

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL
ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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INTRODUCTION

THE REVD CANON JONATHAN TRIFFITT

Interim Dean of Bradford

It is a privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report for Bradford Cathedral, reflecting a year that has been both demanding and deeply life-giving.

In 2025, as Bradford held the title of UK City of Culture, the Cathedral has played its full part in celebrating the rich diversity, creativity and heritage of our wonderful city. Over the course of the year, we have welcomed thousands of visitors—more than double the previous year—many of whom arrived with curiosity and left with a sense of peace, encounter and belonging. The words shared in our visitors' book speak of a place that is welcoming, uplifting and open to all.

Beyond these numbers lies a richer story. This report reveals the breadth of the Cathedral's life: worship and music of real depth and quality; creative engagement through the arts; education reaching thousands of children and young people; and a community life that is generous, attentive and quietly transformative. We remain a Cathedral rooted in prayer and open to the world.

All of this is sustained by our greatest treasure: our people. I am deeply grateful for the commitment of our staff and the remarkable generosity of our volunteers, whose faithful service, often unseen, makes possible all that we share together.

This has also been a year of transition. We have said farewell to key members of staff and leadership, and I am conscious of the resilience this has required across the Cathedral community. I have been greatly encouraged by the way colleagues and volunteers have continued to serve with dedication and hope.

Alongside much to celebrate, we are mindful of ongoing challenges. The care of our buildings and the growth of our ministry require sustainable resources. While we are grateful for the generosity of donors and partners, the need to strengthen and diversify our income remains essential to our future.

And yet, we look ahead with hope. This report reflects a Cathedral that is alive - listening, adapting, and seeking to respond to God's call. The invitation before us is to continue building a community in which all may find a place and contribute to our shared life.

My prayer is that, in reading this report, you will glimpse something of that life and hope, and be encouraged to share in it, as together we weave Jesus into the fabric of the city and beyond.

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL
2025 AT A GLANCE



2x

The number of 'drop-in' visitors compared with 2024

Estimated at 13,019 compared with 6,273 in 2024



3000

Children and young people

Attending school visits, Year Six Church of England Leavers' Services and family activities



3

Features on national television

We hosted BBC One's Christmas Day Service and Songs of Praise, and showcased one of our textiles on Antiques Roadshow



1

New Bradfordian tapestry

Made possible thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund

VISITORS' BOOK COMMENTS
A SAMPLE FROM 2025

“I came expecting little, but found much. A welcoming and uplifting visit. Thank you.”

“Super visit – lovely guide. The atmosphere is very welcoming. It feels like a place of worship for today as well as having history.”

“After 51 years of living in the area, we finally found the cathedral. Well worth the wait.”

“Thank you for helping me find what I needed. Lovely and peaceful.”

“Beautiful, intimate religious space!”

“We were made to feel very welcome here. It was our first visit and will not be our last. A beautiful space to reflect.”

“Came here for City of Culture 2025. Worth it!”

“My great-great-grandparents married here in 1868. I am thankful I have been able to stand where they did.”

*“Great to be here again and see everything looking so loved and cared for. Loved the glass installation xx”
(Hilary and David Ison, former Dean)*



WORSHIP

THE REVD CANON NED LUNN

Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts

The Cathedral has continued to keep its daily rhythm of prayer. Morning, Midday and Evening Prayer have been sustained throughout the week, forming a pattern of devotion that holds together those gathered in the building and those joining from elsewhere.

One small but significant shift has been the move from Google Meet to Zoom for these offices. This has enabled us not only to gather more effectively online but also to extend the reach of our choral tradition, particularly through the streaming of Choral Evensong. For some, this has become a way of remaining connected when physical presence is not possible; for others, it has been a first point of encounter. There is more to explore here, particularly technically, but it is part of our ongoing desire to ensure that the prayer of this place is not confined to its walls.

Sunday worship continues to grow, not simply in number but in texture. There is an increasing diversity of age, ethnicity and background among those who gather. We give thanks for those who have found here a place to belong. At the same time, this growth presents a question we are only beginning to answer: how we more intentionally welcome, form and include children, families and young people within the life of the Cathedral.

Alongside those physically present, a significant number continue to join us online. This unseen congregation is sustained by a committed team of volunteers whose work often goes unnoticed but is integral to our common life. One small

but symbolic change this year has been to move the livestream team from the corridor into the main sound desk, recognising their role not as peripheral but as part of the act of worship itself.

The liturgical year has unfolded in its fullness. From the civic and legal life marked in the Legal Service, through the deep waters of Lent and Holy Week, the joy of Easter and the fire of Pentecost; from the celebration of our Patronal Festival to the attentiveness of Creationtide and Harvest; from the remembrance of loss to the waiting of Advent and the proclamation of Christmas.

Christmas, in particular, stood out this year. The Cathedral's worship was broadcast live on the BBC, extending our voice far beyond Bradford. Messages of gratitude came from across the country, many noting the distinctive character of the service: rooted in tradition yet alive with something fresh. It was a moment that revealed, perhaps more clearly than usual, how this place holds together the local and the wider world.

