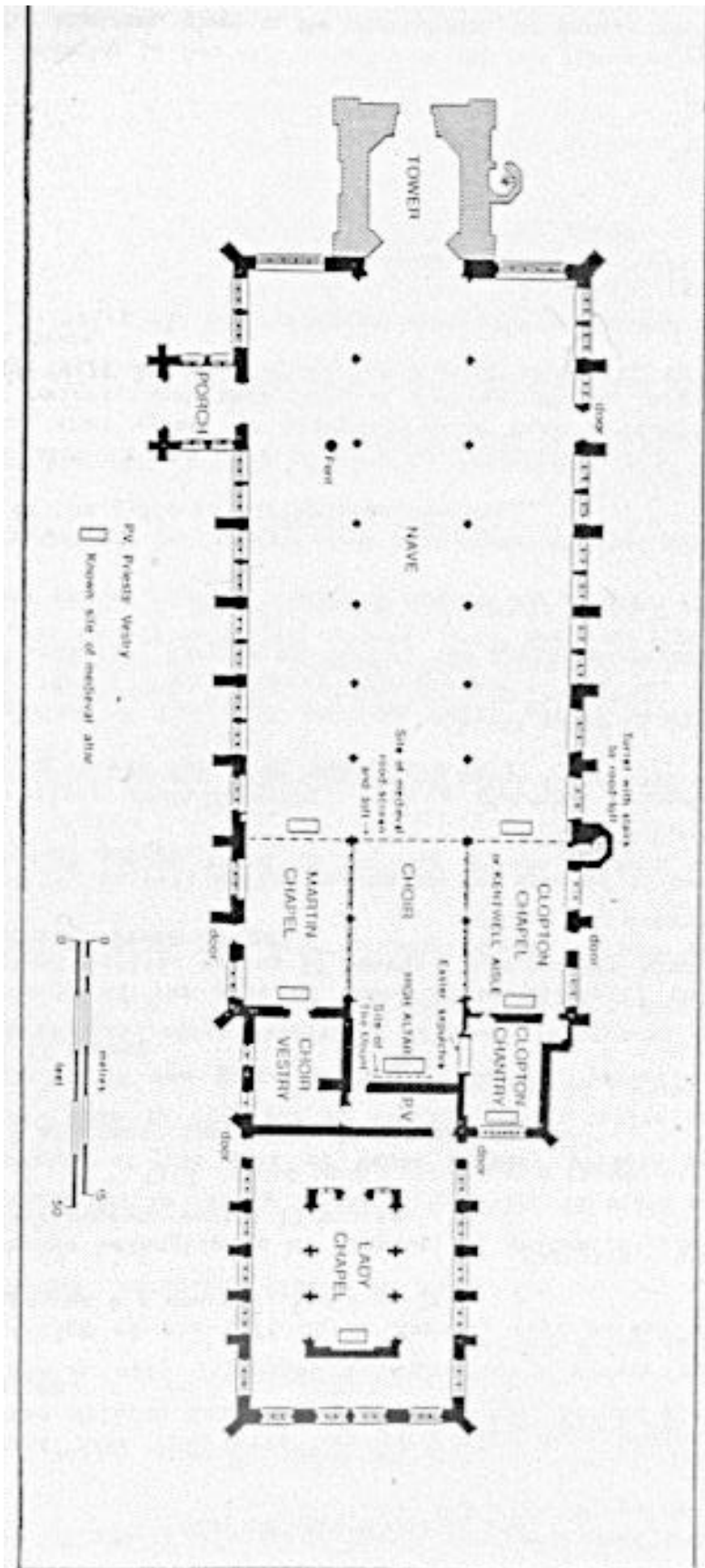


Lesson 1: Why was the church so special?

