

Religion in the Middle Ages



**Monks and
Nuns**



Review: Complete the Sentence

- All Christians in England at this time were...
- The Church was...
- Church services were in...
- To help them understand, people looked at statues and...
- Doom paintings showed...
- Tithes were...



Monk and Nuns

- Some people did more than just go to church on a Sunday. They wanted to give their whole lives to worshipping God.
- These people were called monks (men) and nuns (women).
- Lived in monasteries and convents.



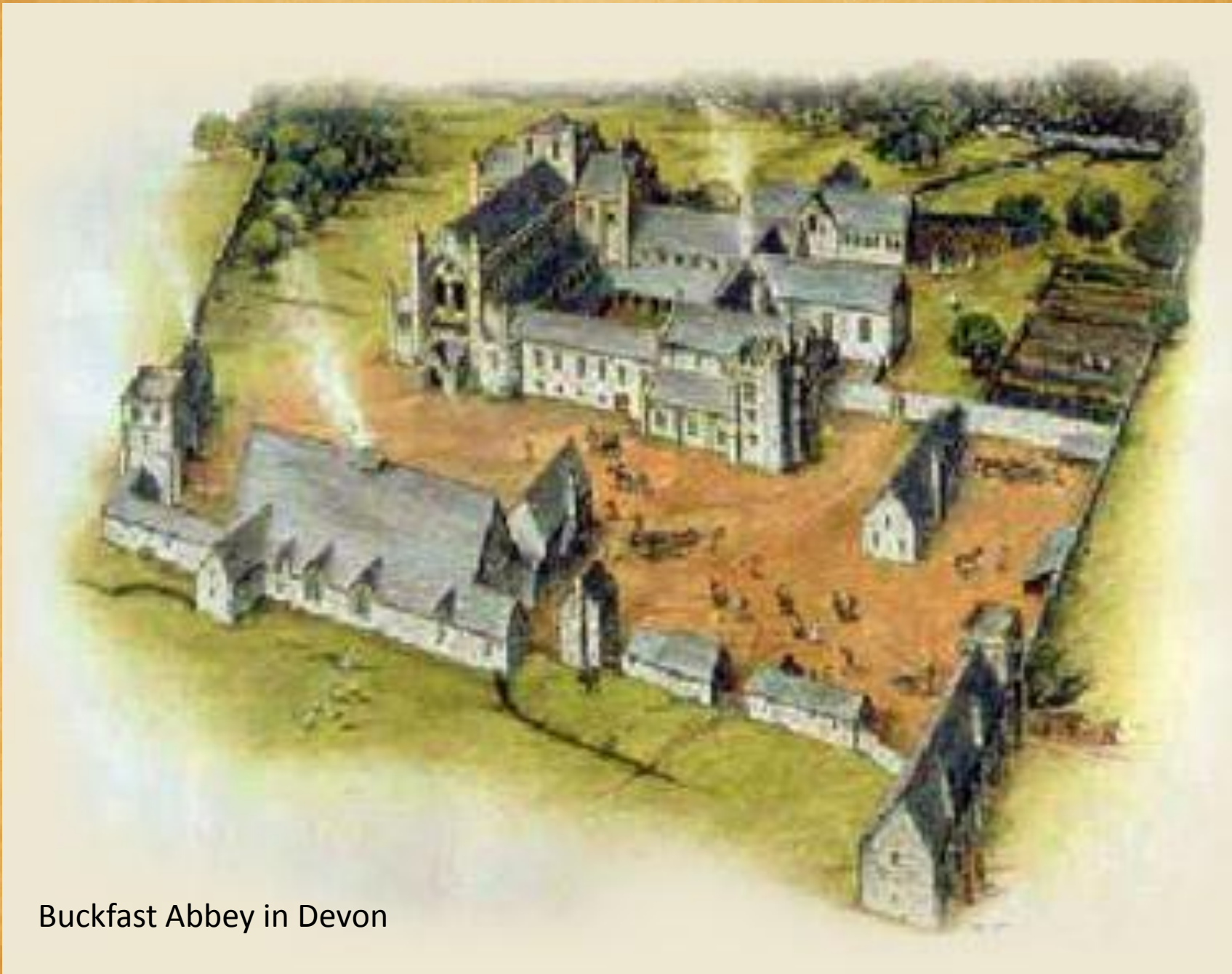
Monasteries



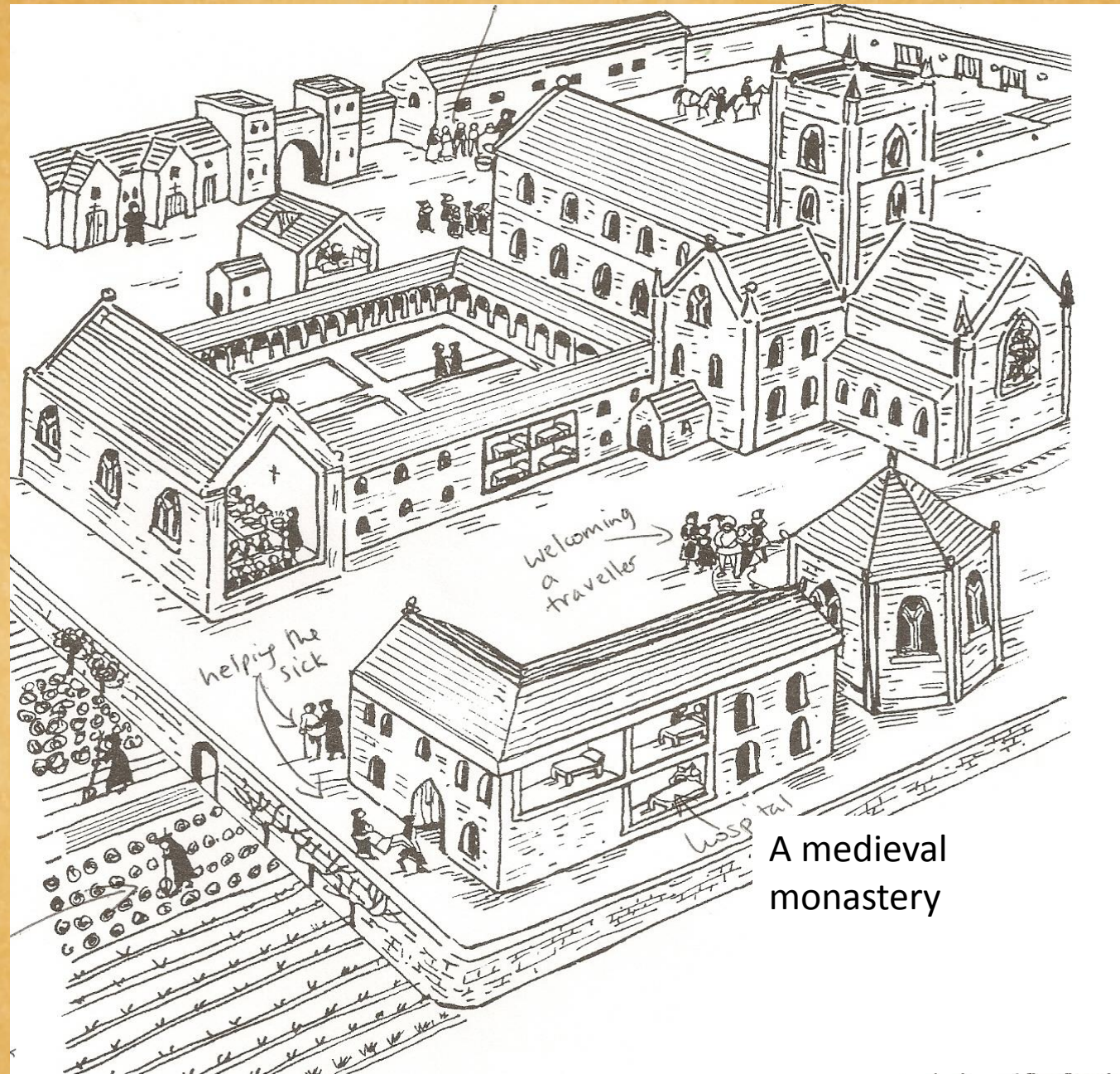
