



FAITH
IN THE
TOWN
LAY RELIGION, URBANISATION
and INDUSTRIALISATION
in ENGLAND
1740-1830



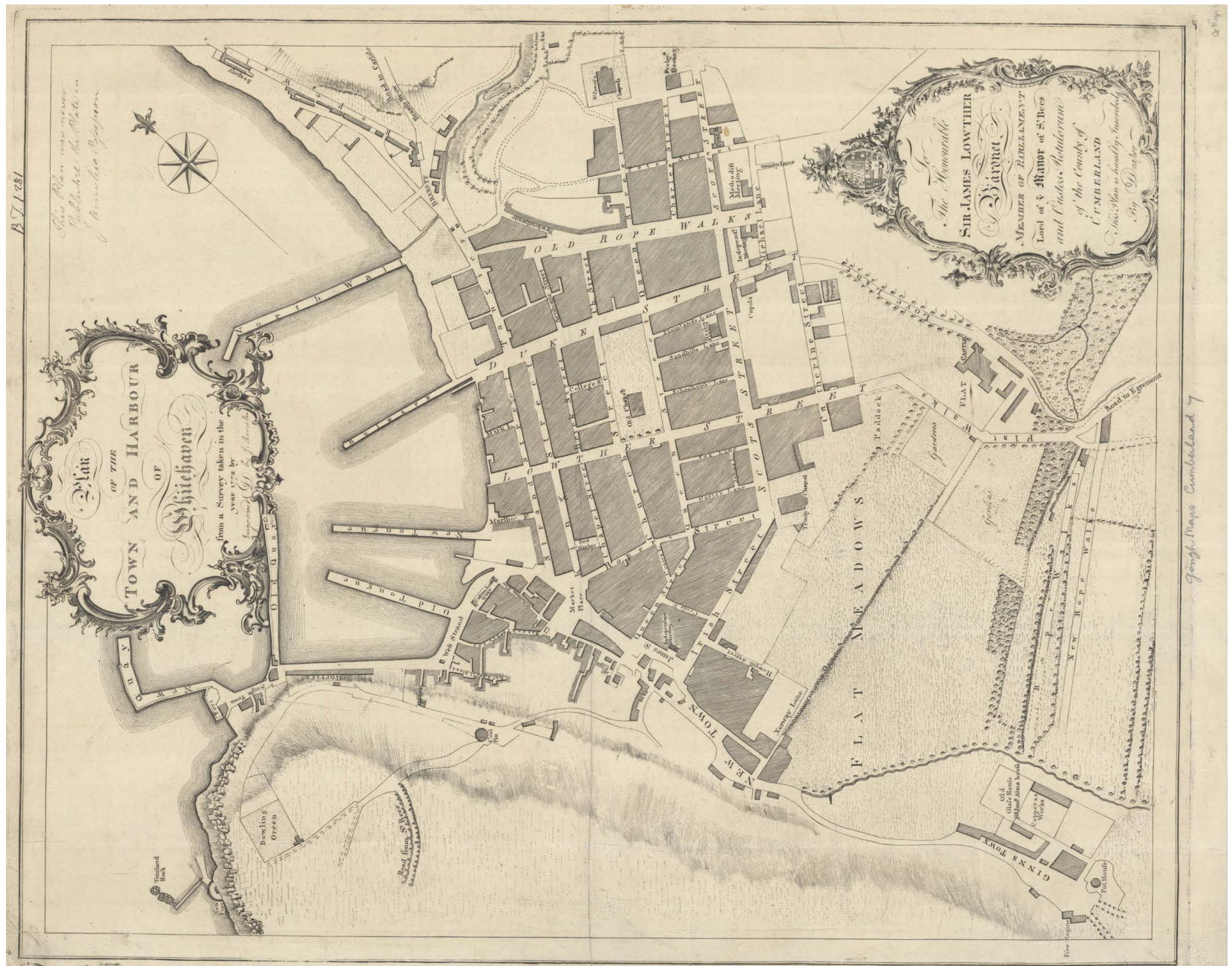
Read, 'Whitehaven, Cumbria' (1736)

RESOURCES
FOR PUPILS

SILENT DISCUSSION:
Set One



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Draper, 'Plan of the town and harbour of Whitehaven' (1772)



Anon., 'Plan of Whitehaven' (1830)



Diary and manuscript book of John Bragg

Bragg was a shoemaker and Quaker living in Whitehaven in the 1780s and 1790s.

‘The Case of the Inhabitants of the Town and Port of Wt.haven...

