

## **Progress, industry, humanity**



A self-guided walk around Bradford

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**the stories of our landscapes  
discovered through walks**





**Royal  
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Cover image: Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara © Jenny Lunn RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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# Progress, Industry, Humanity

## Bradford's transformation from provincial town to international hub

Bradford is one of northern England's most multicultural cities, home to people from across the world. Yet 200 years ago it was a small provincial town. This change happened thanks to wool, sandstone and soft water. But that is only half the story.

Bradford's development has been influenced by waves of settlers from different countries. From German merchants who helped Bradford become the 'wool capital of the world' to South Asian migrants who helped the city become Britain's 'Curry Capital'.

The story of Bradford is summed up in the city motto: progress, industry, humanity. This walk explores these three themes and discovers a multitude of connections between Bradford and places around the world.

This walk was originally created in 2012 as part of a series that explored how our towns and cities have been shaped for many centuries by some of the 206 participating nations in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Top to bottom: Bradford Cathedral, detail from Quatrefoil for Delius sculpture, Gobind Marg road sign  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Bradford, West Yorkshire
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Train</b> - there are two rail stations, Bradford Interchange and Bradford Forster Square. Bradford Interchange is nearest to the start of the walk.</p> <p>Services run from Leeds, York, Liverpool, Newcastle, Manchester Victoria and London Euston.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - Bradford Interchange is a combined rail and bus station. Many local routes and long-distance coaches stop here.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Bradford is accessible by the M606 (1½ miles from the city centre) which link to the M1, A1 and M62. City centre parking is limited, charges apply.</p>
<b>Start point &amp; Postcode</b>	The front of Bradford City Hall, BD1 1HY
<b>Directions from railway station to start</b>	<i>From Bradford Interchange</i> - turn left onto Bridge Street. Continue for about 200 metres and Bradford City Hall will be on your left hand side.
<b>Finish point</b>	Centenary Square Memorial Garden, Bradford City Hall
<b>Onward journey</b>	To return to Bradford Interchange please use Direction 22 on page 35
<b>Distance</b>	2 ½ miles (optional 1 mile extension)

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**Level**

Moderate – some steep slopes on either side of the city centre, especially around Little Germany, the Cathedral and Bradford College.

**Conditions**

The route is mostly on pavements along urban roads. At the time of compiling the walk major building works were taking place at Forster Square - take care for site entrances and construction vehicles.

**Suitable for**

**Families** – mind children near busy roads around the city centre

**Refreshments**

There are many places to stop for food and drinks throughout the route, especially around the city centre

**Facilities**

Public toilets are available at the City Hall and Centenary Square at the start of the route

**Other info**

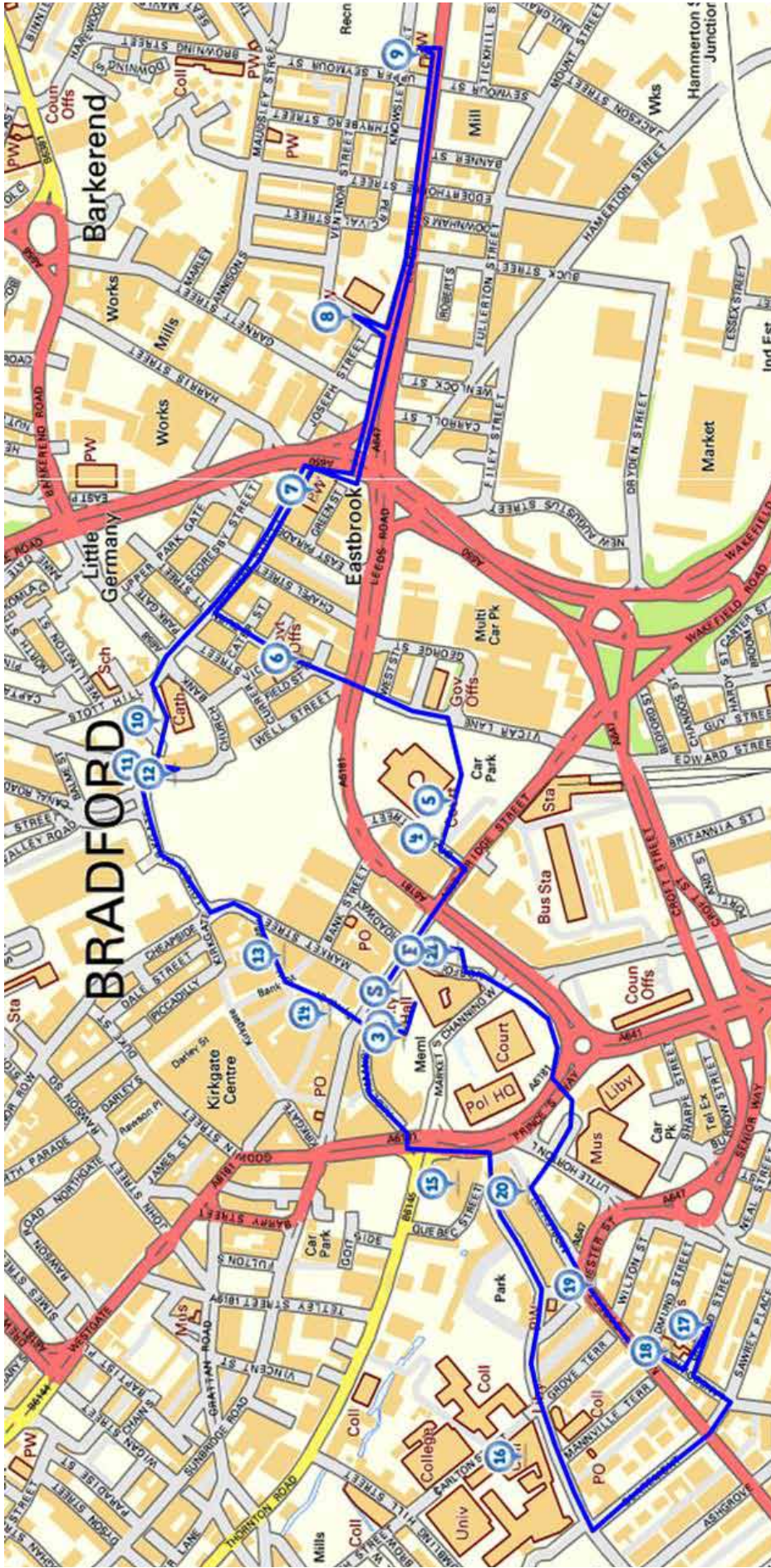
There are several religious buildings on the route. Most are open during the week to visitors, though please be respectful of their traditions of worship

To see the Richard Cobden statue, Waterstones at **The Wool Exchange** is open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5.30pm

