

– CHILDREN *and the* CHURCH –

RESOURCES FOR PUPILS

Against Idleness and Mischief

By Isaac Watts



How doth the little busy Bee
Improve each shining Hour,
And gather Honey all the day
From every opening Flower!
How skilfully she builds her Cell!
How neat she spreads the Wax!
And labours hard to store it well
With the sweet Food she makes.
In Works of Labour or of Skill
I would be busy too:
For Satan finds some Mischief still
For idle Hands to do.

In Books, or Work, or healthful Play
Let my first Years be past,
That I may give for every Day
Some good Account at last.





Martha Makin, aged 9 (1816)



Mary Ann Sutcliffe, aged 13 (1826)



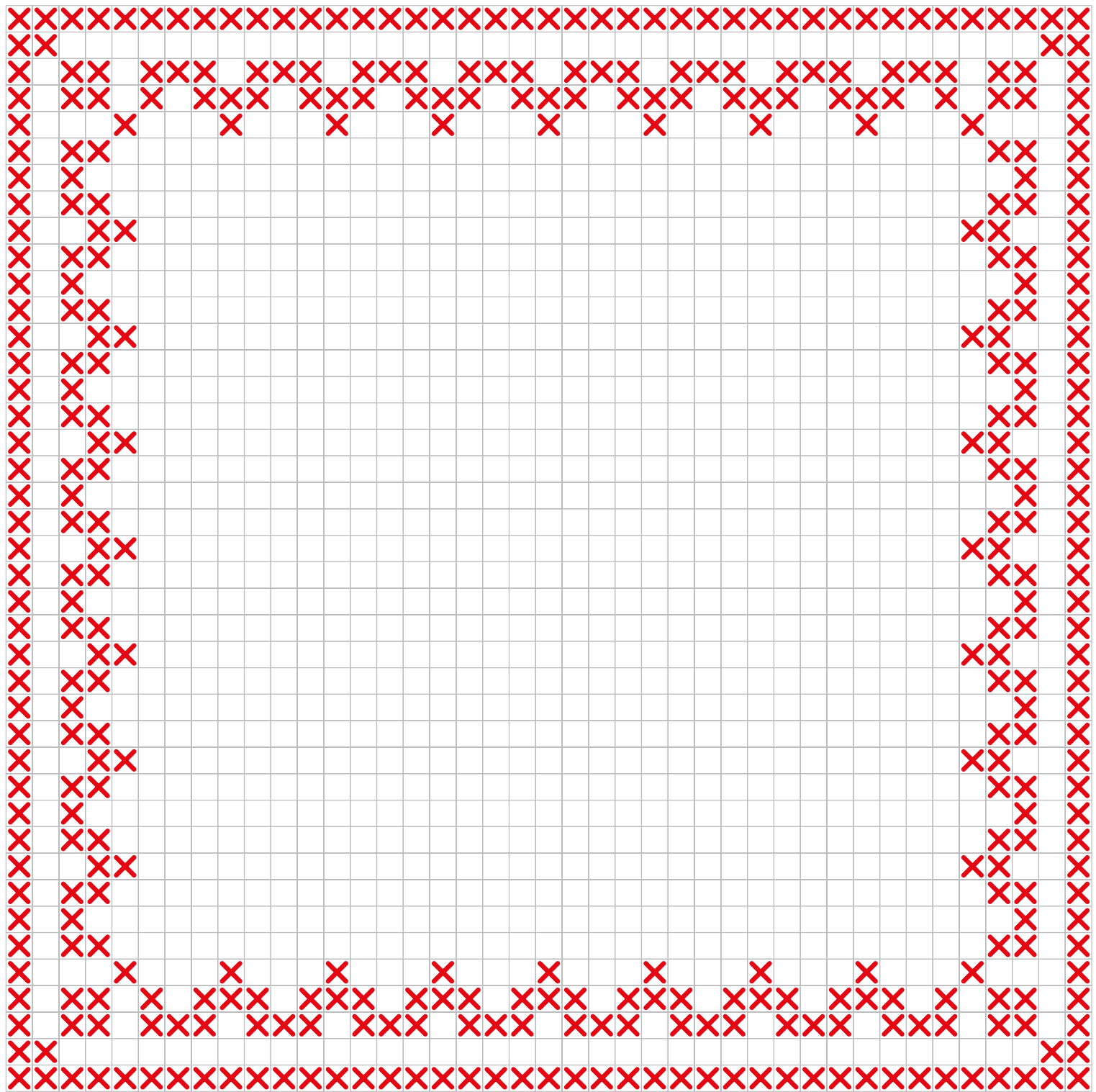
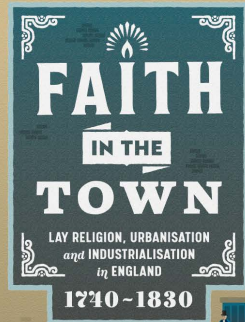
Sarah Mellin, aged 14 (1791)



