

# Opposition to the Religious Settlement

## Aim:

To understand the challenges Elizabeth faced to her settlement from the Catholics at and Protestants (**Puritans**) both at home and abroad.



Timeline checkpoint:

Put the following events in chronological order

1558

1570

1569

Northern Nobles  
rebel in the  
“Northern  
Rebellion”

1568

Catholic Mary  
Queen of Scots  
arrives in England

1558

Elizabeth  
becomes Queen

1565

Puritan Bishops  
and Clergy refusing  
to wear the  
vestments

1566

Pope tells Catholics  
not to go to  
Elizabeth’s churches

1559

Religious  
Settlement

1566

Archbishop of  
Canterbury makes  
Puritan Clergy wear  
the vestments

1570

Papal Bull -  
Excommunication



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What can we remember  
about the Puritans so far...?

# 1. The Puritans



I like some of the old Catholic ways – there is nothing wrong with some decoration in churches and priests wearing vestments.

Some Puritans want to get rid of bishops. This would destroy my power to rule the Church.

The Puritans are a minority. Most of my people like the Church of England. I must keep their support.

The Puritans will never plot to overthrow me or help a foreign country to attack England.

I am in charge of the Church. Religion is one of my private matters of state. The Puritans have no right to ask for changes. They are attacking my authority.



What is Elizabeth's view of the Puritans?

## Who are the Puritans?:

- Protestants left England during 'Bloody Mary's' reign to the Protestant Netherlands
- They returned much more radical
- They became known as Puritans as they wanted to purify the Christian religion – getting rid of anything that wasn't in the bible
- They didn't believe in hierarchy in both religion and everyday life
- Puritan churches would be very basic, no alters (the mass table) and plain



Stick your image into your book and put a tick or a cross next to the information if you think the Puritans got what they wanted?

**Bishops running the Church**  
Puritans wanted the Church to be run by committees elected by churchgoers rather than bishops.

**The Catholic appearance of the new Church**

Puritans wanted very plain churches: whitewashed walls and no stained-glass windows, pictures or statues; plain tables instead of altars, and no music.

**The Queen as Supreme Governor**  
Puritans did not believe in a Head of the Church.

**Religious robes like vestments**  
Puritans wanted the parish clergy to wear only plain black gowns.



**Some of the wording of the new Prayer Book**  
Puritans believed that the presence of Jesus in the Communion Service was spiritual, not physical.



The Puritans hoped Elizabeth's religious reforms would be the start of more Protestant developments to the Church of England.

They were disappointed that she had chosen a middle ground to avoid conflict with the Catholics!

### How did the Puritans challenge the Settlement?

Ignored or disobeyed parts of the Settlement

Questioned if people should kneel to receive communion

Abolished organ music with hymns (this didn't please the ordinary people)

There were two main issues: Crucifixes, Priests clothing...

**Draw this table on a clean page in your book (half a page):**

	Crucifix Crisis	Vestment Crisis
Summary of crisis:		
Threat level (1-5) and why:		

