

**What do primary sources tell us about medieval Britain?**

The **Domesday Book** is a list of individual details (written source) which details a list of taxes, land and wealth of the English people.. It was ordered by King William of Normandy. This is a useful source of information as we can learn about poor and rich people and where they lived. It provides an excellent overview of rural life in England and how wealthy people were across the land. The Domesday Book is also useful because we can learn how William the Conqueror used this to control his people The Domesday Book is less useful because we cannot learn very much about day to day life of peasants as we only have a list of taxes and land ownership. It lacks precise information about women as they did not own land and what a daily life looked like for peasants.

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Luttrell Psalter was a book paid for by the wealthy landowner Geoffrey Luttrell. It contains pictures about the peasants in his village. The pictures show jobs such as farming and sewing and technology such as water/wind mills. From the Luttrell Psalter (visual source) we can learn about the differences in jobs between men and women. It is also very useful to learn about how people lived day-to- day. An example of this would be the image that shows us about medical ideas and beliefs. The Luttrell Psalter also shows us key details about what peasants homes would have looked like and the activities that they did. An issue with the Luttrell Psalter is that it doesn't show us a broad range of information about the lives of the rich only peasants. Also, There is no guarantees that the illustrations are fully accurate as Luttrell could have modified them to make himself look better as his primary focus was to show off his wealth.



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Wharram Percy was a medieval village. Using the material remains we can learn that that farmers lived in Medieval longhouses. Also the most important building in the village was a Church and skeletons showed us that the people had to work hard lives with poor diets. Artefacts such as shoes and pottery were found. The evidence of material culture found at Wharram Percy is very useful as it shows us how people lived through the objects that they used on a daily basis. It also teaches us about the differences in people who lived in the village. As an example the pottery found on the outskirts shows us more about the lives of richer people. Material culture is an issue for historians as it is like completing a jigsaw without all of the pieces, we have to try and fill the gaps with the knowledge that we have from other sources.

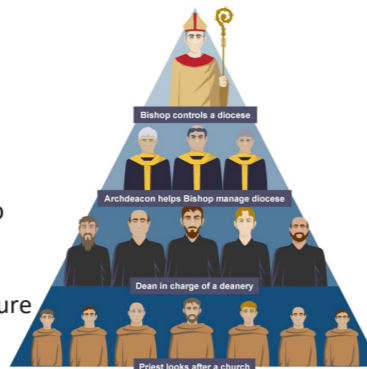


**How did the Normans change the church?**

The Normans built larger stone churches, and constructed **basilicas (a large important Church)** in major towns, like London, Durham and York. These helped spread religion as they could hold hundreds of people worshipping at one time. This gave a clear message about the power of the church in people's lives, and the leaders of the church were usually Norman.

**Organisation of the church:**

- The Archbishop introduced a power system to make sure that all people who worked in the Church were organized
- He put a Bishop in charge of each diocese (area)
- He gave each Bishop a couple of Archdeacons to help them run the dioceses.
- He also made them follow strict rules to make sure that they obeyed.



**How did religion impact daily medieval life?**

<p><b><u>The church</u></b></p> <p>The lives of the people revolved around the Church. People were known to attend church <b>three to five times daily for prayer and once a week for services and confession.</b> The church was also where people would meet to <b>socialise.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Heaven and hell</u></b></p> <p>To get to heaven people were taught to <b>follow the teachings of the Church</b> and live a <b>well behaved and moral life.</b> People listened to the church and lived religious lives as they wanted to avoid hell. Hell was a <b>deterrent to avoid sins.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Pilgrimages</u></b></p> <p>These were religious journeys made by people as they wanted to pray for forgiveness for their sins. Others, who suffered from disability or disease believed the journey would help cure them. Pilgrims would visit shrines of saints or places of religious events</p>	<p><b>Relics</b> were objects believed to have a touch of holiness from saints. Pilgrims travelled to see these relics, believing they had special powers.</p> <p>The church offered <b>indulgences</b>, which were like <b>Medieval certificates</b> which the Church said would help to reduce the time souls spent in purgatory (waiting place for heaven).</p>

**Why were monasteries important in medieval Britain?**

A monastery was a building, or buildings, where **people lived and worshiped, devoting their time and life to God.** The people who lived in the monastery were called **monks.** The monastery was **self contained**, meaning everything the monks needed was provided by the monastery community. The monks in the monasteries were some of the only people in the Middle Ages who knew how to **read and write.** They provided **education** to the rest of the world. The monks also **wrote books and recorded events.** If it wasn't for these books, we would know very little about what happened during the Middle Ages. They also helped **build hospitals and kept herb gardens** to help treat sick people. Monasteries even developed **public health systems** by building water pipes, drains and wash houses.

Fountains abbey is an example of a famous monastery in York. It became extremely wealthy through its production of wool and trade until it was closed down by King Henry VIII.



**Did the church help or hinder medicine?**

The Church taught that **god gave people illnesses for being sinful and only God could cure the illness.** Therefore the most common treatments **were prayer, attending church and fasting.** **Church also controlled the universities** in medieval time. **Medicine was the second subject studied** after religion showing its importance. However, Doctors were **trained to make the old knowledge clear and NOT to discover new ideas.** This is because the church approved of the teachings of Galen's books as he believed in a single God. They also taught doctors to **CARE not CURE** patients. **If anyone tried to criticise Galen (or correct his mistakes) it was seen as a criticism of the church.** An example was a monk called Roger Bacon who was arrested.

Most of the **hospitals in England were owned and run by the Church.** The patients were cared for by **monks and nuns.** Hospitals also offered a place to stay for travellers. Hospitals were kept **clean, and the monks and nuns were tasked with ensuring that the bedding was changed and washed regularly.**

**What were the crusades?**

The Crusades were a series of wars where Christians and Muslims fought to control the '**Holy Land**'. **Jerusalem** is a holy place for Christians because many important events during the time of Christ happened there. It is holy to Muslims as they believe the Prophet Muhammad went on a **spiritual journey to Heaven** from Jerusalem. The First Crusade began in 1096. The Pope promised **heaven, land and loot** to people who went on the Crusade to take Jerusalem from the Muslims. Soldiers and ordinary people joined, **spurred by greed and religious sentiment.** The crusades dragged on and off for around 200 years. Every crusade was almost the same with **Christian Kings divided, disease rampant and many deaths.** Christian leaders spent much time fighting amongst themselves and in the end **King Richard I** made a deal with **Saladin**, the Muslim leader of the Holy Land. The deal was that Jerusalem would remain in Muslim hands but Christians could visit the holy land without any harm.

**What impact did the crusades have on Britain?**

The **Muslim doctor, Avicenna, had written down all the ideas of the great Roman and Greek doctors like Galen and added his own ideas to them.** This book allowed Europeans to **rediscover how blood circulated around the body.** They also introduced **new surgical tools and techniques** like ligatures and brought back painkillers. The Crusades brought about **trade in many unusual exotic foods. Sugar, spices, dates, coffee, rice and apricots** were now available. The **Crusaders returned with mirrors, cotton cloth, carpets, mattresses and shawls** which improved decorations in European households. **Arabic numbers make up maths today. Algebra was a Muslim invention and alchemy led to our understanding of chemistry. Games like chess were also brought back,** and medieval European **farmers were glad to learn how to irrigate (water) their fields in a better way.** Water wheels and **water clocks were a new technology as well as the magnifying glass.**