None of this happens without the faithful service of many. Readers, intercessors, Eucharistic ministers; those who prepare flowers and hold space for children; stewards and welcomers; those offering hospitality through refreshments; the livestream and verger teams; clergy in all their varied ministries; and the Music Department. Together, they enable a life of prayer that is an ongoing act of weaving word, sacrament, music and presence into something that speaks, however imperfectly, of the God who gathers us.

MUSIC

GEOFFREY WOOLLATT

Organist and Director of Music

2025 was a very exciting year for the Music Department here at Bradford Cathedral. During the first half of the year there were performances with the world-famous Black Dyke Band, based in nearby Queensbury. One on BBC Radio Two, and then a recording for a CD of Christmas music, which has sold well. We also did our annual Christmas concert with the band, which, as always, was a tremendous success.

The Choir were also invited to St Paul's Cathedral in May to take part in the annual Clergy Support Trust's Celebration Service, which also included the choirs of St Paul's & Lichfield Cathedrals. The BBC were back a few days after this to record for Songs of Praise.

In August, I started here as Organist & Director of Music after ten years as Sub-Organist of Manchester Cathedral, taking over the reins from Graham Thorpe, who moved to Norwich

Cathedral. Since then, as well as our usual range of services and large scale events. The year concluded with a mixture of both as we led the nation in worship on Christmas Day, with our morning Eucharist being filmed live on BBC One. We did Jonathan Dove's Missa Brevis, and an anthem by local composer, Philip Wilby, The Word made flesh, which was written for the Choir of Bradford Cathedral. The Choir, and our wonderful Sub-Organist & Assistant Director of Music, William Campbell, were on top form, and really did the Cathedral proud.

I should say that I am so grateful to everyone in the Music Department, and I must mention our wonderful Choir Matron, Anne Hilton, who really does help to make these things run smoothly. And finally, a big thank you to everyone that makes up the whole of Bradford Cathedral Choir. I feel very lucky to be able to work with you all, and look forward to what the future holds.



ARTS & BRADFORD 2025

THE REVD CANON NED LUNN

Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts



Bradford's year as UK City of Culture provided a unique context in which the Cathedral's artistic life could expand in scale and deepen in meaning. Our programme was shaped around three themes: *Creativity Under Pressure*, *Weaving Stories*, and *Global Connections*. Each explored how art might open spaces for encounter, reflection, and transformation.

Creativity Under Pressure invited us to consider how art emerges in conditions of constraint, conflict and fragility. Central to this was *Gideon: A Play with Music*, a co-produced, Arts Council-funded production drawing on the life and compositions of Gideon Klein, created in the shadow of the Holocaust. His music gave a particular shape to our annual *Holocaust Memorial Service*, creating a shared space for reflection by holding together beauty and suffering. This theme was also expressed in our partnership with Carlton Bolling School and their exhibition, *Beacon of Hope*. We also hosted *Re:Imagine Faith Conversations*, our first public conversation that seeks to move beyond platformed discussion towards genuine encounter. This conversation explored how faith is lived and expressed under cultural and societal pressure.

Weaving Stories became the conceptual heart of the year. Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, this Cathedral-led initiative invited visitors and communities to co-create a large-scale tapestry through a loom installation placed at the heart of the building. Over several months, hundreds contributed their own threads (regardless of skill or background) alongside recorded stories that formed a parallel 'sound tapestry'. Together, these elements wove Bradford's wool heritage into contemporary lived experience, drawing on the city's historic textile industry as a point of connection across its diverse, global communities.

This participatory work was complemented by a wider season of exhibitions and events,

including *Our Bradford* with the Airedale Stitchers, *Woven Lives*, *Knitting Pilgrim*, and *Knit the Stripes*, alongside textile-focused tours and the *Crafting the Cathedral* event. These strands foregrounded craft not simply as heritage to be preserved, but as a living practice through which identity, memory, and belonging are continually re-formed. The completed tapestry now forms part of the Cathedral's ongoing story, embodying a shared act of making that extends beyond the year itself.

Global Connections reflected Bradford's international character and the Cathedral's role as both a local and global meeting place. The *European Festival of Latvian Culture* brought music and story into the building, offering a vibrant expression of this diasporic community. The exhibition, *Jesus: Guru, Avatar, God?*, part of the Methodist Modern Art Collection's *Everything is Connected*, invited visitors to engage with Christian imagery through a global and interfaith lens. The conversation at *Re:Imagine Global Peace* created space for dialogue across difference, while performances including Mauro Bertolino's concert and *From Rubble to Rebirth* explored themes of conflict, displacement, and renewal.

Taken together, these strands formed more than a programme of events. They became a way of inhabiting the Cathedral's calling to convene our city and to increase our accessibility and visibility. We showed ourselves as a place where stories are shared, differences encountered, and new possibilities imagined. In this, art has not simply illustrated our life but has become a means through which we can be transformed.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time to Bradford Cathedral in 2025. Your contributions were invaluable in enabling us to host such a busy and joyful programme during Bradford's year of culture.



Images, clockwise from top left: Crafting the Cathedral, Dean Andy celebrates Bradford 2025, Airedale Stitchers, Re:Imagine Faith Conversations, Weaving Stories loom, Woven Lives. The Weaving Stories loom and tapestry are pictured on the front and back covers.