**Tourist information**

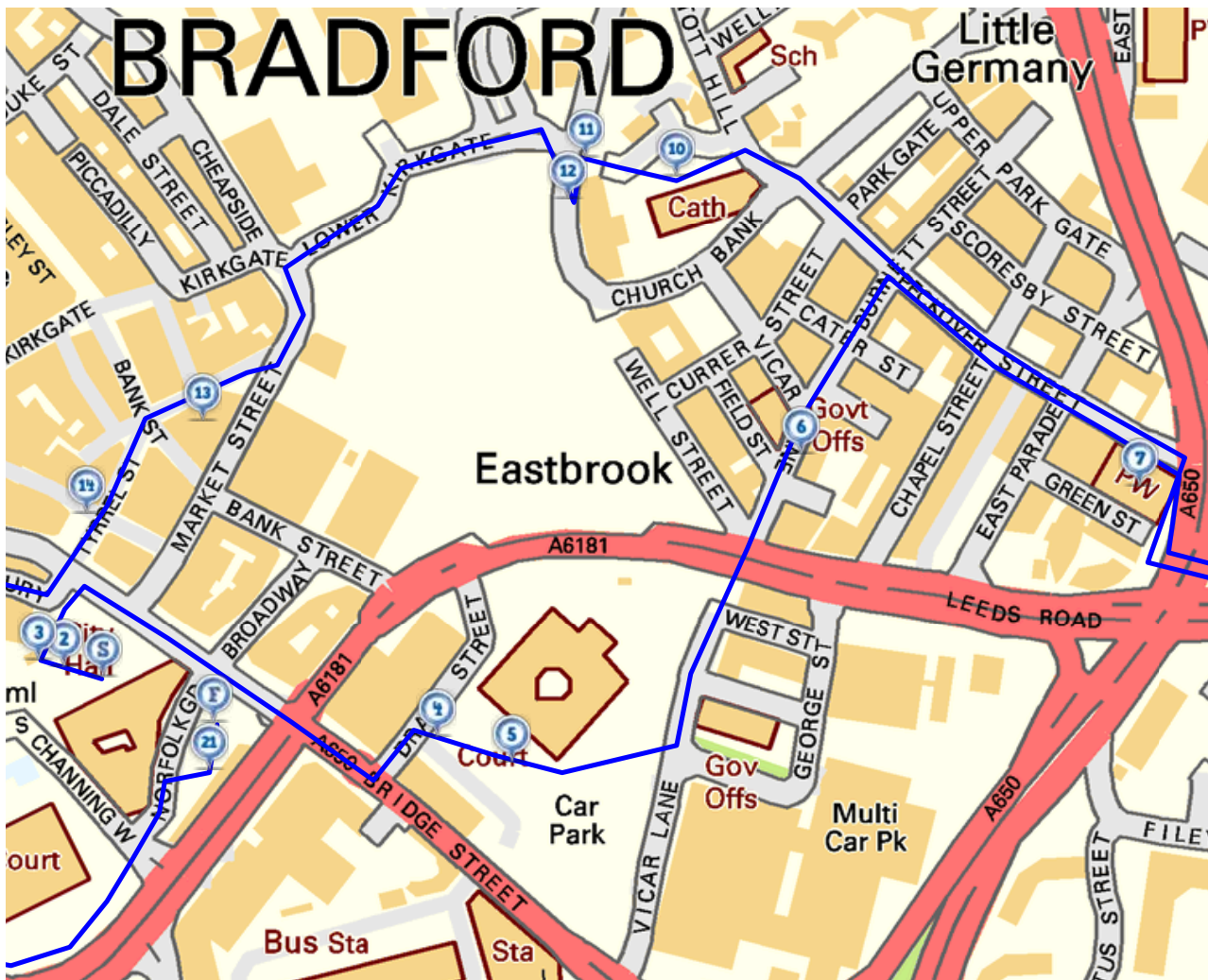
**Bradford Visitor Information Centre**, Britannia House, Broadway BD1 1JF (Tel: 01274 433678)

## Route overview



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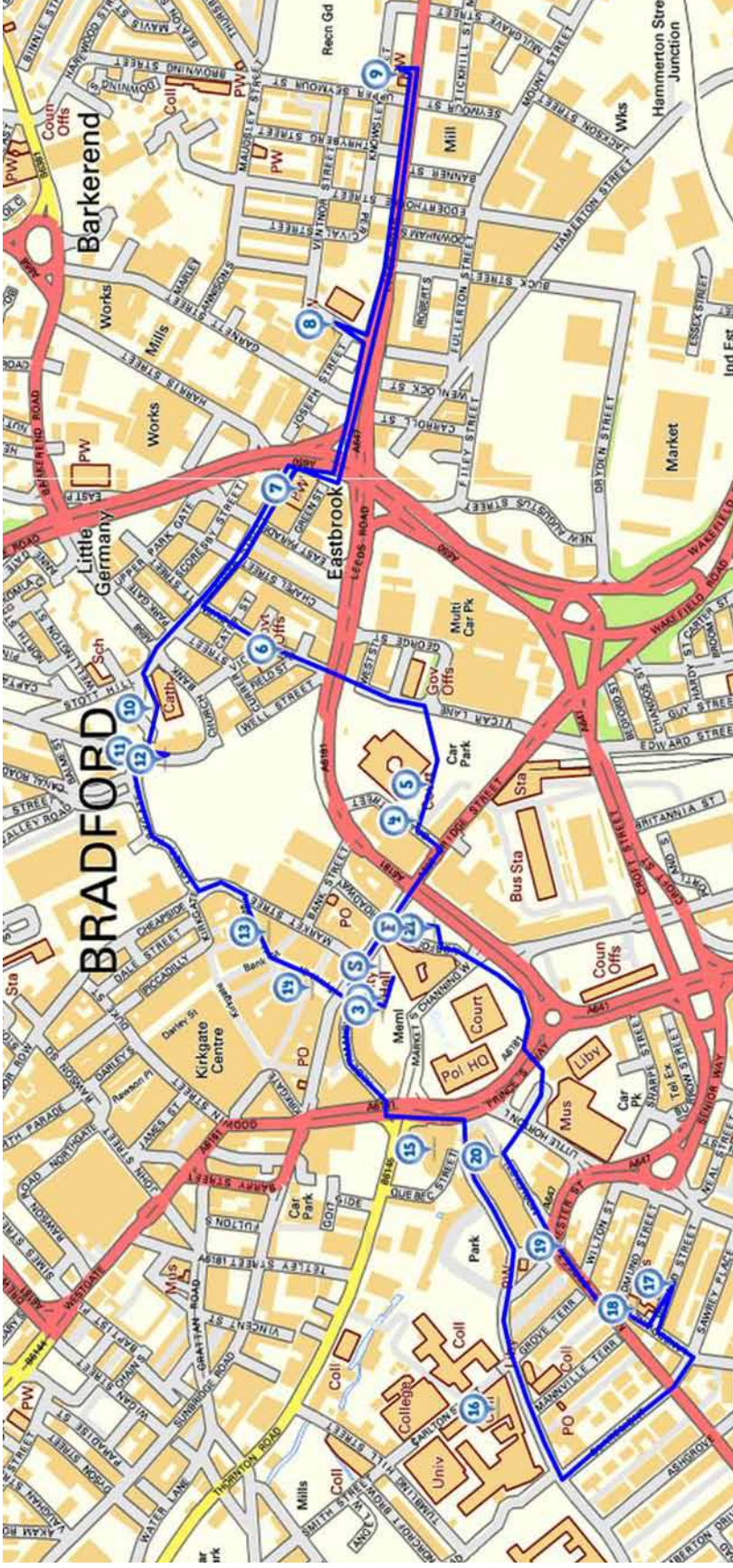
## Detail of the centre of the route