Situated on the Sea Shore near Four Miles distant from the Parish Church; which said Town about Sixty Years ago Consisted but of Nine or Ten Thatch’d Cottages...

That there are now above Four Hundred and Fifty Familys in the said Town producing in all Two Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy-Two Inhabitants... depending on their Trade at Sea...

The said Town is of Late Years, very much Improved in Trade’

A letter from Henry Vernon to his ‘Dear Sister’, 5 March 1825

*Henry Vernon was visiting Liverpool from Lancaster.
He has left no other clues about his life.*

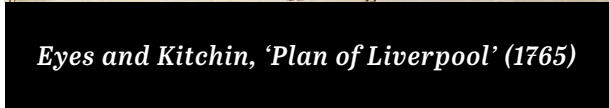
‘...the few hours of my stay in Liverpool were spent in cursorily examining some of the wonders of that delightful town...

As this was the first seaport I have ever seen the novelty of seeing the river and the artificial basins on its banks crowded with vessels of every description and from every part of the globe amused & surprized me as it would be likely to the very inexperienced.’

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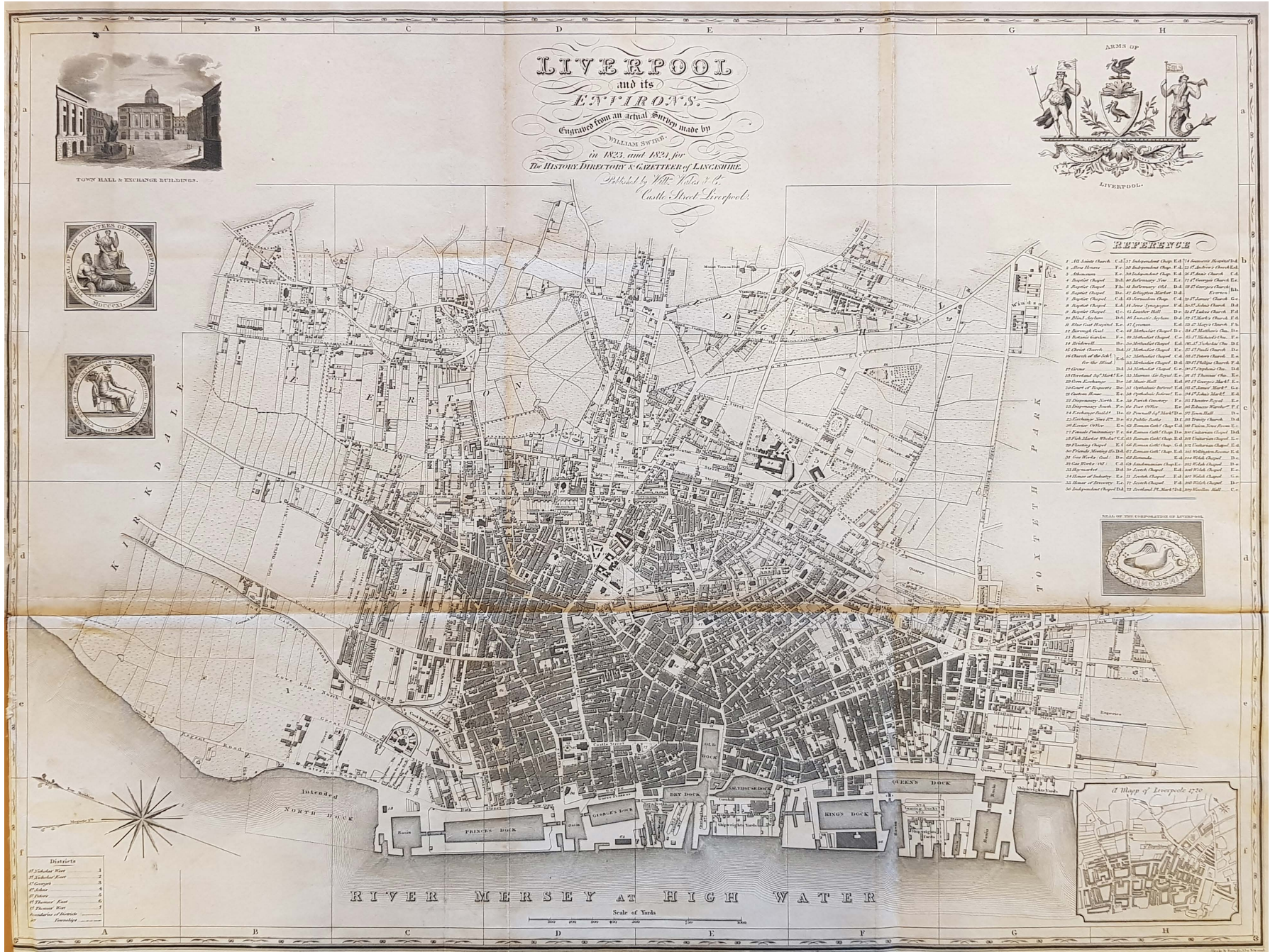