Ruth Jessop, aged 15 (1817)

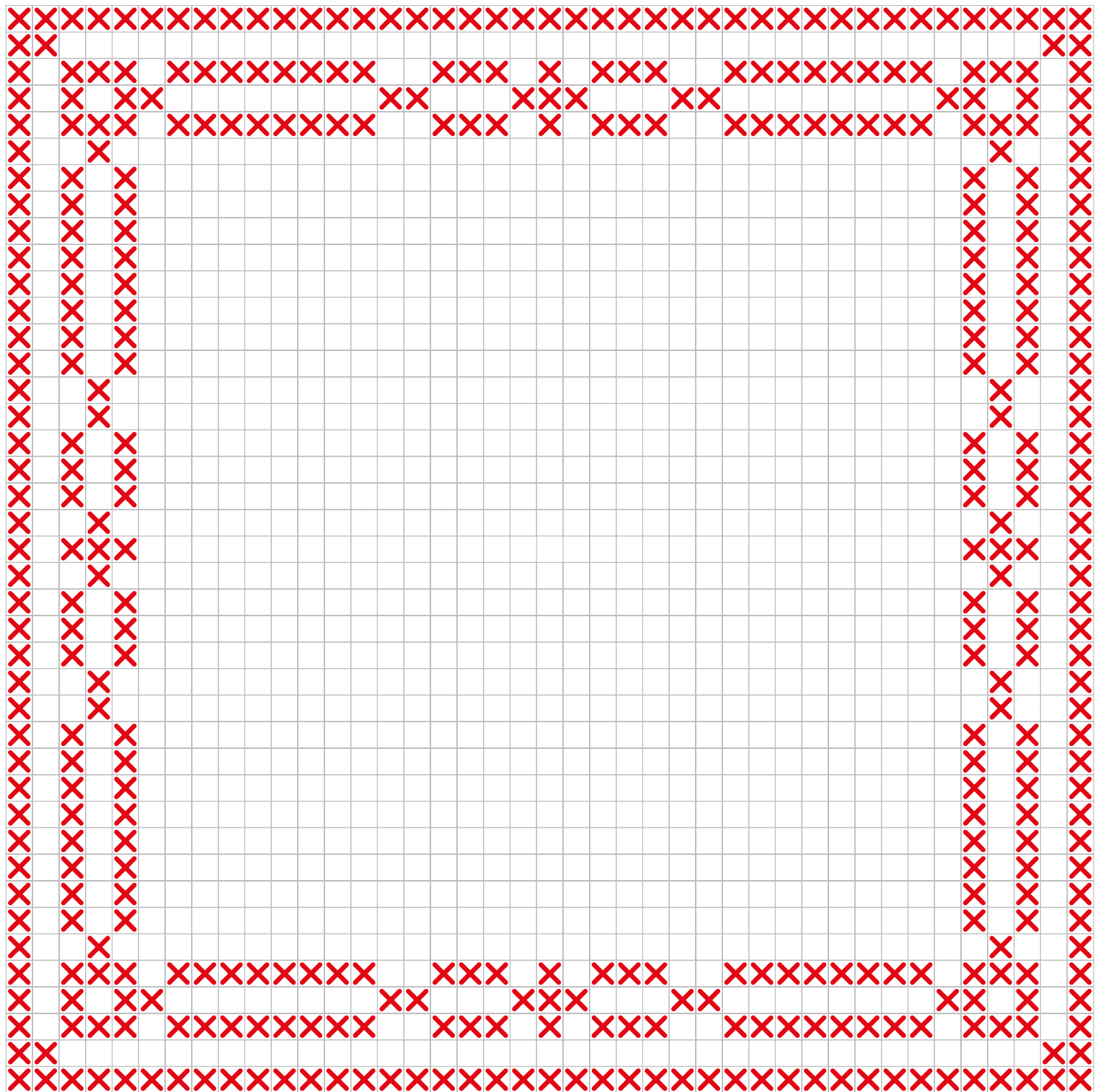
RESOURCES
FOR PUPILS

*Sampler
Cards*

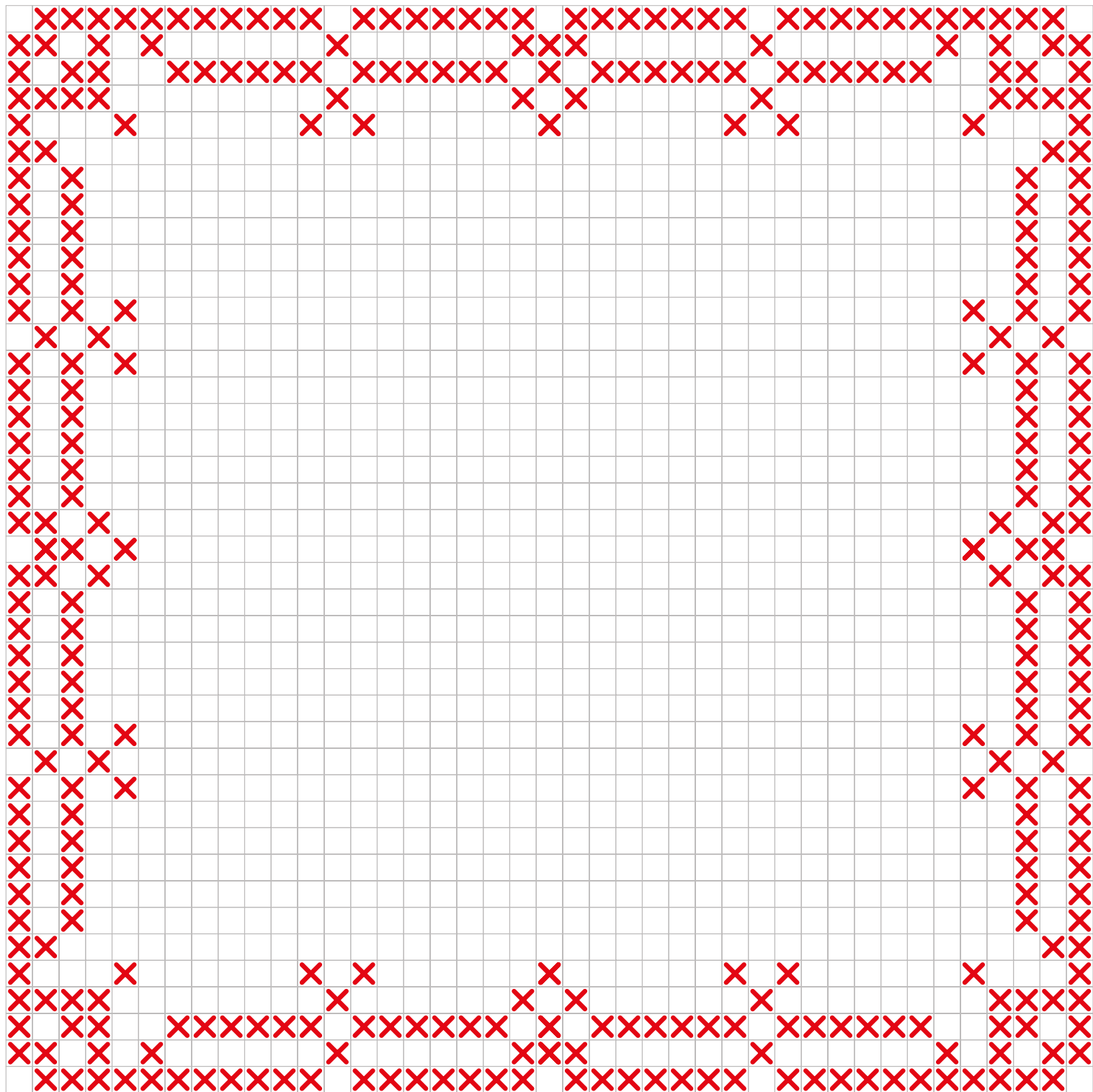


