

Anglo Saxon England



For most of the Anglo-Saxon period England wasn't one country but made up of several kingdoms. These changed as some got larger and others were taken over by their neighbours. England was finally unified under King Edgar in 973 AD.



Locate some key places associated with this period on this map:

- Canterbury
- Kent
- London
- Denmark
- Norway
- Sweden
- France



There were seven main Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms before 973 AD. Some of them have familiar names.

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| • umnorthbria | • usexss |
| • liaang stea | • cimera |
| • ewsxes | • enkt |
| • xeses | |

What are their names as we know them by today?

Northumbria East Anglia Wessex
Essex Sussex Mercia Kent

Saint Augustine

Not much is known about Saint Augustine's life before he was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to England. We do know he was a monk in Rome and therefore he must have been well educated and used to living in a civilised city. Rome was considered to be one of the greatest cities in the world at this time and would have been a safe and comfortable place to live with decent plumbing and a warm climate. This might explain why Augustine was apparently less than keen about his mission to England. The Venerable Bede, an English Historian, who wrote over one hundred years after Saint Augustine's mission, records that Augustine and the other monks were not happy being sent to England.



“ They set off obediently, but were soon seized with terror and wanted to return home instead of going to this barbarous, fierce and unbelieving nation where they did not even know the language.

The monks tried to return home but Pope Gregory wrote them a stern letter to encourage them to keep going.

“ Do not let the toil of the journey or the tongues of men discourage you.

Pope Gregory reminded them that they would be rewarded in Heaven for their bravery.

Saint Augustine



Imagine you are Augustine or one of his fellow monks. Discuss all the reasons why you have to go to England and all the reasons why you don't want to go to England.

Create a travel diary, either presenting it as a Vlog or in written form, showing how Augustine is feeling as he leaves Rome and makes his way to Kent. Remember the journey will take at least three months. It will involve walking over the Alps and crossing the English Channel.

What other difficulties might Augustine experience?

Reasons to go to England

Reasons not to go to England

Travel Diary

Saint Bertha

Queen Bertha (b. early 560s - d. after 604) was a French princess who married King Ethelbert of Kent, one of the most powerful Kings in Saxon England. She was a Christian and part of the marriage agreement was that she should be allowed to continue to practice as a Christian, even when she moved to Kent.

Most Saxons at this time were pagan. This means that they were not Christian but

worshipped many different gods. Some of our days of the week are still named after these gods, for example Tuesday is named after Tiw, the god of war, Wednesday is named after Woden, the chief Saxon god and Friday is named after his wife Freyja.

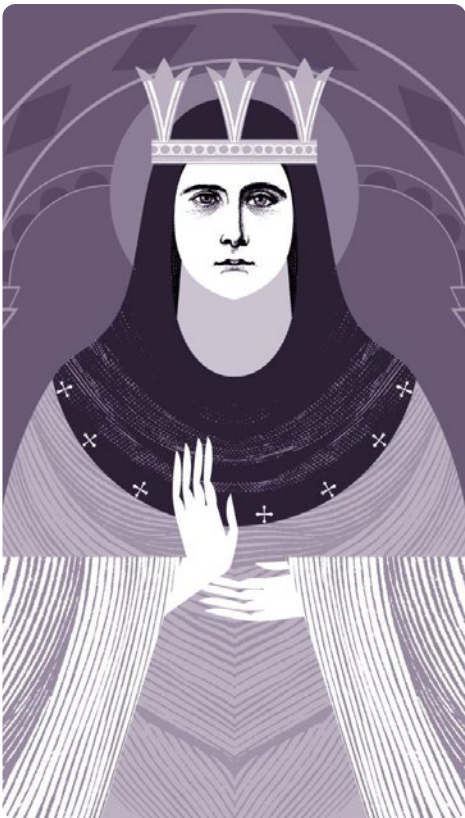
Pope Gregory wanted St Augustine (with Queen Bertha's help) to convert the English to Christianity, but this would not be easy. A letter sent from Pope Gregory to Bertha in 601 tells Bertha that she should be doing more to convert her husband to Christianity, but he also thanked her for the warm welcome St Augustine received.

When St Augustine first arrived, the King did not want to let him into the City of Canterbury because some people were worried the monks might be sorcerers. To be safe, the King arranged to meet the monks in the open air on the Isle of Thanet, near modern day Ramsgate, where St Augustine and his monks had just arrived after their long journey from Rome.