VISITORS

MAGGIE MYERS

Director of Education and Visitors

The Visitor team made the most of Bradford's time in the spotlight in 2025- during its tenure as UK City of Culture- with a packed programme of tours and events, aiming to attract a large number of first time visitors and also provide opportunities for repeat visits by those already familiar with the Cathedral.

Our Welcomers recorded at least 13,019 "drop-in" visitors to the building during the year, from all over the UK and from at least 47 other countries. It really was a bumper year, with the Cathedral welcoming so many thousands of local, regional, national and international visitors during 2025- more than double the number of drop-in visitors in 2024. Thanks must go to our volunteer Welcomers in particular, for providing such a warm welcome, as evidenced by the many warm comments in the Visitors' Book, and for recording the large numbers and the home countries and counties of those who came.

In addition, over 1,300 adult visitors participated in tours during 2025 (compared with 409 people in 2024), due to an extension of our tours' offering to visitors. As well as Son et Lumiere

experiences, there were also historical, Morris & Co. stained glass, ecclesiastical textiles' and architectural tours at regular intervals throughout the year. They drew in large numbers of first-time visitors and a significant number of first-time visitors returned to participate in other Cathedral events and services.

Guided tours were given to various WI and Mothers' Union groups, the Halifax Minster Broderers, Manchester Cathedral staff, U3A groups and the Harrogate Archaeological Society. A number of organisations held their national conferences in Bradford in 2025 and requested a Cathedral tour as part of the experience. Such organisations included: the Institute of Tourist Guides, the 20th Century Society and the Northern Architectural History Society.

Other highlights of the year included the two-day "Crafting the Cathedral" event in July and the Heritage Open Day in September. In support of the "Weaving Stories" focus in 2025, "Crafting the Cathedral" was a celebration of textile craft heritage, featuring local craft groups providing demonstrations and hands-on activities for



FAITH TRAIL

MAGGIE MYERS

Director of Education and Visitors

visitors, along with various textiles' exhibitions and a Craft and Design tour of the Cathedral. For Heritage Open Day the focus was on female embroiderers, textile designers and a stained glass artist, whose works appear in Bradford Cathedral. This was a popular, well-attended event, where participants could self-tour the building and exhibits, participate in specialist tours and listen to a keynote speaker from the William Morris Society talking about May Morris. We were also delighted that our magnificent World War One altar frontal was chosen to be featured on one of the BBC1 "Antiques Roadshow" programmes from Bradford. It looked magnificent in the open air in Cartwright Hall gardens!

I would like to thank all the staff, our wonderful volunteers, including our Welcomers and the Refreshments' team, and particularly Mary White, Helen McIntyre and Robert Dodds, who supported the Visitor programme in 2025 and enabled us to provide such a wealth of experiences for such a large number of visitors.

In 2025 the Bradford Faith Trail celebrated its 15th year. Its longevity is an incredible achievement, as is the fact that so many of its leaders/guiders are volunteers and a number have been there since its inception and early years, including the Cathedral's own guide, Alex McLelland. The Faith Trail is open to everyone and offers participants a unique opportunity to: step into unfamiliar places of worship; meet members of different religious communities; learn about different faiths and religious practices; ask questions and spend a fascinating day with people of all faiths and none.

Around 250 participants attended in 2025. There were general members of the public and also representatives from church groups, walking clubs, public sector organisations, high schools, police cadets and diocesan ordinands/curates.

In 2025, the Faith Trail added a new stop in Little Germany, in order to acknowledge the rich Jewish faith heritage present in Bradford.

Images, left to right: Heritage Open Day, Son et Lumiere experience, Antiques Roadshow, Bradford Faith Trail



EDUCATION

MAGGIE MYERS

Director of Education and Visitors

It was another busy year for the Education team, with around 3,000 children and young people visiting Bradford Cathedral for educational visits. They were accompanied by 600 adults and came from 52 different educational institutions or establishments, with 13 of these visiting more than once. The Education team provided 82 sessions, catering for nursery children, primary, secondary, sixth form and university students, including students from Germany and America. The schools/colleges once again came from all over Bradford, as well as from Harrogate, Holmfirth, Leeds, Keighley, Denholme, Shipley, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Ilkley, Skipton, Huddersfield and Retford. Family activities' sessions during school holidays continued to be extremely popular and an important part of our offering. We held an increased number of sessions for families during 2025, providing seasonal and themed activities over 13 sessions, for around 650 people in total.

There were bespoke visits for a wide range of educational requirements. As always, place of worship visits, Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter remained the most popular topics. The Cathedral costumed experience was also popular and a number of schools visited the Cathedral as part of a class project about Bradford, incorporating geography, history, creative writing and RE. A significant new venture was the start of a 3-year partnership with the National Literacy Trust, as an educational provider for the Goldsmiths' 500 Writing Challenge project, which aims to improve literacy in Bradford communities where the link between low literacy skills and poverty is most evident. We delivered educational workshops for 170 Year 2 pupils from 5 local schools and the National Literacy Trust made a lovely video featuring our work, which can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ajx-AbiDrNE>



With secondary school students, our “Signs & Symbols” unit remained popular and a growing number of schools brought students for our GCSE RE Christianity unit. Once again, there were visits from GCSE and A Level History and Art students, as well as young adults with additional needs and ESOL and refugee groups who are new to English.