### Stopping points

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>S.</b> Centenary Square                | <b>10.</b> Bradford Cathedral               |
| <b>2.</b> Bradford City Hall              | <b>11.</b> View over former Forster Square  |
| <b>3.</b> Bradford City FC fire memorial  | <b>12.</b> Kala Sangram, St Peter's House   |
| <b>4.</b> Twin Town plaque                | <b>13.</b> The Wool Exchange                |
| <b>5.</b> Quatrefoil for Delius sculpture | <b>14.</b> Ivegate metal gates              |
| <b>6.</b> Bradford Chamber of Commerce    |   |
| <b>7.</b> Gurdwara Singh Sabha            | <b>21.</b> Centenary Square Memorial Garden |
|   | <b>F.</b> Centenary Square Memorial Garden  |

## Detail of the outskirts of the route (Stops 7 to 20)



### Stopping points

- 7.** Gurdwara Singh Sabba
- 8.** Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara
- 9.** Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir
- 10.** Bradford Cathedral
- 11.** View over former Forster Square
- 12.** Kala Sangram, St Peter's House
- 13.** The Wool Exchange
- 14.** Ivegate metal gates
- 15.** Alhambra Theatre
- 16.** Bradford College Old Building
- 17.** Jamia Masjid
- 18.** Our Lady of Czesnikowski Church
- 19.** Junction of Morley Street and Chester Street
- 20.** Queen Victoria statue, Morley Street



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## 1. Welcome to Bradford

### Centenary Square

Welcome to Bradford. Bradford is one of Britain's most multicultural cities but it wasn't always so large or diverse. Two things drove Bradford's development – industry and immigration.

On this walk you will discover how these two factors have changed Bradford from a provincial town to an international city. These international connections tell a story about the people, trades and goods that built this city.

The walk is about 2 ½ miles long with an optional extension up the Leeds Road of just under a mile. We start in Centenary Square at the front of City Hall and finish in the Memorial Garden at the back of City Hall.

The city centre part of the route is largely flat, but on either side of the centre are some short steep climbs. There are a number of busy roads to cross so please take care and always use pedestrian crossings. We hope you enjoy the walk.



View from the National Media Museum  
© Lynne Kirton via Geograph (Creative Commons Licence)

#### Directions 1

Remain outside the front of Bradford City Hall so you have a good view of the building.

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## 2. Italian inspiration

### Bradford City Hall

Our walk starts at Bradford City Hall, the physical and administrative heart of the city. When this building first opened in 1873 it was actually known as Bradford Town Hall because Bradford didn't receive city status until 1897, nearly 25 years later.

The new status of being a city reflected Bradford's growing importance as a centre for the textile industry, specifically the wool trade. The elaborate architecture of the Town Hall is a reflection of the wealth and status of the city at the time.

Take a look at the building. It is made of sandstone, a distinctive pale brown rock. You will see many buildings throughout this walk made of the same type of stone.



Bradford City Hall

© Jon Farman via Wikimedia (Creative Commons Licence)

The intricate carvings on the walls of the City Hall include statues of all the kings and queens of England up to Queen Victoria. See if you can spot the only one who is not a monarch: Oliver Cromwell. The Hall's dramatic design was inspired by buildings in Italy, in particular the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence.

Bradford City Hall is a good example of gothic revival architecture. This was a style popular in Victorian Britain during the 1850s and 1860s. The term 'gothic' comes from thirteenth century buildings of southern Europe. The Victorians admired these and reproduced the style in towns and cities throughout the Empire, hence the term gothic revival or neo-gothic.

Another example of neo-gothic architecture in Bradford is St George's Hall which we will walk past shortly. St George's Hall also has Italian influences. To celebrate the fiftieth birthday of the Hall in 1903 a new mosaic floor was unveiled which was laid by Venetian artists.

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At about the same time as City Hall and St George's Hall were built in Bradford, an Italian community was living here. There was high unemployment and overcrowding in their native land so many migrated. Many Italians arrived here in Bradford in the 1880s. Those who settled found work in textile mills and shops. Some became street performers.

By the time escapologist and illusionist Harry Houdini appeared at St George's Hall in February 1905 he was far from the only Italian entertainer in the city. The Italian community in Bradford is one of many immigrant groups that have been welcomed in this city. We shall see evidence of many more throughout the walk.



Oliver Cromwell statue, Bradford Town Hall  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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### Directions 2

Around Centenary Square in front of City Hall are a number of raised grassy areas. Just behind one of them is a metal sculpture with some human figures on top. Once you have found it stop there.

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### 3. United nations

## Bradford City Fire Memorial

This metal sculpture on the edge of Centenary Square is a memorial to the Bradford City Football Club fire. In May 1985 Bradford City were playing their last home game of the season when a fire broke out in the stadium. Unfortunately 56 people died and 265 were injured. The tragedy had a deep affect on the city. There was a memorial service at the football ground and this was given partly in Urdu and Punjabi as well as English to thank all the local South Asian people who had helped injured supporters.

This sculpture here was created by an artist named Joachim Reisner from the German town of Hamm. If you look around the base of the sculpture you will see the name Hamm alongside Bradford.

In fact Bradford is twinned with Hamm. You can even find a road called Hamm Strasse behind Forster Square railway station. There is actually an identical sculpture to this one in Hamm to symbolise the relationship between the towns.

There's more to the story too. The sculptor's wife, Joyce Reisner, grew up in Bradford and first met Joachim in Hamm when she was a school exchange student. Joyce was at the Bradford City stadium on the day of the fire and after the tragedy she suggested that there should be a memorial. Her husband's two sculptures became not only memorials to the tragedy but also symbols of Bradford's historical and cultural links with Germany.