Source 1 – An outline of Long Melford church Pre-Reformation



Extract 1 – Based on Roger Martyn's account "The State of Melford Church and of our Ladie's Chapel at the Easte end, as I, Roger Martyn, did know it", in the History of Long Melford

1 Despite setting foot in the church of Long Melford on an almost daily basis, Roger Matryn,
2 the Church Warden, was always struck by its beauty. Stepping inside, one of the first
3 things that Roger would have seen were the stained-glass windows depicting religious
4 scenes in glorious colour. A border of vine-leaves and grapes had been painted around
5 each one. The light shining through these windows fell upon the columns inside the church
6 on which paintings of saints and angels could be seen, with sentences of Latin flowing out
7 of their mouths. At one end of the church stood the high altar, on which golden chalices
8 glinted in the sunlight. Behind the high altar was a huge wood carving showing the story
9 of Christ's arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Normally this carving was covered by beautifully
10 painted wooden doors, which were opened on feast days. Even the roof of the church
11 was painted with gilt stars. To the left of the High Altar was the Clopton Chapel, paid for
12 by the local Clopton family and housing the tombs of many members of the Clopton
13 family. The Martyn Chapel sat to the right of the High Altar, and contained the tombs of
14 members of Rogers' own family, who were prominent local wool merchants. The Martyn
15 chapel housed two gilded tabernacles that reached the ceiling.

16

17 A rood screen decorated with images of Jesus's 12 disciples separated these two chapels
18 and the high altar from the rest of the church. Walking through to the vestry, a place
19 where only those who worked for the church could go, Roger saw rich Copes and
20 Vestments (special robes worn by priests) and the choir) hanging there. Behind the vestry
21 was the chapel to the Lady Mary, as beautifully decorated as the rest of the church.

22

23 It wasn't just the beauty of the church that made it special for the people of Long Melford
24 though. The church was often the source of joy and fun in lives that were often
25 dominated by long, hard days working in the field. Whilst there were some wealthy
26 families, such as the Cloptons and Martyns, most people in the village were farm labourers
27 who lived hard lives. Saints Days and feast days, of which Roger spoke of at least 95,
28 provided a time of joy and celebration, with religious processions taking place around the
29 village and through the church, followed by the sharing of food and drink. On Saint
30 James's day Roger spoke of a great bonfire being lit and a tub of ale and bread being
31 given to the poor. The same thing would happen on Midsummer, Saint Peter's day and
32 the day of Stain Paul. On Saint Thomas's day Roger recorded long pies of mutton (sheep)
33 being set out for the poor to eat.

34

35 But all of this was about to change. The beauty of the church would soon be stripped out
36 and the celebration of Saints forbidden. Why? The Reformation...

Lesson 2: Why did Luther want to Reform the Church?

Extract 2 – Based on *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Reformation*, by Peter Marshall

1 There was great excitement in Wittenberg at the beginning of November 1517. The
2 annual display of relics in the Castle church was just about to begin, and pilgrims from far
3 and wide were flocking to this German town to see the religious objects on display. The
4 collection included the famous Saint Elisabeth's glass, which supposedly contained parts
5 of the Saint's cloak, dress, hair and bones. Drinking from this glass was supposed to have
6 healed a blind person and brought 16 people back from the dead.

7

8 But when they approached the doors of the church there was a shock waiting for them.
9 Nailed to the front door of the church was a list, 95 bullet points detailing everything
10 wrong with the Catholic Church.

11

12 People had complained about the Church before, but few so openly, so angrily, and so
13 directly. This list, known as the 95 Theses, criticized people worshipping relics and saints
14 instead of focusing on God, it said that the beautiful decorations in churches distracted
15 people from worshipping him properly, it criticized the sale of indulgences, saying that no
16 one should be able to buy God's forgiveness and it criticized the wealth of the church,
17 surely the Church should use that wealth to help the poor, but the Pope was spending
18 huge amounts building just one new church in Rome. It had been placed there by Martin
19 Luther, a monk, who, despite being part of the Catholic Church, thought the Church had
20 lost its way. Inspired by humanists, he said that the way the Catholic Church operated
21 prevented people properly worshipping God. Luther wanted people to read what the
22 Bible actually said, not just be told by the Pope, bishops and priests. He wanted people to
23 focus on their own faith and connection to God, rather than having to rely on their Priest,
24 Bishops and the Pope for everything.

