

BRADFORD
CATHEDRAL



**To Weave Jesus into the rich
fabric of the city and beyond**

2023 - 2028



'We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.'

An Inspector Calls, J.B. Priestley



Our Cathedral story brings together almost 1,400 years of Christian witness on or near this site. It's a story of faith lived out by the diverse communities that make up Bradford and it is a story woven into the City and from here into the world. It's a story of change and ambition, of hard work and dedication, of failures and yet trust and hope in a God who changes lives and transforms communities.

The Anglo-Saxon church faced many challenges and changes, much conflict and suffering, but repeatedly found the courage to find new ways forward. The faith which spread across this district overflowed with creativity – in remarkable art, intriguing poetry, majestic architecture and beautiful

music. It stimulated a voracious curiosity that went around the world. It joyfully celebrated the beauty of nature and it revealed a quiet confidence that all who wish, can join a pilgrim journey through life guided by the God who created and loves them. For all these reasons, it continues to have much to share with us today. It is, after all, the reason we are here.

Over the past 8 months we have been listening...

To the scriptures, to our community, to one another; looking for what God is saying to us as we seek to enable people to discover Him for themselves.

We have heard how we live in a context that mirrors the rhythm of the loom with creative tension and movement built into its very heart.

Therefore, we recognise that we are:

- Local yet Global
- Faithful yet Evolving
- Ordinary yet Transcendent
- Hidden yet Public
- Both Home and Destination

Some common threads have emerged which we now wish to develop and build on. These are forming our values. These are the things we stand for through which we will deliver our aims and goals. In the process, we believe, we will create our part of the rich tapestry of Christian living in the city and the Diocese. We therefore treasure our:-

Interculturality – we are diverse, distinct, a place where people have come from around the world and stayed.

Rootedness – we are grounded, ordinary, realistic, humble, standing in a tradition of Christian witness and mission here for more than a millennium.

Innovativeness – we recognise that, with God, abundance is present even in scarcity and can be discovered through creative imagination and hard work.

Hospitality – we are open, compassionate and a welcoming home.





As we have reflected on our story and the values that have created us we have a vision to:

Weave Jesus into the rich fabric of the city and beyond.

Create a generous welcome to the world.

Ensure that all can discover who they were created to be and that no one is passed by.

To enable this to happen we recognize that we need strong warp threads to allow our values and vision to produce a clear tapestry. And creative weft threads that allow for the richness of Gods love to be experienced or seen by all.

As we have listened, these words and ideas have emerged which will be central to our aims for the next 5 years.



We aim to become more sustainable
in spite of the adverse winds we often feel

Having reviewed our staffing and resources, we will have a trained and equipped team of staff, lay leaders and volunteers, able to contribute sustainably to mission and outreach work. This will enable us to become known for award-winning, innovative delivery in the fields of education, music, heritage, art, the environment and for our generous acts of loving service.

We will be financially sustainable, rich enough to share and be generous. This will mean seeking to increase, year on year, regular congregational giving, to have more diversity within our funding base and to work to an annual surplus each year to build financial resilience.

We will be Carbon neutral by 2030, leading the way amongst cathedrals and offering an example as the Mother Church of the Diocese.



None of this will be sustainable if we do not continue the prayer and worship that has been said and sung throughout our history. We will develop a wider, committed community who will treasure and develop our daily rhythm of prayer enabling us to offer more opportunity and variety for others to add their voice.

We aim to become more visible
so that we are not passed by

We will be seen as one of the city of Bradford's leading organisations with which to partner. We will be a convener for not-for-profit activity in Bradford, across the Diocese but also more widely, offering a focal point for work within areas such as reconciliation, refugees and lower-income families.

We will be a place where challenging issues facing the world can be discussed and debated openly and safely.

We will be a leading voice within the arts and culture sector, using City of Culture in 2025 as the springboard for this. We will deliver at least one major installation as part of our offering to City of Culture; a piece which reflects our story from the beginning. We will also grow a culture of co-production which will see our branding in other venues across the city and district as well as supporting and developing local artists to tour widely.



As one of the three cathedrals of the Diocese of Leeds, we will be a resource to help it fulfil its vision of developing confident Christians, enabling growing churches and transforming communities. We will do this in partnership with, but be distinctively different from, our sister cathedrals and will be recognised as a key partner by parishes across the diocese. Our focus, however, will be on resourcing parishes where we hold a patronage link and a need has been identified.



We aim to become more accessible
so that more people can recognise Jesus

We will excel in intercultural worship and seek to better reflect our city's many cultures and ethnicities within our community life. We will be a centre of intercultural practice, learning from and encouraging other local churches.

We will develop and enhance the experience for all who visit, to ensure that our building and grounds are available to all. In so doing we will be seen as a leader for how to maintain the integrity of an ancient area while creating an accessible site.

Our worship will be known for its beauty and diversity: grounded in the English choral tradition, it will be an exemplar of Church of England worship that values and weaves together culturally rooted expressions of faith from across the Anglican Communion.

