

To whom it may concern

June 2025

Dear Sirs

Re: Parish of Keighley: Project Beacon

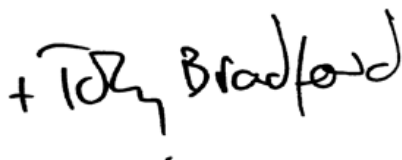
I write in support of Project Beacon which is designed to make the current parish church of St Andrew's Keighley and community hall more suited to its key role as a centre of mission in the centre of Keighley, to make surrounding areas more accessible and increase its capacity to holds events which can be open to the whole community.

The parish of Keighley is one of several Resourcing Churches in the Bradford Episcopal Area which were established in 2019 to help resource mission and ministry within and beyond their parish boundaries, supporting other churches in their neighbourhood (see attached "covenant" the Keighley PCC agreed with me). St Andrew's also needs to be able to be a key community asset for Keighley and the wider Aire and Worth valleys, offering the buildings, for example, for community and social events.

The extension and redevelopment plans which Project Beacon are undertaking are vital to enable this resourcing and will allow groups, both locally and more widely, to be able to put on large scale events which can cater for numbers greater than the current church building and community hall allow. It is also a church building that I regularly choose to use for training days and other Episcopal Area events.

I am therefore keen to see this project being able to fulfil its goal of reimagining the space and buildings around St Andrew's church to enable this transformation which will both enhance the area and create a much needed community space.

Yours sincerely



Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth
Bishop of Bradford

Extract below from SDF Stage 2 submission (April 2019) and Resourcing Churches Covenant agreed with Bishop of Bradford

3 Resourcing Churches Summary

This stream builds upon the ideas and experience so far of the recent SDF bid from the Leeds Episcopal Area. It is about asking more of existing churches which have proven and confident leadership, good missional and financial strength and a track record of numerical and spiritual growth, with an emphasis on growing new disciples. Five such churches in the Bradford Episcopal Area have accepted the challenge of becoming Resourcing Churches, taking on additional responsibilities, given to them by the Area Bishop, which are beyond those of being a local parish church. Appendix 1 contains the Resourcing Churches Covenant that incumbents and PCCs have agreed to engage in.

The challenge is about generous sharing of their resources with other churches (eg in training, events, support, mission teams) and gracious sending of people to revitalise nearby churches, plant into areas of significant new build, or (where they are super parishes) plant into unreached parts of their own parishes, as well as to produce vocations as part of their leadership pipelines. The sharing is generous in seeking to be a resource to others without expectation of return. The sending is gracious in seeking to work with the grain of what is already in the places to which people are sent rather than seeking to impose a model from outside. In some instances, a team may be sent temporarily for a period of time to catalyse new growth. In others, a team led by a curate at the end of their curacy may be sent permanently.