RESOURCES
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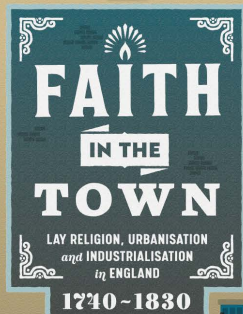
SILENT DISCUSSION:
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Swire, 'Liverpool and its Environs' (1824)



Liverpool taken from the opposite side of the River.

Drawn & Engraved by Will^m Daniell.

Published by Messrs Longman & Co Paternoster Row & W Daniell, 9 Cleveland St Fitzroy Square London, Oct 1. 1815.

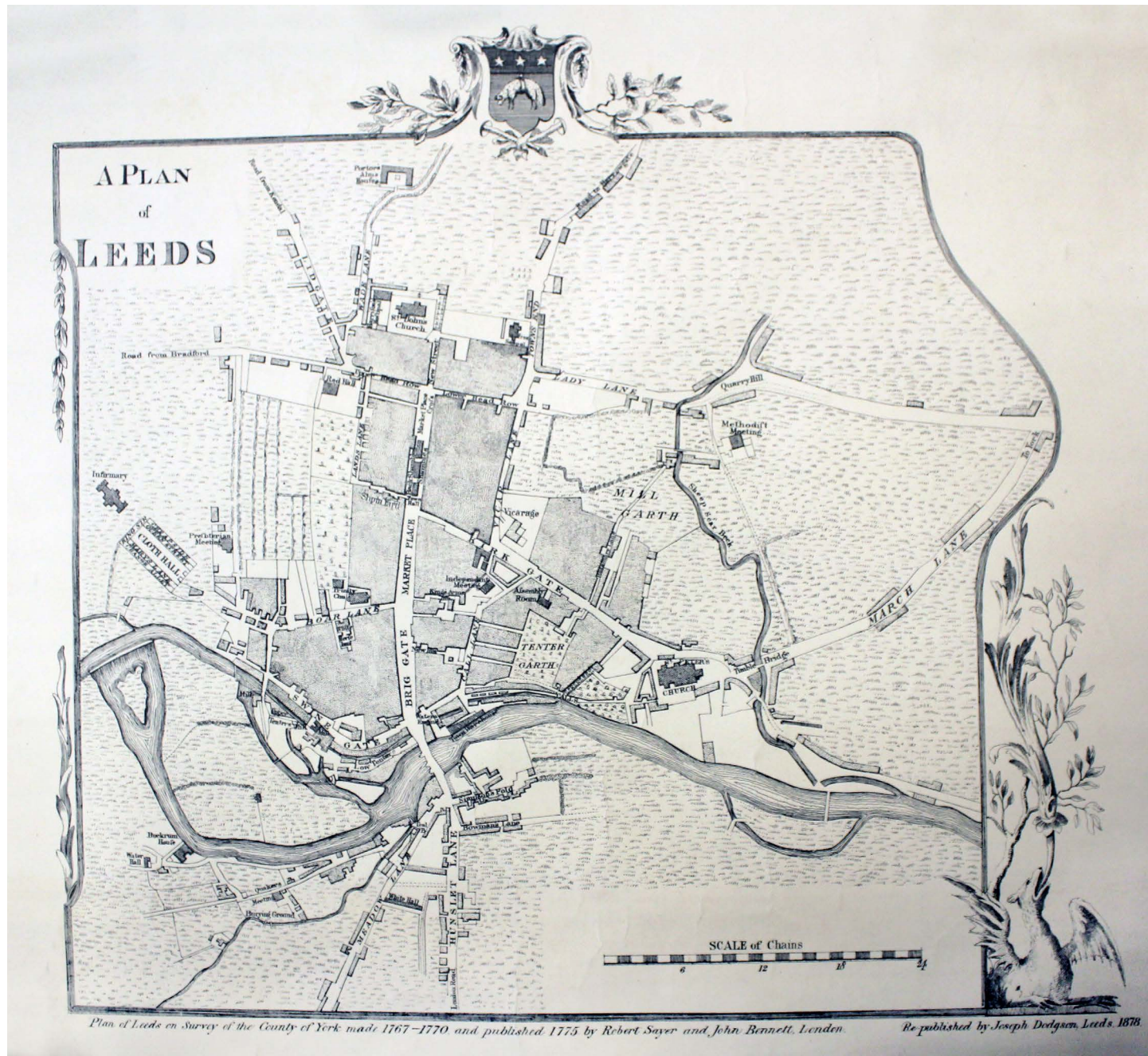
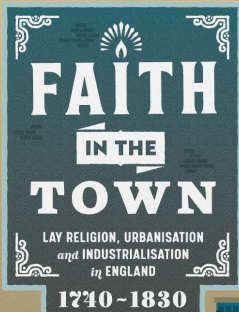
Daniell, 'Liverpool taken from the opposite side of the River' (1815)



