



# BRADFORD CATHEDRAL



## Christian Symbols

KS3 / 4





## Bradford Cathedral Christian Symbols



Welcome to Bradford Cathedral. This is the symbol of the Cathedral: it is our shield, like a badge or a logo.

The things on the shield tell you that this is the Cathedral (the hat, or **mitre**) Church of St Peter (the crossed keys) and that we are in Bradford (the white wool sack).



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The colour of the **altar cloth** and **pulpit fall** tell you what is happening in the Cathedral and what time of year it is.

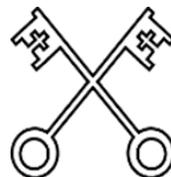
Green – an ordinary time.

Purple – preparation for an important time

Gold – festival time

Red – a special time.





Christians try to follow the teachings of a man called Jesus. One of the symbols for Jesus is a light. Christians use candles to remind them of Jesus and God's presence in the world.

Christians describe Jesus as 'The \_\_\_\_\_ of the World'.



The cross is now probably the best known symbol of Christianity.

Why do you think Christians have the cross as their symbol?

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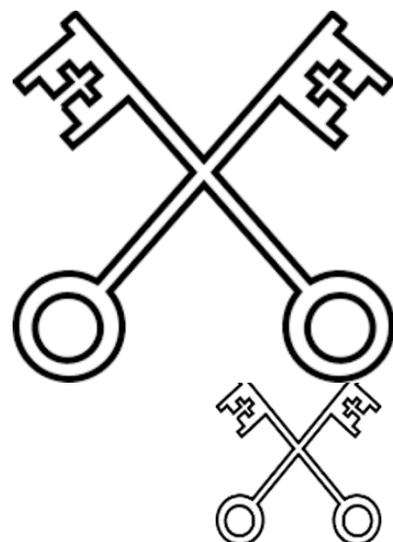
The crossed keys are a symbol of Saint Peter.

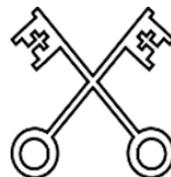
Saint Peter was one of Jesus' friends, he was a **disciple** and an **apostle**.

Jesus said to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."



They are a symbol of authority.





The **Ichthys** symbol:

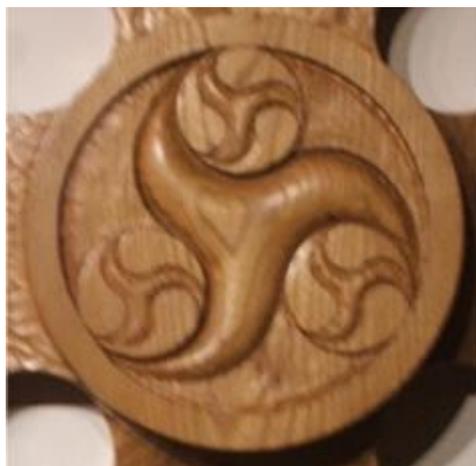
A fish is a very old 'secret' symbol of Christianity. It was first used about 2,000 years ago.

"Ichthus" is the Greek word for fish.

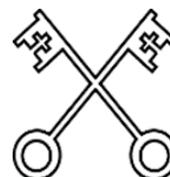


The **Chi-Rho** is an ancient symbol which combines the first and second letter of Jesus' title in Greek. This title is "Christ" or "Christos", which means "Saviour".

People who follow Jesus' teachings are called Christians.



This is called a **Triquetra** and is one of the oldest Christian symbols used in this country. It is a Celtic symbol and was first used about 1,300 years ago.





# THE TRINITY

Christians believe in one God, a belief known as **monotheism**.

Christians also believe that there are three “persons” or beings in the one God:

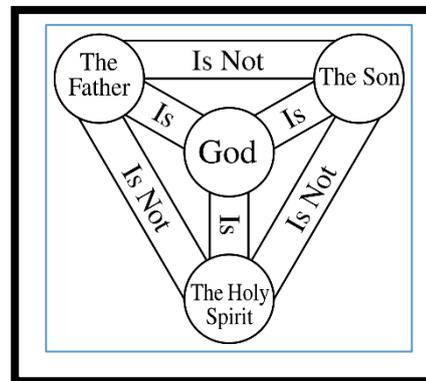
- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

**These are separate but are also one being: God**

Common image of the Trinity



Helpful explanatory diagram



## God the Father

- Believed to be the creator of the earth and all living things
- Believed to be all powerful and all knowing
- Believed to be present everywhere: omnipresent



## God the Son

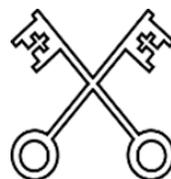
- Took on human form through Jesus (“became incarnate”)
- Believed by Christians to be fully human and also fully God



## God the Holy Spirit

- Believed to be the unseen power of God at work in the world
- Often depicted as a dove: the Holy Spirit was described as descending on Jesus like a dove when he was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.





## THE GOSPELS

In the Bible there are four books called **Gospels**.



These tell us about the life, death and **resurrection** of Jesus. The Gospels were written down by four men: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Matthew's symbol is the winged man, Mark's symbol is the winged lion, Luke's symbol is the winged ox and John's is the winged eagle.

Look closely at the font. Can you see the symbols for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?

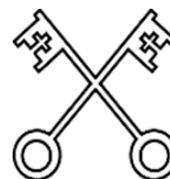
## THE LECTERN



The golden eagle is made out of brass. The **Bible** is placed on here.

The eagle was believed to be the bird that flew highest in the sky and was therefore closest to heaven, symbolising the idea of carrying the word of God to the furthest parts of the world.

The eagle is also the symbol of Saint John, one of the four men who wrote the Gospels.





## HOLY COMMUNION OR EUCHARIST



In a Holy Communion or Eucharist service Christians remember the last meal that Jesus had with his friends on the night before he died, in which he shared bread and wine with them. Jesus said that this should be done every time his followers met to remember him.

According to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John Jesus said:

“Take, eat, this is my body,” , “Take, drink, this is my blood,” and ““Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Christians share bread and wine to remember and give thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.**



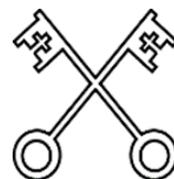
Communion takes place at and around the **altar** and this is the holiest part of a church. Worshippers look towards this place during a Communion service.



Different Christian denominations (groups) interpret the meaning of Holy Communion in different ways.

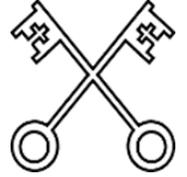
Catholics, Orthodox Christians and some Anglicans believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, that Jesus is fully present in the bread and wine. This is known as **transubstantiation**.

Protestant Christians who celebrate Holy Communion see the bread and wine as **symbols** of Jesus's sacrifice, helping them to remember what he did and to reflect on the meaning of his death and resurrection for them.





## Glossary of Terms



In the order highlighted in the booklet:

Mitre – a special headdress worn by a Bishop

Disciple – a name for the twelve friends who travelled with Jesus, 2000 years ago

Apostle – people who spread the teachings of Jesus and stories about his life after Jesus' death and resurrection

Altar cloth – a covering for the altar or communion table

Pulpit fall – a small piece of cloth that hangs from the pulpit

Gospels – four books in the Bible that tell Christians about the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus

Resurrection – Christians believe that Jesus came back to life on the third day after he was killed. This is known as the resurrection.

Bible – the holy book for Christians

Altar- the table that is used as the focus for the communion service. It reminds Christians of the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples the night before he was crucified.

