



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIGGEST-EVER LGBT+ CHRISTMAS SERVICE CELEBRATED IN MANCHESTER

Manchester, UK / 19th December 2023 - The Proud Trust last night held a record-breaking festive service at Manchester Cathedral for the city's LGBT+ community.

It was standing room only at Manchester Cathedral on Monday night as the city's LGBT+ community joined together to celebrate Christmas, with a message of hope and unity. The event was organised by The Proud Trust, in partnership with other local LGBT+ charities AKT, George House Trust, the LGBT Foundation, Sparkle and Manchester Pride. The aim of the event is to create an inclusive service for LGBT+ people of faith who may be excluded by some churches. This annual celebration is now in its fourth year, with tonight's service being the biggest so far, doubling the number of tickets reserved compared with last year.

"It's truly the spirit of Christmas! It's an inclusive event, which is what me and my family are all about. So we're thrilled to be here, we're having a great time!"
- An audience member

"(Events like this) mean the world because it means that this sacred place is seen as a place for everybody. It's God's space and it includes everybody and welcomes everybody. This (festive celebration) is a wonderful way in which we can show that"
- Archdeacon David Sharples

The welcoming and joyful festive service featured performances from Jsky, Alexander Stewart and SHE Choir as well as readings and reflections from the Archdeacon and representatives from the charities involved. The event was attended by civic leaders from across Greater Manchester as well as community members and supporters. The theme of the night was togetherness, with many speakers touching on the need to support one another. At a time of year when

many LGBT+ people can feel isolated, this was a beautiful example of community and inclusivity.

Notes to Editors

About The Proud Trust

The Proud Trust is an LGBT+ youth charity empowering young people to be proud of who they are. The Proud Trust delivers youth work and one-to-one support across Greater Manchester and Cheshire. The charity also runs The Rainbow Flag Award national training and inclusion programme for schools, Proud Connections Live Chat, and manages Manchester's LGBT+ Centre, The Proud Place.

www.theproudtrust.org

Press Info

Experts from The Proud Trust are available for interview on request.

[Click here](#) to access the Proud Trust's media image bank.

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