

# History — How important was the Church by 1557?

Year 7 Term 2



## Timeline

1164	Henry II introduces the Constitutions of Clarendon.
1170	Thomas Becket is assassinated and the controversial parts of the Constitutions of Clarendon are removed.
1348	The Black Death first arrives in England.
1533	Henry VIII applies for a divorce from Catherine, beginning the Reformation.
1549	Edward VI publishes the Book of Common Prayer.
1555	Mary I begins to execute Protestants.

## Key people

Henry II Catholic	Became king of England in 1154 and died in 1189. He believed that the Church had too much power, so challenged this. Responsible for the death of Thomas Becket.
Thomas Becket Catholic	Became the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Before this, he was good friends with Henry II, but the two men clashed because of their different ideas about the role of the Church. He was killed in 1170.
King Henry VIII Protestant, then Catholic	King between 1509 and 1547. His divorce from his wife, Catherine of Aragon, began the process of the Reformation when the Church in England split from the Roman Catholic Church.
King Edward VI Protestant	He became king in 1547 at the age of 9 and died in 1553. He continued with his father's Protestant reforms in English Churches.
Queen Mary I Catholics	Became Queen in 1553 until her death in 1558. She was a Catholic, so she tried to make England Catholic again. She is now remembered as 'Bloody Mary' for killing Protestants.

## Key Terms

The Church	When spelt with a capital letter, the Church means all of Christianity in England, not just one building. In the beginning of the Medieval period, this was the Catholic Church led by the Pope in Rome.
Latin	The language that the Bible was written in at the beginning of the Medieval period.
Priest	A religious leader in charge of performing religious ceremonies in churches.
Tithe	A payment made to a parish priest as a form of tax. This was 1/10 of someone's earnings.
Black Death	A disease which spread across England, starting in 1348. It caused 1/3 of the population to die.
Flagellants	People who whipped themselves to say sorry to God, in order to try to get rid of disease.
Constitutions of Clarendon.	A code of 16 rules designed to increase the king's power over the bishops and the Church courts.
Reformation	In general, a slow but significant change. The English Reformation was when the Church changed from Catholic to Protestant during the 16th century.
Catholicism	A type of Christianity which is led by the Pope from Rome. Church services and the Bible are in Latin.
Protestantism	A type of Christianity in which the king or queen of the country is the leader of the religion. Church services and the Bible are in the language of the country (English).
Monasteries	A building where monks, who dedicate their life to Christianity, live and work together. Henry VIII destroyed these during the Dissolution of the Monasteries.
Dissolution	In general, the removal of something. In this unit, it means the destruction of monasteries under Henry VIII.
Martyr	Someone who dies for standing up for their religion. They are celebrated by their religion.

## Key Questions

### How important was the Church in everyday life?

- Churches were important as meeting places. Most people in England went to Church at least once a week.
- In 1066, there were around 1000 monks in England. By 1300, there were over 12,000.
- Ideas about Heaven and Hell were very important to how people lived their lives. People followed the rules of the Church so that they would go to Heaven after they died.

### How important was the Church in health?

- By 1500, the Church had built around 700 hospitals.
- Hospitals were run by priests rather than doctors, and used prayers instead of medicine to heal.
- During the Black Death, people turned to religion even more, so Church membership rose.

### How did Henry II challenge the Church's power?

- Henry II passed the Constitutions of Clarendon, which attempted to limit the power of the Church.
- Archbishop Thomas Becket was very unhappy about this, which led to a clash between the two men.
- Due to this, Henry II organised for Thomas Becket to be killed. Henry was punished by the Church for this. He had to give up on the Constitutions of Clarendon, and monks whipped him.

### How did Henry VIII reform the Church?

- Henry VIII caused the 'Break with Rome' because he wanted to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. This meant that he was in charge of religion, instead of the Pope.
- This also meant that he could make any religious changes he wanted.

### How did the Reformation impact ordinary people?

- Henry enforced the Dissolution of the Monasteries. He shut down 900 monasteries. This meant monks lost their homes.
- Churches became less decorated and more plain.
- Key Catholic teachings, such as the Bible being written in Latin, were no longer enforced.

### How did the Reformation change over time?

- Henry's son Edward carried on making the Church more Protestant. Churches were more plain and he made sure all Church services were in English.
- Mary I tried to make the Church Catholic again. She brought back Latin Church services and killed 300 Protestants as martyrs.



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