RESOURCES
FOR PUPILS

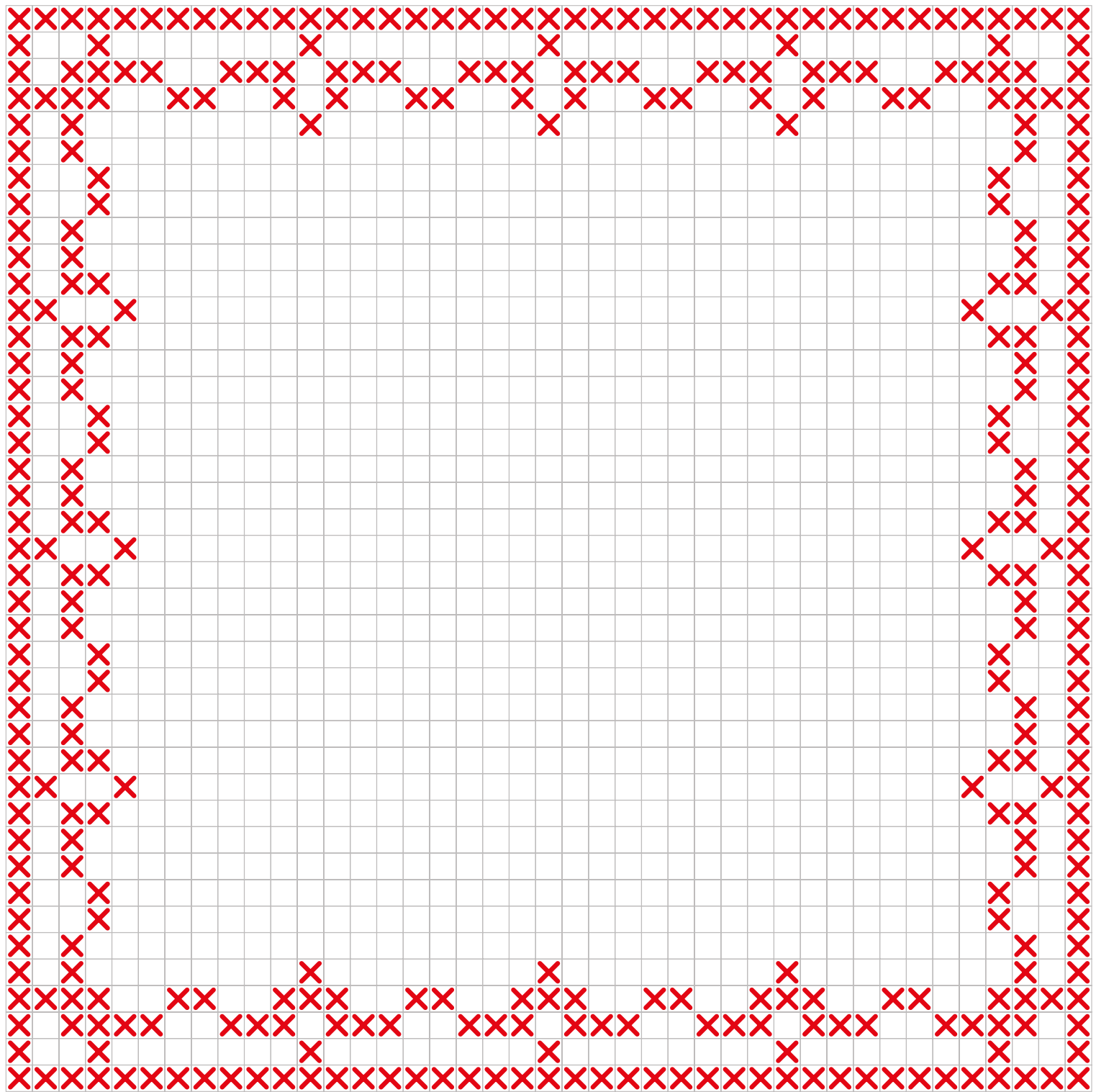
*Sampler
Cards*



*Sampler
Cards*



*Sampler
Cards*



RESOURCES
FOR PUPILSChildren's
Religious
Beliefs

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

Daily journal of George Waring Ormerod, 8 June 1838

George is a solicitor from Manchester.

