

The Power of the Church

- Everyone believed in God, Heaven and Hell. Peasants had to pay **Tithes** (10% of their earnings as tax to the church)
- **Monasteries** were buildings run by monks, **1,000** across England during the medieval period.
- Monasteries provided **education, healthcare, refuge for travellers and they translated texts**. They had a great influence over people.

Thomas Becket:

- Thomas Becket was **Archbishop of Canterbury**, the most important person in the Catholic Church in England.
- Henry II thought he could convince Becket to **reform the church courts** to make himself more powerful
- Becket refused, was murdered and his death forced King Henry to apologise and repent. He walked miles to **Canterbury Cathedral** with a jacket of horse hair to publicly apologise



Crusades:

- The Crusades were a series of **religious wars** fought by **Christians and Muslims** over who would control Jerusalem, a sacred land to both religions.
- Many people from England made the **4,000 mile** trip to Jerusalem to fight on Crusade for a variety of reasons.
- The Pope promised **indulgences** to Crusaders, allowing them a **free pass to Heaven**, Crusader Knights could also gain **land and money** if they were victorious in the **middle east**.



The Magna Carta

- An agreement signed by **King John in 1215** which was the first document to restrict the power of the king. A number of his **barons** proposed it as they were unhappy with his rule.
- The document said that the king had to obey the law and every man had the right to a free and fair trial, It **didn't affect the peasants at all (90% of population)**
- **King John reneged** (went back) on the document almost instantly, causing the king and barons to go to war.
- The Magna Carta was significant in the long-term as it laid the foundations for the **creation of Parliament**

Black Death: Causes and Beliefs

- The Black Death arrived in England in **1348** and killed **1/3 of the population**.
- Those with the disease would get large buboes on their skin and vomiting symptoms
- People didn't know what caused the disease at the time (it was **fleas carried by rats**)
- Most people believed it was a **punishment from God**
- Others believed it was caused by **miasma** (bad smelling air)
- Others believed it was the **movement of the planets (superstition)**

Black Death: Cures and Consequences

- There were no effective cures for the Black Death.
- Some tried praying such as the **Flagellants** who whipped themselves
- Others used **herbal remedies** to counter the smell. Some even used extreme methods like **rubbing chickens on their faces**.
- The Black Death caused such a drop in population it gave the peasants more power and freedom temporarily (**wages more than doubled**)

