Religion: conflict and dissent, 1625-1688

Background religious issues

~Key Terms

- **Confessional State**: a state where a single type of religious practice is enforced.
- **Congregation**: people who are praying at a church service.
- **Holy Communion**: eating bread and drinking wine in church.
- **Baptism**: naming and cleansing ceremony for babies most commonly.
- **Predestined**: people have no choice – opposite of free will, certain people predestined to go to heaven.
- **Salvation**: saved/cleansed from sin - Catholics⇒ everyone can be saved. Protestants⇒ only those who believe.
- **Anglican**: another name for the Church of England – state religion.
- **Arminian**: Protestants who like decorated churches and elaborate ceremonies.
- **Episcopal**: churches with hierarchical structures – bishops and archbishops.
- **Presbyterian**: churches without hierarchies – dislike bishops.
- **Puritan**: a protestant who wanted a 'purer' church.
- **Non-conformist**: (after 1662) a protestant not in the church of England.
- **Roman Catholic**: Catholics who follow the Pope.
- **Recusancy**: Catholics who resisted the Church of England.
- **Calvinist**: Protestants who believe in predestination.

~How had religion impacted on Europe?
- By 1603, most of southern Europe was predominantly Catholic, as was Ireland.
- England and Scotland had Protestant Churches.
- Whilst some other areas, such as Northern Germany, were dominated by Calvinists.

~Why were people afraid of Catholicism in Britain?
- The Spanish Inquisition tortured suspected Protestants for heresy.
- Bloody Mary burned nearly 300 Protestants in the 1550s.
- The Gunpowder Plot, in 1605, was where Catholics tried to blow up the King and the Houses of Parliament.
- The Spanish Armada, in 1588, saw Spain attempt to conquer England for the Catholic faith.

~What were the main features of Catholic Churches?
- They had statues and symbols ⇒ and the congregation were encouraged to pray to them.
- Rood Screen⇒ Closed off the Alter at the east end, separating clergy from laity and emphasising the superiority of the clergy.
- High Alter⇒ at eastern end of Church, used for mass and shut off from the laity.
- Churches were richly decorated to instil reverence and respect for rituals.

~What were the main features of Protestant Churches?
- Bible was in English.
- Ministers dressed in plain robes.
- The Ten Commandments and important prayers were pinned up to be seen, read and understood – in English.
- Pulpit, was placed prominently for preaching.
- The Communion Table replaced the alter which was situated in the centre of the church, accessible to all.

Introduction: the confessional state

- **1625**: England was a confessional state (beliefs of the C of E was set out in the Book of Common Prayer). C of E was the centre of spiritual life and preaching, a base in every parish (news, education and social control)
- **1688**: England was no longer a confessional state as toleration had been granted
- **1558**: After Mary reversing reforms due to her protestant hatred, Elizabeth her sister re-established the C of E and wanted a ‘middle way’ between Catholic and protestant forms of Christianity (James I followed with similar views).
- By **1625** after James’ death the C of E had many political and religious strands, all in one framework, not always in harmony.

Church of England 1625-40

- Arminian impacts on the church...
  o More sympathy for Roman Catholics
  o Decorated churches
  o Clergy seen as higher than others shown by clothes
  o Power of bishops
  o Arguments⇒ discussions prevented by Charles
  o Formal prayers and ritualised responses
- Key features of Laudian reforms?
  o NOT CATHOLIC