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Anon., 'View of Liverpool' (1779)



Sayer and Bennett, 'A Plan of Leeds' (1775)



Netlam and Giles, 'Plan of the Town of Leeds' (1815)



Fowler, 'Plan of the Town of Leeds' (1831)

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Baines and Newsome, 'Map of Leeds' (1839)



Aston, 'A plan of Manchester and Salford' (1804)

Extract from Manchester As It Is: Or, Notices of the Institutions, Manufactures, Commerce, Railways, etc. of the Metropolis of Manufactures (Manchester, 1839).*Manchester As It Is was an early kind of guide book.*

‘In the year 1774, according to a census then taken, the parish of Manchester contained 41,032 inhabitants; according to the parliamentary census of 1831, it contained a population of 270,961. Eight years have elapsed since that period, and it may fairly be presumed that the present population will amount to at least three hundred thousand souls! Such an increase to take place in a period within the memory of many individuals, is perhaps unparalleled. There are many old inhabitants living who recollect the town when very circumscribed in its limits...

It is within the last sixty years that Manchester has multiplied its population by seven, and has risen from comparatively a small town to be one of the most populous and important places in the world’.



Christopher Thomson, The Autobiography of an Artisan (1847)

Thomson was born in Kingston-upon-Hull in 1799, in the parish of Sculcoates, which ‘was far enough away from the noise and bustle that necessarily belong to such towns, and might be called, as indeed it was, “out in the country”’.

By the time Thomson returned in 1845 Sculcoates had been swallowed into the town: ‘Piles of red bricks had taken the place of the green fields, and columns of smoke, vomited from stacks of chimneys, mingling with the murky sky, filled the clear blue overhead...

I turned slowly away, inwardly debating upon the stern necessity that had converted the garden of my boy-days into a huge pile of brick, wherein half-starved artisans were huddled in ignorance, scarcely aware of the beauties that adorn God’s world’.