25

26 This was the start of a new form of Christianity, Protestantism, protesting against the
27 Catholic Church and wanting to change the problems Luther saw with it. Whilst Luther
28 had deliberately chosen this day to nail his 95 theses to the door of the church in
29 Wittenburg, knowing that the relics would draw many pilgrims who would then read and
30 hear his protest, even he could not have imagined the scale of change his words would
31 bring about.

32

33

Lesson 3: Was the Reformation in Germany a car crash?

Extract 3 – Based on *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Reformation*, by Peter Marshall

1 In 1520 a letter arrived in Wittenburg addressed to Martin Luther. Luther received a lot of
2 letters, but this one was different, it was from the Pope. Known as a Papal Bull, this letter
3 demanded that Luther withdraw his criticism and burn all of his writings or be
4 excommunicated from the Church. The letter gave Luther 60 days to recant or face the
5 consequences. Day one ticked by, but Luther kept writing. Day two ticked by, but Luther
6 kept writing. Day three ticked by, Luther kept writing. Finally, the 60th day passed. Luther
7 had not recanted, he had not stopped writing, and he had not burnt any of his works.
8 Instead, Luther took the letter written to him by the Pope to the edge of Wittenburg and,
9 in front of a crowd, he burnt it, before throwing it in to the dump. This should have resulted
10 in Luther being dragged to Rome in chains, put on trial in front of the Pope for heresy ,
11 and being burnt to death. But he wasn't. Luther had made some powerful allies.

12
13 Frederick the wise, the ruler of Wittenburg, was not about to let his most famous resident
14 be killed without a fair trial. And so, instead of a trial in front of the Pope, Ferderick
15 arranged for Luther to stand trial in front of the Emperor, Charles V, and Princes of the Holy
16 Roman Empire, with an agreement that Luther would not be harmed on the way. The trial
17 took place in the City of Worms in 1521, with the event becoming known as 'The Diet of
18 Worms'. Standing in front of the rulers, Luther was asked if the writings challenging the
19 Catholic Church were his, he said they were. The Emperor then asked him to say he had
20 been wrong and recant his accusations. Luther did not. He said he would only do so if
21 someone could convince him, using scripture from the Bible, that he was wrong. No one
22 could. Many of the Princes in audience at the trial were persuaded that Luther was right,
23 becoming Protestants themselves.

24
25 On May 4, 1521, Luther was kidnapped. Some people suspected it might have organized
26 by the Pope, to get rid of Luther once and for all, but, once again, it was the work of
27 Frederick the Wise. Frederick had kidnapped Luther to keep him safe, hiding him in a
28 remote castle, as the Emperor made his decision on Luther's fate. Frederick had made a
29 wise decision, because later that month the Emperor issued the *Edict of Worms*. Luther's
30 writings were banned throughout the Holy Roman Empire and Luther was condemned as
31 an enemy of the Emperor, to be arrested immediately.

32
33 The problem was, the Emperor was already too late. Luther was in hiding and
34 Protestantism had already taken hold in many parts of the Empire just four years after it
35 had begun. New technology had played a big part in this.

36
37
38

38 Luther used the recently invented printing press to spread news of his challenges to the Catholic
 39 Church far and wide, printing them in German as well as Latin so that more people could read
 40 them. Works by Luther made up 20% of everything printed in German between 1500 and 1530, a
 41 remarkable statistic for just one man. His Catholic enemies simply couldn't keep up. For every one
 42 piece of writing they printed in defense of the Catholic church, five pieces written by Luther were
 43 printed challenging it. Luther used the printing press to make it almost impossible for people to
 44 avoid his message. It wasn't just his message that people would recognize, however, as Luther's
 45 image began appearing on his printed works alongside the symbol, a rose, which he had chosen
 46 for himself. The image was not a of wealthy, powerful man, but of a pious one, often with a halo.
 47 This had a huge impact as the image of someone so deeply religious helped to convince people
 48 of Luther's challenges to the Catholic church. Many princes converted from Catholicism to
 49 Protestantism.

