

Normans: Monasticism and Language

What is a monastery?

A religious house where monks live and work. They were known as **nunneries, abbeys or priories**. Monks and nun promised to devote their whole lives to God and withdraw from society. Many monasteries belonged to the Benedictine Monks in Anglo-Saxons times.

Vows:

- They took vows of poverty chastity and obedience.
- The **Benedictine** monks also promised to carry out Manuel labour whilst the **Cluniac's** devoted their whole lives to prayer and learning.

What do I need to know:

- **Monastic Life**
- **The reason for and impact of Norman reforms**
- **Developments in school and education.**

What changes (reforms) did the Normans make?

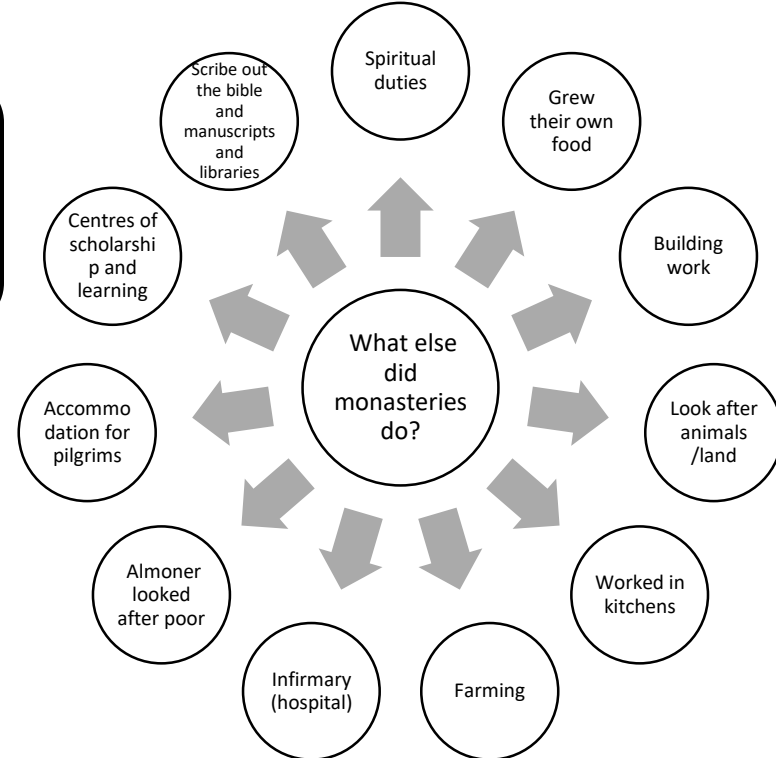
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of monks and nuns increased from 1,000 to between 4,000 and 5,000. ▪ They built new monasteries, which went from 60 to 250. ▪ They had Cathedrals with monasteries attached to them fro example: Canterbury and Winchester. ▪ By 1135- 10 of England's Cathedrals had monasteries attached. ▪ William built monasteries to commemorate his victory and as a penance for the deaths, for example Battle Abbey.
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Normans changed the leaders of the monasteries from Anglo-Saxon to Norman Abbots. In 1070 only two Anglo Saxon abbots were removed in Canterbury. ▪ When Lanfranc held a council in London in 1075: 13 of 21 were Anglo-Saxon, by 1086 only 3 Anglo-Saxon remained. ▪ He defined the role of an abbot and set up a clear hierarchy.
Lifestyle and rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanfranc made domestic reforms • Regulating monks's lives more strictly would mean that the monks were seen to be more pious and the Church would be more respected. • Some monasteries were already following the Benedictine rules other had a huge change to adopt strict Benedictine rule.
Lanfranc's Reforms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He introduced a set of CONSTITUTIONS at Christchurch Canterbury in 1077. • He intended these reforms to spread and improve monastic life. • He reformed the LITURGY (words of the service) making it more like the rest of Europe. • He introduced uniform practice and made monasteries more in line with the rest of Europe.

Anglo Saxon Monasteries

- Many clergy worried about the **secular influence** in monasteries.
- A Benedictine monastery needed land as they were supposed to grow their own food and so they would be granted it from a local lord in return for influence.
- They would control who became abbot and would take money leaving the abbey in poverty.
- Benedictine monks made vows of: obedience, chastity, poverty and manuel labour. But many were no longer strictly vegetarian, they wore rich clothing and ignored rules about fasting.

Key Words:

- Benedictine -Vows
- Cluniac
- Lanfranc
- Reforms



Cluniac Monasteries:

- These were a strict form of Monastery brought by the Normans.
- The firs **Cluniac Priory** was founded in **1077** by William de Warenne in Sussex.
- More were established for example in Thetford.
- By 1135 there 24 Cluniac monasteries
- They built castles aiming to demonstrate the power of Normans and God's blessing on it and they answered only to the Cluny Abbot not a Lord.
- They lived by very strict laws getting up at 2am to a service called **Matins**.