

PRESS RELEASE

Keeping the community connected: Bradford Cathedral relaunches its appeal to professionalise its online streaming

The 'Reimagining Our Ministry' appeal is looking to raise £60,000 for new professional broadcasting equipment, and has passed the half-way point with over £33,000 raised so far



One of the volunteers operating the current live-streaming system during a service at Bradford Cathedral



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

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Bradford Cathedral has relaunched its 'Reimagining our Ministry' appeal, which is looking for funding of £60,000 to help bring its services and events into the 21st Century, with a professional live-streaming system installed in the building.

The Cathedral has been live streaming many of its services since summer 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, using temporary equipment to help keep members of its congregation connected, even when they weren't able to attend the Cathedral during lockdown, or if they were isolating.

Alongside the regular weekly Eucharist, special services were also streamed including the recent 'Thank You' service to those who have been dealing with the pandemic in Bradford, as well as many of the Advent and Christmas services.

Other live streams have included music recitals, the annual NHS carol service, and a piano concert highlighting key global environment issues.

But now the Cathedral is looking to improve what it can offer, through a more professional in-built system that offers a higher quality stream, more flexibility, and better sound quality to fully capture the beauty of its choral music. It is also equipment that doesn't require the considerable set-up time of the current provision.

As of the middle of August 2021, the appeal has passed the half-way point, to over £33,000 but the Cathedral needs your help to push it over the finishing line!

Sharon Link, Income Development Officer at Bradford Cathedral, says:

"We have committed to continuing broadcasting our worship and growing our 'virtual congregation', which will allow us to grow as a Christian community and reach out to people from anywhere in the world".

If you would like to support the 'Reimagining our Ministry' appeal to help keep members of the Cathedral community, and those in the wider city, connected with the activities in the Cathedral, then please visit the Bradford Cathedral website to find out more.



Here are some of the comments received during the last year:

“I’ve just started a new round of chemotherapy. Even in non-Covid times that would mean avoiding contact with people as I am extremely vulnerable to infection, but the Cathedral’s online worship and other events means that I am much less cut off from people this time round. I begin to understand how isolated from church life some people with severe health conditions must have been, and long to see greater access to worship for those who cannot access the building for whatever reason.”

“As someone who received the NHS letter back in March 2020, I barely went out of the house for the first three months. The ability to actively participate in worship even at a distance meant a lot to me. I have found the group of regular attendees very welcoming, particularly as I was an outsider and not a member of the normal cathedral worshipping community.”

“As a person who has benefited spiritually, culturally, and socially from the online provision of opportunities for participation in worship, study, and open-hearted nurturing of our faith community, I happily endorse the Dean and Chapter’s vision for the expansion and refinement of the IT & audio-visual resources available to Bradford cathedral. In the midst of a most dire crisis, we have chanced upon a precious blessing.”

For more information on the ‘Reimagining our Ministry’ appeal, please visit <https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/support-us/reimagining-our-ministry-appeal>.

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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