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King Ethelbert did give St Augustine land to build an Abbey outside Canterbury, which is now called St Augustine's Abbey. He also passed laws to protect the Christian Church. He was the first Saxon king to convert to Christianity (soon after the Pope's letter to Queen Bertha). A few years after her death, Queen Bertha was made a saint to recognise her persuasiveness and hard work in helping convert the English to Christianity.



Saint Bertha



- a. Imagine you are Queen Bertha. Deliver a persuasive argument to your husband, King Ethelbert, about why he should become a Christian.



- b. Imagine you are King Ethelbert and your wife is trying to convert you to Christianity. Deliver a persuasive argument to remain pagan.



You could deliver these arguments in the form of a debate and ask your audience to vote for who they felt won the debate.

Archbishop Alphege



Can you put these events in order to tell the story of the capture of Archbishop Alphege.



- a. Pilgrims came to visit his tomb next to the High Altar in the Cathedral.
- b. The Vikings took Alphege hostage and took him to their base in Greenwich.
- c. In 1011 the Vikings invaded Kent and came to the Cathedral to steal their wealth.
- d. King Canute took Alphege's body back to Canterbury Cathedral where he was buried.
- e. When Canterbury tried to pay the ransom money Alphege refused to be ransomed.
- f. His body was taken to Saint Paul's Cathedral in London where it stayed until 1023.
- g. Saint Alphege became the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1005.
- h. One night the Vikings attacked Alphege with ox bones and killed him.

1. G 2. C 3. B 4. E 5. H 6. F 7. D 8. A

Should you..?



Imagine you are
these characters in
the Alphege story.

What would you do?



Who?	Yes because...	No because...
A Viking raiding off the coast of Kent - should you invade Canterbury?		
A leader of the town of Canterbury – should you pay the Vikings Danegeld, a bribe to stay away?		
A Viking raiding Canterbury – should you capture Archbishop Alphege?		
The prior at Canterbury Cathedral – should you pay a ransom to get Alphege back?		

Stop the press



You are a reporter writing a news story about Archbishop Alphege's capture.

You may choose to write for:

1. The Canterbury Express

2. The Viking Times

How would you tell the story differently depending on who you were writing for?

Write your headline and story in the spaces provided.



THE CANTERBURY EXPRESS



ISSUE 261

19 APRIL 1012

2 pennies

Stop the press



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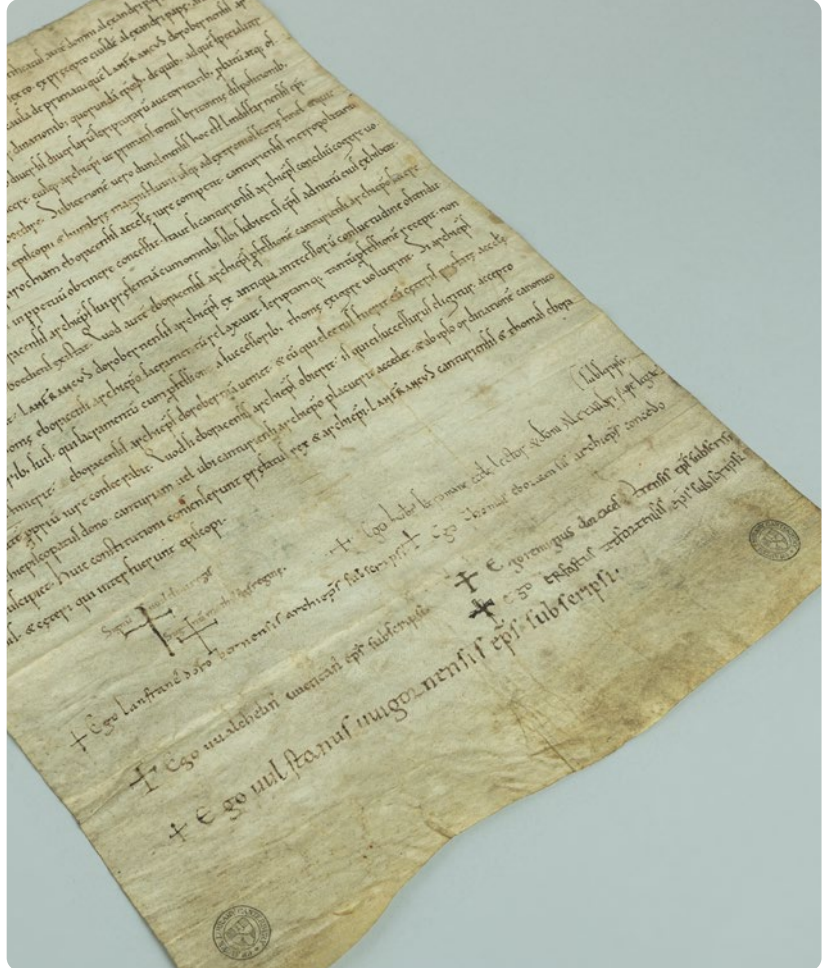
Write your headline and story in the spaces provided.