In this diary he notes his daily observations:

‘Called on my Aunt, & took a Walk afterwards. School children singing hymns & Psalms & spiritual songs round Ardwick Green. Penny pop at a Premium.’

Jane Backhouse, 1829

Jane is from Darlington and writing to her parents who are staying in Newcastle. She sends news of her siblings:

‘Henry is very well he has slept at home the last week the reason of which I suppose Aunt Ann will explain. They are now playing at writing questions and answers from the Bible.’

The Life of Mr Henry Longden, 1813

Henry was a razor maker from Sheffield. He wrote this memoir based on his childhood diaries:

‘I remember I was very early the subject of religious impressions. My understanding was enlightened, my conscience was awakened, and I felt the drawings of the Spirit of God...

I had always been kept, as much as possible, from wicked examples; and now I felt astonished when I saw or heard the wickedness of the wicked. Hearing a carter swear at his horses, I was so affected that I went home weeping, praying that God would have mercy upon him, and not send him to hell.’

**The Read Family Repository, April 1819**

The Read children made little booklets for their friends and family which they called their ‘Family Repository’. The children are: Mary Anne (17) Elizabeth (16), Catherine (14), Sarah (13), Emily (11) and Edmund (3).

‘Perfect submission to the will of God on every occasion, however distressing is a hard lesson, but one that must be learnt by the Christian. When visited with mysterious and afflictive dispensations of providence it is indeed difficult cheerfully and calmly to say “Thy will be done” but still more difficult really to feel the resignation we express.’

RESOURCES
FOR PUPILSChildren's
Religious
Beliefs**Whitehaven Sunday School minute book, 5 August 1821**

'A Girl of the name of Jane Davis the last few weeks past has learnt 964 verses [of the bible] which we think the more remarkable as she has to labour every day.'

The Rules and Proceedings of the Fish Street Sunday School, Hull, 1819

'Several of our friends, having expressed a wish to have the Children collected together on the evening of the Sabbath... It is to be feared that too many of the children who assemble with us from sabbath to Sabbath spend the evening of that sacred day, either in roaming about the streets, or in some other unlawful employment.'

Catherine Read, 25 November 1839

Catherine helped to run a Sunday school in Sheffield, and writes to her pupils while she is away on the Isle of Wight:

'..as each Sabbath returns... I think of you with much love and wish that I could be with you... I thought of you a few evenings ago, when I was hearing of the death of a little girl, who was brought here last winter for her health; but it was not the will of the Lord that she should recover, and in April she died. She had always been what is called a very good little girl... She loved to go to the House of God, and when her illness increased and she was not able to walk to chapel, she used to beg that she might ride or be carried, in which wish she was often gratified, and when she was there she was attentive and serious and seemed as if she really was wishing to get good to her soul.'

Emily Read, 6 June 1831

Emily is from Sheffield and is writing to her brother Edmund who is at boarding school. Edmund is now 16.

'How I wish love, you would think of the sinfulness in the sight of God, of wasting your time.

"For though you may note your minutes in play, He notices each that you squander away".

Remember that you will have to give a strict account for all your minutes & you should think that you are not a little child as you once were, but almost a young man.'





IMAGES

Martha Makin, sampler, 1816, 36.17

Image taken by Hannah Barker, with permission of Liverpool Museums.