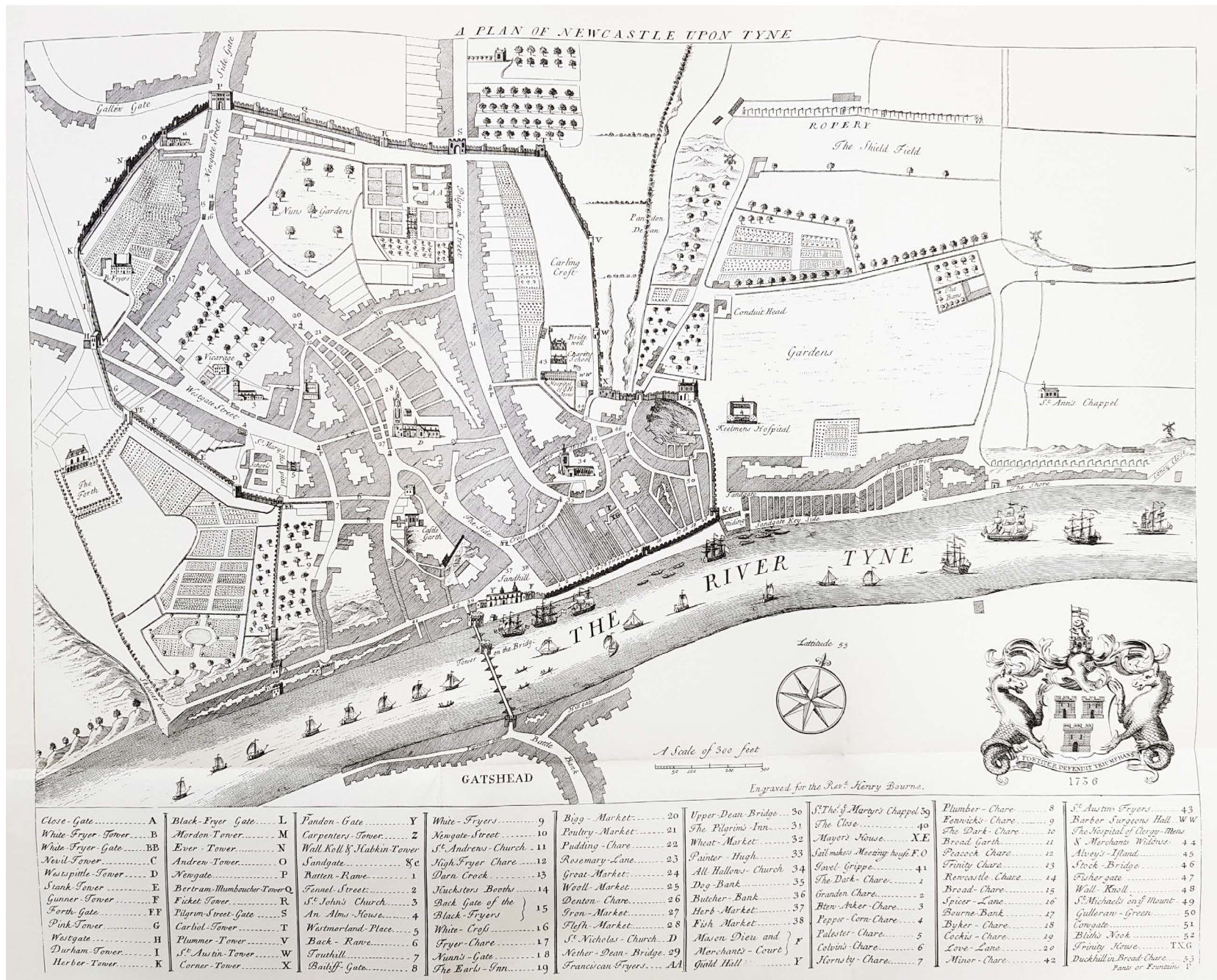
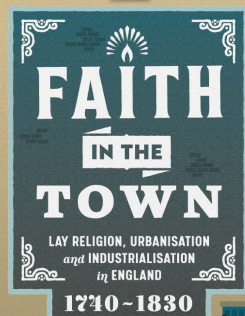


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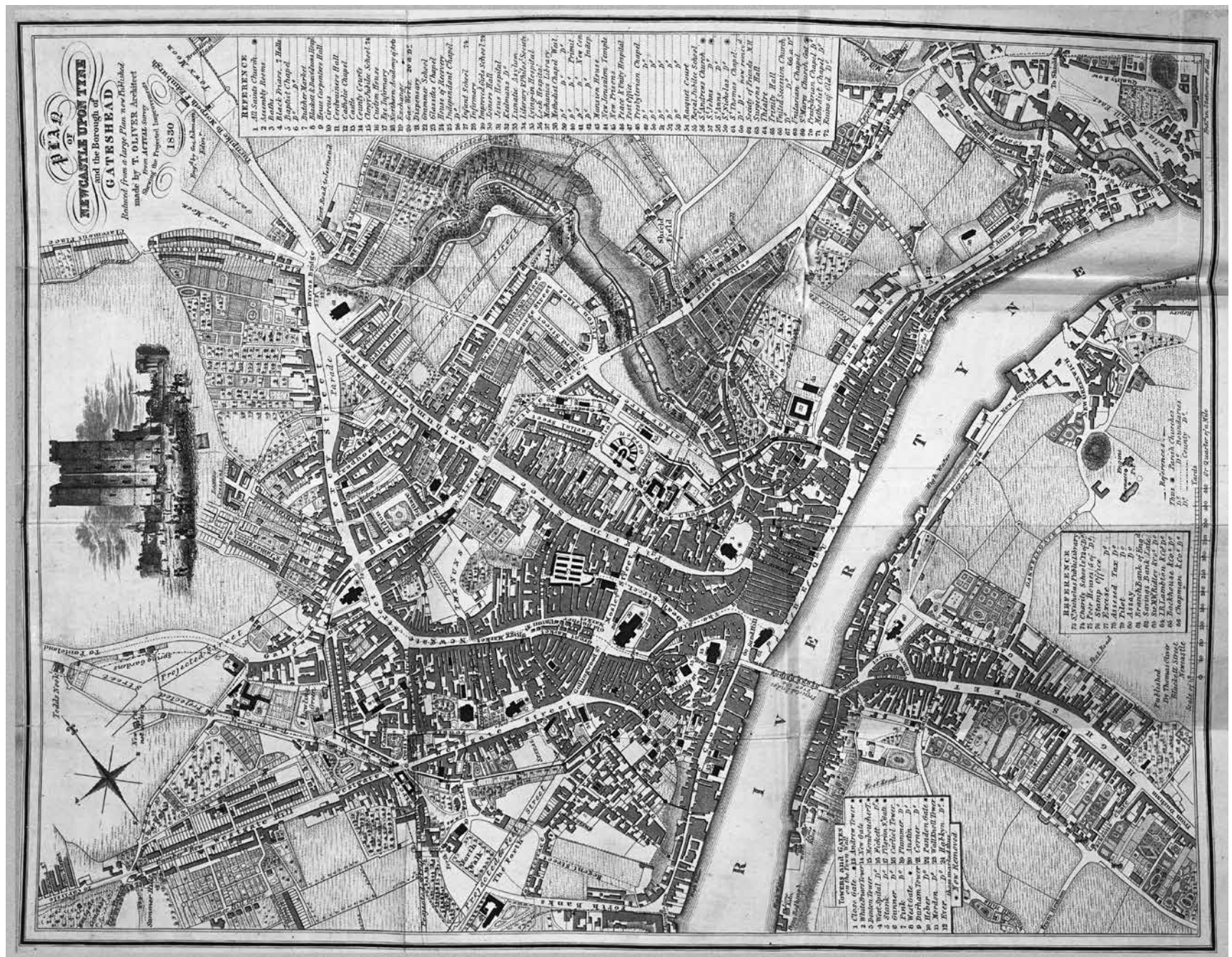
Set Two



