

# The Religious Settlement

**BIG TOPIC:**

## Learning outcomes

- Understand the key features of the English Reformation and religious divisions in England in 1558.
- Understand the key features, and impact, of Elizabeth's religious settlement.
- Understand the role of the Church of England under Elizabeth's rule.



Horrible Histories Recap video

# Religious Rollercoaster

Imagine you are a Catholic, write a diary how you'd feel living through all of these religious changes?



Henry VIII makes himself head of Church of England, bible in English, services remain in Latin

1530s

England is slightly more Protestant

Edward VI makes England **VERY Protestant**



1547

Destroyed Church decorations, make services English introduced a new prayer book! Catholics are very angry (and scared)



**VERY Catholic**

'Bloody' Mary I returns England to Catholicism, killing Protestants on the fire!

1553

Her Catholic cousin, Mary Queen of Scots is watching carefully though... She will pop up later...



However, she tries to have a compromise in her England pleasing both Catholics & Protestants...

**Middle Way**



1558

Elizabeth becomes queen and she is a Protestant

# So where are we right now (1558)?



Mary I (Bloody Mary)  
Elizabeth's sister.

After Mary took over from her little brother Edward who had made England ...? **Protestant**  
She **passed a law in Parliament** making England Catholic again and making The Pope the head of The Church again.

**What does Elizabeth need to do now to make England Protestant again?**

Elizabeth needs to pass another new law in Parliament making England Protestant and her the head of The Church again.

**Think about how laws are passed in Parliament, why might Parliament filled with Mary's Catholic Bishops, make Elizabeth's law difficult to pass?**

# The English Reformation:



- Henry VIII REFORMED the Catholic Church because:

- The Roman Catholic Church was becoming too greedy
- It was becoming corrupt – Nepotism was common
- It didn't follow the rules of a truly Christian way of life (sexually, gambling, drinking etc)



*Martin Luther*

- Important to a Catholic:
- Baptisms, marriages & deaths were all marked by special services and ceremonies.
- Confession of sins and taking part in mass was vital to keeping your soul away from eternal damnation in hell!
- Prayers from others could help you on your way to heaven after you had died.
- Religion guided people's morals and behaviour.

## Protestant



Henry VIII created his own church in 1532 in order to get a divorce, but he never really became Protestant.

Using the clips & the information on this slide, write a summary of the reformation, what it was and what the Protestants wanted... 45 words

*Read this, what does it mean?*

## Spem in Alium (Psalm 40)

Spem in alium numquam  
habui praeter in te  
Deus Israel  
Qui irascaris  
Et propitius eris  
Et omnia peccata hominum  
In tribulatione dimittis  
Domine Deus  
Creator coeli et terra  
Respice humilitatem nostram



Catholic in LATIN

# Protestantism:

(Psalm 40)

I have never put my hope  
in any other but in you  
God of Israel  
Who will be angry  
And yet become again gracious  
And who forgives all the sins of  
suffering man  
Lord God  
Creator of Heaven and Earth  
Look upon our lowliness

Protestant in  
ENGLISH



# Protestantism Overview:

Most ordinary people could not read or write, never mind read or write in Latin.

The Catholic Church believed the Bible should be in Latin, ordinary people had to just accept what they were being told was God's will, without really understanding what they were being told!



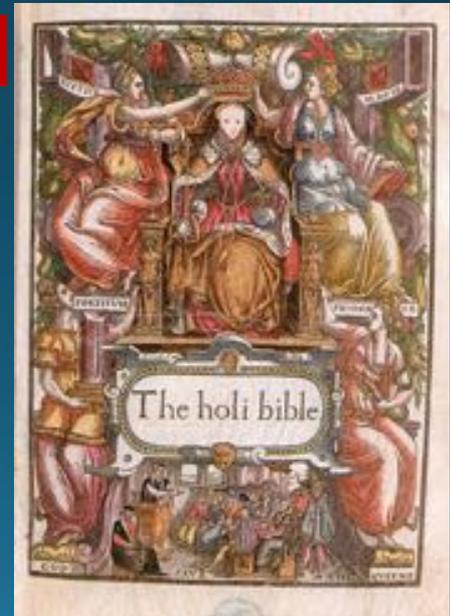
Protestants believed that the Bible should be in their own language so that people could more easily engage with their religion.

What are your thoughts on Protestantism so far?

Once people were able to understand and study the Bible for themselves, some more **EXTREME** Protestants wanted to base their religion **SOLELY** on what was in the Bible - **PURITANS**

- Few of the traditional Church ceremonies and decorations were in the Bible
- Nor were certain Church offices such as Bishops,
- They also said the Bible does not mention **HIERARCHY**

Why might this worry Elizabeth?