- Some monasteries were huge. Their churches were just as impressive as the cathedrals, full of statues, stained glass and paintings.





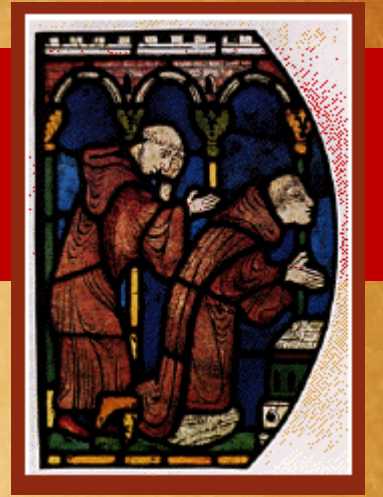


Buckfast Abbey in Devon



A medieval
monastery

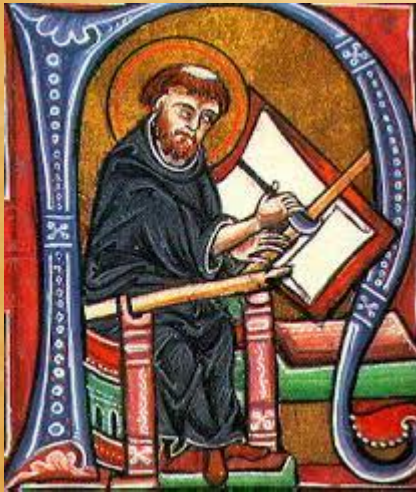
How did someone become a monk?



- In the Middle Ages, a boy might go into a monastery (the place where monks live) when they were just 7 years old.
- At first he would be called a novice, which meant that he was learning to be a monk.
- He would learn to sing and to read and write Latin.
- He might also learn a special skill, so that he could work in the monastery.

