

Norman England 1066 – c.1100

Part 3 – The Church

How did Normans influence religion?	Monasticism and Education	Case Study: Durham Cathedral
In the medieval world religion was very important. The church helped people go to heaven but also played an important role as a rich landowner, a law court, a major political influence and in education and health. William I built many churches and cathedrals to show his piety, such as battle abbey at Hastings. The church had many corrupt practices such as pluralism, simony, nepotism and married priests. Pope Gregory VII wanted to reform the church, to remove corruption. Williams changes – Anglo-Saxon bishops and archbishops were replaced with Norman ones. Churches and Cathedrals were rebuilt in the Romanesque style. This showed the Anglo-Saxons that the Normans were in charge now. The church became better organised. William accepted that members of the church would be tried in church courts. Parish Priests mostly remained Anglo-Saxon. Relationship with the Pope – Originally good (Papal banner at Hastings). William showed willingness to follow the Popes requests (Battle Abbey + Church building). However they began to fall out as William used the church for his own gain e.g. appointing his favourites to powerful positions, taking riches from Anglo-Saxon churches Archbishop Stigand – The pre-conquest Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury and Winchester. William refused to be crowned by him and removed him in 1070 due to pluralism Archbishop Lanfranc – An Italian monk. Obtained the papal banner for William. Archbishop 1070-1089. Archbishop Anselm – Student of Lanfranc. Appointed by William II but always put church before his king. They often argued. He helped reform the church.	Monks and Nuns devote their life to the worship of God. Monks live in monasteries or abbeys. Nuns live in nunneries or convents. Their way of life is called monasticism. There were 35 monasteries and nunneries in England. St. Benedict wrote a set of rules for monks to live by (in the 6th century). The people who lived by these rules became the order of St. Benedict. They had to take vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, stability. Monks prayed on behalf of others, grew food for themselves, copied books by hand, helped the poor and occasionally would teach. The Normans invited the Cluniac order to England. They followed a stricter version of St. Benedicts rules. Education – Normans moved education out of the monasteries into towns. Education was limited to those who could afford it. Barons, knights and some wealthy merchants. By 1100 there were 40 schools. Students learnt to write and speak Latin on stone boards that were wiped clean every lesson. If students did well they would go to university or become merchants, parish clergy, or clerks. Subjects like maths, accountancy and law were taught once students started work. The school year was in 3 terms, ending late June so people could help with the harvest.	Location – Strong position on the river. Strategically important. Protected against Scots, Danes and rebellions. Function – Cathedral for worship. Castle for defense. The Prince-Bishop held military and political power, as well as religious power. Houses relics of St. Cuthbert as a place of pilgrimage. People – Bishop Aethelwine. Anglo-Saxon. Submitted to William. Was ambassador to King Malcolm of Scotland. Imprisoned by William and died during the Harrying of the North. Bishop William Walcher. Norman. Introduced Benedictine monks to Jarrow and Wearmouth. Killed by English rebels. Bishop William St Calais. Norman. Brought the Benedictine monks to Durham. Removed the married priests. Tore down the existing church and started construction of the current cathedral. Died of natural causes. Ranulf Flambard continued Williams work. Design and structure – Romanesque design. Pointed arch roof allowed for greater height and bigger windows. Impressive sight. People at the time – “unclean living” was stopped. Monks had to be celibate. Return to Benedictine ideal.

