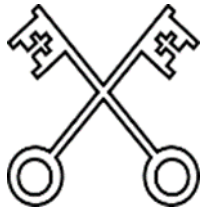


BRADFORD CATHEDRAL

Education Department

**Creative and Descriptive
Writing Ideas
KS2-KS4**





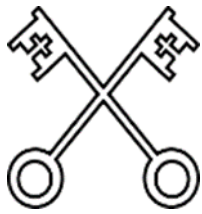
CONTENTS

1) Descriptive Writing

2) Creative Writing

3) Acrostic Poems





1) Descriptive Writing

Write a detailed, descriptive piece about the oldest building in Bradford, which has played an important role in Bradford's history.

Imagine yourself standing outside or inside the building and use the five senses to describe it.

WORD BANK

Inside:

aisle altar arches bells cathedra (bishop's throne)
chapel choir stalls church congregation font lectern
memorials monuments nave organ pillars pulpit
reflections Saint Peter shields stained glass windows

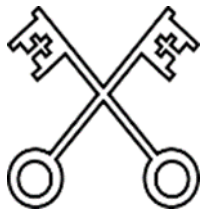
Outside:

architecture gravestones hillside stone mason tower

Other words:

ancient Anglo-Saxon building Christian colourful community
echoing gleaming golden height historical holy
impressive landmark light peaceful polished religious
remembrance rough smooth spacious spiritual worn





2a) Write a story which takes place in or around the Cathedral.

Remember that:

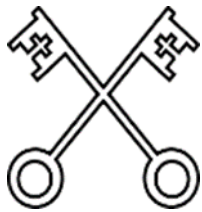
- the first Christians came to this site in Saxon times and eventually built a small church built of wood or wattle
- there was a stone preaching cross on the hillside before the first church was built and Bradford Beck was at the bottom of the hill
- the second church was burnt down by Scottish raiders around 1311 when they raided Bradford
- the third church (the one you can see today) has been standing there since 1458
- the people of Bradford (on the Parliamentary side) hung woolsacks around the Tower to protect it from Royalist cannons in 1642-3 during the English Civil War
- people have come together at the Cathedral during times of national sadness and disaster: the bells rang out at the end of the First and Second World Wars etc.

You could set your story during one of these times or you might have a completely different idea of your own.

Remember to make the Cathedral an important “character” in your story...

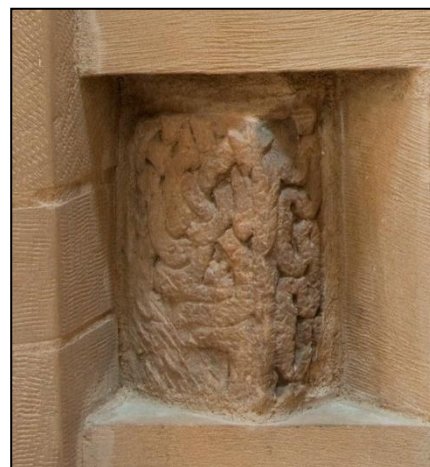
- *What is happening there?*
- *How do the characters feel about the Cathedral?*
- *How will you describe it for the readers in your story?*



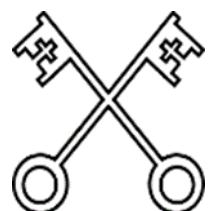


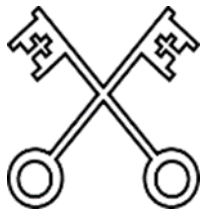
2b) Write a story inspired by one of these pictures of places or objects inside the Cathedral

- **The Anglo-Saxon stone fragments that are believed to have once belonged to preaching crosses on this holy site**



- **Scene from the WWI Window showing Bradford men marching off to the war. Here is the moment they arrive in France at night and disembark (get off) the boat.**



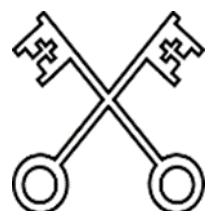
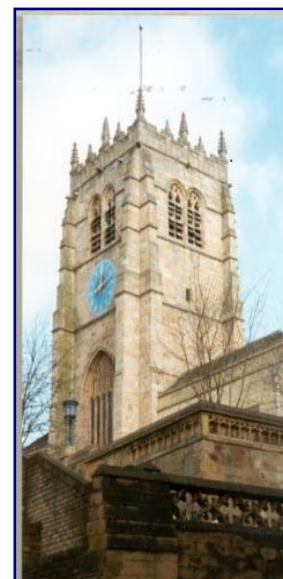


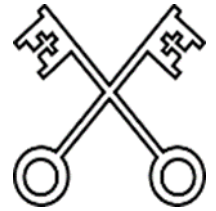
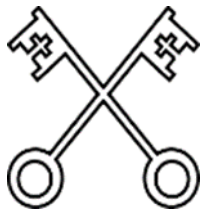
- Stone masons' marks can be seen on the stones in the Cathedral. Stone masons were responsible for cutting the stones and for building the walls. Many masons would have been involved in building the Cathedral.
- Each stone mason who cut the stones had his own mark so that his work could be identified when it was time to be paid. Two of the masons' marks in the Cathedral can be seen below.