Becoming a Monk

One of the first things that would happen to a novice would be that his hair was cut short and the top of his hair was shaved off – this showed that he was training to be a monk.



When he was 16 he could become a monk, but first he had to promise three things:

1. Never to own anything
2. Never to marry
3. To obey the head monk, called the Abbot

Clothing

- A monk's clothes were very simple. Typically, they would include:
 - A long robe (habit) with a hood – these could be black, grey, brown or white, depending on which monastery you had joined
 - A simple leather belt (girdle)
 - Leather sandals
- These clothes were similar to ones that peasants would wear.



A hard life...

- Being a monk was not an easy option. Monks could not own even a handkerchief of their own, and most of their day was spent in silence.
- If they broke a rule of the monastery, they might be whipped or have to go without food.
- Most monasteries produced their own food and sometimes goods to sell. Some offered shelter to travellers or the poor, or looked after the sick. There was always plenty to do!



A monk's day

2.30am



3am



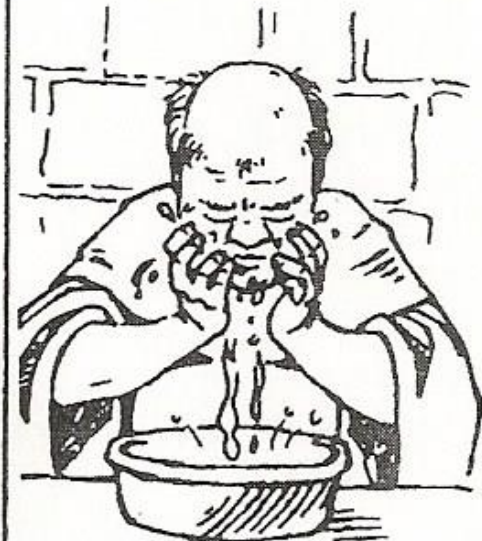
6am



7am



8am



9am



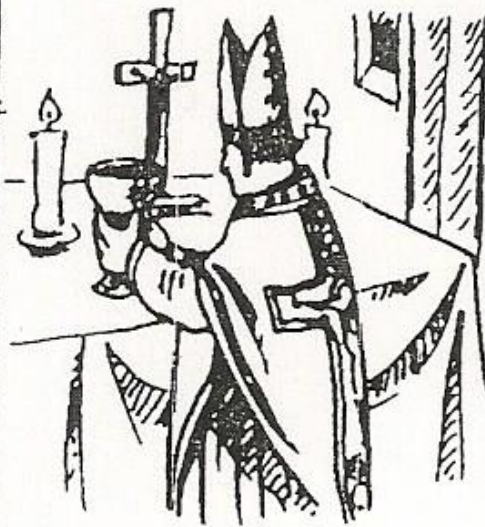
10am



11am



12 noon



2pm



3pm



4pm



5pm



6pm



6.30pm



Nuns

- Nuns were women who wanted to devote their lives to God.
- It was normal to have to pay to join a nunnery or convent, so many nuns were the daughters of rich families, or the widows of rich men.



Life in a nunnery



- Life for a nun was much the same as that for a monk. They obeyed the chief nun, who was called an Abbess, and lived by similar rules.
- However, nunneries in the Middle Ages were a little less strict than monasteries and some nuns owned possessions – they even had pets and went on holidays!



This map shows all the important monasteries and nunneries in England up to the time of Henry VIII.

What does it tell you about the importance of monasteries and nunneries in the Middle Ages?

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

- Written on parchment (made of calf, sheep or goat skin)
- Mostly by monks at monasteries



data tua non sum oblitus.



Domine
cum tribu
laret clam
m. et exau
dit me.

Domine
libera animam meam a labijs
quis. et a lingua dolosa.

Quid datur tibi aut quid appon
tur tibi: ad linguam dolosam.

Agere potentis acire: cum ca
bonibz desolatoris.

tu in quia incolatus meus
longatus est: habitavi cum hab



anima mea.

Quibus qui oderunt pacem
pacificus: cum loquebat illis ipse
nabant me grans.

Et uani odos meos in montes:
unde ueniat auxilium m.

120.

Auxilium meum a domino: q
fecit celum et terram.

Non det in amorem pedem tui:
neqz dormitet qui custodit te.

Ne non dormitabit neqz dormi
ret: qui custodit isrl.

Quis custodit te dñs pccato tua:
sup manum dexteram tuam.

Et diem sol non uret te: neqz





“The Monastic Life”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikicnfBQEcw>

Task



- Imagine that you are a monk or nun in the Middle Ages
- **Write a diary entry for one day**, explaining all the things that you have done – try to include as much detail as you can:
 - ✓ The jobs you did
 - ✓ How you feel about being in the monastery
 - ✓ Include as many facts as you can- feel free to look some information up on your phones

If you finish, work on your Medieval Religion package from yesterday

OR

Try to make your diary entry look like an illuminated manuscript by adding pictures and colours around the edges





“Monasteries Monks Nuns”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQXac4oB2Qo>