I have also appointed Canon Philip Gray, latterly Vicar of St Margaret's, Ilkley, and Area Dean of South Craven and Wharfedale, to be acting Canon Precentor until a new Dean has been appointed and starts in post. This will be on a half-time basis.

“I am delighted that both have agreed to take on these responsibilities during a time of transition, and I look forward to working with them.

“The whole cathedral community is assured of my prayers and support during the months ahead.”

The Revd Canon Paul Maybury, Precentor, says:

““We are very grateful to Dean Jerry for his leadership, and we will miss him and wish him well in all that the future holds.

“The Cathedral is in good heart, and I look forward to the role of 'Acting Dean' knowing that there is an existing strong team of staff, volunteers and congregation all working together.”

The Very Revd Jerry Lepine, Dean of Bradford, says:

“I am very grateful to Bishop Nick for taking the decision to provide extra support to Canon Paul as Acting Dean during the vacancy. Canon Philip Gray is an experienced priest who will fill this role well.

“Please support and encourage Canon Paul and the team during the vacancy and be assured of my prayers for you all at this time of change.”

The retirement of Dean Jerry on the 31st July 2021 will follow a civic and diocesan farewell on Sunday 4th July, and a congregational farewell on Sunday 11th July. More information about these services will follow soon.

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.

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