Bourne, 'A plan of Newcastle upon Tyne' (1736)

RESOURCES
FOR PUPILS

SILENT DISCUSSION:
Set Two



Oliver, 'Plan of the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne' (1830/1)



Buck and Buck, Prospect of Newcastle, 1731 – 48



Bailey and Fittler, View of Newcastle, 1783

– The **CHURCH** and the **CITY** –

RESOURCES FOR PUPILS

*Extract from a speech made by
the Rev. R. Parkinson, M.A.*

Extract from a speech made by the Rev. R. Parkinson, M.A., Fellow of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, at a public charitable meeting, in February, 1839, from *Manchester As It Is: Or, Notices of the Institutions, Manufactures, Commerce, Railways, etc. of the Metropolis of Manufactures (Manchester, 1839):*

1st extract

‘I believe that a feeling is becoming very prevalent elsewhere, that there is something in the character of manufactures which is unnatural, and opposed to the will of God. Now I maintain that that state to which we are tending in manufactures is as much the will of God as agricultural pursuits. I am aware that an able and well known poet has said – and the saying has almost passed into a proverb – “God made the country, but man made the town,” – meaning, of course, that the country was the most proper place for man to dwell in, and that the occupations of town-life were unnatural.’

2nd extract

‘I think, on the contrary, that, instead of an agricultural population, the people of this country were meant to be one of a very different character... being now an inhabitant of Manchester – having had ample opportunity of observing and judging – and being in a position where I can have no motive for a partial judgement, I maintain, that if we can strike an average of all classes of our population and the population of other districts, we shall find that the morality of this district will not be below that of the most primitive agricultural population. I have the authority of a high military officer, and also that of other persons, for saying that the streets of Manchester, at ten o’clock at night, are as retired as those of the most rural districts.’



RESOURCES
FOR PUPILS

QUOTE CARDS:

*Voices of
the time****Diary of John Bragg,
shoemaker, 1771-1794***

Whitehaven 60 years ago consisted of ten cottages; now there are above 450 families in the town, or 2,270 inhabitants.

The inhabitants suffered for want of a church, and cheerfully contributed to a new church.

The people depend on the church.

The New Manchester Guide, 1815

The city started to grow in the last century. In 1708 a new church was built, St Ann's, and in 1753 a further new church was built: St Mary's.

Every year new churches, chapels, streets, dwelling-places, squares and places of amusement arise.

***Rowland Broomhead,
Catholic priest, Manchester, 1806***

We need another chapel. We have two at present which are insufficient for the congregation.

We have three large congregations of Catholics without priests in the region.

***Printed advert: 'To the Benevolent
Christian', Carlisle, 1806***

Upon account of a great number of Catholic people arriving at the city of Carlisle, a new chapel was created. It is now inadequate and can only hold half of the Catholics of the city.

We seek funds to build a more commodious place for worship and learning about our religious duties.

***Journal of R. Battersby,
Methodist preacher, 1821-1831***

Some preachers went to Oldham market and preached to a very crowded congregation.

