



Summary

During the early medieval period, the Catholic Church grew in power and authority over Europe. Many people and methods were involved in this spread of religion, such as missionaries, monks, and nuns. These people, either by meeting a grizzly end or by giving their life to God through holy work, became **saints**. St. Ivo is a local example of a medieval saint, whose impact on St. Ives was immense. Without the unearthing of St. Ivo’s bones in the year 1000AD and the subsequent shrine created to honour him, it is unlikely that the town we live in today would have taken shape in the way that it did. However, the story of St. Ivo is a bizarre and intriguing one – hopefully one you enjoyed learning!

St. Ivo

Persian bishop whose remains ended up in the little medieval town of Slepe.

Abbot Eadnoth

The bishop of Ramsey who carried St. Ivo’s bones to a local church.

Jesus Christ

In Christianity, he is the son of God, said to be the Jewish messiah who was crucified and resurrected.

Saint Paul

Christian missionary who travelled the Roman Empire spreading the gospel.

Byrhtferth

A monk who lived at Ramsey Abbey and wrote multiple books.

Key Vocabulary

The Church

The collective name for Christians across England and the world

Pope

The head (in charge) of the Catholic Church.

Monk

A man who lives under religious vows in a monastery.

Nun

A woman who lives under religious vows in a nunnery.

Monastery/Nunnery

A building where a community of monks or nuns live.

Pilgrimage

A journey to a holy place for religious reasons

Saint

A person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and regarded in Christian faith as being in heaven immediately after death. Medieval people believed that saints had special powers and could help them.

Intercession

The act of intervening on behalf of another. It was believed that saints could intervene for humans with God.

Persecution

Hostility and ill-treatment of someone based on their beliefs. Christians were persecuted for many years under the Roman Empire.

Reliquary

A container that holds holy relics (usually the remains of a saint!)



Challenge
 Arguably, it is thanks to St. Ivo that we have our town. What do you think would have happened to Slepe if St. Ivo’s bones were not discovered in 1000AD?