The Accord of Winchester

The Accord (pronounced A-ccord) of Winchester is one of the most important documents in Canterbury Cathedral. It was signed in 1072 AD and settled an argument over whether the Archbishop of York or the Archbishop of Canterbury was more important in England.

The King, William the Conqueror, decided to choose the Archbishop of Canterbury to be the most important churchman in England. This may have been because Lanfranc, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had helped sort out some difficulties William had had when he wanted to marry his cousin Matilda many years beforehand (the Church didn't usually like cousins getting married). It may also be because William was angry with the people in the North of England for not doing as he told them to and York was an important city in the North.



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When you look at the document you can see that King William and Queen Matilda signed with a cross but not their names. The other people who signed put their names as well as a cross.



Why didn't the King and Queen have to sign their full names?

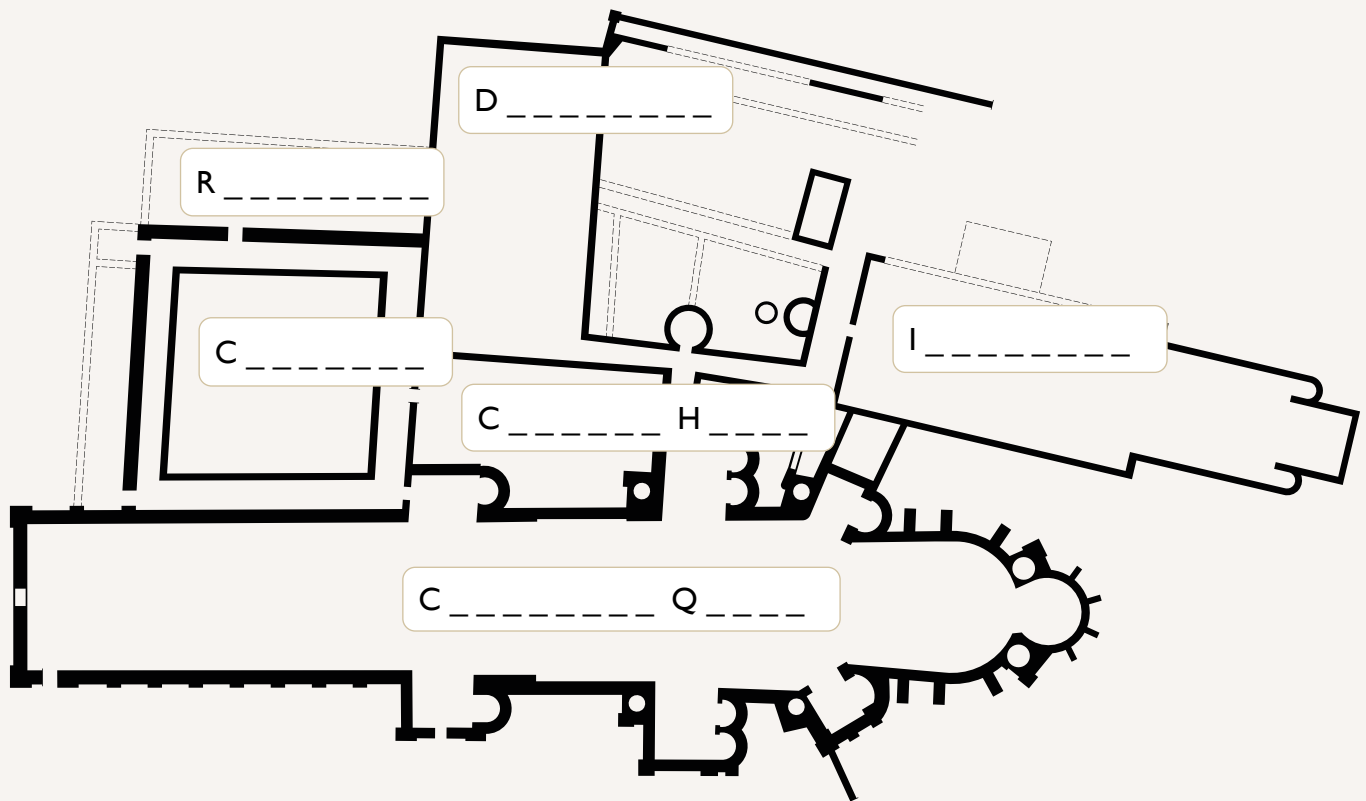
The King and Queen's crosses are the biggest. Why might that be?

