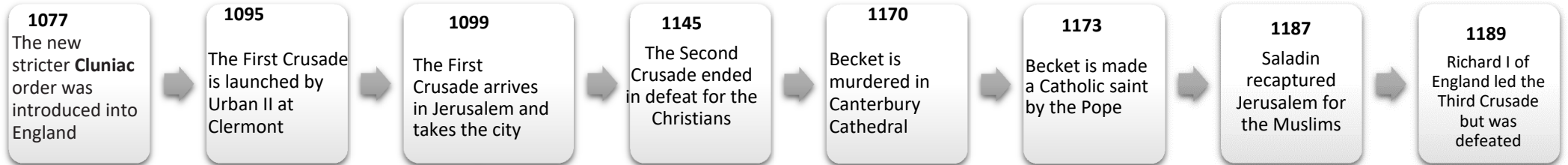


Medieval religion: How did it shape beliefs?



Key word	Definition
Pilgrimage	A journey for religious reasons to a location important for that religion
Pope	The head of the Catholic Church
Catholic	A type of Christian. All of Western Europe was Catholic in this time period
Doom Paintings	Pictures which showed heaven and hell, designed to ensure medieval people feared hell.
Relics	A holy item often once belonging to a saint.
Monasteries	A place where monks live.
Nunnery	A place where nuns live.
Abbot	The head monk in a monastery.
Sin	A bad thing in the eyes of the Church. A sin is something someone would commit.
Crusade	A war fought for religion.
Tithe	Money paid to the Church.
Canon Law	The set of laws followed by the Church.
Jerusalem	Holy city which was fought over by Muslims and Christians.
Saracen	was a term widely used among Christian writers in Europe during the Middle Ages to refer to Arab Muslims.









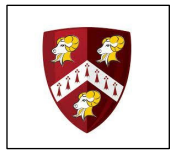
“The prime motivation was **ideological**. It wasn’t simply a territorial matter; it was a matter of identity- you as a Christian had an obligation to fight for your God, and your God said you must reclaim these lands. The Crusades would not have happened without the ideology behind it.”
Christopher Tyreman

Scan the QR code to find out more about medieval religion:



What do I need to know?

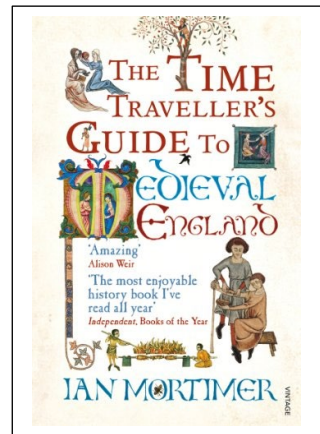
	Everyone in medieval Europe was Catholic and believed they had to do good deeds and gain forgiveness for their sins to get into heaven and gain eternal life. Religion was important in keeping the law, in science and medicine and for the structure of society. The Church was just as powerful as the king and government.
	Life of the peasants was closely linked to the church. Babies were baptised, marriages took place in a church and funerals were conducted by priests. The Christian calendar heavily influenced the lives of the peasants by celebrating Easter, Christmas and days off celebrating various saints like St. Benedict. When the peasants went to church every Sunday they saw Doom painting which depicted heaven and hell on the walls of the church and were spoken to, from the Bible, by the priest in Latin.
	Monasteries and Nunneries were religious buildings often located in the countryside. They housed people who totally devoted their lives to God. The daily life of Monks and nuns revolved around prayer and doing good works. Monasteries were important in the local order as they helped to treat the sick and provided shelter for travellers. Some strict Monastic Orders took vows of silence.
	In 1095 Pope Urban launched the First Crusade against the Turks / Saracens/ Muslims. Tens of thousands of Europeans joined the Crusade as Pope Urban promised them forgiveness of all their sins and entry into heaven. Some also joined to gain land, wealth and honour.
	There were seven main crusades between 1095 and 1254. The First Crusade was a huge success for the Christians as they recaptured Jerusalem from the Muslims and set up several new Christian kingdoms. However, the later Crusades all failed to keep control of these lands due to infighting between Christians.
	King Henry II and his chancellor, Thomas Becket were great friends. Henry made Becket Archbishop of Canterbury as Henry wanted to have power over the church. Becket, however, didn't agree with this and they quarreled. Becket left England and went to France (for 6 years) as he was afraid for his life. In 1170 it looked like Becket and Henry were friends again... However, they had another argument. Henry then famously said 'Is there no one who will rid me of this turbulent (troublesome) priest?' Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral. Henry II begged forgiveness from the Pope. It showed again, the power of the church.



Medieval life: Was life as bad as everyone thinks?



Key word	Definition
Barons	The lowest members of the nobility
Buboes	A swelling of glands, filled with pus
Cathedral	A very large and important church where the bishop/archbishop works
To inherit	To receive a title or land after the death of the previous holder
Longbow	Weapon used by Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt.
Magna Carta	A document signed by King John agreeing to give the barons more rights
Miasma	Believed cause of the Black Death- a bad, smelly air
Parliament	A group of elected people who help the monarch to create laws
Plague	A contagious disease that causes buboes
Revolt	A violent action against the ruler/government
Wattle and daub	Building material used in medieval peasant housing



“Medieval society thinks of itself like this: there are three sections of society, or “estates,” created by God—those who fight, those who pray, and those who work the land. The aristocracy are “those who fight.” They protect “those who pray” and “those who work.” The clergy do the praying and intercede on behalf of the souls of the fighters and the workers. “Those who work” feed the aristocracy and the clergy through the payment of service, rents, and tithes. In this way each group contributes to the welfare of society as a whole.”

Scan the QR code to find out more about Medieval life:

	King John inherited a lot of debt from Richard’s crusades so had to raise taxes . He lost two wars in France, ignored the advice of his barons, argued with the Pope and probably murdered his nephew. The barons rebelled against him and made him sign the Magna Carta .
	King John’s son Henry began to ignore the Magna Carta and the barons rebelled against the king again. The barons won, and invited ordinary people to the Great Council, as well as the nobility to discuss how to run the country- this was the first parliament .
	The Black Death was a disease that killed around 30% of England’s population. Symptoms included fever and buboes , and most victims died within 5 days. Medieval people had no explanation of disease- they thought it was a punishment from God or caused by bad smells .
	After the Black Death, there were fewer peasants so they felt they could demand higher wages , and they also hated high taxes to pay for the war with France. The peasants marched on London and King Richard was forced to agree to their demands, but later backtracked.
	The Hundred Years’ Wars were a series of conflicts between the English and French over the French throne. The most famous battle occurred in 1415 at Agincourt when the English King, Henry V, won a decisive victory over the French, despite the numerical superiority of the French. The weather didn’t help either!