50

51 The spread of Protestantism was not without conflict, though. Many German peasants saw
 52 Luther's attack on the church as an attack on authority, and unfair taxes. This led to the Peasants
 53 wars of 1524-1525, where all over Germany peasants revolted against their landlords and rulers,
 54 demanding religious changes alongside fairer treatment. But this violent Reformation was not
 55 what Luther had wanted, and he criticized the peasants, calling them "mad dogs". Just a year
 56 after it had started, over 100,000 of the 300,000 peasants who had taken part had been
 57 slaughtered. In 1536 Protestants took over the city of Munster in the West of Germany. They were
 58 soon defeated by Catholic forces, and the Protestant leaders were chained to stakes in the
 59 public square before having their flesh torn, being stabbed with daggers, and finally having their
 60 body parts cut up and hung in cages hanging off the city's Cathedral as a warning to others.

61

62 Whilst Munster returned to Catholicism, by 1536, most of the central and Northern areas of the
 63 Holy Roman Empire had become firmly Protestant. When Martin Luther died 10 years later, in
 64 1546, his message had converted large numbers of German speaking people, including many
 65 princes, to Protestantism.

66

67 But it wasn't just Germany where Luther's message would have an impact though...

68

1. The Pope was angry at Martin Luther for challenging the Catholic Church, as result, in 1520, he...		
Sent Luther a letter asking him to recant	Had Luther killed	Excommunicated Luther
2. Luther responded to the Pope by...		
Sending him a letter	Burning the message	Recanting his challenges to the Catholic Church
3. Luther was put on trial in front of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Princes, this was known as the 'Diet of Worms', and resulted in _____ being convinced by Luther's ideas.		
The Holy Roman Emperor	Some of the Princes	All of the Princes
4. Despite being banned, Luther's message spread quickly through the Holy Roman Empire due to his use of...		
Horse Messengers	The Silk Road	The Printing Press
5. By 1536 _____ of the Holy Roman Empire had become Protestant		
All	The Southern and Eastern parts	The Central and Northern parts
6. The Reformation in Germany (The Holy Roman Empire) was...		
Completely peaceful	Violent, including 100,000 peasants dieing	Accepted by everyone

Lesson 4: Was the Reformation in Europe a car crash?

Extract 4 – Based on information from the Musee Protestant website.

1 **The Low Countries (The Netherlands).**

2
3 Protestant ideas made their way across Europe quickly. Remember, the printing press had
4 made it much easier to spread information! It took less than a year for Luther's writings to
5 make their way to the Low Countries (The Netherlands), where a monk named Jakob
6 Propst was preaching the teachings of Luther in Antwerp in 1519. By 1525, there were
7 more than 80 versions and translations of Luther's works that were being read and shared
8 widely. This did not, however, appeal to the Catholic rulers of these territories. Soon
9 enough, protestants were forced to worship in secret or even leave the country. But still,
10 Protestantism spread. Things escalated even further when the Spanish King Phillip II took
11 control of the area. Phillip was a devout Catholic and viewed it as his mission in life to rid
12 Europe of Protestantism once and for all.

13
14 What resulted was a war throughout the low countries between the armies of the Catholic
15 King Phillip and rebellious Dutch protestants. Hundreds of Catholic churches were
16 smashed to pieces and many thousands died during a 15-year conflict. By 1581, the
17 southern part of the Netherlands, what we now know as Belgium, remained under
18 Spanish, Catholic control. Meanwhile, in the North the rebellious Dutch freed themselves
19 from foreign powers and became a tolerant Protestant country.