Mary Ann Sutcliffe, sampler, 1826, 1962.141

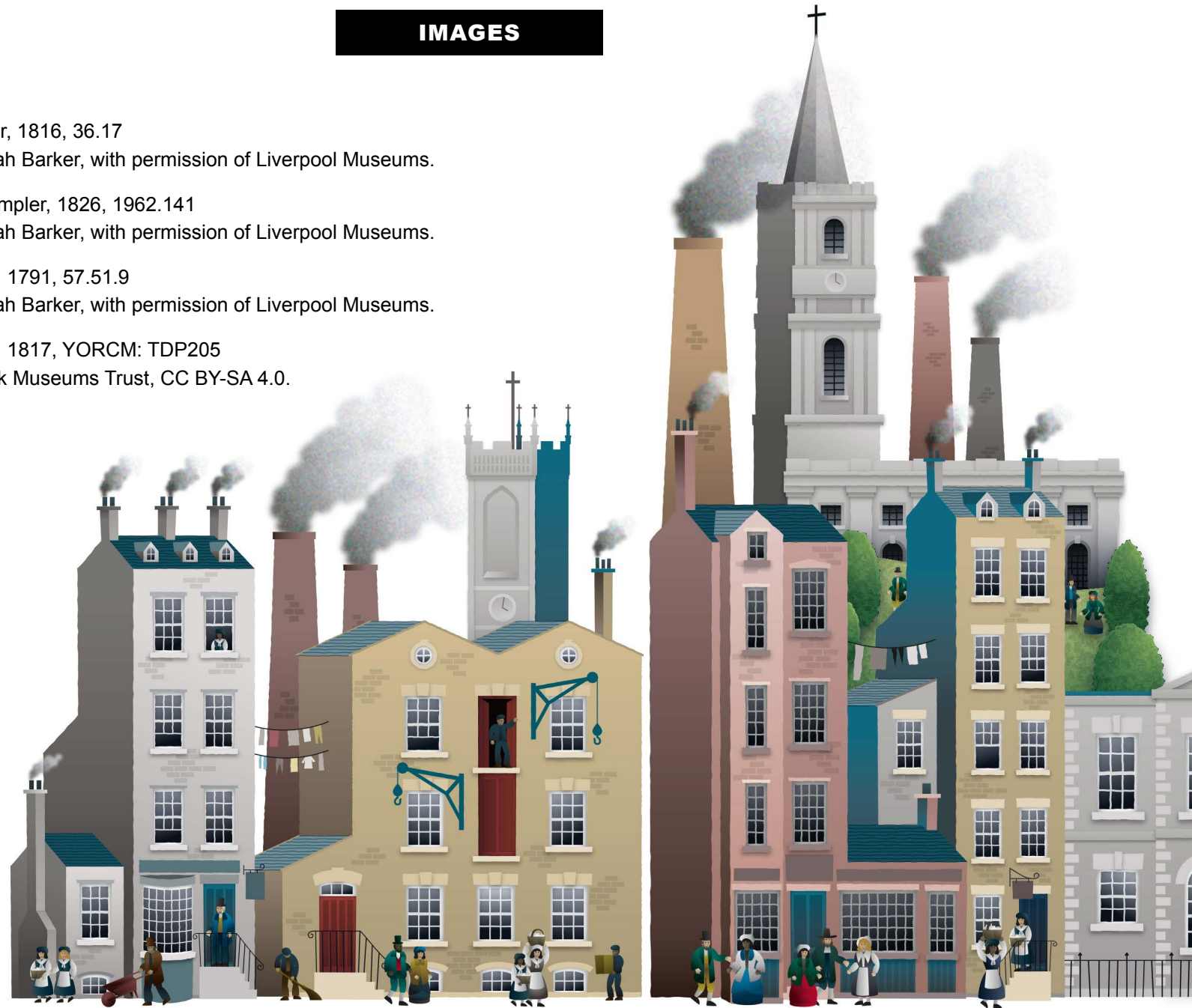
Image taken by Hannah Barker, with permission of Liverpool Museums.

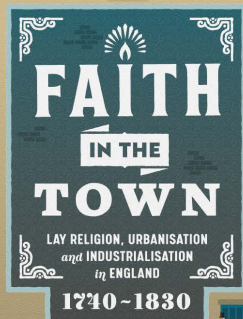
Sarah Mellin, sampler, 1791, 57.51.9

Image taken by Hannah Barker, with permission of Liverpool Museums.

Ruth Jessop, sampler, 1817, YORCM: TDP205

Image courtesy of York Museums Trust, CC BY-SA 4.0.





FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

These materials were developed as part of an Arts and Humanities Research Council project (R01356X/1) based at the Universities of Manchester and Nottingham. 'Faith in the Town: Lay Religion, Urbanisation and Industrialisation in England, 1740-1830' ran from 2018 to 2021. Thanks to all the libraries and museums that assisted with our research.

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

Faith in the Town project members:

Hannah Barker, Jeremy Gregory, Kate Gibson and Carys Brown

Faith in the Town education outputs lead:

Kate Gibson

Educational consultant:

Kate Christopher

Design:

David Counce, Imagine