Imagine what it was like to be involved in building a part of this Cathedral back in the 1400s, as a stone mason, carpenter (working with wooden scaffolding and supports) or a blacksmith (who made the tools and kept them sharp).



- **Use your imagination to write a story involving the bells or the bell tower**





- Here is one of the many memorials on the walls of Bradford Cathedral, all put up to remember people who had died. Hundreds of years ago when these monuments were put up, you had to be wealthy to have a memorial like this on the walls **inside** the building.

Imagine the life of the family named here and write a story about them.



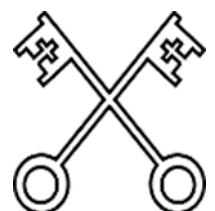
The Smyth Monument

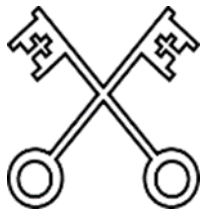
To the memory of JOHN SMYTH and ISABEL his wife of Miryshaw

He died 9th of October 1686 aged 63, she on the 28th of September 1711 aged 83. They had issue ten children namely MARY, RICHARD, JOHN, THOMAS, ALICE, RANDAL, JEREMIAH, WILLIAM, JAMES and MARY, seven of which are unmarried namely THOMAS a merchant of Dantzic and buried there, WILLIAM, RANDAL, JEREMIAH, MARY, ALICE and MARY and are buried with their parents near this place.

Mr JAMES SMYTH of Manningham died on the 10th of October 1724 aged 52 years

Mr RICHARD SMYTH of Miryshaw died the 10th of November 1721 aged 69 years



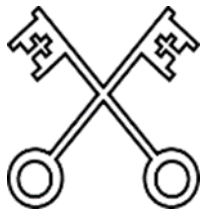


Imagine the life of the family named here and write a story about them.



Sacred
to the memory of
M^{rs} MARY FIELD late wife
of JOHN FIELD of Heaton in
this Parish Gent who departed life
the fifth day of February 1750-1 in
the Forty first year of her age
And also of six of their children (viz)
one Son and five daughters
who died in their minority
Also the above named JOHN FIELD
who departed this Life the 18 day
of Jan^y 1772 in the Seventy first
year of his age
As also JOSHUA FIELD Esq
his youngest son. He breathed
his last with calm serenity the
25th day of Sept 1819 in the 77
year of his age, a man whose
worth in life will now in death
be for years cherished with kind
lamenting remembrance
by those who knew him
best.
Died on the 3rd day of Nov^r 1830 in
her 80th year, MARY the relict of
the above named JOSHUA FIELD Esq



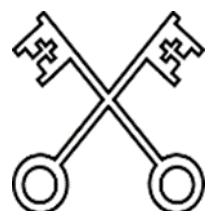


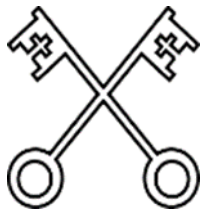
- **Write a story about the time that the church was destroyed**

In around 1327 the second church on this site, a small stone church, was burnt to the ground by Scottish raiders when they attacked Bradford.

Raids on Bradford had begun in 1311 and in 1314 Robert the Bruce invaded England as far down as Yorkshire. The Scots were eventually pushed back but there were lots of raids during the early 1300s and Bradford really suffered in 1327, when its church was destroyed.

Four pillars on the south side and some fire-blackened stones are the only bits left of that second church. The present church took a long time to build and was completed in 1458.





2c) A Bradford Cathedral Mystery Story

Perhaps you prefer to write a mystery? Choose one of these three unsolved mysteries of Bradford Cathedral. Use your imagination to create the story.

The Steps to Nowhere

Halfway down the Cathedral on the left side you will find a staircase that is blocked up and leads nowhere.

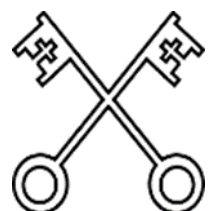
Use your imagination to write a story about this staircase.

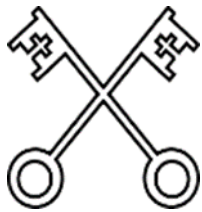


The Missing Angel

High up, near the roof beams, there are 19 painted angels **in pairs**- until you get to the back of the Cathedral. There is now only one at the back, as the other one is missing...

What is the secret of the missing one?





The Mysterious Gravestone

This is one of our oldest gravestones, which is now in the South Porch of the Cathedral.

1627

TIMOTHY DIXON of Shipley 1728

MD TD

Also JOHN EMMOT who died in the 9th year of his age

Anno Domini 1732

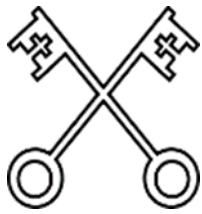
Can you solve the mysteries around this gravestone?

Why does it only say Timothy Dixon and then MD TD, with 2 figures and 2 hearts entwined?

Why does it have 1627 and then 1728 (when he can't have been 101 years old?)

Who was John Emmot and why was his name put on the gravestone at the bottom?





3) Acrostic Poems

Many of the people who visit Bradford Cathedral feel inspired by what they see and decide to write a poem.

An acrostic poem is a very easy way to capture your feelings.

Look at the examples below that were written by children who visited last year and then have a go yourself!