In January, we hosted a special Schools and Colleges of Sanctuary event for 450 pupils from 11 local schools, with the well-known children’s author, Tom Palmer. In July, 380 children from 11 local Church of England schools attended



one of the annual Year 6 Leavers' Services. In keeping with the "Weaving Stories" Cathedral focus in 2025, the theme was "Who Wool You be? What Wool You Do?"; these were active and joyful services, with the music led as always by John Froud, of the Zephaniah Trust. Our valued partner in these services for so many years, we were so sorry to hear of John's recent death. We also said goodbye to our dedicated Education volunteers and supporters, Mike and Elaine de Villiers, who were such an important part of our team. All three of these are greatly missed and their selfless contributions are so much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Diane Hadwen and our volunteers, Robert Dodds, Helen McIntyre, Mary White, Sheila Skelton and Jackie Vickers for all their hard work and support during the year.

Images, top left and bottom: clips from the National Literacy Trust video, top right: family-friendly guided tour.



SAFEGUARDING

EMMA SLATER

Cathedral Safeguarding Officer

Over the past year, safeguarding at the Cathedral has become more visible and more consistent in practice. The focus has been on putting clearer systems in place so that people know what to do, who to speak to, and feel confident raising any concerns as part of our shared commitment to being a safe and welcoming place for all.

Since starting in post, work has been carried out to introduce clearer reporting processes, including simpler and more accessible ways for concerns to be raised. Alongside this, more consistent recording systems have been developed so that information is captured appropriately and responded to in a timely way. These are now being introduced to support a more joined-up approach across Cathedral life.

There has been a noticeable increase in safeguarding awareness, with more staff, volunteers, and those involved in ministry engaging with training. This is supporting a growing shared understanding that safeguarding is part of everyday responsibility.

Safeguarding is becoming more visible across the Cathedral, with greater clarity around who to speak to and a more open approach to conversations where concerns arise.

Young people continue to play an important role within Cathedral life, including through volunteering. Steps have been taken to ensure this is supported safely, with clearer expectations, appropriate supervision, and a more structured approach.

Safer recruitment processes have also been reviewed and strengthened. This work began during a period without HR support, and with support now in place, this will continue to develop in line with national guidance.

Work has also started to align safeguarding arrangements with the National Safeguarding Standards and Promoting a Safer Church, helping to identify both strengths and areas for further development.

Overall, the past year has focused on putting stronger foundations in place, with safeguarding becoming more consistent, visible, and embedded across the Cathedral.

Safeguarding remains a shared responsibility, and the continued support of staff, volunteers, clergy, and the wider congregation is key to ensuring the Cathedral remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

ARCHITECT'S REPORT

ULRIKE KNOX RIBA AABC

Cathedral Architect

The last year was quiet in terms of investment in the Cathedral building fabric and precinct buildings, with no real opportunities to obtain grants, although luckily the Cathedral building is in good condition. The QI last year identified a number of repairs and improvements, however, delivery is limited without funding. We continue to provide ad-hoc advice as issues arise which this year included a variety of maintenance repairs which were successfully completed.

The Precinct buildings are generally in a poorer condition. As previously reported, the housing is a challenge to effectively heat and ventilate, and there are defects to the high level masonry which require repair. A survey was conducted at No.2 to review an instance of mould growth which is related to the issues listed above. The Cathedral has contacted specialists regarding management until further investigations and more substantial intervention can be implemented. External repairs are required across the precinct buildings but unfortunately lack of funds is preventing a much-needed full refurbishment.

We provided input regarding the approvals process for installation of two new double glazed windows at the Cathedral Cottage, to

replace decayed singled glazed windows, including advice on possible contractors. We also obtained quotations for new double glazed metal windows, liaising with the Conservation Officer regarding the design. Hopefully this can proceed in the next reporting period.

A comprehensive design scheme for the Cathedral Precinct grounds was developed and submitted for FAC approval. This project aims to address long-standing accessibility, maintenance and aesthetic issues identified in the QI including path resurfacing, new lighting, new handrails and redecoration of railings. This has been packaged to suit anticipated funding, with the hope of future phasing for further improvements. In the meantime, the Cathedral conducted spot repairs to the precinct path to reduce trip hazards.

As always, we continue to provide technical advice during attendance at Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) and Chapter meetings. We also had the pleasure of hosting a group of the country's leading conservation architects at the AGM for the Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation. We were able to share the unique qualities of Bradford Cathedral that make the place so special and a delight to spend time in.



VERGERS

SAM FLETCHER

Head Verger

2025 was an incredible year for the Cathedral with Bradford being City of Culture, lots of events and increased visitor traffic kept the team terribly busy!

Mike Vickers started with us in January as Senior Facilities Assistant and he has fit into the team wonderfully. Having Mike on board means there is less demand on my time freeing me up to do other back-room things. After saying goodbye to Phil Lickley (Events and Marketing Officer) in the summer, and while we appointed his replacement- I took on more events management responsibilities. We also decided to merge the Verger/ Facilities and Events team, allowing the flow between the different uses of the Cathedral to be more controlled. Members of the whole team now have more opportunities to experience the many distinct aspects of their role.