20
21 **France**
22 There were a number of important French protestants, such as John Calvin – an important
23 preacher and thinker – but most of the people there would remain Catholic. The small
24 number of French protestants were known as Huguenots. Despite this, the Reformation
25 would have a huge impact on France as there would be eight wars of religion fought
26 between Catholics and Protestants in just 36 years, only ending in 1598. The 1st war would
27 erupt in 1562 when the Catholic Duke Francois de Guise ordered 100 Protestants
28 attending a service of worship in a barn to be massacred. Fighting also broke out
29 following the French Huguenots forming an alliance with the Dutch protestants rebelling
30 against Spanish rule. There were brief periods of peace, but events often set Catholics
31 and Protestants at each others throats again. In 1572, 4000 protestants in French cities
32 were massacred on St Bartholomew's Day, with another 10,000 killed in the countryside.
33 Unsurprisingly, the Huguenots fought back... Only in 1598, 36 years after the first war of
34 religion broke out, was fighting formally ended, as the Edict of Nantes made it legal for
35 both Protestants and Catholics to worship in their own ways.
36
37

38 **Spain**

39

40 Some Protestant ideas and texts found their way to Spain but, perhaps more than any
41 other country, Protestantism had little impact there. Spain had been and remained a
42 firmly Catholic country. This was in part due to the Spanish Inquisition. a part of the Church
43 given the power to root out and crush heresy. The members of the Spanish Inquisition
44 would use brutal torture techniques on people they thought might be Protestants, or who
45 owned Protestant books and texts. They captured, tortured and killed anyone trying to
46 spread protestant Ideas. One such unfortunate person included Julian Hernandez, Julian
47 was a dwarf who smuggled translated bibles across the border into Spain. He hid these
48 Protestant books, printed in the Netherlands, in packages of lace and dresses, and the
49 parcels were sometimes so large that the Spanish officials helped him with them. They did
50 not suspect that someone so little would cause any trouble. However, Julian's secret trade
51 in Protestant ideas was eventually discovered. He was caught and burned to death, the
52 most serious punishment for people who challenged the Catholic church. As a result of
53 the Spanish Inquisition, the Reformation never really took hold in Spain.

54

Lesson 5: What impact did Henry VIII breaking with Rome have?

Extract 5 – Based on *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Reformation*, by Peter Marshall

1 Henry VIII had a problem. He desperately wanted a son but his wife of 20 years, Catharine
2 of Aragon, had only given him a daughter, called Mary.

3
4 Henry had a few options. He could wait until Catherine died to marry again or try and get
5 a divorce. Catherine did not look like dying anytime soon, and Henry was desperate. But
6 in order to get a divorce Catholics had to get permission from the Pope. Henry had
7 already had to ask permission to marry Catherine, who had previously been married to his
8 older brother Arthur (who had died young), and so the Pope said no. Henry was not
9 allowed to divorce. Usurpingly this annoyed Henry.

10
11 There was another option though. In the Protestant Church, it was the monarch who was
12 head of the church, not the Pope. Just like in Germany, changing to the Protestant
13 Church offered rulers greater power over religion. If England was protestant, and broke
14 away from the power of Rome and the Pope, Henry would not need permission to get a
15 divorce. And so, in 1534, Henry VIII passed the Act of Supremacy, making the monarch
16 the head of the church instead of the Pope. Those who refused to accept this were
17 punished, with some being executed. England was about to engage in its Reformation.

18
19 Henry was then free to divorce and re-marry. His new wife was Anne Boleyn, a Protestant,
20 but she, just like Catherine before her, only produced a daughter, Elizabeth. Henry found
21 reason to have her executed, and just 10 days later married another protestant, Jayne
22 Seymour, who finally gave Henry the son he was desperate for. Henry had secured the
23 Tudor Dynasty through his male heir, Edward.

24
25 Henry also used the start of the Reformation in England to gain immense wealth. Whilst
26 Henry VIII left most normal churches alone, the monasteries and nunneries run by Catholic
27 monks and nuns were pillaged, all their valuable items confiscated by Henry and his
28 advisors, and the beautiful buildings destroyed. These places were signs of the Pope's
29 power, and Henry no longer wanted them in England. For now though, the church in Long
30 Melford had not changed. It was still as beautiful as it always had been.