# Roman Catholic

# Protestant

There should be no pope	There are seven sacraments
Priests are permitted to marry if they wished	The Bible and church services should be in Latin
It is not necessary to have cardinals, Bishops or Archbishops	There are only 2 sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion
The Church acts as an intermediary between God and the people	The pope is the head of the church
The Bible and church services should be in your own language	The Church can forgive sins
People have their own, direct relationship with God through prayer and Bible study	Underneath the pope are cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests
Priests are special and should wear special clothing (Vestments)	Priests are forbidden to marry
Churches should be highly decorated in honour and glory to God	Sins can only be forgiven by God
Churches should be plain and simple so as not to distract from worshipping God	During mass, a miracle occurs when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ
The bread and wine simple REPRESENTS the Last Supper in the Bible, there is no miracle	Priests are not special and should not wear special clothing

## Key terms

### Intermediary\*

Someone who acts as a go-between when direct communication is not possible.

### Last Supper\*

The last meal that Christ shared with his disciples (followers). Commemorating it is very important to Christians as it is a reminder that Christ sacrificed his life to save humanity.

### Sacraments\*

Special Church ceremonies.

### Holy Communion\*

Another name for mass, often used in Protestant churches.

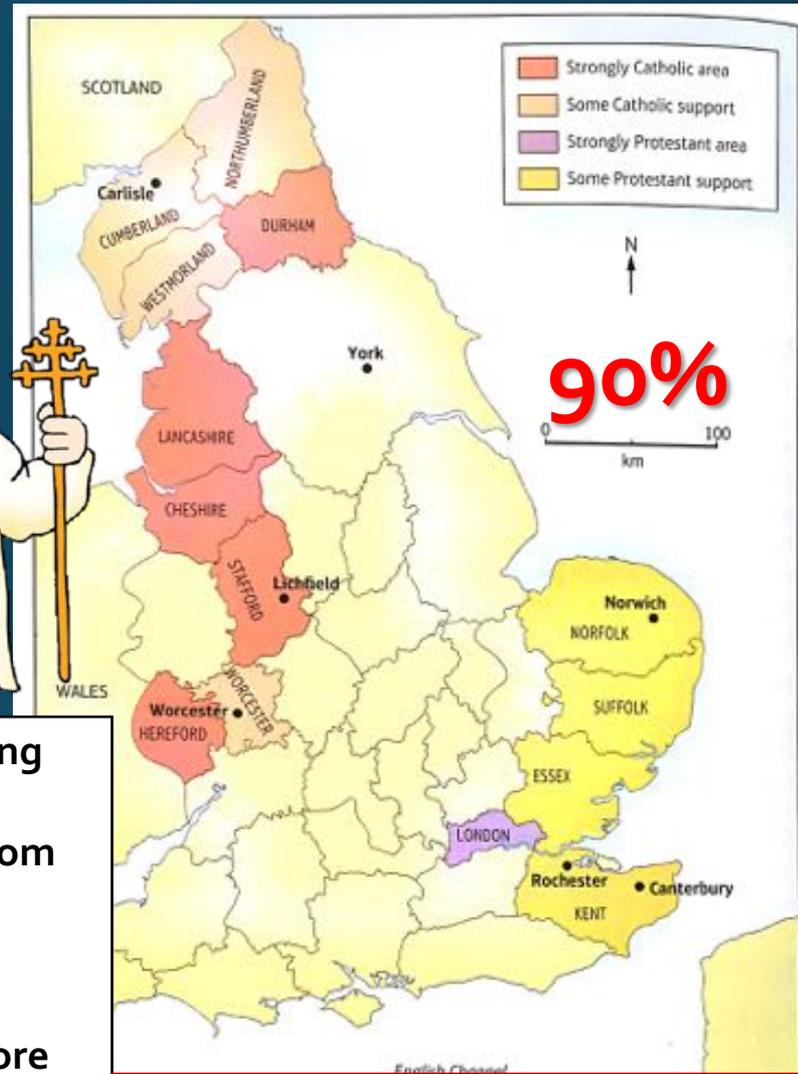
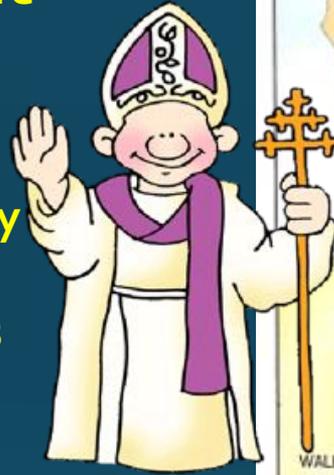
### Clergy\*

Religious leaders, such as bishops and priests.