Some standout moments this year included filming on site of C.S Lewis's The Silver Chair, BBC Songs of Praise, G4 in concert and of course BBC Christmas Day live broadcast. Working with the film crews and tech teams from the BBC was quite the experience - challenging work but very much worth it. The team continued to be busy day to day looking after and maintaining the Cathedral, grounds, and ancillary buildings, supporting the Clergy, choir and enabling worship, as well as supporting the ever-growing programme of events and venue hire which provide a stream a crucial income.

We have spent a lot of time this year looking at and producing clear instructions and guidelines to enable us to manage the physically demanding aspects of our role, including stage building, furniture moving and bar management, making it easier to reset the Cathedral ready for worship. We have also been talking a lot about areas which are pinch points for the team and where and how we could make use of volunteers and invite congregation involvement. One key area identified was our beautiful grounds which have not been receiving enough attention. Collaborating with the Community Committee



we began the process of re-forming a gardening group- more details will be available soon. As a team we were incredibly sad to say goodbye to Canon Pete Gunstone, Graham Thorpe (Director of Music) and Dean Andy Bowerman and we thanked them and wished them well with fizz and cake.

I continue to be immensely proud to look after and the serve our beautiful Cathedral and to minister to the various people who visit, worship, and work here. My team and the wider Cathedral team never fail to amaze me with their patience, willingness, resilience, support, and their humour, it is a privilege to be part of this team and this community. We are looking forward to the new opportunities 2026 will bring with the arrival of a new Dean and other members of staff.

If you want to know more about the Verger, Facilities and Events team or fancy volunteering do contact me.

Images, left: Ashing on Ash Wednesday, right: Dean Andy prepares for his fundraising triathlon!



FUNDRAISING

LIZ PURCHASE

Head of Fundraising

During the Bradford City of Culture year, we were delighted that many of our new visitors chose to donate to us. Their support, along with the continued generosity of our congregation, Patrons and grant funders, enabled the upkeep of our Grade I listed building and our work in the arts, education, community events, and music. A grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund enabled our 'Weaving Stories' exhibition, a central part of our cultural year which drew many people to us for the first time. Our supporters made a big difference and we are very grateful for the donations of all sizes that we received in the year.

The year kicked off with our first fundraising challenge event! Dean Andy Bowerman ran, swam and cycled to complete a 24-hour triathlon in record time, successfully raising over £3,000 with donations coming from all over the world. The excellent result gave us confidence to plan for further fundraising challenge events and we look forward to building on Dean Andy's triathlon success.

During the summer we held the first outside Patron's reception with wonderful music from the Choir. The event encouraged many of our existing Patrons to renew their membership, as well as inspire new members to join. The Patrons are a group of like-minded supporters who share a passion for the Cathedral and our work; we were honoured that annual membership grew in the year and we look forward to welcoming more Patrons.

Our congregation responded to our annual Renewal of Giving of campaign, with some increasing their regular giving as we faced increased costs; they also continued to give via other established ways such as the Easter Lillies Appeal and legacy giving. Support from our congregation is so important and we are deeply grateful to them, and the community of people who regularly donate.

We continued to receive donations via the online 'shop to donate' Easyfundraising application; we thank supporters who signed up to Easyfundraising and all those who donated online via other digital methods including JustGiving, Stewardship, and our own website. We were also delighted that the Friends of Bradford Cathedral charity continued to support via their regular membership.

We were very grateful for the continued support of trusts and foundations, and grant funders. This included the annual grant of multi-year funding from the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, vital to us being able to maintain our Choir and music department. Other key funding came from the Cathedral Music Trust; their grant allowed us to employ three professional Lay Clerks and choir section leads. The Lay Clerks significantly enhanced the Choir in a busy year of broadcasts, performances, and recording; this in turn supported income generation, from the Choir & Black Dyke Band CD to the choir fundraising at Darley Street Market carol singing event. We were also grateful for grants in 2025 from the Benefact Trust whose funding enabled core activity, and from the Cathedral Sustainability Fund for important staff posts funding; and we thanked Bradford Guild of Help, Bradford Lord Mayor's Appeal fund, and the Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust for grants towards project and core costs. With support from the Benefact Trust we were able to install a new on-site giving device. The digital 'donation station' enhanced our existing on-site, tap-to-donate giving facilities. As well as enabling donors to give a Gift Aid declaration at the point of donation, it has an eye-catching screen, which resulted in an uplift in donations by the end of the year.



CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

THE REVD CANON NED LUNN

Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts

The life we share at Bradford Cathedral continues to be woven through the generosity, imagination and faithfulness of many people. It is a tapestry made up of small acts and sustained commitments; of presence as much as programme. In a year when Bradford has carried the title of UK City of Culture, that weaving has been particularly visible. We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers whose energy and care ensured that the Cathedral played its part as both home and destination, rooted in the city yet open to the world.

The Community Committee has spent time listening: to one another, to the wider congregation, and to the shifting needs of our common life. We marked with gratitude the contribution of Monica Slocombe, outgoing Churchwarden and long-standing Chair, alongside Ann Santosh and Tema Choudhury, as they stepped down. Monica's thoughtful leadership over a sustained period of time continues to inspire. As she stepped down she offered some reflections to the Committee which has helped us to discern where attention is now needed.