I walked through the docks at Liverpool and was struck with wonder and amazement. There are preachers from many different Christian groups. A ship has been made into a floating chapel.

***James Wallace,
describing Liverpool, 1796***

There are twelve churches and one synagogue, well-designed and elegant.

St George's church, consecrated in 1734, is used by the mayor and principal inhabitants.

St Paul's church, consecrated in 1769, was built at the expense of the inhabitants.

The Stranger in Liverpool, 1812

At the beginning of the last century the town was mean and contemptible. Two churches were sufficient.

The building of churches has progressed in proportion to the city's astonishing accumulation of wealth.

There are now numerous and splendid public structures for devotion, charity, pleasure and business.

***F.T. Billam,
A Walk Through Leeds, 1806***

Besides the parish church there are four other churches. Eight of the townships have an Episcopal Chapel.

There are also eight Meeting Houses, one Presbyterian, one Unitarian, three Calvinist Independents, one Scotch Seceders, one Baptist and one Quaker, as well as two large Methodist chapels and a Roman Catholic Chapel.

***John Ryley,
The Leeds Guide, 1806***

The town contains five Churches of the established religion; a Scotch Church; three Independent Chapels; a Quaker Meeting House; two Presbyterian Chapels; three Methodist Chapels; a Baptist Meeting; a Roman Catholic Chapel; and an Inghamite Chapel.

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RESOURCES FOR PUPILS

My name is Benjamin Braidley. It is the year 1815 and I am 23. I am trained as an engineer, and I work as a teacher in the Church of England Bennett Street Sunday School in Manchester.

I meet a lot of young people and children who I try to help in their understanding of religion. One young woman, Ellen Bibby, shared with me her concern that she could not attend church meetings as she wishes due to the long hours her mother and sisters must work as satin stitchers. Her father has been out of work for twelve months.

She cannot attend the Tuesday church meetings as she is obliged to work late. She promised her mother she would finish her portion of work after she came back from the meeting at 10 o'clock and her mother consented. But Ellen was unable to finish her work, although she stayed up until 12 o'clock. Sadly her mother does not attend church. Ellen says it is because her mother has not got good clothes to go in and is ashamed.

Ellen reports her mother is affectionate to her. However she fears Christ's acceptance of her as she 'serves two masters'. She means her work and her religion. She fears she serves her work more than Christ.

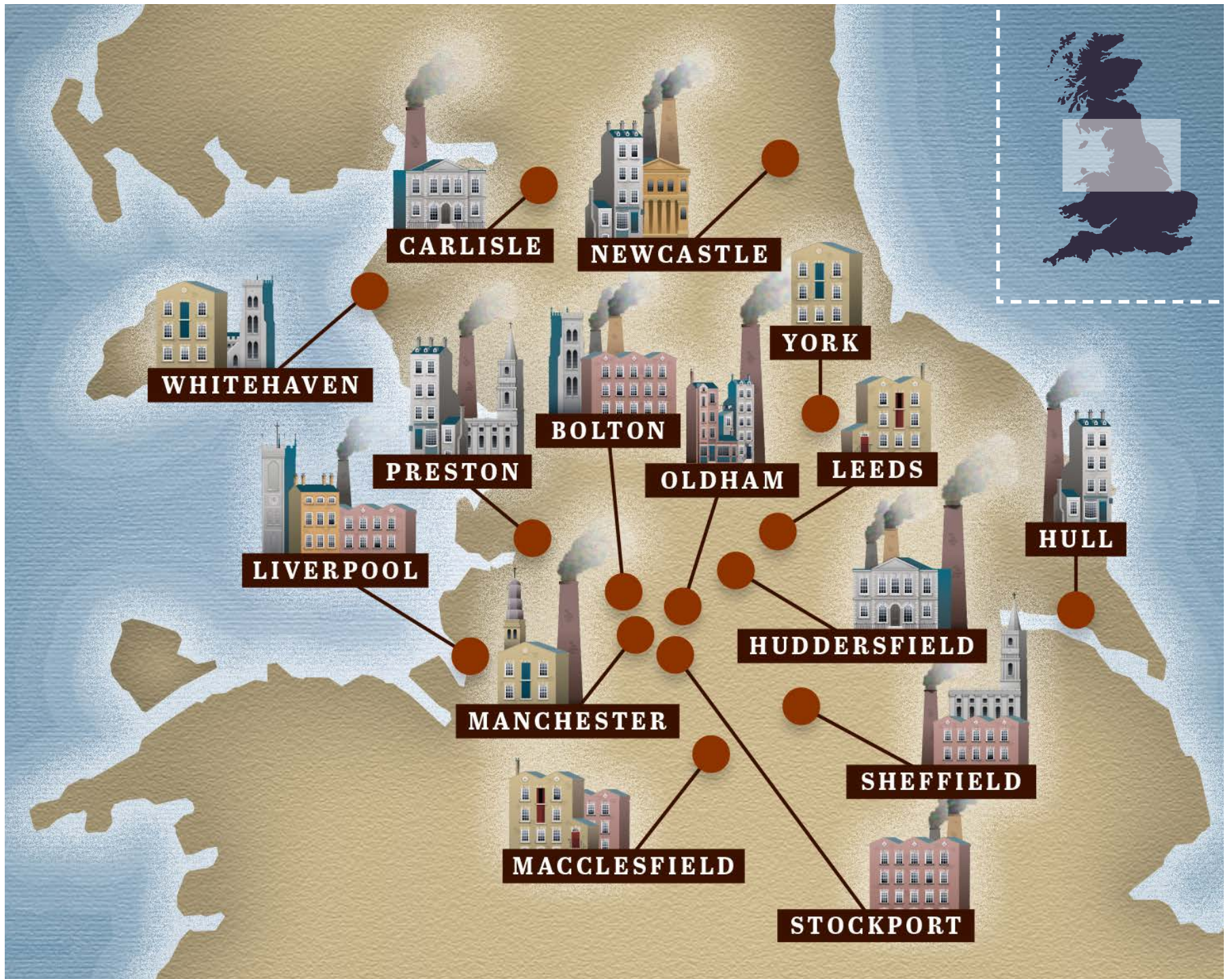
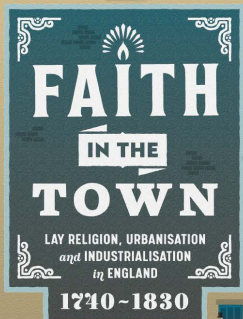
Diary of **Benjamin Braidley, 1815**

