



WEST YORKSHIRE  
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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## **25TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

A fascinating service of inter-church celebration took place in Bradford Cathedral on Sunday 21 October. Over a hundred people came from denominations as different as the Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic Church.

We felt very proud of the many initiatives in our area. First, Street Angels began in Halifax and now flourish in Bradford: from late evening to 3 a.m. Christians go out into the streets at weekends to assist those in distress after perhaps too rumbustious a night out. This initiative has been copied all over the country, and indeed abroad as well. At least two clergy from Bradford Cathedral take part. Secondly, Settle displayed posters of the many ecumenical events in their scattered villages. Thirdly, several people, including Muslims, spoke movingly of the help they had received from the Beacon Project for asylum seekers in Bradford. Christians also serve refreshments to asylum seekers who have travelled from all over Yorkshire to Thornbury for their cases to be heard. Fourthly, a representative of Christians against Poverty (CAP) told how he had tried to commit suicide as a young man because of his own debts. Now, next to the Cathedral, we have a large building from which CAP's widespread work is organised. Fifthly, a representative from Little Lane Local Ecumenical Partnership in our Circuit spoke of how they integrate the deaf into their services by a person who 'signs' for them.

Surrounded by inter-church banners, inspired by Salvation Army band music, we symbolically played our own small part by each taking up a coloured thread and weaving it into an ecumenical

We are fortunate that our Cathedral is so forward-looking and hospitable. At the end of the celebration the Cathedral provided refreshments so that those across denominations, and indeed across faiths, could get to know each other

*John Anderson*