Although fewer activities have taken place this year, that apparent stillness has not been empty. It has been a space for re-grounding. From this has emerged a clearer sense of direction: the desire to see the gardening group take root again; to open up spaces for learning and discipleship that are both accessible and stretching; to deepen pastoral care, including a renewed End of Life Matters course; and to

encourage generosity in ways that are both congregational and outward-facing. Underlying all of this is a simple conviction: that the gifts already present among us are not incidental but essential, and that enabling them to flourish is part of ensuring that no one is overlooked or passed by.

That same pattern of cultivating conditions for growth can be seen across the Cathedral's life. The long-standing Monday Fellowship continues to offer a steady rhythm of gathering, particularly for those who might otherwise find themselves on the margins of community life. It draws in others too, through its programme of speakers and shared interests, creating a space where conversation unfolds easily and relationships deepen over time. It has also become a natural point of connection between congregation and clergy, where familiarity grows without formality. Alongside this, the Summer Cream Tea and Christmas gatherings provide moments of shared celebration: simple, generous, and quietly significant.

The Just a Minute group offers a more reflective space. Meeting after the Sunday Eucharist, it holds open a place where people can speak (or not) about what they have encountered in worship. There is no pressure to resolve or conclude. Instead, it is a practice of attentive listening: to scripture, to music, to one another. In this, it plays its part in shaping a community that is not only active but receptive.

Elsewhere, creativity takes more tangible form.

The Stitchers, meeting fortnightly, continue their careful work on kneelers for the Lady Chapel. Their craft is patient and detailed, but it is also relational with conversation, hospitality, and sharing time. People come from across the district, some arriving first as visitors and staying as participants. The Flower Team, too, contributes to this interplay of beauty and welcome. Week by week, arrangements appear that both honour the liturgy and catch the attention of those who simply wander in. These acts are often unseen in their preparation but carry a quiet and real significance.

The Friends of Bradford Cathedral remain an important extension of this shared life, holding together fellowship and practical support. Their contributions this year have included funding for children's work and support for the Precinct Project, helping to make the Cathedral more accessible to all. Their Annual Lunch once again provided an occasion for gathering and enjoyment. As they look ahead, they do so with a hope of renewal, seeking new members and a new treasurer to sustain their work.

Care for creation has continued to be one of our defining threads this year. Achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award (the first cathedral in the Province of York to do so!) marks a significant milestone. It reflects not a single initiative but a sustained commitment over time, embedded across different aspects of Cathedral life. At the same time, the Eco Group itself has entered a period of transition, with key members stepping down and activity pausing mid-year. Responsibility for this work is now being carried more widely, particularly through the Community

Committee and Cathedral Operations. Earlier contributions (Fairtrade Fortnight, Creationtide and local environmental initiative) continue to shape this ongoing commitment, even as its form evolves.

The Cathedral's life is also sounded outwards with the bellringing teams who came and marked the year's key moments of Easter, Pentecost and Christmas as well as civic and diocesan occasions. Hosting the White Rose striking competition brought ringers from across the region into the Cathedral, while broadcasts at Christmas carried that sound further still. Even the more practical challenges, such as the replacement of several bell ropes, form part of this ongoing stewardship of a tradition that is both ancient and alive.

Taken together, these strands do not resolve into a single pattern so much as they hold together in creative tension: local and outward-looking, familiar and evolving, ordinary and yet carrying something of the transcendent. This is the nature of our common life. It is not fixed, nor fully complete, but continually being shaped through conversation, care, prayer, and shared endeavour.

Looking ahead, the invitation remains the same: to continue weaving Jesus, together, into our shared life in which all may find a place, discover their gifts, and contribute to the rich fabric of this community and beyond.

Images, left to right: Stitchers, Volunteers Week, Easter Lillies, Monday Fellowship.





CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

JENNY PRICE AND JACKIE VICKERS

Churchwardens

It has been a privilege for us, Jenny and Jackie, to serve together as Churchwardens at Bradford Cathedral, and we are pleased to present our report for the year.

At the heart of everything we do is worship. We continue to hope that all who come into the Cathedral—whether regularly or for a single visit—find a sense of peace, warmth, and God's presence. The Cathedral remains a place of prayer, reflection, and encouragement, open to all who seek it.

A warm welcome is central to our life together, and we are both deeply grateful to our stewards. They are often the first point of contact for visitors, offering kindness, reassurance, and guidance. Their presence helps shape the atmosphere of the Cathedral and ensures that people feel safe, valued, and included from the moment they arrive.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to our hospitality team. So much of their work happens quietly behind the scenes, yet it plays a vital role in creating a sense of fellowship and community. Whether preparing refreshments or supporting gatherings and events, their care and dedication are greatly appreciated.

We are equally thankful for all the volunteers who support the many events held throughout the year. Their willingness to give time and energy enables the Cathedral to host a wide range of activities and to remain actively engaged with the wider community. These events help strengthen our connections both within the Cathedral and across the city.

We have also begun work to revitalise the Community Committee. Although still in its early stages, this reflects a shared desire to strengthen communication, involvement, and connection

across Cathedral life. We are hopeful that it will develop into a positive and supportive forum for ideas and engagement.

We continue to give thanks for the richness of our music and liturgy, which bring so much beauty and depth to our worship. These are a real gift to the Cathedral, and we look forward to building on these strong foundations while encouraging wider participation wherever possible.