Bradford City fire memorial  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

#### Directions 3

Facing City Hall make your way round the left of the building and along Bridge Street. Remember to look at the spectacular St George's Hall on the left hand side. Turn left immediately after St George's Hall into Drake Street. Stop at the silver plaque at the entrance to Exchange Square.

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## 4. Twins and sisters

### Twin town plaque, Exchange Square

We heard at the last stop that Bradford is twinned with Hamm in Germany. Bradford is also twinned with four other towns. Town twinning is a way to create economic and social links with other countries. Often a twinning relationship is based on something shared – a common trade, a similar geographical feature or a sporting connection. Town twinning also helps to promote international understanding at a local level particularly through business and school exchange visits.



The Stone Bridge in Skopje, one of Bradford's twin towns  
© Svilen Enev, Wikimedia (Creative Commons Licence)

Roubaix in northern France was twinned with Bradford in 1969 after an approach from their mayor. Like Bradford, Roubaix is famous for producing cloth. In particular Roubaix is known for a type of lightweight cloth used in sports clothing and cycling equipment.

In turn both Roubaix and Bradford are twinned with Monchengladbach in Germany. Monchengladbach was originally an abbey founded in 974 and in the Victorian era it was part of Prussia. The town twinned with Bradford in 1971.

Verviers in Belgium is another textiles hub. In the early twentieth century Verviers matched Bradford's claim to be the world's wool capital. The town's textiles industry began in the fifteenth century and, like Bradford, the town's fortunes were made by this industry. Part of the industry's growth was down to a Lancashire entrepreneur, William Cockerill, who established a textile machinery business in Verviers in 1799.

Another town twinned with Bradford is Skopje, the capital of Macedonia. Like Bradford, Skopje is also twinned with Roubaix. It also has a textiles industry although it relies on various other trades too. Skopje has been twinned with Bradford since 1987. Bradford also has Sister City Friendship Agreements with two other towns that are not shown on the plaque – Mirpur in Pakistan and Galway in Ireland.

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#### Directions 4

Go to the large metal leaf-shaped sculpture towards the centre of the square.

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## 5. Composing a journey

### Quatrefoil For Delius sculpture

This is a memorial to one of Bradford's most famous musical stars, the composer Frederick Delius.

Delius was born in Bradford in 1862 and christened Fritz Theodor Albert Delius. His parents were Germans of Dutch descent. His father Julius was one of Bradford's wealthy German wool merchants who had moved to the city in 1850; we will hear more about these German wool merchants at the next stop.



Detail from Quatrefoil for Delius  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Delius's parents intended him to follow a career in business but Fritz had a passion for music. In 1884 he was sent to Florida to manage an orange-growing plantation but he didn't like the job and spent most of his time enjoying American music including the songs of black plantation workers. After 18 months he moved to Virginia and began to teach music before studying it formally at the Leipzig Conservatorium in Germany.

After graduating Delius moved to Paris and began his professional composing career. He drew inspiration for his works from many international sources including literature and music from England, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway, black Americans and North American Indians. He was also inspired by various landscapes he visited, including Florida and the Scandinavian mountains. In 1903, he married Helene Jelka Rosen, a German painter, and the couple settled in Grez-sur-Loing near Fontainebleau in France.

Although settled in Europe, Delius anglicised his name from Fritz to Frederick as his reputation grew in Britain. When failing health meant he could no longer compose, his last works were completed by dictation to Eric Fenby, a young musician from Delius's native Yorkshire.

#### Directions 5

From the Delius sculpture, head towards the corner of the square at the right hand corner of the Law Courts building. Follow the path with the law courts on your left and the car part on your right. Turn left onto Vicar Lane. Cross the busy Leeds Road at the pedestrian crossing and continue straight up Vicar Lane. Stop by the second building on the right – Bradford Chamber of Commerce.

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## 6. Little Germany

### Bradford Chamber of Commerce, Vicar Lane

This area of Bradford is known as 'Little Germany'. The name comes from the German textile merchants who developed this district in the late 1850s. Many of the buildings around you were originally mills and wool warehouses.

Imported wool would have been stored here before use in the mills and finished cloth would have been stored here before export overseas. Between 1875 and 1914, 193 wool warehouses were built in Bradford. Today 85 of them remain and, due to their historic importance, 55 of them are Grade II listed.



Bradford Chamber of Commerce doorway, Vicar Lane  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Many of the merchants who established Little Germany were Jewish. As a result Bradford's Jewish community became quite prominent in the nineteenth century. In 1881 some of the German merchants established a Reform synagogue in the district of Manningham. An Orthodox synagogue was also established in Manningham in 1906. Bradford is actually unusual for having a Reform synagogue established before an Orthodox one.



Curren Street, Little Germany  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

In recent years Bradford's Jewish population has largely migrated to Leeds and the Orthodox synagogue building closed in 1970.

Little Germany remains a business district. There are an estimated 110 businesses here although these are very different from the Victorian era and many of the former warehouses are now open-plan offices.

Over the coming years there are plans to regenerate this area. Original building facades will be restored while insides will become shops, hotels and even luxury flats. The Little Germany district is already becoming a historic attraction with an estimated 100,000 visitors each year.



Building façade, Little Germany  
Jenny Lunn © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Do take time to explore these streets. The impressive buildings are full of intricate details in the stone work. Many have green plaques on their walls indicating the companies that were located there. See how many international links you can find – look out for the companies that traded with China, America and the Middle East.

Look out for a building that once belonged to Delius's father, Julius, who we mentioned at the last stop. Also keep an eye out for the name Behrens. You will hear more about this company later in the walk.

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### Directions 6

From the Bradford Chamber of Commerce on Vicar Lane, make your way up to Peckover Street. Turn right along Peckover Street to the end where it meets the busy dual carriageway. Look at the large building on the corner.



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## 7. From Sion to Sikh

### Gurdwara Singh Sabha

At the last stop you heard how the Jewish community has declined here in Bradford yet other religious communities have grown. Bradford is home to a prominent number of Sikhs and this building on the edge of Little Germany is a gurdwara, a Sikh place of worship. The word gurdwara means 'House of God'. Gurdwaras serve as both places of worship and cultural community centres.

Sikhs originate from the Punjab, an area now partly in India and partly in Pakistan. The UK has the second largest Sikh community in the world after India.



Gurdwara Singh Sabha  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Many of Bradford's Sikhs arrived in the city after the Second World War, often after service in the British Indian Army. The first gurdwara in Bradford was founded in 1964 in Garnett Street. During that time local Sikhs raised funds for a purpose-built gurdwara. There are now six gurdwaras in Bradford. Every year there is a Sikh festival called Vaisakhi when Sikhs from across Bradford travel to each gurdwara in the city in a procession called a 'nagar kirtan'.