King William's cross is shaky. Why might that be?

In the Middle Ages many people, but especially women, were illiterate. Queen Matilda was determined that all her children should have a good academic education and be able to read and write (unlike her husband).

Why do you think she did this?

Understand a medieval monastery



Look at the above plan of the medieval monastery.

Can you use these words to label the diagram?

- Chapter House
- Dormitory
- Refectory
- Infirmary
- Cloister
- Cathedral Quire



Many of the monks daily activities are listed below.

Can you work out where the monks did each of these things, using the labels from the diagram?

Worship and prayer in the _____
 Lessons and study in the _____
 Daily meeting in the _____
 Sleeping in the _____
 Eating in the _____
 Caring for the sick in the _____

A day in the life of a monastery

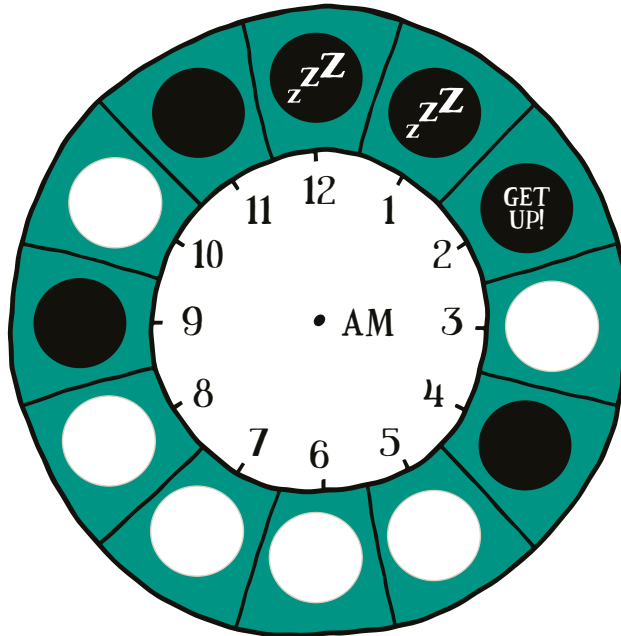


This is a monks winter timetable.

Fill in the blank spaces correctly using the letters corresponding to Prayer, Chores, Meal & Study.

Hint!

They did some things more than once a day.



A. Prayer



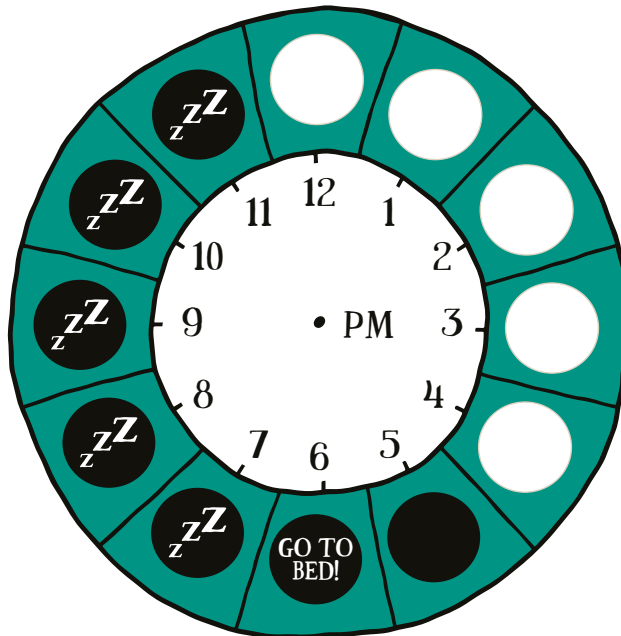
B. Chores



C. Meal



D. Study



What do you think were the good and bad aspects of living life as a monk at Canterbury?

