This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God’s plea for us to “Care for Creation”. It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything. During this time, we hope you might engage in prayer, learn more about the remarkable world we have been given and build habits that last beyond the season to protect and honour the earth.

Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop John Sentamu

Ash Wednesday | 26th February
Including the traditional ashing

7:30am (Breakfast at Rooftop Café afterwards), 10:15am and 7pm (Choral Eucharist)

Encounters with Jesus:
An exhibition by Ali Thistlethwaite
Launching at the Ash Wednesday 7pm service

Secret transactions with God in prayer have life-changing consequences. Within worship and prayer, sorrow can be turned to joy, tension to peace. Alison Thistlethwaite’s paintings aim to capture some of this process in paint. Her paintings are not just depictions, or recollections, of encounters with God through the Spirit. They are themselves painted in encounter with God, much like the prayers of any one of us, but in physical form.

She hopes that these paintings for Lent, Easter and Pentecost will encourage personal encounters with Christ.

Ali Thistlethwaite lives in Gloucestershire and this is her second exhibition at the cathedral.

A range of Lent themed books are available from the cathedral shop, as well as a free 40-day reflection booklet for adults and children which can be collected at Bradford Cathedral.

churchofengland.org/livelent
The theme of this year’s Lent course will be Pilgrimage, as 2020 is the Year of Pilgrimage for all cathedrals across the country.

It is a rich theme, and can be taken both literally and metaphorically. We will be looking at what makes places holy, and spiritual journeys through the Bible, through the liturgy, and through our personal lives.

The Lent Groups this year will be led by Andrew Tawn, Director of Clergy Development and one of this cathedral’s honorary canons.

Refreshments from 6:30pm
Course from 7pm
Night prayer at 8:15pm

Session 1: Wednesday 11th March
Holy Ways and Sacred Places

We’ll be thinking about the two main aspects of pilgrimage: the journey and the destination, both literally and symbolically. What does the experience of pilgrimage tells us about the ‘journey of life’, and our ‘faith journey’? Celtic Christianity talks about ‘thin’ places, where heaven feels much nearer than usual. In what ways do you find Bradford cathedral a sacred place? What other places are special for you and why? What is it that makes us say of certain places, ‘Truly God is in this place’?

Session 2: Wednesday 18th March
This is His Story: This is Our Story

In this session we’ll be looking at the journey of the Bible from Creation to the end of time. The Bible is many things, but above all it is a story. When we read a story we go on a journey; we identify with the characters, we share their ups and downs, and if it is a great book (as the Bible undoubtedly is), then we find that we are changed by it. What are the great themes we encounter on this journey? What resonates with our own story? How does the Bible help us to make sense of our own journey through life? Where are you on your own faith journey?

Session 3: Wednesday 25th March
‘A journey into the heart of the love of God’

The preface to Common Worship says this: ‘Worship itself is a pilgrimage – a journey into the heart the heart of the love of God’. In this session we’ll be looking at the journey we go on during each act of worship. An ‘order of service’ is carefully structured so that each section follows on in response to the previous one, and leads us on into the next, like the movements of a symphony. Then each act of worship is part of the larger cycle of the church year which in itself re-enacts the journey of Jesus’ life and ministry. In which parts of the service, and the church year, do you feel closest to God?
As we approach Easter we share, with Christians around the world and down the centuries, in the most holy of weeks. Each day in this week there is an opportunity to gather, listen, reflect, worship and pray. We share the journey of Jesus to the cross and beyond.

Everyone is welcome to join in occasionally or take advantage of the riches of the whole week’s events.

Palm Sunday | 5th April
10am Procession with palms around the city
10:15am Choral Eucharist
4pm Choral Evensong

Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th April
Our speaker during Holy Week will be the Revd Canon Dr Flora Winfield. She is the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury’s advisor on reconciliation.

7pm Address
8pm Choral Compline

Maundy Thursday | 9th April
7pm Choral Eucharist with the washing of feet.

Good Friday | 10th April
10am Messy Easter (to 11:45am)
12noon Good Friday procession followed by meditations and the proclamation of the cross, with music and hymns. Please come and go on the hour and half-hour. (to 3pm)

Easter Eve | 11th April
4:45pm Vigil Readings and Prayers
Join us for 15-minute drop-in slots
7pm Service of Light

Easter Day | 12th April
Christ is risen!
8am Holy Communion
10:15am Choral Eucharist
4pm Choral Evensong

In addition to this programme Morning Prayer (8:30am) and Evening Prayer (5:30pm) will take place from Monday to Saturday in the Lady Chapel.