

Crafting the Cathedral

Two days of free events celebrating Bradford Cathedral's textile and craft heritage.

11th and 12th July
11am - 2pm



As part of our "Weaving Stories" project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and also as part of Bradford Heritage Festival, we are holding two days of free events which will appeal to crafting groups, crafters, general members of the public and families. These activities are open to anyone.

Friday 11th

Suitable for those interested in textiles and crafting.

The Bradford Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers will be demonstrating different types of weaving, using Turkish spindles and spinning wheels. There will also be examples of their work for you to view and you will have the opportunity to spin wool which you can then add to our loom weaving.

Cathedral Stitches: Come and see the wonderful work of the Cathedral Stitching community group, who meet fortnightly in the Cathedral and are currently working on new kneelers for the Lady Chapel, complementing the stunning designs of the Morris & Co. windows and altar frontal.

Loom experience: Weave a line of a tapestry and be part of our artwork that is being created over the next few months on a loom that has been specially installed in the Cathedral for this purpose. The finished tapestry will be displayed in the Cathedral from February 2026. The installation includes a soundscape telling the stories of mill workers, and those visiting are invited to tell their own stories.

Embroidery: Try your hand at embroidery stitching using stitches from across Europe and beyond, similar to those that will be used on the final tapestry design on our loom.

The Craven Guild of Lacemakers will be present at both days and will be demonstrating bobbin lacemaking. There will be samples of their work on display.



Ecclesiastical Textiles: Bradford Cathedral is fortunate enough to have in its collection a number of beautiful, intricate and historically significant ecclesiastical textiles. These include altar frontals and other textiles designed by **Morris & Co.**, the **Leek Embroidery Society**, Bradfordian artist **Ernest Sichel** and renowned Bradfordian embroiderer, **Louisa Pesel**, who designed an altar frontal that was worked on by shell-shocked soldiers during World War One. There are also contemporary textiles designed by **Polly Meynell**. Some of these will be out on display during Crafting the Cathedral.



EXTRA: Ecclesiastical Textiles' Tour

Join our guide for a special ecclesiastical textiles' tour of the Cathedral, seeing these stunning textiles in situ- some of which are not on public display- and hearing the fascinating stories behind them.

11th July, 11am and 1pm. £7 per person.

For Tour Bookings go to:

<https://bradfordcathedral.eventbrite.com/>

Or ring the Cathedral office on: 01274777720

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 12th

Families and children are very welcome. There will be free colouring and craft activities available for children.

West Riding Stone Carvers Association will be demonstrating their craft in the Cathedral grounds and there will be the opportunity to have a go yourself.

Loom experience: Weave a line of a tapestry and be part of our artwork that is being created over the next few months on a loom that has been specially installed in the Cathedral for this purpose. The finished tapestry will be displayed in the Cathedral from February 2026. The installation includes a soundscape telling the stories of mill workers, and those visiting are invited to tell their own stories.

Natural Dying Quiz: Have a go at matching the wool to the plant.

The Bradford Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers will be demonstrating different types of weaving, using Turkish spindles and spinning wheels. There will also be examples of their work for you to view.

Cathedral Stitchers: Come and see the wonderful work of the Cathedral Stitching community group, who meet fortnightly in the Cathedral and are currently working on new kneelers for the Lady Chapel.

There will also be opportunities to try your hand at embroidery stitching and simple card weaving.

EXTRA: Craft Tour

This is an opportunity to have a guided tour of the Cathedral, with extra information about some of our beautifully crafted features, objects and textiles.

12th July, 12.00 noon. £7 per person.

For Tour Bookings go to:
<https://bradfordcathedral.eventbrite.com/>
Or ring the Cathedral office on: 01274777720

Book early to avoid disappointment.



Exhibitions

We will have craft themed exhibitions on display that visitors to Crafting the Cathedral can enjoy alongside the activities.

Knit the Stripes: View this 15-metre-long warming stripe display that charts our changing temperature from the 1850s to the present.

Woven Lives: This powerful artwork using woven coloured glass and symbols, lit from within, telling the lives and stories of the people of Bradford.

Who Made My Clothes?: The International Feltmakers' Association, Yorkshire Branch, will be exhibiting work about the ethics of the fashion trade.



Bradford Cathedral

Tucked away in the heart of the busy city, Bradford Cathedral is a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered. Set in tranquil gardens, the Cathedral is Bradford's most ancient site, building and place of worship, alive with a sense of story from its 14 centuries at the heart of the City.

Everyone is welcome at Bradford Cathedral- whether you come to pray; to explore the architecture and heritage of the building; to wander around our latest art exhibition; or to simply sit and enjoy the warmth and quiet of the building and grounds.

Our opening hours are Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 12pm- 3pm, as well as for services and events.