Would you have liked to be a medieval monk?

MORNING: 3.A 5.D 6.A 7.D 8.A 10.B AFTERNOON: 12.A 1.B 2.C 3.D 4.A

Play a medieval game



The game - 9 holes

In the Great Cloister of Canterbury Cathedral, scratched into one of the study benches, is a medieval game called nine holes. The aim of the game is to get three tokens in a row.

Rules

- Each player takes it in turns to play a token.
- When all the tokens are on the board, each player takes it in turns to move a token.
- You can move any of your tokens but you can only move along the lines of the board.

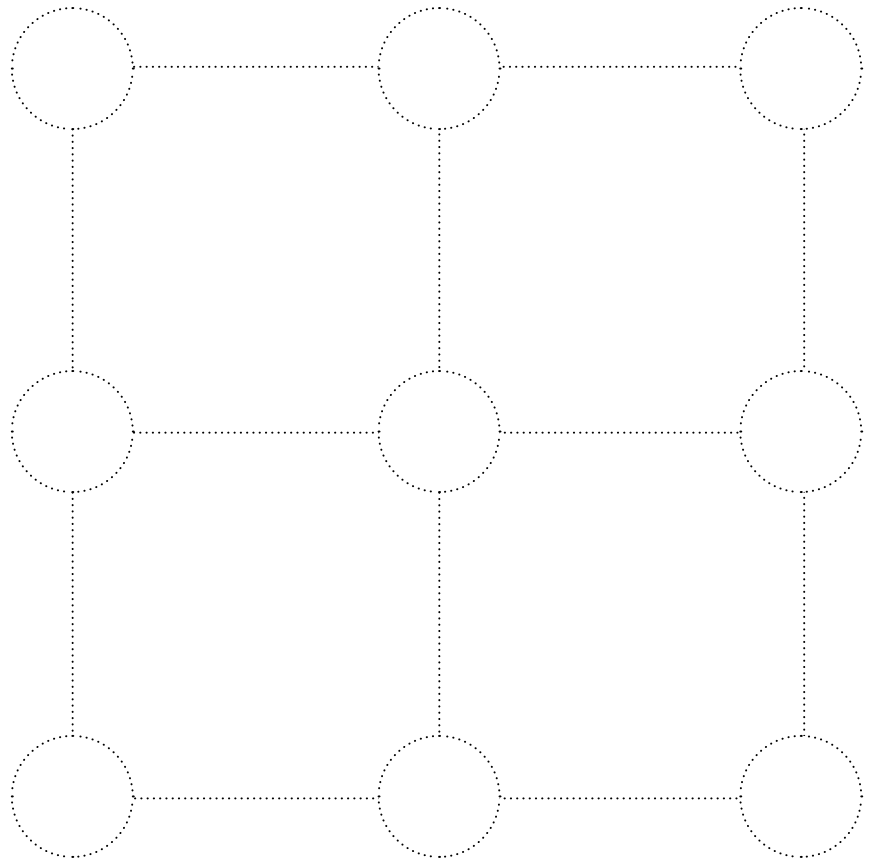
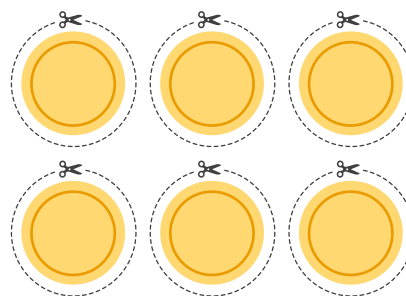
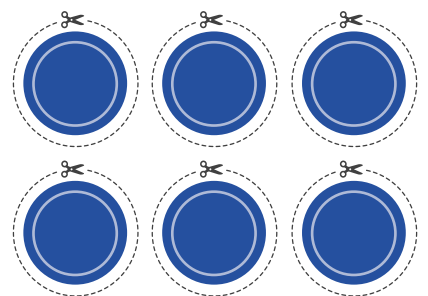