Look closely at the top of the building and you will see that it was originally Sion Jubilee Chapel dating back to 1873. Change in the uses of religious buildings is not unusual. Remember the Orthodox Synagogue mentioned at the previous stop? It has since become the Al' Mumin Primary School, an Islamic school. Elsewhere on this walk you will see other buildings that have changed use over the years from one community to another.

You now have the option to explore some more religious buildings nearby. Just a few minutes away is a purpose-built Sikh gurdwara and five minutes further from that is a Hindu temple. It's about half a mile there and back. To visit them and find out more simply follow the next set of directions. If you don't have time, skip forward to the directions at the end of Stop 9.

#### Directions 7

To visit the other Sikh gurdwara and the Hindu mandir, cross the dual carriageway using the pedestrian crossings and make your way up Leeds Road. A short distance on the left is a road called Gobind Marg. Turn left here and the gurdwara is on the right.

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## 8. A community landmark

### Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara

We heard earlier that Bradford has six gurdwaras for the Sikh community. Three are in this Leeds Road area. This is the largest and oldest gurdwara in Bradford, Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara. Unlike at the previous stop, which was an existing building converted into a Sikh temple, we are now at a purpose-built gurdwara.

This gurdwara is named after the tenth guru of Sikhism, Guru Gobind Singh. Gobind Singh was born in 1666 in Patna in India. He was a warrior and a skilled horseman as well as a poet and philosopher.



Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara  
Jenny Lunn © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

He was responsible for forming Khalsa, the religious order of baptised Sikhs. At the side of the building alongside Leeds Road you will find a special monument to the Khalsa.

This gurdwara opened in 1972 and was extended in 1983 – look for the dedication stones. This side road past the gurdwara was originally called Malvern Street but it was renamed Gobind Marg in 1999 – marg means path or street in the Sanskrit language.

Purpose-built buildings like this are landmarks, both physically and historically. They show how a community has settled, bringing their beliefs and customs to the city. The gurdwara is open to visitors though you will need to observe Sikh customs. Please remove your shoes, keep your head covered – this applies to men and women – and be prepared to sit on the floor.

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#### Directions 8

Continue along Leeds Road for some distance as far as the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir on the left. You can go up the steps to the car park and main entrance.

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## 9. From families in front rooms to monarchs in mandirs

### Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir

Here is another building belonging to one of Bradford's more recent immigrant communities, the Hindus. Hinduism is a religious and cultural system originating in India. In fact around 80 per cent of the world's Hindus live in India with other significant populations in Nepal, Bangladesh and Bali. There are about 600,000 Hindus in the UK some of whom live in Bradford.

Bradford's Hindu community started from a small number of families. They settled in the Gladstone Street area in the 1960s. Religious ceremonies were held in family homes on a small scale.



Signage at Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir  
Jenny Lunn © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Forty years later Bradford's Hindu population had expanded to somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000. This temple – the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir – is the largest Hindu temple in northern England. Like the Sikh gurdwara that we saw at the previous stop, this new temple was purpose-built to accommodate the growing community.

This mandir is named after the Hindu deity Lakshmi who is associated with wealth and prosperity. The temple is unusual in that it contains many different Hindu deities rather than just one as is the norm in India. This reflects the diversity among the Hindu community in Bradford.

In 2007, before it officially opened, the Queen and Prince Phillip visited. So Hinduism has grown in Bradford from families gathering in front rooms to monarchs visiting mandirs!

#### Directions 9

Retrace your steps back down Leeds Road to the dual carriageway. Cross over the road in front of Sing Sabha gurdwara where we stopped earlier and retrace your steps along Peckover Street. Where it meets Barkerend Road, the back of the cathedral should be diagonally opposite. Go straight across into Stott Hill and enter Cathedral Close through the gate. The entrance to the cathedral is on the left hand side.

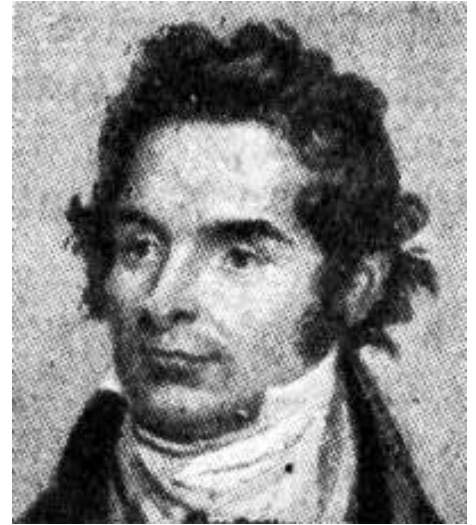
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## 10. Arctic and Anti-Bolshevik circles

### Bradford Cathedral

From one of Bradford's newest religious buildings at the previous stop, we come to its oldest. Bradford Cathedral has its origins in the fifteenth century and is a treasure trove of local history. The clock tower is the oldest public clock in Bradford. The walls are 11 feet thick in places and proved an effective defence during the English Civil War.

Inside churches and cathedrals you can often find connections between a community and other parts of the world. Here at Bradford Cathedral are a range of international links. Through the entrance and immediately on the right is the Memorial Window. The stained glass commemorates First World War battles that took the lives of servicemen from the West Yorkshire Regiment.



William Scoresby circa 1810  
Wikimedia (Creative Commons Licence)

Below and beside the window are memorials to conflicts including Flanders, Dunkirk, Burma and Singapore. On the same wall but further down the church towards the altar is an interesting plaque dedicated to the union of anti-Bolshevik countries in the Eastern Bloc, including Belarus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and the Ukraine.

Do have a look around the cathedral but before you leave, have a look in the porch for a plaque to the former vicar, William Scoresby. Before becoming Vicar of Bradford he was an Arctic explorer! His father made a fortune in Arctic whale fishery. William went on his first voyage with his father at the age of eleven and later became his father's constant companion and chief officer of the whaling boat Resolution.

In 1806 he reached 81°30' North, at that time the highest northern latitude attained in the eastern hemisphere. He undertook various scientific observations of the meteorology and natural history of the Polar Regions. During his voyage of 1822 Scoresby surveyed and charted with remarkable accuracy 400 miles of the east coast of Greenland. He contributed to the first real geographical knowledge of the area. But this was the last of his Arctic voyages. Unfortunately his wife died while he was away and after that he decided to enter the church.

#### Directions 10

When you have finished exploring the Cathedral, turn left out of the entrance and follow the path. At the wall, turn right and follow the footpath to the large stone staircase. Stop half way down and lookout over the city.

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## 11. Vanishing point

### Staircase to Bradford Cathedral

From here on the stone staircase there is a good view over the wall of Bradford city centre. At the time we researched this walk, the large site directly in front of this viewpoint had been cleared for a new development. But it used to be part of a large urban garden called Forster Square.