As a Cathedral, we are mindful of our wider calling to the city. We seek to be a place of welcome, compassion, and hope—a space where people can find comfort and encouragement in all circumstances. Through outreach, partnerships, and events, we continue to look for ways to serve the wider community with openness and care.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our volunteers and staff. We are deeply grateful for all that is given so generously, often in unseen ways. Supporting one another and being good stewards of our resources remains central to our shared life.

This year has been quite turbulent; a number of key staff have departed, including Dean Andy and Canon Pete. This has impacted on Cathedral life greatly; we would like to put on record our thanks to Canon Ned who has worked so hard to keep everything running as smoothly as possible. With Dean Jonathan's arrival we look ahead, with hope and confidence, trusting in God's continued guidance.

Finally, we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the congregation who contributes to the life of Bradford Cathedral. It is your kindness, faithfulness, and generosity that make this community so special.



Images, clockwise from top left: Choristers on Shrove Tuesday, Stitches, Primary School Visit, Summer Patron's Event, Knit the Stripes, Family Activities, Meditations Around the Cross, Clypping the Church.

CATHEDRAL STAFF & OFFICERS

ANDY MCCARTHY

Chief Operating Officer

ROLE

Dean
Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts
Minor Canon for Congregational Life
Curate
Chief Operating Officer
Director of Finance
Executive Assistant
Finance Officer
Cathedral Secretary
Governance Officer
Head of Fundraising
Events & Marketing Officer
Events and Facilities Assistants

Director of Education & Visitors
Education Assistant
Head Verger
Senior Facilities Assistant (Verger team)
Facilities Assistant (Verger Team)
Facilities Assistant (Verger Team)
Cathedral Safeguarding Officer
Director of Music
Sub Organist & Assistant Director of Music
Choir Matron
Section Lead & Lay Clerk
Section Lead & Lay Clerk
Section Lead & Lay Clerk
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Cathedral Architect
Cathedral Archaeologist
College of Clergy

NAME

The Very Revd Andy Bowerman
The Revd Canon Ned Lunn
The Revd Henriette Howarth
The Revd Duncan Milwain
Andy McCarthy
Simon Dennis
Jasmin Brearton
Bisi Phillips
Julie Bowyer
Angelique Glat
Liz Purchase
Lydia Rose
Fatema Choudhury
Elizabeth Palmer
Brandon Moorhouse
King Yat Yau
Andrew Mooring
Jo Dean
Ann Foster
Sue Waters
Sam Dimery
Maggie Myers
Diane Hadwen
Sam Fletcher
Mike Vickers
David Robinson
Ian Price
Emma Slater
Geoffrey Woollatt
William Campbell
Anne Hilton
Robert Webb
Robin Morton
Csenge Kosaras
Jenny Price
Jackie Vickers
Ulrike Knox
Ian Roberts
The Revd Canon Rod Anderson
The Revd Paul Booth
The Revd Canon Myra Shackley
The Revd Mary Fisher
The Revd Canon Cathy Milford
The Revd Canon John David Nowell
The Revd Colin Penfold
The Revd Canon Jude Smith

FINANCIAL REPORT

SIMON DENNIS

Director of Finance

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Endowment Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 TOTAL FUNDS £	2024 TOTAL FUNDS £
INCOME FROM:	1					
Donations and legacies		-	13,844	230,225	244,070	288,901
Charitable Activities:						
i) Grants receivable		-	584,461	24,232	608,693	536,039
ii) Charges and fees arising in the course of mission		-	-	11,020	11,020	14,779
iii) Income from trading and fundraising		-	-	143,500	143,500	117,921
iv) Income from property & other investments		-	149	51,017	51,166	63,108
Other income		-	1,059	3,339	4,398	1,648
TOTAL INCOME		-	599,513	463,334	1,062,847	1,022,396
EXPENDITURE ON :	2					
Cost of raising funds			(53,304)	(49,168)	(102,472)	(57,776)
Charitable Activities						
i) Ministry		-	(251,466)	(51,872)	(303,337)	(354,916)
ii) Upkeep of cathedral and precincts		-	(97,640)	(118,137)	(215,777)	(202,432)
iii) Education and outreach		-	(43,972)	(1,914)	(45,885)	(41,408)
iv) Community, parish and congregation		-	-	(12,738)	(12,738)	(14,762)
v) Support and Governance Costs		-	(216,817)	(91,983)	(308,801)	(323,171)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-	(663,199)	(325,811)	(989,009)	(994,465)
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		-	(63,685)	137,523	73,837	27,931
(LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
Investments		(2,775)	(14,167)	-	(16,942)	9,453
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(2,775)	(77,852)	137,523	56,895	37,384
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	84,468	(84,468)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(2,775)	6,616	53,055	56,895	37,384
RECONCILIATION IN FUNDS:						
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		69,410	553,569	476,231	1,099,210	1,061,826
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		66,635	560,185	529,286	1,156,106	1,099,210