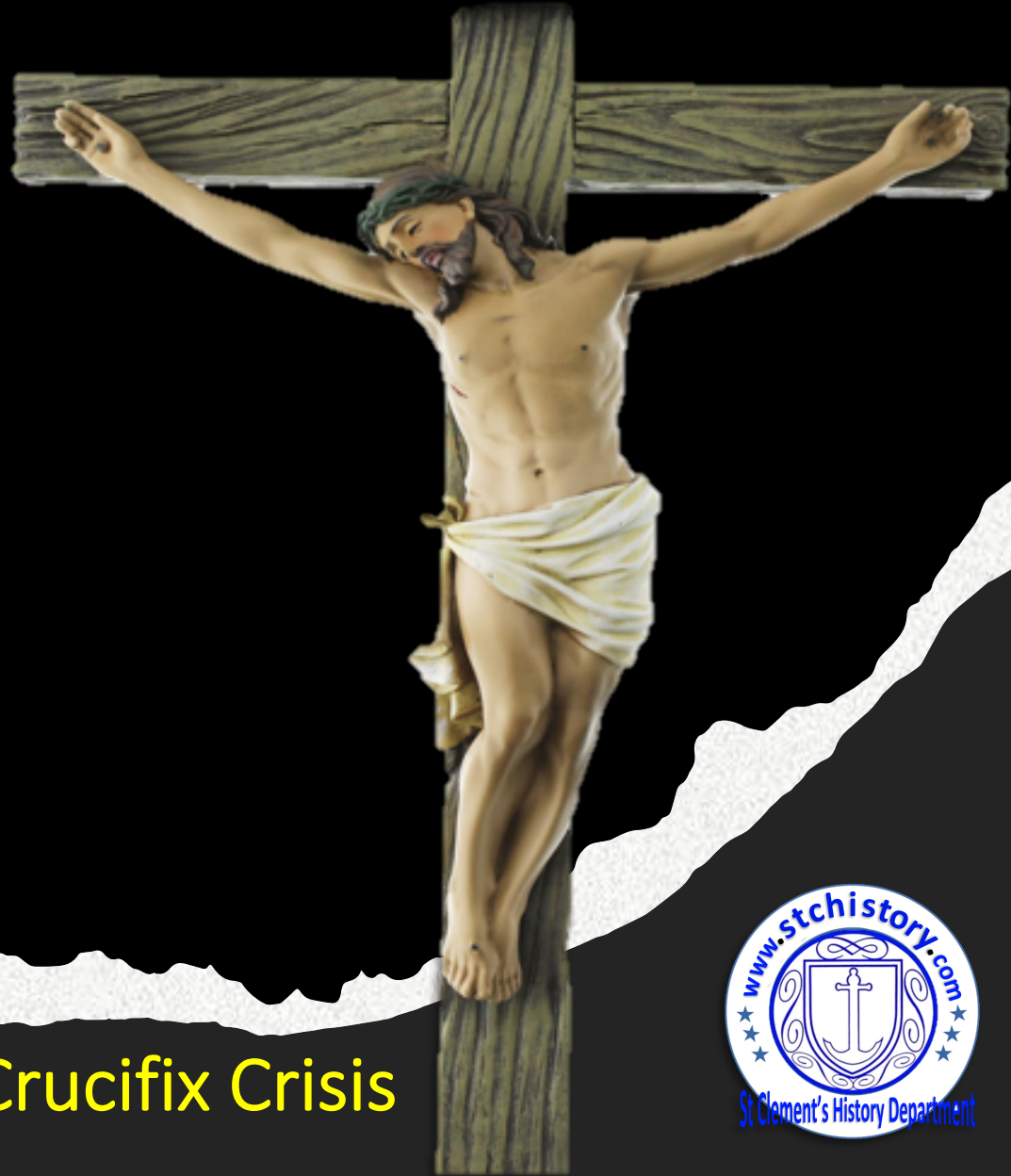
**(1-5 – 1 being no threat at all, 5 being near death)**



A crucifix is the cross with Jesus still on it (Catholic). Protestants have just a cross.

The Puritans were already angry that Elizabeth's settlement was too Catholic (including statues and idols) and saw the inclusion of the Crucifix in their churches as a step too far.

What should Elizabeth do?



Main challenge 1: **The Crucifix Crisis**





As you all know, I have tried to create a religion that appeals to the majority, I demand the crucifix remains. If I lose the crucifix I will appear weak as a Queen, as well as upset the Catholics and there are a lot of Catholics, but I am a Protestant, I should please them – Oh this is a dilemma!

This is especially difficult and dangerous as the Pope has just told my loyal subjects, the English Catholics, to boycott my new Church, not sure I am ready for that fight just yet!

Write a short summary of the Crucifix Crisis in your table and give it a threat level:

What should Elizabeth do?

In the end, Elizabeth backed down to the Puritans, (partly due to the influence of Cecil & Dudley) and removed the crucifix from her churches, however, she compromised once again by allowing them to stay in the Royal Chapel in every church. She DID NOT want a civil war over religion!





Main challenge 2:  
**The Vestment Crisis**

# The Vestment Crisis:

**It is bad enough that our Queen has compromised so much already, but we just can't accept these Catholic vestments in our Protestant churches! No way! It just makes the priests appear above the people and better than us! These priests think they can turn bread & wine into the body and blood of Jesus, come on!!! They also think they can forgive sin? ONLY God can forgive sin!**

**A priest should be plain in dress and behaviour!**

**While I am here, there is no hierarchy in the Bible, so should there be in real life?  
No hierarchy – no queen!!!**

**What is the issue the Puritans have with the Vestments?**



## What should Elizabeth do?

Write a short summary of the Vestment Crisis in your table and give it a threat level:

I am the Queen, ALL will obey me! The Archbishop of Canterbury will issue a '**Book of advertisements**' declaring how my clergy will dress and behave, they will come to London to be shown how to dress. If they refuse they will be sacked – Although this could be dangerous and start a Protestant rising, it is the only choice I have!

I am worried about this idea of no hierarchy that these Puritans are talking about!...

Some priests were still not following Elizabeth's instructions (Royal injunctions) and wearing the required vestments. This undermined the Queen's authority, which she couldn't allow having such a weak grip on the crown at the start of her reign. Most priests in the end backed down, only **37** were sacked!



# Other Puritan opposition

- Puritans in Parliament known as the Puritan Choir were a nuisance, they'd shout and disrupt Elizabeth, challenging the settlement making it harder to pass the act.
- They demanded closer consultation about future changes again threatening the settlement
- Some Puritan bishops appointed enthusiastic preachers who attacked the settlement – their enthusiasm meant people would like them and maybe start listening to them, therefore challenging the settlement
- Many Puritans looked to John Knox who attacked the idea of a female ruler and her legitimacy as Supreme governor of the Church
- Remember, Puritans don't believe in Hierarchy