# The Clergy

In 1558, most of England's bishops were Catholic. Changing the religion of the country needed an Act of Parliament.

The House of Commons would be likely to agree with what Elizabeth wanted, but there were lots of Catholic bishops in the House of Lords.



90%

Parts of England were more Catholic than others, meaning the people living there were less likely to accept Protestantism. These areas tended to be further away from London. Parts of the north & west diocese (areas looked after by a bishop) were especially Catholic.

London, East Anglia and the South-east tended to be more Protestant. They had closer links with the Netherlands & German states where Protestantism had become popular

Stick your maps in your book and colour in the 4 levels of Catholicism



Should Elizabeth I be worried about this map? Why?

I am protestant and so cannot restore the authority of the Pope

Most people in England are Catholic, but most of my government are Protestant

The most powerful countries in Europe are Catholic

Mary, Queen of Scots claims she is the rightful Queen of England and Catholics are supporting her

Religious changes in the past have caused rebellions



What did the Queen think?

I want the country to be united and don't want to punish people just for their religious beliefs

I need a national Church which most of my people can accept

**Advise the Queen**

# The Puritans:



When Mary I was queen of England, 284 Protestants were burned. Many more escaped to more tolerant Protestant states in Europe, such as the Netherlands. They returned to England when Elizabeth inherited the throne as much more committed and radical Protestants.

These Protestants were referred to as Puritans as they wanted to 'purify' the Christian religion by getting rid of anything that wasn't in the Bible.

Puritans didn't believe in **hierarchy** and wanted to manage their own churches by themselves rather than bishops or the pope choosing for them. This also meant in this system, there would be no role for the queen as head of the Church

The Puritan churches would be very basic, without alters (the table in a church where mass is performed) in some cases.



2 clips in Puritan folder (Blackadder & Horrible Histories)

## A Catholic Church?

- Most people don't like religious change and following Mary, the Church in England was once again fully Catholic
- Most of England, especially up north are Catholic
- The appearance of the Church is as important as the word eg images, crosses, the priest's gowns etc

**Make a note under each heading what a person from each religion might have wanted**

## A Protestant Church? (Puritan)

- Elizabeth herself was Protestant
- Everyone still believes in heaven and hell so these choices were crucial
- Nobles who left England under Mary were returning
- There was anger to Spain and the Pope for the burnings under Mary



## A compromise

- Obvious and easy solution?
- Could end up pleasing no one
- There was NO toleration for other religions
- She couldn't accept Pope as head of her church, Catholics couldn't accept a woman as head of the Church
- Puritans wanted NO sign of any Catholic traits eg images, statues, clothes etc

# The Settlement:

It was vital that Elizabeth could find a MIDDLE GROUND in religion. There had to be a form of Protestantism that the Catholics could accept.

Imagine you are Elizabeth, what is your new religion going to look like? How are you going to please everyone and avoid more chaos, devastation and civil war?

Parliament was called in 1559 to pass the Settlement

Govt clip 16.40

- **Elizabeth definitely ruled out a Puritan religion** – - This is because she herself didn't believe in the extreme practise of the Puritans
  - She didn't want to turn her Catholic subjects against her
  - Puritans didn't believe in hierarchy so it would have been a challenge to her authority as queen
- **The people needed to follow the religion of the monarch to avoid a moral choice of who to be most loyal to, choosing wrong could have led to death!**



# The actual new religion...

We're now going to go through Elizabeth's Religious Settlement,

Write this key in your margin

**C – Pleased Catholics**

**P – Pleased Protestants**

As we add details to the settlement,  
add the C or P

*Elizabeth's Settlement 1559*

# Key features of the Religious Settlement



- It was designed to be accepted by as many of her subjects as possible
- It was moderate (middle ground) and was established in 1559

## Supremacy

Made Elizabeth 'Supreme **governor** of the Church of England'. She purposefully changed her title from head to governor to appease the Catholics, which it did!

All clergy and royal officials had to **swear an oath** of allegiance to her.

Priests could now get married

An ecclesiastical (church related) High Commission was set up to maintain the discipline within the church

Every parish had to have a copy of the Bible in English, accessible to ALL

Pilgrimages and monuments to 'fake' miracles were banned

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## Uniformity

Established the appearance of all churches and the form of services they held. A set form of service using the exact words from the **COMMON BOOK OF PRAYER** in ALL churches, all were in English.