31
32 Just a few miles from the church in Long Melford, however, the Monastery of Bury St
33 Edmunds was being stripped of its wealth. You may remember this monastery as the
34 place where master John went looking for advice when news of the Black Death began
35 to arrive in the village of Walsham. It was glorious then, but nearly 200 years later was
36 being stripped of all its treasures and left to ruin. In 1536 40,000 people in the North of
37 England would rebel against Henry for the changes he had made, but they would be
38 defeated. The Reformation in England had begun...
39

Lesson 6: What did Edward VI do to the church?

Extract 6 – Based on Roger Martyn's account "The State of Melford Church and of our Ladie's Chapel at the Easte end, as I, Roger Martyn, did know it", in the History of Long Melford

1 It must have been painful for Roger Martyn to see what happened to the church in Long
2 Melford during the reign of Edward VI. Unlike his father, Edward was a pious protestant
3 and wanted to get rid of all remaining Catholic elements in England. Protestants wanted
4 people to focus on worshipping God and the words of the Bible, but for Roger, a devout
5 Catholic, this involved stripping churches of most of their beauty.

6
7 Roger recalled how the beautiful paintings of saints and angels were washed over with
8 white paint. Instead of sentences in Latin, bible verses in English were painted on the walls.
9 The stained glass windows were taken out and replaced with simple glass. The church's
10 valuable silverware was sold off. It wasn't just what people saw in the church that was
11 changing, though.

12
13 Protestants believed that the priest was not special, that anyone could connect to God
14 through faith, and so the vestments the priests wore changed too. Gone were the bright
15 colours and gold stitching, replaced by robes of simple black and white. The rood screen
16 which had separated the priest and the high-altar from the rest of the church was also
17 taken down. On Sundays, priests no longer conducted services in Latin, but spoke in
18 English, reading from English bibles, and the book of common prayer. Edward had
19 introduced this in 1549 and, thanks to the printing press, had been able to issue one to
20 every church in England. On top of all of this, Edward stopped the celebration of almost
21 all festivals and Saints' days. There would be no more religious processions around the
22 town, no more tables of food and ale shared on religious holy days.

23
24 There were others like Roger though, who remained Catholic despite his church
25 becoming Protestant. One of King Edward's advisors wrote that "It has been suggested
26 that some people have hidden Catholic objects, ready to set up again when the sickly
27 boy king dies." Not all Catholics were so secretive though. In Cornwall, in the South of
28 England, Catholics rose up in rebellion over being forced to use the book of common
29 prayer. They were brutally put down, with 5,500 people losing their lives. However, only
30 two people were burned to death for Heresy, crimes against the church, during Edward
31 VI's reign.

32
33
34 Although Edward's reign only lasted 6 years, as he died at the young age of 15, the laws
35 and churches made England look very protestant.

36
37

Lesson 7: Did Mary succeed in countering the Reformation?

Extract 7– Based on Roger Martyn's account "The State of Melford Church and of our Ladie's Chapel at the Easte end, as I, Roger Martyn, did know it", in the History of Long Melford

1 A smile crossed Roger Martyn's face. Just a few years after his beloved church had seen
2 its beauty stripped from it, the decorations were returning, and with them the Catholic
3 faith.

4
5 Unlike her younger brother, Mary I was a devout Catholic. And she planned to undo
6 everything that Edward had changed. She had no intention of allowing England to
7 remain protestant. One of her first actions was to get rid of the Act of Supremacy, legally
8 restoring the Pope as the head of the Church in England. Then she set about restoring
9 Catholic churches themselves. The counter-reformation had begun.

10
11 Roger looked on as a local man repainted the gilt stars on the roof and put the Angels
12 back on the pillars. The English Bible and book of common prayer were got rid of,
13 replaced with a Latin Bible and traditional Catholic services with the priest speaking in
14 Latin. Priests wore bright vestments again, showing their special connection to God. Not
15 everyone was happy though...

