

THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH



Apart from the manor, the church was the main focus of community life. Church parishes were usually the manor villages.

Below is a picture of a **PRIEST**, **PEASANT**, or **KNIGHT** ? (Circle the correct answer) ↓



A priest ran each of the churches in England. There was a priest in almost every village. In church priests **baptised** (christened) babies, performed marriage services and held funerals. They had to obey the **King** and the **Pope**. Women could not be priests. Priests were not allowed to get married.



priest	travellers	services	defended
lord	person	income	school

In your books write out the text below. Fill in the missing words in the correct places using the words from the box above.

The parish was appointed by the of the manor and was given a house. He was obliged to carry money for alms with him, keep up the church, and provide hospitality to

The priest was usually a commoner by birth, though serfs were tied to the land and were not allowed to become priests. The priest officiated at church , weddings, baptisms, funerals, and visited the ill. He earned his living from the income for parish lands, fees for services, and tithe money.

Tithing was a system whereby each person was expected to give 1/10 of their earnings to support the church. The tithe was divided up evenly between the parish priest, the church maintenance fund, the poor, and the bishop.



Please turn over your sheet when you have got this far!

The chancel (where the altar is) belonged to the lord. The nave and the tower belonged to the people of the parish. Manor courts were often held in the nave, and tenants came there to pay their rent, or scot. A free meal was given to those who paid their scot, hence our term, "scot free".

The church tower occasionally served double duty as the priest's residence and often was built to be [redacted] in times of trouble. [redacted] was held in the church porch or in a room over it. The church's role went far beyond religion; it was the centre of village community life.



Medieval Trivia

D is for Dismal This word comes from two Latin words – *dies* and *mali* – meaning days and evil. So *dismal* means evil days. In The Middle Ages people believed two days in each month were unlucky. So beware 1, 25 January, 2, 26 February, 1, 28 March, 10, 20 April, 3, 25 May, 10, 16 June, 13, 22 July, 1, 30 August, 3, 21 September, 3, 22 October, 5, 28 November, 7, 22 December. You may like to stay off school on those days and avoid getting *dismal* marks.