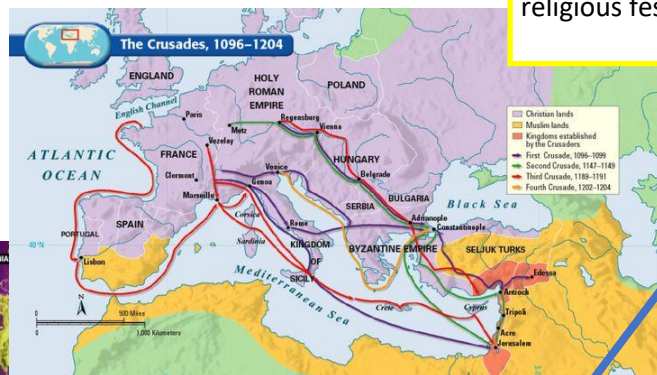
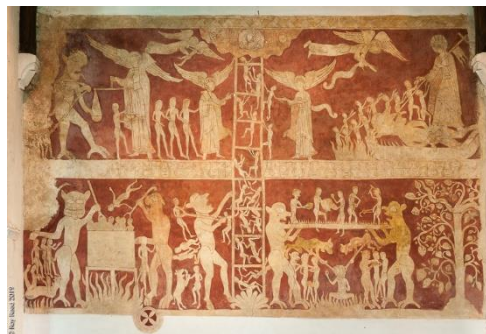


## What was life like for people in Medieval England?

Life in a Medieval village The vast majority of people in Medieval England lived in villages. Life in the villages was tough for the peasants—they have to work very hard in the fields that belonged to a Lord. The Lord let the peasants live on his land in return for their loyalty and several days of work on his land. The fields around the village were divided up into strips and shared out amongst the villagers. All food that people ate was grown in these fields. Some people in the village had specialist jobs such as a blacksmith, carpenter or cloth weaver.

Most people lived in simple 'Cruck Houses'. These were made from "wattle" (sticks woven together) and "daub" (a mix of mud, dung and straw). The animals would live in the house with them.

After 1066, some villages grew in size and became towns. Eventually some townspeople bought their land and freedom from the Lord or King. Their freedom was written down and called a Charter. By 1400 London had a population of 40,000.

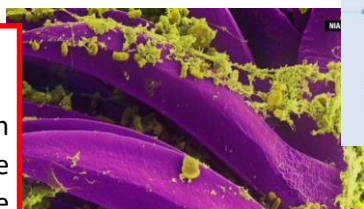


## Religion in Medieval England

Medieval England's religion revolved around Christianity, primarily Catholicism. The Catholic Church had immense power, influencing all areas of life. Monasteries, such as those led by Benedictine monks, were centres of learning, keeping safe knowledge and providing social services. Cathedrals stood as architectural wonders, showing the countries dedication to religion. The clergy, including bishops and parish priests, held significant sway over the ordinary people, guiding their spiritual life and often bringing together faith and the monarchy. Pilgrimages to holy sites were common expressions of faith, and religious festivals dominated daily life across England.

## The Black Death

The Black Death, a devastating pandemic in England from 1348 to 1350, was caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. It's believed to have started in Asia and spreading through trade routes. Overpopulation and dirty conditions helped the rapid spread. The impact was catastrophic, with estimates suggesting a significant reduction in the population. Social structures crumbled, leading to labour shortages, allowing the surviving peasants to demand better wages, and working conditions. Economic upheaval followed, and the feudal system weakened. The trauma of the Black Death left a lasting mark on medieval England, influencing societal norms, economic structures, and leading in overwhelming cultural changes.



## What was life like for the soldiers on the Crusades?

Life for soldiers during the Crusades (1096-1291) was challenging and demanding. Crusaders, often motivated by their faith, went on long journeys to the Holy Land. They faced harsh conditions, enduring long marches, shortage of supplies, and unpredictable weather. Military campaigns involved battles against well-trained Muslim forces, introducing European soldiers to unfamiliar warfare tactics. Siege warfare was common, requiring patience and resourcefulness. Disease and starvation were constant threats, leading to high death rates. Despite hardships, the appeal of potential wealth and spiritual rewards fuelled soldiers' commitment.

## The Crusades- What were they?

The Crusades, spanning from 1096 to 1291, were a series of religious and military campaigns started by European Christians to reclaim Jerusalem and the Holy Land from Muslim control. Triggered by religious dedication, political motives, and economic interests, these expeditions sought to secure Christian pilgrimage routes and expand Western influence. Crusaders, comprised of knights, peasants, and nobles, engaged in a complex interplay of warfare, diplomacy, and cultural exchange with the Middle East.