All income and expenditure included in the Statement of financial activities relates to continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Endowment £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 TOTAL £	2024 TOTAL £
FIXED ASSETS						
Plant, Property and Equipment		-	-	492	492	1,917
Investment assets						
Investment property		-	-	175,000	175,000	175,000
Investments		66,635	339,043	-	405,678	422,621
TOTAL		66,635	339,043	175,492	581,170	599,538
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		-	-	3,257	3,257	2,744
Debtors		-	3,822	85,367	89,189	52,665
CCLA Deposits		-	100,000	200,022	300,022	300,022
Cash at bank and in hand		-	126,981	141,619	268,599	224,792
TOTAL		-	230,803	430,265	661,067	580,223
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors		-	9,660	76,471	86,131	80,551
TOTAL		-	9,660	76,471	86,131	80,551
NET CURRENT ASSETS		-	221,142	353,794	574,936	499,672
NET ASSETS		66,635	560,185	529,286	1,156,106	1,099,210
FUNDS		66,635	560,185	529,286	1,156,106	1,099,210

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 TOTAL £	2024 TOTAL £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(3,457)	(5,380)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Rent received net of costs		19,140	11,376
Investment income received net of costs		28,122	35,003
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		47,262	46,379
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		43,805	40,999
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		524,815	483,816
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		568,621	524,815

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 TOTAL FUNDS £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL FUNDS £
1 INCOME						
Donations and legacies						
Congregation collections and giving	-	99,426	99,426	-	96,313	96,313
Donations	8,105	40,565	48,670	17,236	36,138	53,374
Income from appeals & fund raising	1,915	8,872	10,787	(541)	4,685	4,144
Tax recoverable under gift aid	2,624	26,804	29,427	2,303	27,815	30,118
Income from Friends and legacies	1,200	54,559	55,759	-	104,953	104,953
TOTAL	13,844	230,225	244,070	18,998	269,904	288,902
i) Grants receivable						
Church Commissioners (section 28 including Sustainability Fund)	479,352	-	479,352	456,171	-	456,171
Bramall Trust for Music development	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	-	5,429	5,429	-	6,405	6,405
Sundry Grants	55,109	18,803	73,912	4,650	18,813	23,463
TOTAL	584,461	24,232	608,693	510,821	25,218	536,039
ii) Charges and fees arising in the course of mission						
Income from school visits	-	7,535	7,535	-	3,548	3,548
Choir Tour Income	-	-	-	-	6,861	6,861
Fees for Marriages and Funerals	-	3,485	3,485	-	4,370	4,370
TOTAL	-	11,020	11,020	-	14,779	14,779
iii) Income from trading and fundraising						
Gross income from hire of the cathedral space, associated catering and other activities	-	143,500	143,500	-	117,921	117,921
TOTAL	-	143,500	143,500	-	117,921	117,921
iv) Income from property & other investments						
Property	-	23,044	23,044	-	28,106	28,106
Bank interest received	34	16,271	16,305	37	22,525	22,562
Investments	115	11,701	11,817	112	12,328	12,440
TOTAL	149	51,017	51,166	149	62,959	63,108
0 Other income						
Flowers	1,059	-	1,059	631	-	631
Subject Access Requests and other fees	-	3,339	3,339	-	(1,195)	(1,195)
Insurance claims receivable	-	-	-	-	2,212	2,212
TOTAL	1,059	3,339	4,398	631	1,017	1,648

BRADFORD CATHEDRAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Notes	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 TOTAL FUNDS £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL FUNDS £
2 EXPENDITURE						
Cost of raising funds						
Gross costs of shop, and other activities	-	40,431	40,431	-	34,371	34,371
Fundraising costs	53,304	4,833	58,137	5,514	1,160	6,674
Investment property costs	-	3,904	3,904	-	16,731	16,731
TOTAL	53,304	49,168	102,471	5,514	52,262	57,776
Charitable Activities:						
i) Ministry						
Clergy stipends and expenses	120,479	5,277	125,756	139,622	4,674	144,296
Clergy housing costs	-	24,677	24,677	(983)	29,001	28,018
Clergy support costs	-	260	260	25	838	863
Service, music and choir costs	130,987	21,659	152,646	142,154	39,584	181,739
TOTAL	251,466	51,872	303,337	280,818	74,097	354,916
ii) Upkeep of cathedral and precincts						
Major repair and refurbishment	26,735	8,316	35,051	5,400	6,744	12,144
Fabric maintenance	-	7,661	7,661	-	13,296	13,296
Vergers and interior upkeep	70,906	20,721	91,627	68,227	24,171	92,398
Cathedral Utilities	-	60,274	60,274	-	64,452	64,452
Precincts and gardens	-	1,719	1,719	1,039	153	1,192
Insurance	-	19,445	19,445	-	18,949	18,949
TOTAL	97,640	118,136	215,776	74,666	127,765	202,432
iii) Education and outreach						
Education	43,972	1,914	45,885	40,781	626	41,407
Heritage (including HLF)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	43,972	1,914	45,885	40,781	626	41,407
Community, parish and						
iv) congregation						
Outward giving	-	12,738	12,738	-	14,762	14,762
Youth & Children	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	12,738	12,738	-	14,762	14,762
v) Support and Governance Costs						
Administration and finance	202,281	53,035	255,317	237,002	49,907	286,909
Publicity	14,536	21,027	35,563	9,878	4,700	14,578
Audit fees	-	17,580	17,580	-	21,366	21,366
Chapter & Council meetings expenses	-	341	341	-	318	318
TOTAL	216,817	91,983	308,800	246,880	76,291	323,171

