H7: Religion, Arts & Humanism

The Church Hierarchy

The term secular clergy refers to deacons and priests who are not monastics or members of a religious institute. They are referred to also as the Diocesan priest, or sometimes (in the case of an archdiocese) as archdiocesan

clergy.

Roman Curia Administered the Church Worked within society Augustinians Devoted lives Franciscans, to worship and contemplation

Management of the church

Henry used the church to strengthen his position by keeping a tight control on church appointments, selecting loyal, well-educated churchmen to important posts.

While regular

religious vows

clergy take

of chastity.

poverty, and

obedience and

follow the rule

of life of the

institute to

which they

belong, secular

clergy do not

take vows, and

they live in the

world at large,

rather than

a religious

(saeculum).

institute

Church administrative structure in which archbishops and bishops were responsible for the running of churches across the regime strengthened royal power.

No disputes with the papacy. Pope needed support over French and Spanish aggression in Italy. After Bosworth Henry declared his obedience to Pope Innocent VIII who in turn gave HVII and dispensation to marry Liz and declared their children legitimate.

Pre-Reformation Church: Humanism & Heresy

There was no open conflict between HVII and the pope. But by 1509 a number of influential reformists were already in key

Heretics were in England during Henry's reign. 73 were put on trial and 3 were burned alive. They were members of a small underground sect- the Lollards- they believed the bible should be more accessible to laymen.

The Lollards also denounced papal authority and believed the King should be head of the church. They also rejected transubstantiation.

Lollards had very little support. There were other criticsanticlerical- who did not wish to undermine the church but wanted reform from within.

The European Renaissance led to changes. More interest in learning and discovery. The printing press enhanced this. Humanists aimed to end the monopoly of the church on learning.

Key Dates

1414 - Lollard uprising fails 1478 - Printing press established 1502 - Henry VII approved the Gothic perpendicular style for the Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbev. 1509 - Henry VII's death.

Catholic Doctrine

The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church. The doctrine of Papal Infallibility states everything he says is right!

In order to reach Heaven, it was necessary to observe as many of the seven sacraments as possible: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Unction, Penance, Holy Orders and Eucharist.

Priests needed to intercede between God and individuals. Only the priest could take communion in both kinds – the blood and body of Christ. The Bible is written in Latin and must be interpreted by priests.

Transubstantiation: During Mass the bread and wine miraculously turn into the body and blood of Christ.

Purgatory is where souls are tortured until they have atoned for their sins. Money is paid to monasteries to say mass for the souls of the dead. This gets the dead out of purgatory guicker.

Salvation (the saving of your soul) could only be achieved by a combination of faith and good works.

Criticisms of Catholicism

On the whole pre-Reformation Church was popular & healthy. Humanists did not question Catholic principles but did criticise some practices. In particular the quality of some priests and the perceived reliance on Catholic rituals rather than prayer and worship in services

Humanism

Humanism was founded on the rediscovery of original Latin and Greek texts. It stressed the power and potential of humankind. Human behaviour and knowledge could be enhanced by education. They believed the church should promote praver and knowledge of the faith.

Thought sciences and the humanities should be studied not just religion.

Erasmus (c.1469-1536)

The greatest scholar of the early 16th century. He travelled

Catholic Church but not destroy it. He influenced events in

England by his friendships with John Colet, Thomas Wolsey,

extensively over Europe. Wanted to improve the Roman

Henry VII showed little interest in humanist writers.

Arts

There was a massive amount of building and rebuilding of Parish churches that occurred around this time and the vast majority were built in the Gothic perpendicular style. English culture still followed the Gothic traditions of north-western Europe with an allegedly primitive visual style. Lavenham and Long Melford both had additions during this time due to money from the cloth trade.

Drama & Music

The most important art form of the time was drama, and plays were often presented in association with churchale festivals. The most popular plays were mystery plays with religious morals.

Music was also enjoyed at various levels in the fifteenth century, but the most important surviving source of music heard in cathedrals and other major churches.

Literacy

The invention of the printing press had more of an impact than new ideas such as humanism. However, this was concentrated amongst the literate. The nobles and gentry learnt to read as a result of the printing press and Henry VII did support the print industry. Henry also encouraged the arts commissioning Polydore Vergil to write a history of England and John Skelton was employed to write enthusiastically about the wise rule of Henry.

Education

This period was also the time of widening educational opportunities, as Song schools and Reading schools provided elementary education for the very young. Grammar schools were also introduced in place of secondary education. University education rested on the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge. H7 set up King's college.

Thomas More and Henry VIII's tutor John Skelton. John Colet (1467-1519)

Travelled Europe and then returned to lecture at Oxford. Translated the New Testament into English for his students. He believed it should be plain and easy to read. On his father's death and his inheritance he founded. St Pauls School which would

teach humanities.

Thomas More (1478-1529)

Lawyer, scholar, writer, MP and Lord Chancellor, who was beheaded executed he refused to recognise the break from Rome. He wrote Utopia which criticised practices in the church. Helped H8 write in Defence of the Seven Sacraments.