Image of carving from bench in cloisters

Player one



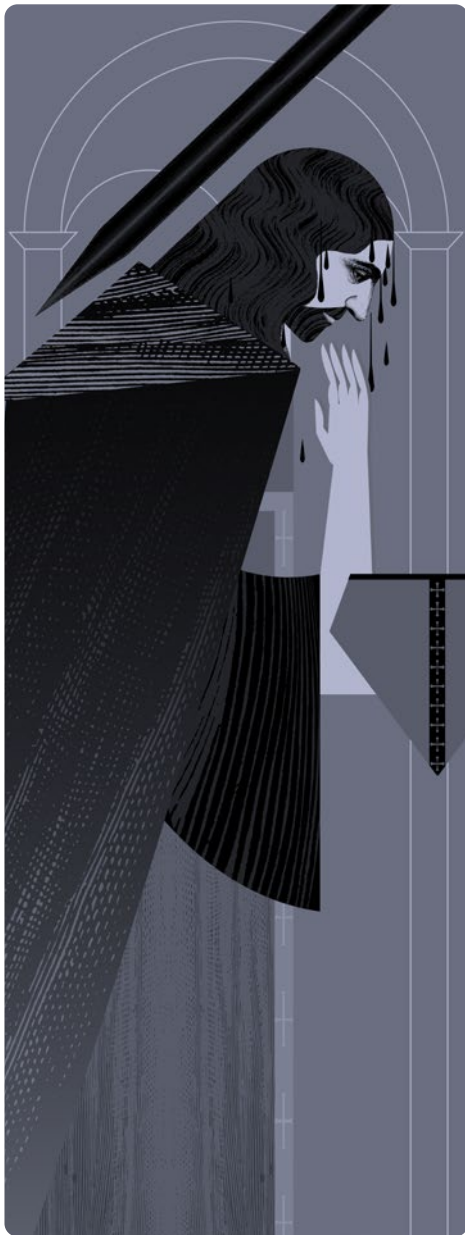
Player two



The story of Thomas Becket



Can you put these events in order to tell the story of Thomas Becket.



- a. Four knights murder Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.
- b. Thomas Becket flees to exile in France.
- c. Thomas Becket returns from exile and people flock to see him.
- d. Saint Thomas Becket's Shrine becomes a popular site of pilgrimage.
- e. Henry is said to have shouted, 'Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?'
- f. Thomas Becket is accused of treason.
- g. The Pope makes Thomas Becket a saint.
- h. King Henry II appoints his chancellor Thomas Becket as Archbishop of England.
- i. The Pope threatens to excommunicate King Henry II.
- j. Thomas Becket refuses to support King Henry II plans to reform the way churchmen are tried for crimes.

1.H 2.] 3.F 4.B 5.C 6.E 7.A 8.L 9.G 10.D

Source analysis



Edward Grim was a clerk from Cambridge who was visiting Canterbury Cathedral on the day Thomas Becket was murdered. He later wrote a book about what he saw.

Read this extract from *Life of Thomas Becket*

“The four knights with one attendant entered. They were received with respect as the servants of the King. The servants who waited on the Archbishop invited them to the table. They rejected the food, thirsting rather for blood. The Archbishop was informed that four men had arrived who wished to speak with him. He consented and they entered.

The knights sat for a long time in silence. After a while, however, the Archbishop turned to them, and carefully scanning the face of each one he greeted them in a friendly manner, but the wretches, who had made a treaty with death, answered his greetings with curses.

Fitz Urse, who seemed to be the chief and the most eager for crime among them, breathing fury, broke out in these words, “We have something to say to thee by the King’s command... The King commands that you depart with all your men from the kingdom... from this day there can be no peace with you, or any of yours, for you have broken the peace.”

The Archbishop said, “I trust in the King of heaven, who suffered on the Cross: for from this day no one will see the sea between me and my church... He who wants me will find me here.” The knights sprang up and coming close to him they said, “We declare to you that you have spoken in peril of your head.” “Do you come to kill me?” he answered. As they went out, he who was named Fitz Urse, called out, “In the King’s name we order you, both clerk and monk, that you should take and hold that man.”

Source analysis



Read this extract
from *Life of*
Thomas Becket

The Archbishop returned to where he had sat before, and consoled his clerks, and told them not to fear; and, as it seemed to us who were present - it was him alone that they wanted to slay... We asked him to flee, but he did not forget his promise not to flee from his murderers from fear of death, and refused to go.

The knights came back with swords and axes and other weapons fit for the crime which their minds were set on... The knights cried out, "Where is Thomas Becket, traitor to the King?" Becket... in a clear voice answered, "I am here, no traitor to the King, but a priest... I am ready to suffer in His name... be it far from me to flee from your swords."

