

Bradford Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of St Peter celebrated its centenary as a Cathedral in 2019, having been created in 1919 from the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in the Calverley Deanery. In 2014 it became one of three cathedrals in the newest diocese in the Church of England: Leeds - [Wakefield](#) and [Ripon](#) being the other two. The Dean is Vicar of Bradford and the Cathedral is an important focus of Christian witness in the centre of the City.

This is an inner-city Cathedral in one of the poorest cities in the UK. The population of this parish is 2,256 and it ranks [475 out of 12,382](#), where 1 is the most deprived parish. This means that the parish is among the most deprived in the country.

The Cathedral Council, College of Canons and Chapter make up the 'body corporate' and the congregation is represented on each grouping and has its own Community Committee. We have worked hard at joining the 'body' together and, more recently, we have also been exploring how joined up governance can be sustained and indeed strengthened through the changes that will be required as part of the implementation of the new Cathedral's Measure.

In 2020, the Chapter agreed a new vision, including the following purpose and values:

Purpose

To serve Jesus Christ as a vibrant community of worship and mission, enriching the City, the Diocese and further afield.

Values

Hospitality, Faithfulness and Wholeness.

In addition, a number of strategic lines were discerned:

Strategic lines

1. To encounter God through worship, preaching, music, our story and the arts
2. To nurture faith and gifts through evangelism and discipleship for all ages, abilities and stages of life.
3. To grow a healthy organisation through good governance, safeguarding, staff, congregation and volunteer care.
4. To resource the Church through working with the Bishop, the Diocese and our sister cathedrals.
5. To enrich city life through music and the arts, special services, civic engagement, events, other faith partnerships and reconciliation.
6. To achieve financial sustainability through good stewardship, income growth and fundraising.
7. To conserve and develop our heritage through marketing, visitor engagement and education, partnership and fulfilling our ambition of being an eco-cathedral.
8. To respond to human need through loving service.

Currently, the Cathedral's Executive Committee is working with staff and other stakeholders to develop the objectives and key performance indicators that will give substance to these strategic lines across the Cathedral's ministry and provide the operational detail that will inform our work as a community over the next three years.

Covid has had a significant impact on the Cathedral over the course of the past year, but as well as posing many serious challenges it has also provided many exciting opportunities for the Cathedral to explore new forms of ministry and engagement. This has included livestreaming, not only of Sunday worship, but also daily prayer, virtual Bible study, prayer and other activities. There is a determination to ensure that we are properly equipped for the 21st century and can reach out to people from anywhere in the world, nurture faith, and grow our Cathedral community as part of a global church.

People

The current staffing of the Cathedral comprises a healthy mixture of those who have been here for many years as well as a significant number of new staff. The staff team has expanded over the past two years particularly, as a result of several successful bids for funding. New roles introduced for the first time include a full-time Communications, Marketing & Events Officer, a part-time Digital Content & Social Media Assistant, and a part-time Income Development Officer. These roles have helped the Cathedral to expand and diversify its ministry and public programmes in a way that has raised its profile locally, regionally and nationally, and opened up new opportunities for both public engagement and income generation.

There are c150 people on the Cathedral's electoral roll, and average attendance at the main Sunday Eucharist is around the 100 mark, including the choir. A small but growing number of young families attend the Cathedral regularly for worship and while many of the congregation travel to the Cathedral from outside of the City, we are keen to reach out to those who live in the streets around us. Located, as it is, within an area which has a high number of refugees and asylum seekers, the Cathedral's congregation includes individuals and families from a range of different countries, including some of the most troubled regions on earth.

Wider community

Connections with the City and Civic Community are exceedingly strong with many special services both in the Cathedral and elsewhere. The Cathedral has collaborated in recent years with a wide range of local institutions and groups including Bradford Council, the University of Bradford, other faith groups, Bradford BID, Bradford City of Culture 2025, Bradford Literature Festival, Kala Sangam, Yorkshire Film Archive, Welcome to Yorkshire and Visit Bradford. The Cathedral's achievements in establishing itself more fully as a heritage attraction, a centre for education, and an arts and cultural venue were acknowledged in 2020 when we won the Welcome to Yorkshire - White Rose Awards, Small Visitor Attraction of the Year.