16
17 In 1555 news reached Long Melford of the burning of two Protestant bishops, called
18 Latimer and Ridley. They had refused to convert back to Catholicism, saying that no
19 amount of torture or punishment would stop them being Protestant. Consequently, Mary I
20 had them burnt alive. The Bishops would have smelt their own flesh burning and
21 screamed out in pain as the flames surrounded them. Queen Mary I had 284 Protestants
22 killed this way, earning her the nickname 'Bloody Mary'. The Spanish Ambassador wrote
23 back to King Phillip II of Spain saying "A [protestant] was burned publicly yesterday. Some
24 of the onlookers wept, others prayed to God to give him strength to bear the pain, others
25 gathered the ashes and the bones and wrapped them in paper to preserve them, others
26 threatened the Catholic bishops. I think it would be wise [for Mary] not to be too firm
27 against Protestants, otherwise I foresee that the people may cause a revolt'. Despite the
28 harsh punishments, it was clear that many people in England remained Protestant.

29
30 Like her younger brother, Mary I did not rule for long, dying in 1558 just 5 years after
31 becoming queen. A letter sent at the time summed up how many people felt about
32 Mary's death, saying that "When Mary died, all the churches in London did ring with joy.
33 At night we made bonfires and set tables in the street, and we ate and drunk and were
34 merry."

35 For Roger Martyn in Long Melford it must have been a strange time. What would happen
36 to his beloved church now?

Lesson 8: Did Elizabeth complete the Reformation?

Extract 8 – Based on Roger Martyn's account "The State of Melford Church and of our Ladie's Chapel at the Easte end, as I, Roger Martyn, did know it", in the History of Long Melford

1 Elizabeth I's ascent to the throne was a cause for concern for Roger. Elizabeth, after all,
2 was Protestant, and his beloved church had only recently been redecorated after the last
3 Protestant Monarch had ordered all elements of Catholicism removed.

4 However, Elizabeth had lived through the turmoil (chaos) of the Reformation so far and
5 was keen to rule over an England at peace. She was, therefore, careful when imposing
6 her version of Protestantism. Whilst her Act of Uniformity in 1559 declared that all church
7 services and bibles should be conducted in English, it also allowed some Catholic
8 elements to remain. Elizabeth actually made it a rule that all priests should wear colourful
9 vestments, rather than plain ones. However, Roger still had to watch the walls of his
10 church be whitewashed again and the stained glass windows removed once more. The
11 Latin bible was replaced by an English one, and the book of common prayer returned.

12 Elizabeth also passed a law that everyone had to attend protestant church services, and
13 those who refused were fined. Roger, a pious catholic, was one of those who refused, and
14 as such he became a 'recusant'. At one point it seems Roger hid in a hay stack to avoid
15 being found by the Queen's men who had come to fine him. Roger took his defiance of
16 the law even further though. He didn't just refuse to attend Protestant services, but he also
17 hid Catholic priests in his house to protect them from punishment. Many houses owned by
18 wealthier Catholics had something called a 'priest hole' in them, a secret room to hide
19 Catholic priests from protestants. Roger's law breaking was found out and he was
20 imprisoned for a number of years. In some ways he was lucky, others who hid Catholic
21 priests had been sentenced to death. Some Catholics violently opposed Elizabeth and
22 her changes. In 1569, two Catholic nobles in the North attacked Durham Cathedral with
23 an army of 500 men, ripping up the Protestant bible and prayer books. Elizabeth sent an
24 army to crush them. One of the Nobles was captured and executed, along with 750 other
25 Catholics. The other noble manage to flee to France for safety.

26 Perhaps surprisingly, Elizabeth also faced opposition from Protestants, as some hated that
27 she had allowed some elements of Catholicism to remain. These extreme protestants,
28 known as Puritans, wanted every last scrap of Catholicism gone. They didn't think
29 Elizabeth's changes had gone far enough.

30 Roger was eventually released from prison and would go on to outlive Queen Elizabeth I,
31 dying during the reign of her successor, James I. His grave can still be found in the church
32 he loved so much. By the time Roger died England had become firmly protestant, and
33 attempts by any King or Queen to make the country more Catholic again were met with
34 fierce resistance. When Elizabeth I died in 1603 it had been 49 years since her father,
35 Henry VIII had first started the Reformation in England. It had been a violent and
36 tumultuous journey, but the Reformation had taken hold. England would be officially
37 Protestant forevermore.
38