If you arrived in Bradford today by train then you might have arrived at Forster Square station nearby. Forster Square and station were named after William Edward Forster who was a Victorian industrialist and philanthropist.



Forster Square in the 1950s  
Courtesy of Bradford Telegraph and Argus  
[www.telegraphandargus.co.uk](http://www.telegraphandargus.co.uk)

Forster was Bradford's MP from 1861 to 1882. As a young man he helped raise funds for victims of the Irish potato famine. Concerned at their plight, Forster then dedicated his career to helping other people. For example, he played an instrumental role in drafting the 1870 Elementary Education Act. He was also briefly Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and travelled widely.

In 1880 he was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland but fell into conflict with the emerging Irish independence movement. He survived several assassination attempts and then resigned after two years. His successor was murdered within a week. Forster's political career, especially his relationship with Ireland, illustrates the period when Britain's international status declined. The 2004 demolition of the square that bore his name becomes rather poignant.

#### Directions 11

Go down to the bottom of the stone staircase and turn left. Stop outside the first building which is St Peter's House. You may want to cross to the opposite side of the road for a better view of the building.

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## 12. Meeting point

### St Peter's House

Next to Bradford Cathedral is St Peter's House. It was built in 1887 and was originally Bradford's main post office. The lease belongs to the Cathedral who planned to use the building as a museum of religion. But the project was not a success and folded after a year, leaving the Cathedral nearly bankrupt.

So since 2006 St Peter's House has been the home of Kala Sangam, a South Asian arts organisation. Their name comes from Sanskrit – kala means 'art' and sangam means 'meeting point'. Kala Sangam promotes South Asian arts including dance, music, theatre, poetry and crafts.



Bradford Mela, Peel Park

© Rob Glover [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) (Creative Commons Licence)

Although the centre celebrates the culture of the people from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh who live in Bradford, people of all races and religious background are welcome to participate in its activities.

South Asian culture and arts are very vibrant in Bradford. In 1988 Bradford was the first city in Europe to hold a mela, a festival of Asian culture. It is now one of Bradford's largest public events. And if you visit the city art gallery, Cartwright Hall, alongside Old Masters and established Western artists, the collection includes many contemporary South Asian pieces. Exhibits include Islamic calligraphy, phulkari illustrated textiles and contemporary Sikh art, including a portrait of Guru Nanak.

#### Directions 12

Turn back past the bottom of the Cathedral staircase and take the first road on the left which is Lower Kirkgate. Follow the road round passing the Midland Hotel. At the junction keep left into Market Street. In front of you is the triangular former Wool Exchange which is now a Waterstones bookshop. Stop outside.

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## 13. The world's wool capital

### The Wool Exchange

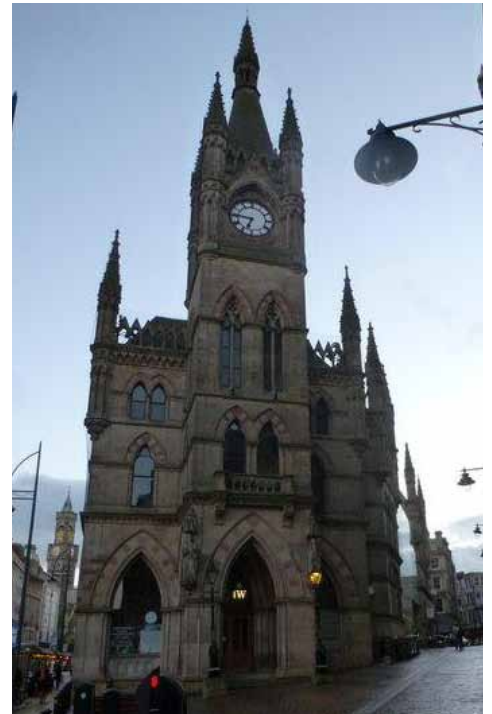
Here we are at the Wool Exchange. This building is the icon of Bradford's development. Bradford's growth from provincial market town to major industrial city was thanks to wool.

Wool spinning and weaving had long been traditional jobs in this area and Bradford had become particularly known for making worsted cloth. But from the early nineteenth century the industry was scaled up. Huge textile factories were built that used new industrial production techniques.

By 1841 there were 38 woollen mills in Bradford and the town produced an estimated two thirds of England's wool. With the rise in trade Bradford's population shot up as well. In the first half of the nineteenth century the town grew more than fifteen-fold from just 6,400 to 104,000 people.

Most of the wool that was imported into Britain during this period came from Australia and New Zealand. There were also imports from South Africa, South America, China and the Middle East that specialised in cashmere, camel hair and goat hair.

Sir Titus Salt, who was one of Bradford's most successful Victorian wool merchants, made his fortune from Peruvian alpaca wool. He found an unwanted store of it sitting in a Liverpool warehouse and he used this wool to create an especially fine cloth. With wool imported into Bradford from across the globe, the town became known as the world's wool capital.



The Wool Exchange  
© Chris Downer via Geograph (Creative Commons Licence)



Wool Exchange logo  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

On the outside of the Wool Exchange are busts of notable merchants, inventors and politicians plus several New World explorers including Raleigh, Drake, Cook and Columbus.

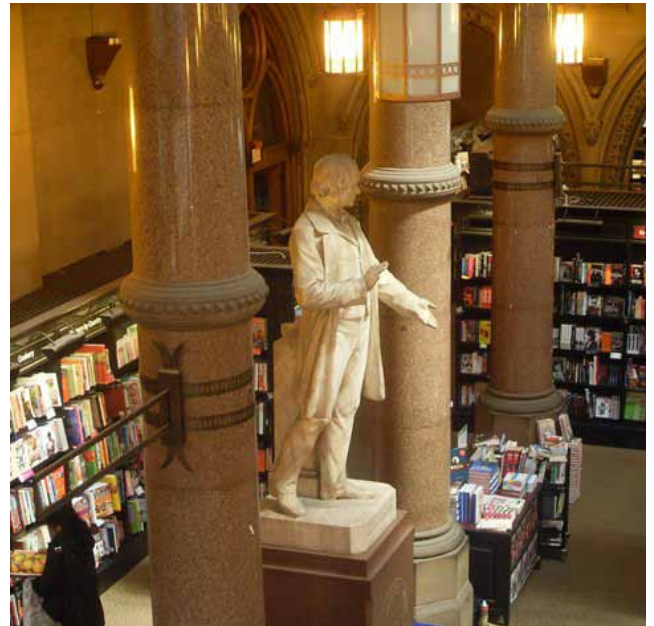
The Wool Exchange was built between 1864 and 1867 while Bradford was still expanding rapidly. The building's elaborate design was a deliberate attempt to show the importance and wealth that wool had brought to Bradford. It was built in a mixture of Italian and Flemish styles. This was fitting as many of the wool traders in Bradford were Flemish. A fictional example is Robert Gerard Moore, the mill owner from Antwerp in Charlotte Bronte's novel *Shirley*.