I asked her if Christ will refuse any who desire to turn to him? No, she said.

I asked if it is her desire to turn to him. Oh yes, she said, shaking her head.



Map





IMAGES

Matthias Read, 'Whitehaven, Cumbria, Showing Flatt Hall', 1730-1735, oil on canvas, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, B1981.25.515.

J. Draper, 'Plan of the Town and Harbour of Whitehaven from a Survey taken in the year 1772', Bodleian Library Gough Maps Cumberland 7, Digital Bodleian, © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, CC-BY-NC 4.0.

Anon., 'Plan of Whitehaven', 1830, (searchroom copy), reproduced by permission of Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre, Whitehaven.

J. Eyes and T. Kitchin, '...plan of Liverpool, Survey'd in June 1765...', Bodleian Library Gough Maps Liverpool 7, © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, CC-BY-NC 4.0.

W. Swire, 'Liverpool and its environs engraved from an actual survey made by William Swire in 1823 and 1824...', Bodleian Library (E)C17:70 Liverpool (11), © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, CC-BY-NC 4.0.

William Daniell, 'Liverpool, taken from the opposite side of the River', 1815, British Museum 1869, 0410.1237, © The Trustees of the British Museum, CC-BY-NC 4.0.

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Baines and Newsome, 'Map of the Borough of Leeds', 1839, WYL1469, reproduced by permission of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds.

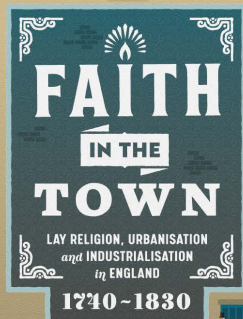
Manchester Scrapbook, no. 174, Joseph Aston, 'A Plan of Manchester and Salford with the latest Improvements', 1804, reproduced by permission of Chetham's Library, Manchester.

Henry Bourne, 'A Plan of Newcastle upon Tyne' in Henry Bourne, The History of Newcastle upon Tyne (Newcastle, 1736).

Thomas Oliver, 'Plan of the Town and County of Newcastle upon Tyne', in Thomas Oliver, A New Picture of Newcastle upon Tyne (Newcastle, 1831).

Samuel Buck and Nathaniel Buck, 'S.E. Prospect of Newcastle', 1731-1748, engraving, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, B1977.14.9666.

Bailey and Fittler, 'View of Newcastle, taken from the South side of the River', 1783, Maps.K.Top 32.56.f, reproduced by permission of the British Library.



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Find out more about Faith in the Town on our project blog - <https://faithinthetown.wordpress.com>

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