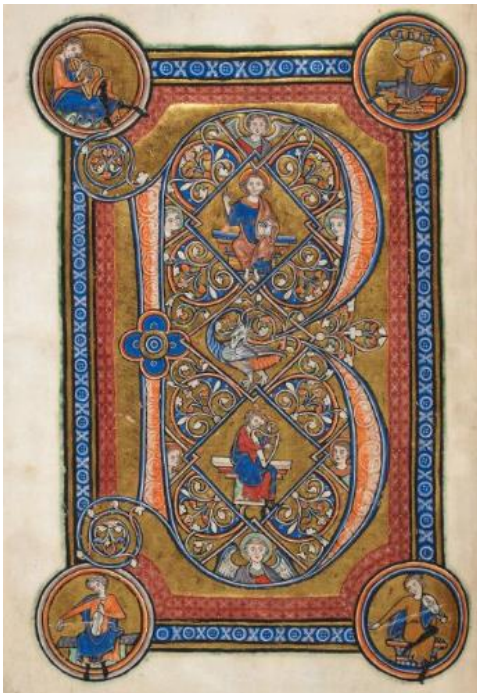




Illumination Inspiration

Connect through a lost art

Did you know that people have used ink to connect to each other for centuries?



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Medieval monks made books by hand with decorated letters and pictures, called illumination. An Illuminator made their own bright colourful inks and also used gold - this was only for really special books.


This picture is from the Evesham Psalter, a special book made at Evesham Abbey next to St Lawrence's Church, this is now kept in the British Library.

For centuries people have also used ink to write letters to their loved ones, ask your parents or grandparents if they remember writing and receiving letters.

Letter writing is becoming a lost art as life gets busier and we use more and more digital devices.

Have you ever written a special message in a letter?



Watch out for this sign  - it means adult help is needed for this step
Tweet us with an image of your creations: @TheCCT #AdventuresInChurches





Illumination Inspiration

Connect through a lost art



Why not make your own inks to illuminate a letter to post to someone you know?

You will need:


- Ink making recipe (below) 
- Envelope (or make your own)
- Paper
- Stamp if posting  or draw your own if hand-posting
- Writing tools, pen or brush

Natural ink recipe: therootsproject.co.uk/resources/make-natural-inks

How to make:

1. Choose which ink(s) you want to make and follow the recipe 
2. Have a think about someone you know that you would like to connect with by writing a special letter to them, maybe they've been alone recently, or it's been a while since you spoke.
3. Write and illuminate your letter, leave the inks to dry before folding.
4. Put your letter in an envelope and write on it the name and address of the person it is for - if you want to make your own, invent a way of making it fit your letter.
5. Ask a grown up if you can have a stamp , or, if you are hand posting you could create a stamp design of your own!
6. Post your letter and wait to see if you have a reply – how does it feel to send and receive a letter?

You'll find more illumination inspiration on the next page!

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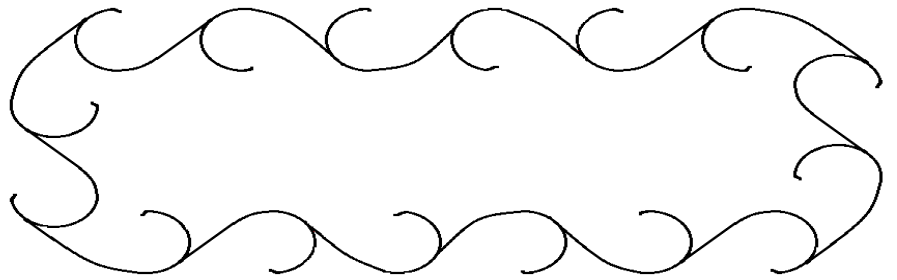


Illumination Inspiration

Some more ideas!

Illuminated borders

Use this design or create your own to illuminate the borders of your letter!



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Illuminate a letter

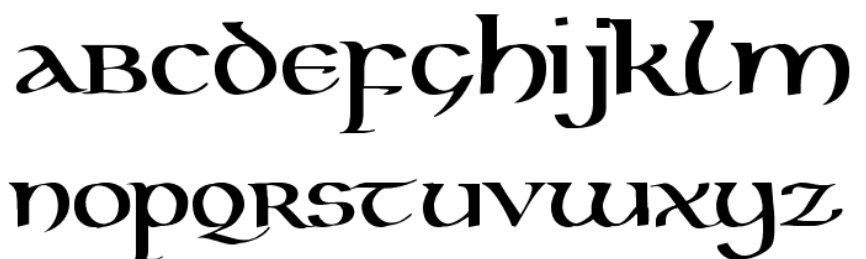
You could try illuminating a large first letter like the monks used to.

This page is also from the Evesham Psalter – see how beautifully decorated the first letter is.


Use a special script

Write your letter in swirly medieval letters.

Invent your own lettering, or, you could use the medieval script Uncial (right) which is written entirely in capital letters.



It was used from the 4th to 8th centuries AD by Latin and Greek scribes (people who wrote manuscripts).

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