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Wool trading in the Exchange was carried out by verbal agreements, although traders had to register with a membership committee before they were allowed to work. Being a member of the Wool Exchange carried great social prestige in the city. Wool trading stopped in the Exchange in the 1960s and the building is now a shop. Do go inside and have a look at the original and elaborate fittings.



The elaborate roof inside the Wool Exchange  
© Linda Spashett via Wikimedia (Creative Commons Licence)



Richard Cobden statue  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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### Directions 13

From the Wool Exchange go along pedestrianised Tyrell Street. Take the first road on the right, which is Ivegata. Stop when you reach the large set of metal gates.



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## 14. Curry capital

### Bottom of Ivegate

From the world's wool capital we now arrive at England's curry capital. We are standing in Ivegate which is also the start of an area known as the World Mile.

If you continue up Ivegate and onto Westgate, along this stretch are over 75 international shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. Establishments from across the globe include most of South Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe.

At the heart of the World Mile are South Asian businesses which is not surprising since over a quarter of Bradford's population is from an Asian background.



Lamb saag and chicken korma, Indian dishes common in Bradford  
© Alpha [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) (Creative Commons Licence)

Bradford boasts the UK's largest Asian department store – Bombay Stores in Shearbridge Road. And South Asian cuisine is so popular here that Bradford was awarded the title of England's Curry Capital 2010 and 2011.

#### Directions 14

Continue along Tyrell Street then straight across around the curving new development opposite the City Hall. Cross Princes Way and stop outside the front entrance of the Alhambra Theatre.

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## 15. A palace for the people

### Alhambra Theatre

This is one of Bradford's most distinctive buildings and another one imitating foreign architecture. The Alhambra Theatre is one of the largest theatre venues in Yorkshire and hosts a variety of events including concerts, plays, musicals, opera, comedy and ballet. It was built in 1914 at a cost of £20,000.

The name Alhambra is suggestive of Spain, in particular the fourteenth century Moorish palace in Granada. 'Alhambra' derives from the Arabic *kal-el-at-ambra* which means 'red domed castle'. The Alhambra palace is made from red clay. A Moorish palace, it was built for Muslim Emirs who ruled Spain at the time.



Alhambra Theatre  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Constantly added to and redecorated throughout the centuries its décor includes elements of Moorish, Jewish and Christian art. By the nineteenth century the palace lay in ruins until it was 'found' by European travellers and scholars. Restoration work began soon after and the Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions. It has inspired generations of artists and writers and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The name and the looks of the palace would therefore have been fashionable when Bradford's theatre was being built. Beyond fashion though, there is something quite pleasing about the name as it suggests successions of cultures and communities.

In fact Bradford's Spanish community is very small. In 1937 4,000 Basque children arrived in the city to escape Fascist rule. Of these children an estimated 250 went on to settle in Bradford, though most of the Basque community either moved on or were absorbed into the already diverse population. Whereas Bradford's Italian community grew, the Spanish all but disappeared.

#### Directions 15

Walk up the pedestrianised street to the right of the Alhambra and continue onto Great Horton Road. Keep going uphill until you reach Bradford College. Take your time as the climb is quite steep. Stop outside the College Old Building - the one with the clock tower on the right hand side.

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## 16. When old was new

### Bradford College Old Building

We have already heard about how Bradford boomed in the nineteenth century. A vast semi-skilled and skilled workforce was needed to provide labour in the expanding woollen industry. But while Bradford was one of the most productive towns in Britain, it was also one of the most polluted.

The mills belched sulphuric smoke. Cholera outbreaks were regular. Ill health was a big problem among the workforce. Fortunately many of the textiles merchants who had built Bradford's industry were philanthropists and they helped people less fortunate than themselves to improve their skills and quality of life.



Bradford College Old Building  
© Stanley Walker via Geograph (Creative Commons Licence)

And this building is a good example of what they did. A group of Bradford's prominent industrialists recognised that founding a school to train workers for the mills could improve the city's health and employment levels. Using their wealth and influence the merchants established Bradford Technical School, now Bradford College. The building cost £23,500, had classrooms for 700 students and a 1,500 seat lecture room. Like the City Hall and St George's Hall it was designed in the then fashionable Italian style. It was opened in October 1871 by William Edward Forster, whom we heard about earlier.

One of the philanthropists who helped found the Technical School was Jacob Behrens. Behrens was a prominent figure in Bradford. From German descent, he moved to the town in 1838. His firm, Behrens & Sons, became the first textile exporter in Bradford and grew internationally with branches in Calcutta and Shanghai. The company still operates today as Behrens Group, although they are based in Manchester.

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As well as the Technical School, Behrens helped to establish Bradford's Eye and Ear Hospital and the city's Chamber of Commerce, which we stopped at earlier in Little Germany. He was an expert on international trade tariffs and was knighted in 1882 for improving trade relationships with France. Behrens was also a member of the Bradford Philosophical Society and Bradford's Schiller Institute, a prestigious club attended by the city's most influential German residents. The Institute was based in Darley Street up until 1910 and a statue of Schiller can still be seen there.

The Technical School grew and expanded on this site throughout the twentieth century. The original building is now known as the Old Building. Today Bradford College helps over 23,000 students each year. It's the fourth largest college in the country and has students from across the world. The College's success is yet another reflection of Bradford's international history and identity.



Bradford College Old Building tower  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

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### Directions 16

Continue a short way up Great Horton Road then turn left into Claremont. At the junction with Morley Street go straight across into Sawrey Place. Take the first left and then the first right into Howard Street. Stop outside house Number 32.

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## 17. Small beginnings

### Jamia Masjid

The mosque here at 32 Howard Street is the oldest one in West Yorkshire. Many – but by no means all – of Bradford’s Muslims originate from Pakistan. Pakistanis began to settle in Bradford from the 1950s and the city’s first mosque was formed in 1958 in this terraced house.

There are now over 80 mosques in Bradford of varying shape and size. Many are based in adapted existing buildings such as disused shops, cinemas, warehouses and churches. There are also 12 purpose-built mosques. The largest is the Hanfia Masjid in Manningham.

From various vantage points you can also see the 8-metre dome of the Al Mahdi mosque on a hill outside the city centre. It was built in 2008 and can accommodate up to 2,000 worshippers.



The Al Mahdi mosque  
© Stephen Armstrong via Geograph (Creative Commons Licence)



Religious leaders at the opening of the Al Mahdi mosque, 2008  
Courtesy of Bradford Telegraph and Argus  
[www.telegraphandargus.co.uk](http://www.telegraphandargus.co.uk)

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#### Directions 17

Retrace your steps along Howard Street and then turn right into Lansdowne Place. Immediately on the right is a church. Stop there.