The Cathedral's high-quality education work with children and young people is in a very strong position, with around 4,000 children coming for visits and workshops each year, pre-Covid. As well as delivering a rich programme of workshops and activities for all age groups, the Cathedral's education team also works closely with the Bradford schools' linking network, bringing children together from different religious, cultural and social backgrounds to work in partnership and encourage greater awareness and understanding across our communities and support the social cohesion agenda. The education programme also now includes an extensive range of online resources, boosted as a response to the challenges of Covid.

Music & Arts

Recent years have seen the Cathedral develop its strong association with music and the arts. The Cathedral choir continues to make a significant and widely appreciated contribution to the worshipping life of the Cathedral, also providing high quality musical education for children and young people – many from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In addition to the Cathedral's boys' and girls' choirs, there is an annual outreach programme for Bradford schools and a community children's choir, Grace Notes. The Cathedral is a much-loved venue for concerts, and a popular programme of weekly organ recitals and coffee concerts has been developed in recent years. Artspace was formed in 2007 to promote the Cathedral as an arts venue and this initiative has led to a very successful programme of events and exhibitions and also creative residencies which it is hoped can be further developed as part of Bradford's bid for City of Culture 2025.

Fabric

While there are always challenges in resourcing the ongoing maintenance of the Cathedral's buildings and precinct, overall these are in good order. Following a Quinquennial Inspection in 2019, the Cathedral is working to deliver a 10-year QI work plan and significant programmes of capital works have recently been completed within the Cathedral itself, and also to completely refurbish its Parish Rooms building, which stands adjacent to the Cathedral and is used for a variety of activities, and is also available as a venue for hire.

Eco-Cathedral

The work of the Cathedral's eco-group led to the Cathedral becoming the first in the country to be awarded 'Eco-congregation' status, and the first in England to install photovoltaic panels on its roof. Subsequently we have received two further eco awards and as a way of offsetting our photocopying levels have developed with the City Council a Cathedral wood on derelict land. A fair-trade stall has been running since 2007 and the Cathedral is keen to develop its commitment to just and equitable use of the world's resources.

Finances

The Cathedral has made huge strides forward on many fronts in recent years and this includes achieving a level of financial stability which it has not always known. Currently, Cathedral reserves stand at c£194k. The Cathedral's reserves policy is to maintain free reserves in the range £115k to £140k. There remain significant challenges however, with a substantial amount of capital works required in the coming years in response to our Quinquennial inspection.

Safeguarding

The Cathedral has recently completed its SCIE Audit. There is safeguarding expertise within the clergy team and on Chapter and a great deal of important work has been done in recent years to establish a robust safeguarding infrastructure. This was acknowledged by the SCIE audit team. When the audit report is finalised and published work will commence on the development and delivery of an action plan to further strengthen the Cathedral's safeguarding practices.

Current Staff

The Acting Dean
The Canon for Mission and Pastoral Development
The Acting Canon Precentor

The Revd Canon Paul Maybury
The Revd Canon Mandy Coutts
The Revd Canon Philip Gray

Chief Operating Officer
Director of Finance
Organist and Director of Music
Director of Education and Visitors
Sub Organist and Assistant Director of Music
Head Verger
Income Development Officer
Communications, Marketing and Events Officer
Education and Visitor Assistant
Digital Content and Social Media Assistant
Assistant Verger
Assistant Verger
Assistant Verger & Handyman
Cathedral Secretary
PA to the Dean
Choral Scholar – Bass
Choral Scholar – Alto
Music Department Administrator
Choir Matron

Andy McCarthy
Simon Dennis
Alex Berry
Maggie Myers
Graham Thorpe
David Worsley
Sharon Link
Philip Lickley
Diane Hadwen
Katie Glover
John Paley
Ian Price
Dave Robinson
Julie Bowyer
Sandra Heaton
Luke Johnson
Libby Harborne
Luke Johnson
Daniel Lappin

In addition, we have two music tutors and seventy-five volunteers.