



The Religious Settlement:

What was the impact of the Settlement?

How successful was Elizabeth in her aims?

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 as the Catholic bishops died



The Oath of Supremacy to Elizabeth: The Clergy

All members of the Church had to take the oath 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 their villages & towns

The Oath of Supremacy to Elizabeth: **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.





The Oath of Supremacy to Elizabeth: **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.

How did 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?

There was some violence from Puritans destroying Catholic ornaments and statues but this was rare.

What was the role of the 'Church of England' in everyday life?

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

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 and to check their preaching licences.

A parish / village visit then took place every 3-4 years, including teachers, midwives, surgeons and physicians, who had to show their licences too.



Describe 2 features of the role of the Church of England

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 explained why the monarch had power

It enforced the Religious Settlement. The first visits were in 1559 and resulted in **400 clergy being dismissed**