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## 18. Eastern promise

### Our Lady of Czesnikowski Church

As well as a large South Asian population, Bradford also has a history of European settlers. We've already heard about Germans and Italians who settled here during different periods. There were also Belgian refugees who came after Germany's invasion of Belgium in the First World War.

The aftermath of the Second World War brought a large number of displaced Central and Eastern Europeans. They included 4,000 Poles, 3,400 Ukrainians, 1,200 Yugoslavians and smaller groups from Hungary, Austria, Germany, Byelorussia and the Baltic states.



Flags outside Our Lady of Czesnikowski Church  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Many were former servicemen or liberated prisoners of war. Granted European Volunteer Worker status, they helped to cover local labour shortages, particularly in the textile factories. As they settled, each immigrant group formed distinct communities across Bradford. New churches, social clubs and food stores appeared. A good example of such a community can be found here in Lansdowne Place.

Many of the Polish people who arrived in Bradford after the war were Catholic. Without a Polish-speaking church to go to, they worshipped at existing local churches. A Polish Parish was established in 1948 but a church building wasn't officially acquired until 1971. This building was renamed Our Lady of Czesnikowski Church and Bradford's Polish community finally had their own place of worship.

Around the corner in Edmund Street is the Polish Community Centre which opened in 1986 and the Polish Parish Club. The Club is a vibrant source of community activity. The Polish settlers are yet another example of Bradford's immigrant communities contributing to the city's diversity.

#### Directions 18

From the church go back to Morley Road and go downhill towards the city centre. As you walk, look around at all the different shops in the nearby streets. Stop at the junction of Chester Street.

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## 19. World corner

### Junction of Morley Street and Chester Street

Like the World Mile on the other side of the city centre, we are now in another of Bradford's multicultural pockets. Look around at the shop signs and names.

There are foods and services from all over the world – India and Pakistan, China and Thailand, Russia and Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania, Italy and Portugal, Cuba... see how many others you can spot. Not so much every corner of the world as the world on a corner!



Some of the shop signs in Morley Street and Chester Street  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Bradford has sometimes been described as a parallel city. This means a city where different ethnic groups exist independently.

So Bradford's different ethnic communities are largely localised. Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jews and Eastern Europeans tend to settle in different neighbourhoods. Overall, though, this diversity of communities has shaped Bradford's culture and identity.

As you continue back to the city centre see how many countries, cultures and languages you can spot on shop and restaurant signs.

#### Directions 19

Continue down Morley Street with the side of the Alhambra Theatre on your left. On the right hand side is a statue of Queen Victoria. Stop in front of the statue.

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## 20. Empress of India

### Queen Victoria statue

This statue of Queen Victoria was unveiled in 1904, three years after her death. It is made of bronze, weighs three tonnes and stands twelve feet high. It is a triumphant celebration of Victoria's life as Queen. And not just the Queen of England. She was also the Empress of India.

Queen Victoria had taken the title Empress of India in 1876 as Britain was consolidating its political and economic interests on the Indian subcontinent. At the time India comprised present-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Standing well above ground and flanked by a pair of lions, the statue shows Victoria at the height of her reign. She is in full regalia, just as she appeared at her first Jubilee in 1887. It is symbolic of Britain's power and influence in its Empire across the globe.

This statue was unveiled by the then Prince of Wales, who later became King George V. Having a statue like this in Bradford reflects the city's importance in the Victorian era.

After Victoria's death, her son Edward VII in turn became 'Emperor of India'. The title became increasingly controversial and was formally dropped soon after India gained independence in 1947. Independence, however, wasn't the end of the story. As we heard earlier many South Asians chose to settle in Britain rather than stay in newly-independent India or Pakistan.



"New crowns for old ones!"

Cartoon showing Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli giving Queen Victoria the Empress of India title  
Wikimedia (Creative Commons Licence)

#### Directions 20

From the statue walk in front of the National Media Museum. Cross the busy Princes Way either at the pedestrian crossing or by using the underpass. Go round the Magistrates Court and then to the back of City Hall. Stop in the garden stop with memorial stones in it.



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## 21. City of Sanctuary

### Centenary Square Memorial Garden

Here at the back of City Hall is the Memorial Garden. This garden contains plaques, statues and sculptures that are memorials to the victims of conflict, as well as various industrial disasters and natural catastrophes – Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Sarajevo, Bhopal and Chernobyl, and the 1923 Ukrainian Famine.

Look out for the Peace plaque, a circle in the ground representing Bradford as a 'City of Peace'. The City of Peace was an initiative started in the 1990s. It involves different groups across the city working to combat racism, campaign for disarmament and improve the environment. The movement's Mission Statement is: "to coordinate, support and develop Bradford as a city for peace which celebrates and promotes peaceful relationships."



Bradford Refugee Week notice board  
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Bradford was then awarded 'City of Sanctuary' status in November 2010. The City of Sanctuary movement is a UK wide group that aims to "create a network of towns and cities throughout the country which are proud to be places of safety, and which include people seeking sanctuary fully in the life of their communities." City of Sanctuary encourages councils, community groups, religious organisations, businesses and residents to make their cities safer places to live, especially for refugees and asylum seekers. Since the millennium Bradford has welcomed asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Zimbabwe, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bradford is only the third city in the UK to be awarded City of Sanctuary status. The first two were Sheffield and Swansea. Some 126 organisations are involved across cultural and religious boundaries. Will Sutcliffe, chairman of Bradford's City of Sanctuary project said; "People who have fled for their lives from some of the worst trouble spots in the world are more likely to find a welcome and help in Bradford than in many other cities. Bradford can stand up and be proud of itself."

#### Directions 21

Remain in the garden.

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## 22. A multicultural city

### Centenary Square Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden with its international commemorations is an appropriate place to finish the walk. We have seen how industry transformed Bradford from a provincial town to the world capital of wool.

Supporting the trade were investors, innovators and immigrants from many different countries. We have seen the buildings associated with the industry such as the wool exchange and the warehouses, as well as the way in which elaborate architecture was used to reflect the city's wealth and status, such as the city hall and technical college.



Bradford City Centre  
© Jon Farman via Wikimedia (Creative Commons Licence)

Although the textile industry declined in the twentieth century, Bradford continued to receive different waves of immigrants from across the world. In more recent years it has welcomed asylum seekers from war-torn countries. As a result Bradford today is a vibrant multicultural and multi-faith city. We have seen evidence of this in places of worship, street names, restaurants and shops. Bradford's various immigrant communities have contributed significantly to the city's industry, identity, physical landscape and culture.

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## Credits

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