

How did the Reformation affect Morebath church?

Enquiry: In what ways did the Reformation matter to ordinary people?

Mrs Goullée



Mind map task

As you read the information, simply add any changes to the right part of your mind map.

statues gone

rosary beads
gone

**religious
change**

**emotional
change**

**Impact of the
Reformation**

**economic
change**

**social
change**



Religious changes

The Reformation changed the religion of Morebath church from Catholic to Protestant. As a result, Morebath church became far plainer inside. All the beautiful statues of saints were gone, along with many of the candles. Many of the villagers, like Elenor Nicholl, had found comfort in praying to these saints and now they could no longer do this. Women like Margery Lake couldn't even pray with their **rosary beads** any more.

Morebath church now had Protestant church services. Sir Christopher had to use the Protestant Prayer Book to give services in English, rather than in Latin. The people of Morebath had to get used to these new Protestant services, rather than the Catholic ones they had always had.



Emotional changes

All of these changes devastated the people of Morebath. The statues of the saints were more than just decorations to the villagers. They were holy helpers, who they prayed to for help and comfort. Without them, many villagers were left sad and possibly even empty. William Popell had spent years carving the **crucifix**, only for it to be destroyed.

It was also a very stressful time for those people in charge of the church. Sir Christopher had to try and lead the villagers through a time of change, which he didn't agree with. He even lost his **vestments!**

Meanwhile Thomas Norman and the 'Four Men', along with Lucy Scely, had to struggle to find the money for all the new Protestant things.



Economic changes

All of the Protestant changes cost Morebath church a lot of money. They had to pay for the Protestant Prayer Book in Edward's reign. They then had to pay to get rid of it in Mary's reign. Finally they had to pay for the Protestant Prayer Book all over again in Elizabeth's reign.

It was also a lot harder for Morebath church to raise money. Edward stopped the villagers from having **ales** which had raised a lot of money for the church. Even when they returned, they didn't raise as much money as before. This meant Morebath church often had no money at all. Thomas Norman and the 'Four Men' even had to use their own money to pay for the things Morebath needed.



Social changes

Finally, the Reformation had a huge impact on the community of Morebath. The villagers simply couldn't do many of the activities they had always done together. Edward banned the **ales**, which meant the people of Morebath lost the chance to drink ale and feast together. Even when the ales came back, they just weren't the same as before.

Villagers had enjoyed raising money for the church together. However, in Edward's reign all the **stores** closed. This meant all the young men, like John Timewell, and all the young women, like Margery Lake, could no longer work together to raise money to decorate the church. They also lost their chance to contribute to village life.



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Glossary

ales: a village event, where people drank ale together

crucifix: a cross with Jesus hanging on it

rosary beads: a special necklace, which people could use to help them pray

store: a pot of money, which was used to look after a saint's statue

vestments: special robes for Sir Christopher to wear during church services