Having said this, he turned to the right under a pillar... and walked to the altar of Saint Benedict the Confessor... The murderers followed him; "Absolve", they cried, "and restore to communion those whom you have excommunicated and restore their powers to those whom you have suspended."

He answered, "I will not absolve them." "Then you shall die," they cried. "I am ready," he replied, "to die for my Lord... But in the name of Almighty God, I forbid you to hurt my people." They then laid hands on him, pulling and dragging him, that they might kill him outside the church. But when he could not be forced away from the pillar, one of them pulled on him. He said "Touch me not, Reginald; you owe me fealty; you and your accomplices act like madmen." The knight, fired with terrible rage, waved his sword over the Archbishop's head.

Source analysis



1. How does Grim characterise the four knights who come to kill Thomas Becket?

2. How does this compare with his depiction of Thomas Becket?

3. What role does Grim think King Henry played in Thomas Becket's murder?

4. Do you think the way the different characters speak in this extract is realistic?

5. Do you think this is a reliable source for what happened on 29 December 1170, why?

6. Was Thomas Thomas Becket right to stand up to King Henry II?

The wicked knight (William de Tracy), fearing that the Archbishop would be rescued by the people in the nave... wounded this lamb who was sacrificed to God... cutting off the top of the head... by the same blow he wounded the arm of him that tell this story. For he, when the other monks and clerks fled, stuck close to the Archbishop...

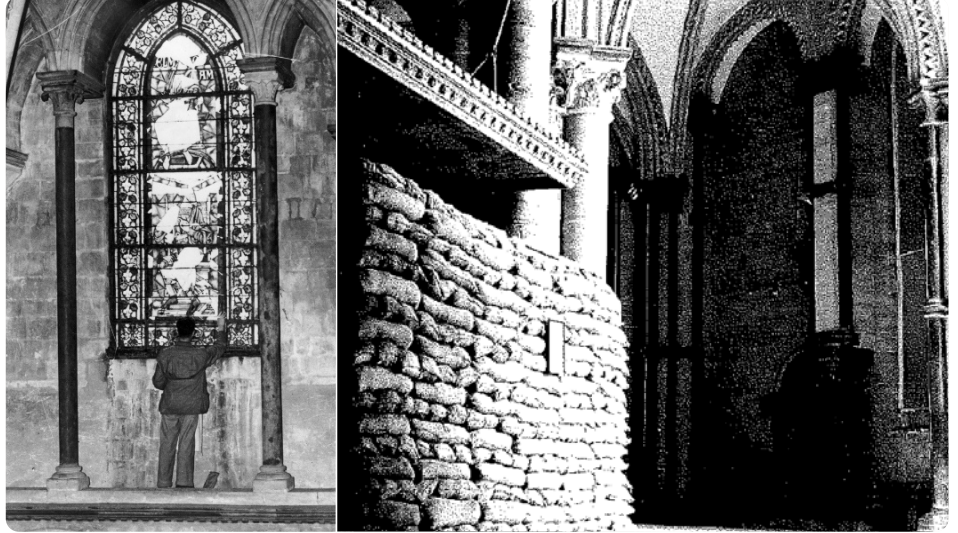
Then he received a second blow on his head from Reginald Fitz Urse but he stood firm. At the third blow he fell on his knees and elbows... and saying in a low voice, "For the name of Jesus and the protection of the Church I am ready to embrace death." Then the third knight (Richard le Bret) inflicted a terrible wound as he lay, by which the sword was broken against the pavement... the blood white with the brain and the brain red with blood, dyed the surface of the church. The fourth knight (Hugh de Morville) prevented any from interfering so the others might freely murder the Archbishop.

The priest (Hugh of Horsea) who had entered with the knights... put his foot on the neck of the holy priest, and, horrible to say, scattered his brains and blood over the pavement, calling out to the others, "Let us away, knights; he will rise no more."

Canterbury during WW2



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© Imperial War Museum, Copyright R Williams



This photograph shows the aftermath of a bombing raid on Canterbury.

What can you see going on in the foreground and what do you notice about the Cathedral?

What do you think the photographer wanted to show with this picture?

How do you think this would compare to the same view of Canterbury and the Cathedral today?



These photographs show some of the precautions taken inside the Cathedral.

What do you think is happening in each picture and why?

Who do you think took the pictures and why?

Do you think everything inside the Cathedral would have been protected?

What do you think would have been the most fragile part of the Cathedral during the bombing raids?