**BOOK OF PRAYER** in ALL churches, all were in English. The removal of **Latin** upset the Catholics, many got round this by going to Elizabeth's churches then taking mass privately later.

The wording of the service were deliberately unclear (vague) so Catholics and Protestants could **interpret** them to suit their own services.

Ornaments and decorations were allowed and singing hymns continued, this pleased everyone other than Puritan bishops, **images** were also allowed.

Priests had to wear special clothing as a compromise to Catholics, Puritans didn't like this.

Crosses and candlesticks to be placed on communion table.

# Enforcing it...

Who would be responsible for this?



## Royal injunctions

These were a set of instructions designed to secure and enforce the new Religious Settlement

- There were penalties for those refusing to use it: Everyone had to attend church on Sundays and holy days such as Good Friday – (fine of 12p/1 shilling) per day (Labourer could earn 3p a day, Servant 8-9p a WEEK, skilled craftsman 4p a day)
- No-one could preach without a licence from the Government, had to take the oath to get the licence.
- All clergy were to teach the Royal Supremacy – Monarch is governor of the Church
- Anyone refusing to attend church (**Recusant**) was reported to the Privy Council
- The clergy had to wear special vestments (clothes) – some refused saying they were too popish

# Enforcing the settlement:



- *The Church was responsible for helping to enforce Elizabeth's religious settlement. Inspections of churches and clergy were carried out by bishops to make sure everyone took the oath of supremacy*
- *The first visits were in 1559 and resulted in 400 clergy being dismissed (She did make it clear she didn't want people's religious beliefs investigated too closely!)*
- *A parish / village visit then took place every 3-4 years, including teachers, midwives, surgeons and physicians, who had to show their licences - this allowed the Church to monitor other professions for the government*

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## Act of Supremacy

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All clergy and royal officials had to **swear an oath** of allegiance to her as head of the church.

Priests could now get married

An ecclesiastical (church related) High Commission was set up to maintain the discipline within the church

Bishops would run the Church

## Act of Uniformity

Established the appearance of all churches and the form of services they held. A set form of service using the exact words from the **COMMON BOOK OF PRAYER** in ALL churches, all were in English. The removal of **Latin** upset the Catholics, many got round this by going to Elizabeth's churches then taking mass privately later. (Elizabeth was aware that Catholic services took place, but as long as they were done in private and they were outwardly supporting her, at least in the early days, she turned a blind eye – remember she had done this herself under Mary I)

Ornaments and decorations were allowed and singing hymns continued, this pleased everyone other than Puritan bishops, **images** were also allowed.

The wording of the service were deliberately unclear (vague) so Catholics and Protestants could **interpret** them to suit their own services. Priests had to wear special clothing as a compromise to Catholics, Puritans didn't like this.

# How easy was it passed do you think?

What are the most clever parts of the settlement?



It took a few attempts to get it through the Lords, despite easily passing through the House of Commons. In March 1559, Elizabeth arrested 2 bishops from the Lords for "disobedience", they were locked in the Tower of London. She then tried again and it was successful in the Lords by 2 votes! - GENIUS

## Act of Uniformity 1559

Most people couldn't afford to not attend church

- There were penalties for those refusing to use it: Everyone had to attend church on Sundays and holy days such as Good Friday – (fine of 12p/1 shilling) per day (Labourer could earn 3p a day, Servant 8-9p a WEEK, skilled craftsman 4p a day)
- Crosses and candlesticks to be placed on communion table.

## Royal injunctions

These were a set of instructions designed to secure and enforce the new Religious Settlement

- All clergy were to teach the Royal Supremacy – Monarch is head of the Church
- Anyone refusing to attend church (**Recusant**) was reported to the Privy Council
- Every parish had to have a copy of the Bible in English, accessible to ALL
- No-one could preach without a licence from the Government, had to take the oath to get the licence.
- Pilgrimages and monuments to 'fake' miracles were banned
- The clergy had to wear special vestments (clothes) – some refused saying they were too popish

By saying pilgrimages to 'fake sites' implied that there were not fake ones, this again was designed on purpose to appease the Catholics. This could have helped Elizabeth's settlement be more widely accepted. Ornaments and decorations were also allowed in churches, again pleasing the Catholics. It was the Puritans that opposed the settlement more, believing people should pray only to God and not idols and statues.

# H/W: Inform the people...

- Design a leaflet that informs the English people on what they need to know about the new religious settlement.
- It should include as a minimum:
  - The Queen's aims
  - What will the churches be like
  - What will the church services be like
  - What are loyal subjects supposed to do
  - How will it be enforced?

