

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:I MODULE II-MEDIEVAL CHURCH MECHANISM



**CHURCH MECHANISM
I SEMESTER
IBA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER
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- Initially Romans persecuted Christians for their belief.
- In 313 CE Roman emperor Constantine issued a decree that allowed Christians to practice their religion.
- In 395 CE, Christianity became the recognised religion of the Roman Empire.
- Wide spread during middle Ages – historians call – “Age of Faith”.
- Church – Centre of medieval life
- Almost all villages and cities had church buildings.
- Larger towns and cities had a cathedral



- Church bells rang out the hour called people to worship and warned of danger.
- The church building was the centre of community activity.
- Town meetings, plays and concerts were held in churches.
- Merchants had shops around the square in front of churches.
- Markets , festivals and fairs were all held in the shadow of the church's spires.



- Church – great economic power
- By the year 1050- church was the largest landholder in Europe.
- Some land came in the form of gifts from the monarchs and wealthy lords.
- Medieval church added to its wealth by collecting a tax called *tithe*.
- Each person was expected to give one tenth of his money , produce, or labour to support the church.



- Political power- increasing conflicts with English monarch.