What would you choose to protect inside the Cathedral?

Canterbury during WW2



This is an extract from an account of someone living inside the precincts during one of the bombing raids.

Diary entry

At about quarter to one I noticed that the room was getting light. Of course this was extraordinary because we had very strict blackout rules. It got lighter and lighter, slightly pink. I thought there must be somebody out there defying the blackout. I watched it and it got still lighter so finally I got out of bed and went to look out of the window and the whole of the Precincts was shimmering in this wonderful pink light...

Pandemonium broke loose, so we dashed down to the kitchen into the broom cupboard. I snatched up a kitchen chair for my cousin to sit on holding the baby and my mother and I stood clinging to each other making an arch over the baby. And it went on absolutely continuously, no let up at all. The most fearful din! Planes roaring and diving and this most terrible scream of bombs. They made the most fearful screech and then, at the end of the screech there would be a weird noise and then, of course the explosions which shook the whole row of houses. Glass smashing, plaster falling on our heads, doors coming off their hinges and sometimes, from time to time in the intervals of the din, the Cathedral clock striking the quarters and the half hour. This was very strange because one thought every time, well, it's still there, it's still there, though we could hardly believe that is was. Then after a time another noise

I

Canterbury during WW2



How do you think Lois and her family were feeling during the bombing raid?

Why did the family go to the broom cupboard and why do you think Lois was praying when the bombs were falling?

Why were they pleased to hear the Cathedral clock chiming amid the other noise?

At the end, Lois describes the Cathedral as beautiful, why is this and do you think it is a good word to use?

Diary entry

was added to all the din which was the roaring of flames, and the red flickering came through the window. We could hear and see that the whole place was alight outside.....

Around three o'clock it stopped and we could hardly believe it. We just stood there waiting. It had stopped but the 'All Clear' didn't go. But they had obviously gone. I found my throat, my mouth was absolutely dry. My hands were sopping wet. And then we had Mrs Gill the Gatekeeper's wife calling to us and she said 'You'd better pack some things at once because this row of houses may catch fire at any minute.'

But the first thing I did actually was to go out the front door, which was off its hinges anyway, and look and see what had happened to the Cathedral. I have never seen anything more beautiful than the Cathedral was that night. There was a black pall of smoke behind it and it was blood red from end to end. This wonderful sight, the fires all around reflecting on the stones.

Lois Lang-Sims

Aged 24 , Living at No 4 the Precincts

The long view



Canterbury Cathedral has been at the centre of some very important events during its long history. Some of the most dramatic events are listed here.

Can you arrange these events in order?

a. A fire destroys the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral.

b. Baedeker Raids destroy large parts of Canterbury and the Cathedral is damaged but survives thanks to the bravery of its Firewatchers.

c. A great plague – later called The Black Death – sweeps the country. The city's burial ground has to be enlarged to take the dead but most of the monks survive.

d. A Viking called Thorkell the Tall and his army besiege Canterbury and kidnap the Archbishop, Alphege. The city and Cathedral are plundered and burned.

e. Saint Augustine is sent by Pope Gregory the Great to re-establish Christianity in England. He establishes his cathedral on this site and becomes the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

f. Archbishop Thomas Becket is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four of King Henry II's knights. He is buried in the Crypt and soon after his death, numerous healings and other miracles are reported. He is later made a saint. Canterbury Cathedral becomes an important and very popular place of pilgrimage.

g. Archbishop Lanfranc – the first Archbishop after the Norman Conquest, orders the Cathedral to be rebuilt in the Norman style.

h. Geoffrey Chaucer begins writing the Canterbury Tales, a series of stories shared by a group of pilgrims as they travel together from London to Saint Thomas Becket's Shrine in Canterbury Cathedral.

i. In the 1530s King Henry VIII breaks with the Pope... Canterbury Cathedral's monastery is dissolved by royal command during the English Reformation and its monks are forced to leave. It is the last monastery to close.

j. The Cathedral's interiors are damaged and 'blasphemous art' destroyed by the Puritans during the English civil Wars from 1642 to 1643.

k. The North West Tower of the Cathedral is built. The Cathedral building now looks much like it does today.



Now pick which event you think of as the most important. You can discuss this with others, but you must be able to explain and present why you made this choice.

1.E 2.D 3.A 4.G 5.F 6.C 7.H 8.I 9.J 10.K 11.B