

Topic

Medieval Religious Beliefs

Monks

Monks are men that decided to devote their whole lives to God. They left their families, homes and possessions and moved into a Monastery as a Monk. Monks first arrived in England in the sixth century when Saint Augustin a Benedictine monk, built the first Monastery.



A Monk's life was not an easy one. They could not be married, ate very simple food and worked hard and their lives were dominated by prayer; every three hours; day & night!

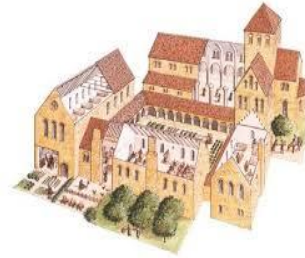
Nuns

Women could become nuns, lived in Nunneries and lived lives that were similar to Monks. Nunneries were often built next to monasteries. There were not as many Nuns as Monks though, and they hardly ever worked with books or manuscripts. Usually, women had to pay to become a nun. Sometimes a family might pay a fee called a dowry to a Nunnery so that one of their daughters could become a nun. Nuns were important to unmarried women who might not be supported otherwise



Monasteries

Monasteries were the buildings which were devoted to God where monks lived. Nuns lived in similar buildings called nunneries. The monastery also included a library and were one of the few places where people could read and write. They also looked after the sick and the poor and provided work for people in the community



Was The Church Central To Peoples Lives?

Evidence that the Church was central to people's lives

Medieval people went on pilgrimages, visiting holy sites in the hope of curing illness and gaining entry into Heaven after they died. People went on Crusades, fighting to claim back the Holy Lands from the Muslims. The Crusades were long and dangerous. Doom paintings showed scenes from the Afterlife, and encouraged Medieval people to behave properly so they could enter Heaven. Most people believed they could not go to Heaven if they did not follow the church's rules

Evidence that the Church was not central to people's lives

Some people went on pilgrimages for non-religious reasons. Sometimes they hoped to make money and sometimes they just wanted adventure. The Crusaders could steal and loot from the Holy Lands. Some Crusaders acted violently towards the people in the Holy Lands. There were some people who did not have a strong Christian faith. Near the end of the Medieval period some people began to question the church's teachings.

Key Terms

Pope	Leader of the Catholic church. People believed the Pope was chosen by God and so was infallible (Could not make mistakes)
Archbishop	The head of the church in England. Had the power to crown kings and run the church courts
Bishops	Officials who helped the archbishop run the Catholic church
Parish Priest	Led individual churches in small communities
Excommunicate	When the archbishop or the Pope banned someone from the Catholic church. If you were excommunicated, people believed you could not go to heaven
Latin	The language that was used for church sermons (talks) and for the bible
Pilgrimage	A long journey, usually to an important religious site
Doom painting	A large painting in a medieval church, usually showing scenes from Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife
Crusade	Expedition (long trip) made to take back the Holy Lands, especially Jerusalem, from the Muslims
Relic	An object thought to have religious importance, like a cross owned by a saint
Purgatory	The place where a sinner goes before his or her soul is allowed to enter Heaven
Mass	An important religious ceremony for Catholics
Superstition	A belief based on magic and the unknown, like good and bad luck
Tithe	A tax of 10% of people's income that was paid to the church each year