

Knowledge Organiser – Early Elizabethan England 1558-88.

Part 4 – Queen, government and religion 1558-69 : The Religious Settlement

1. Religion was central to life in the 16th century. Since the **Reformation**, England had been divided between Catholics and Protestants, and now there was another group, known as the **Puritans**.

| | Catholics | Protestants | Puritans |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Beliefs | Pope is head of the Church. There are also cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests. In the Mass , bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood (transubstantiation). The Church can forgive sins. Priests cannot marry. There are 7 sacraments . | No Pope (monarch is in charge). Have some bishops and archbishops. Bread and wine are symbols of remembrance. Only God can forgive sins. Priests can marry. There are 2 sacraments (baptism and Holy Communion). | No person is in charge, no popes or bishops. Church runs themselves. Bread and wine are symbols. Priests can marry. |
| Practices | Services and Bible in Latin. Priests wear special clothing (vestments). Churches are highly decorated. | Services and Bible in English. Priests wear simple clothes. Churches are plain. | Services and Bible in English. Priests wear simple clothes. Churches have no decoration. |
| Support | North and West of England | South Eastern England | London and East Anglia |

The Act of Supremacy

- Ecclesiastical High Commission established to maintain discipline within the church and enforce the settlement.
- Disloyal clergy could be punished.

The Act of Uniformity

- Book of Common Prayer to be used in all churches.
- Clergy had to use wording of prayer book when conducting services.
- Wording deliberately unclear so Catholics and Protestants could interpret what happened to the bread and wine.
- Priests were to wear special clothing.
- Everyone had to attend church on Sunday and other Holy Days, or be fined 1 shilling for every absence.

Royal Injunctions

- All Clergy were to teach the Royal Supremacy (monarch is head of the church).
- Anyone refusing to attend church reported to Privy Council.
- Each parish had to have a copy of the Bible in English.
- No one allowed to preach without a licence from the government.
- Pilgrimages and monuments to 'fake' miracles were banned (but possibility of real ones to please Catholics).
- Clergy were to wear special vestments.
- Images allowed in church (would keep churches looking familiar and changes less unsettling, although Puritans disapproved).

Impact of the Religious Settlement

- 8000 **clergy** out of 10,000 accepted it, showing it was largely successful. The first **visitations** in 1559 saw 400 clergy being dismissed, but most passed the visitations, which were then carried out every 3-4 years.
- However, only 1 bishop accepted, so they were replaced with 27 Protestant bishops.
- The majority of ordinary people accepted it, and attended church services (helped by the unclear wording of the prayer book).
- The North and West of England, such as Lancashire, were slow to change, but Elizabeth made it clear she did not want to be too harsh.

As well as enforcing the religious settlement, the Church of England also ran the Church courts, dealing with issues such as marriage, sexual offences and slander (false insults). The Church gave guidance to local communities, who would turn to their parish church in times of hardship. The Church also encouraged people to remain loyal and not rebel, and preached the government's message by insisting all priests had to have a license to preach. Teachers, midwives, surgeons and physicians also had to have a license to work, so the Church could monitor other professions on the government's behalf.

Key Events

| | |
|----|---|
| 2. | 1559 – The Religious Settlement |
| 3. | 1559 – The first Visitations began |

Key Words

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 4. | Reformation | A challenge to the power of the Catholic Church. |
| 5. | Puritan | Radical Protestants, who wanted to 'purify' the Church by getting rid of anything not in the Bible. |
| 6. | Transubstantiation | The miracle during mass, where the bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Christ. |
| 7. | Mass | Catholic service where people are given bread and wine (also known as Holy Communion). |
| 8. | Sacrament | Special Church Ceremonies |
| 9. | Vestments | Special clothing worn by the clergy. |
| 10. | Ecclesiastical | An adjective used to describe things to do with the Church. |
| 11. | Pilgrimage | A journey to an important religious place. |
| 12. | Clergy | Religious leaders e.g. bishops and priests |
| 13. | Visitations | Inspections of the clergy by bishops to make sure the Religious Settlement was being followed. |