In order to be accessible to those who physically can't be in the building during this development phase, and to engage with wider national and global audiences, we will continue with our use of live-streaming and engaging digital content.

Our Cathedral choir will continue to draw families from across the diversity of Bradford and explore new models such as Choir Church.

We will be recognised as the safe place for gathering when local or global events require a spiritual response or an honest conversation.

We will be a leader in curating artistic events that are rooted in the challenges of the world yet give birth to that which does not yet exist. Bringing more people into our building and allowing more of them to discover the reason we are here.





This will be founded on a rule of life within our community that places Jesus at the centre of an intentional way of living. This will involve a commitment to daily prayer and devotion, scripture reading, study, service and hospitality. All this will enable us to find the abundance of God within the scarcity of the resources of the world.

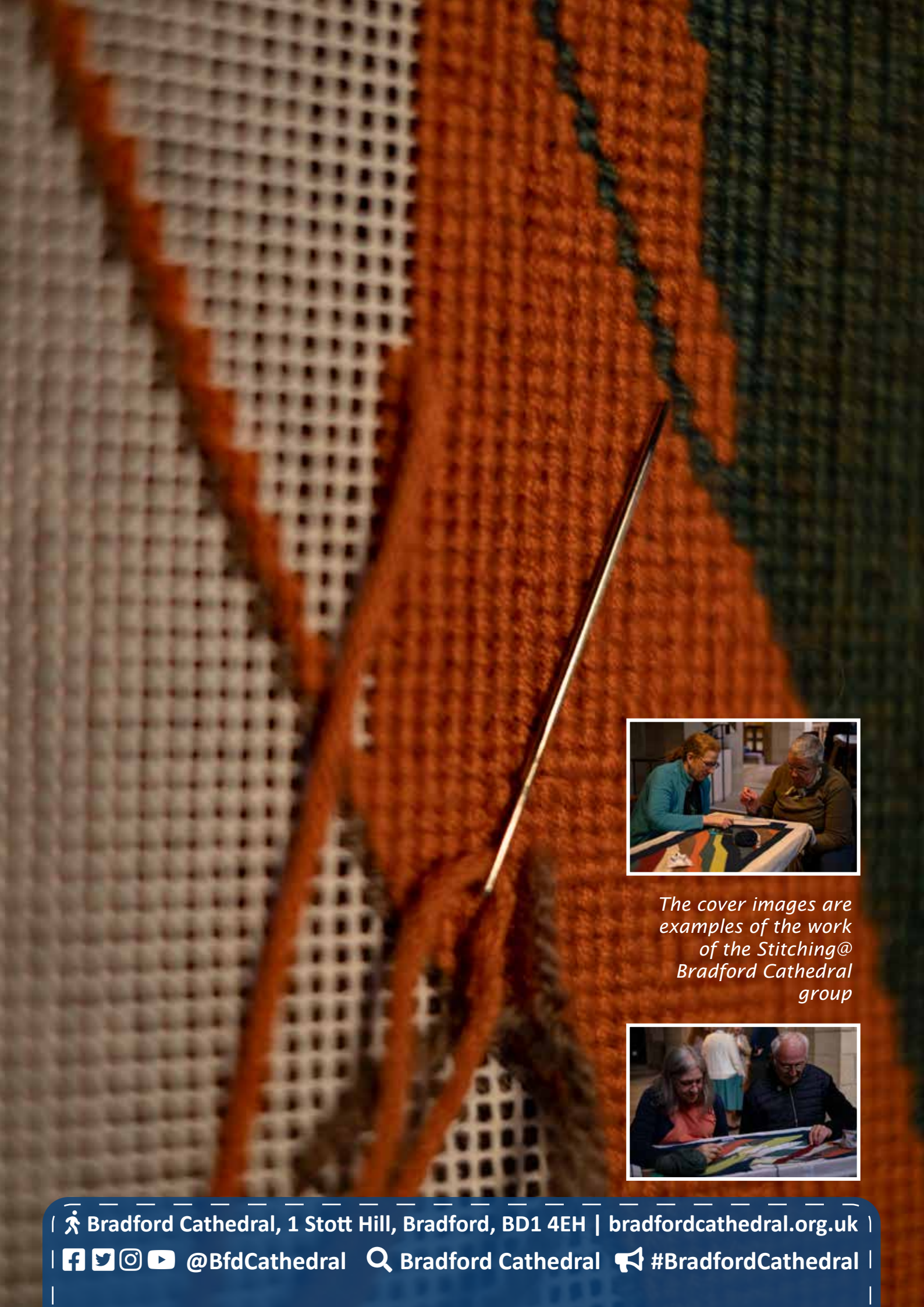
Helping us to become a place where all find a welcome home.

We invite all of you who have read this to receive with it an invitation. An offer to weave with us, and as each of our interconnected elements are knit together we trust that we will continue to tell the colourful story of Jesus in this place and beyond.



Pentecost 2023





The cover images are examples of the work of the Stitching@Bradford Cathedral group

