

## Year 7 History: The Medieval Church, Thomas Becket and King John Knowledge Organiser

### Chronology, events and people.

Most people in medieval England were **Christian** and **Catholic**; they believed that anything bad that happened was a punishment from God.

**Monks** were some of the few people in England who could read and write.

The **Archbishop of Canterbury** was the most important job in the English Church. **King Henry II** was William the Conqueror's grandson; he appointed his best friend **Thomas Becket** as Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket started to argue with the King about religious matters and they fell out. Relations between the King and Becket got so bad that some of Henry's knights thought he would be pleased if they went and killed the Archbishop, so they murdered him inside Canterbury cathedral. Henry was heartbroken and very sorry. Henry had four sons and they all argued with their father and **rebelled** against him.

When Henry II died his son became king **Richard I**; he was a brave warrior so he was called '**Lionheart**', but he spent only ten months of his ten year reign in England as he was away fighting in **crusades**. While Richard was fighting abroad his younger brother **John** acted as king. John was unpopular; he fought wars, but lost! He charged high taxes, lost the crown jewels and he was also cruel and very arrogant. In **1215** the English barons made King John sign an agreement called **Magna Carta** (the great charter) so that he shared power with his nobles.

### Key words

**Archbishop** -a top **bishop**.

**Archbishop of Canterbury** -the most senior member of the **clergy** in England.

**Bishop** -an important **priest**.

**Cathedral** -an important church which is looked after by a **bishop**.

**Catholic** -the only Christian religion in western Europe, ruled by the **Pope**.

**Clergy** -the term for all priests, bishops and archbishops.

**Crusade(s)** -a series of wars where Christians tried to re-take control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land from Muslims.

**Magna Carta** -the first document stating that a king had to obey the law and people couldn't be arrested or imprisoned unless they had broken the law.

**Monastery** -a place attached to a church or cathedral where **monks** live.

**Monk** -a religious man who promises to devote his life to God and live in a **monastery**.

**Nun** -a religious woman who promises to devote her life to God and live in a **convent**.

**Priest** -a member of the **clergy** who carried out church services in a parish church.



### Key dates

1154	Henry II becomes king
1170	Thomas Beckett killed at Canterbury Cathedral
1189	Richard I becomes king
1199	King John becomes king
1204	The King of France takes much of John's land, leading John to raise taxes for his wars.
1215	Magna Carta signed after a civil war