# Exam Question:

**Describe 2 features of the Elizabethan religious settlement. [4 marks]**

**Tip:**

**Remember to give supporting information (KNOWLEDGE) for both examples**

**You get a mark for each feature and a mark for each example of supporting, additional information**

**Make your points CLEARLY in fully developed sentences**

**4-5 minutes**

# Impact of the Religious Settlement:



Figure 1.5 Traditional Catholic church in the reign of Mary I.

- Key**
1. Altar, which is set apart from the congregation
  2. Ornate robes
  3. Painted walls depicting Bible stories
  4. Stained glass window
  5. Elaborate crucifix and statues of saints

Stick in both versions of the 2 churches using the key in each to label it



## Impact of Elizabeth's religious settlement:

- Elizabeth wanted a Protestant Church that Catholics could accept.
- She did not want them to be torn in choosing loyalty to her or their religion
- She kept a Catholic 'feel' to her churches as long as people conformed outwardly
- She hoped this approach would mean the Catholic faith would just fade away



Figure 1.6 Protestant church in Elizabethan England.

- Key**
1. Plain table instead of an altar
  2. Simple robes
  3. No ornate decoration
  4. Plain windows
  5. Royal crest instead of religious decoration

**Key Term: "Royal Supremacy"**  
When the monarch is head of the Church

# The Clergy & People

All members of the Church had to take the oath of Supremacy under the 'Act of Supremacy' if they were to keep their jobs. 8,000 out of 10,000 did this meaning life continued pretty much as normal for the people in the villages & towns

Success? Or Not?

## The Bishops:

When it came to the bishops though, only **ONE** agreed to take the oath. The rest stepped down. Elizabeth appointed **27** new bishops. This allowed her to put **PROTESTANT** bishops in place. She needed the support of these new bishops as there was a shortage of qualified Protestant clergy in England.



**Key Term: "Recusant"**  
Catholics who were unwilling to attend the new church services

## The People:



The majority of people accepted Elizabeth's religious settlement and attended the new Church of England services, even though many of them held onto their Catholic beliefs.

**Explain how the prayer book in English and its ambiguity (vague) helped this?**

Parishes in the north were slower to change, but Elizabeth was determined not to enforce it too strongly, even for the recusants –



**WHY?**

Elizabeth's settlement was largely smooth, there were some examples of violence but this was rare

# The role of The Church of England



Following the Religious Settlement



# The Role of the Church:



## *It controlled what was preached:*

Priests needed a special licence from the government to preach. Elizabeth could ensure that the clergy only preached her religious and political messages

It ran the church courts

*It gave guidance to communities.* People turned to their parish church in times of hardship and uncertainty

## The role of the Church of England

It legitimised the power to the monarch

It enforced the Religious Settlement



Copy this diagram, but add a little graphic / picture to each bubble to help you revise & remember.

# Village life & Church Courts:



The parish church was a central point of village life and religion stirred up a great deal of emotion

**Source A: An open air preaching in the village of Dedham, Essex:**

“... at Dedham men hang weeping on the necks of their horses after Mr. Rogers’s sermon had acted out a little scene in which God threatened to take away the Bible from the English people.”

Church courts mainly focused on Church matters, but they did act in a range of minor disputes on moral disputes.

- Marriage – ensuring the bride & groom were marrying of their own free will or at suitable age
- Sexual offences – Bigamy (being married to more than 1 person)
- Slander – false insults / accusations
- Wills & Inheritance – Lawyers hated this church court’s power

All other offences, such as civil cases (one person suing another), disputes over land, robbery, fraud, rape and murder were dealt with in the ordinary court system



# Summary:



## Summary

- Elizabeth was a Protestant queen but England was not a completely Protestant country.
- More Protestant areas of the country were London, the south-east and East Anglia, while Catholicism was especially strong in the north and west of England.
- The religious settlement came in three parts: the Act of Supremacy, the Act of Uniformity and the Royal Injunctions.
- In some places, changing over to the new religious settlement was very slow.
- Visitations enforced the religious settlement but Elizabeth ordered them not to be too harsh.

## Checkpoint

### Strengthen

- S1** What were Elizabeth's main aims in her religious settlement?
- S2** What two Acts of Parliament were part of the religious settlement and what did they say?
- S3** What were the Royal Injunctions?
- S4** What was the role of the Church of England in enforcing the religious settlement?

### Challenge

- C1** Which key features of the religious settlement appealed to:
- Catholics
  - Protestants?
- C2** What evidence is there that Elizabeth's religious settlement:
- was very popular
  - was not very popular?