Route 1 – the priest

I can help you ... come to church ... confess your sins.

1) Key word

Priest = A minister of the Catholic Church.

2) Who were they?

Priests helped men and women live good lives. They were not allowed to marry and devoted their lives to God

3) How did this route work?

Priests were able to forgive people for their sins. In order to get to Heaven you needed to attend church services. Priests encouraged people to help others such as the sick and the homeless. Acts such as these were considered good deeds and these pleased God.

Route 2 – pilgrimages

I know you are tired. We have come a long way. The saints will reward us for visiting their shrines.

1) Key word

Pilgrimage = A journey to a sacred (holy) place or shrine.
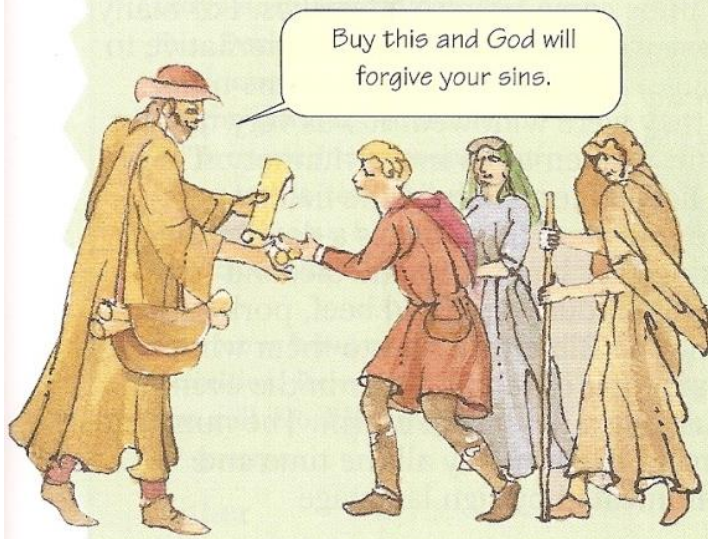
2) Who went on pilgrimages?

Anyone! Those who had sinned and those who had not.

3) How did this route work?

Pilgrimages were a way of showing you were sorry for your sins. The longer and harder the journey the more sorry you showed yourself to be. People believed that sometimes by just going to a holy place or touching a special object there, these saints could help you get to Heaven.

Guide books were often written for the pilgrims as journeys were long and often dangerous.

Route 3 – buying your way to Heaven

Buy this and God will forgive your sins.

1) Key word

Indulgence = A reduction in punishment for sins committed.

2) Who bought indulgences?

Those who had sinned and were wealthy.

3) How did this route work?

People believed that nearly everyone went to Purgatory when they died. This was not quite as awful as Hell. To move from Purgatory to Heaven you needed to be sorry for your sins.

People often left money for prayers to be said for them after they were dead. Rich people paid whole colleges to be set up where priests did nothing but pray for their soul.

Route 4 – becoming a nun or a monk

Join us and cleanse your soul.

1) Key word

Monk/Nun = Those who devoted their whole life to God.

2) Who were they?

They were required not to marry, live simple lives and own no possessions.

3) How did this route work?

Monks and nuns' daily lives were lived by strict rules. They dedicated their whole lives to God.

Nunneries were the places where nuns lived and Monasteries were the places where monks lived. These places were often very large and sometimes offered shelter to the sick and the poor.