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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **“Art, like life, has a beautiful way of unfolding”: Bradford Cathedral and Kala Sangam join up to exhibit art created during the pandemic**

The exhibition of pieces by collective ‘Aire Valley Arts’ will run from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September through to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October at Bradford Cathedral and Kala Sangam, starting with an opening event



*Nature Unfolding, a watercolour piece by Jane Fielder*

Sixteen months after the last Artspace exhibition, art is returning to Bradford Cathedral this Autumn with Aire Valley Arts’ new exhibition ‘Unfolding’. The pieces, created by the collective, will be displayed in the brand-new exhibition ‘Unfolding’, which will be held between the Cathedral and the Kala Sangam Arts Centre.

### **What is ‘Unfolding’?**

“Art, like life, has a beautiful way of unfolding in its own exquisite way and in its own natural time frame.



‘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

“We may start with an idea, a concept, a vision, but the real beauty, in art and in life, is often found when we allow a natural, unforced, free-flowing unfolding.”

The resulting exhibition, ‘Unfolding’, is a celebration of this natural, creative process. The artwork that will be showcased was created during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.



*Smoggy Shipley, an oil piece, by David Starley*

Jane Fielder, of Aire Valley Arts, says:

“At the start of the pandemic, no one could have predicted what would happen in 2020 and 2021 and the results of each artist’s journeys were, as then, totally unknown.

“All that was clear was the commitment of all of the artists to allow the exhibition to develop its own momentum, direction and content.

“And therein has lain the real beauty: in the delightful surprise of the unfolding of art.”

“‘Unfolding’ has been created and developed within the constraints and challenges of the last sixteen months, a time when normal artistic practices such as meeting together and visiting

galleries have largely not been possible.

“For some, this time has been totally oppressive and constraining. For others the space made available by the pandemic has been freeing and enabling.”

Alex Croft, Creative Director at Kala Sangam, says:

“We are delighted not only to be working with our neighbours Bradford Cathedral to host our first ever joint exhibition but also that we are supporting local artists at the same time.

“As well as celebrating Aire Valley Artists’ talent, this exhibition is the perfect way to welcome the public back to Kala Sangam and the Cathedral, two of Bradford’s best buildings, after such a long time away and we hope that each of our audiences will see it as an opportunity to explore a new space as well as visiting an old friend.”

**The opening night of ‘Unfolding’ will be held from 7-9pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at Bradford Cathedral and Kala Sangam. You can reserve your free place on Eventbrite at [avaexhibitionlaunch.eventbrite.co.uk](https://avaexhibitionlaunch.eventbrite.co.uk)**

**‘Unfolding’ runs from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September through to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October, and you can view the entire exhibition between 10am and 4pm Mondays – Fridays (except 12noon – 4pm Wednesdays) and from 10am – 2pm Saturdays. Please visit the Bradford Cathedral or Kala Sangam websites to check for any changes to these times. There may be opportunities outside of these times to see some parts of the exhibition.**

**Visitors are encouraged to share their thoughts on the exhibition using #AVAUnfolding on social media. The artwork is also available to buy, which can be done at the Bradford Cathedral office between 10am and 1pm or details can be left with the members of staff at the exhibition.**

**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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### **About Kala Sangam**

Kala Sangam is an intercultural arts hub based in the heart of Bradford city centre which reflects the diversity of contemporary Britain through the work it presents, the artists it supports and the communities it engages. In addition to the company's two performance programmes a year, Kala Sangam delivers outreach activity in schools and communities across Bradford and throughout the country, as well as delivering classes and workshops in a number of art forms. The organisation's thriving Arts Centre houses two main spaces – The Ganges Theatre and The Indus Hall – alongside a number of high-quality meeting spaces and the independently run Roof Top Café, making it an ideal venue for conferences, large events, weddings and meetings of any size.

[info@kalasangam.org](mailto:info@kalasangam.org) | 01274 303340 | [www.kalasangam.org](http://www.kalasangam.org)

Kala Sangam, St Peter's House, 1 Forster Square, Bradford, BD1 4TY

### **About Artspace**

Artspace is the arts strange of Bradford Cathedral, designed to offer the people of Bradford and beyond high-quality performance and visual Arts' events, reflecting the significance of the Arts within the Christian church.



## About Aire Valley Arts

Aire Valley Arts is a group of professional and semi-professional artists centred around the Aire Valley.

Their aims are to meet together as a mutually supportive association; to create exhibiting outlets for members' artworks; to encourage interest from the business sector; and to develop community projects, workshops and commissions.

The group was formed in 1995 by Daniel Paulo and the late Peter Marsden, two friends working in the Keighley district, who set up the group to ease the isolation of the artists, to pool resources, to improve the status of the visual arts in the local area and of course have fun! Currently there are 16 members.

Aire Valley Arts place an emphasis on diversity, experimentation and creativity. Each of the artists in the group works independently, in media ranging from traditional impasto oils, to watercolour, textiles, ceramics, printmaking and photography, resulting in eclectic exhibitions that are as much of a surprise to the group as they are to visitors.

**Find out more at [airevalleyarts.co.uk](http://airevalleyarts.co.uk) or at [fb.com/AireValleyArts](https://fb.com/AireValleyArts)**

