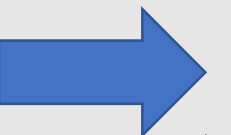


Sing a song of sixpence ... Henry VIII

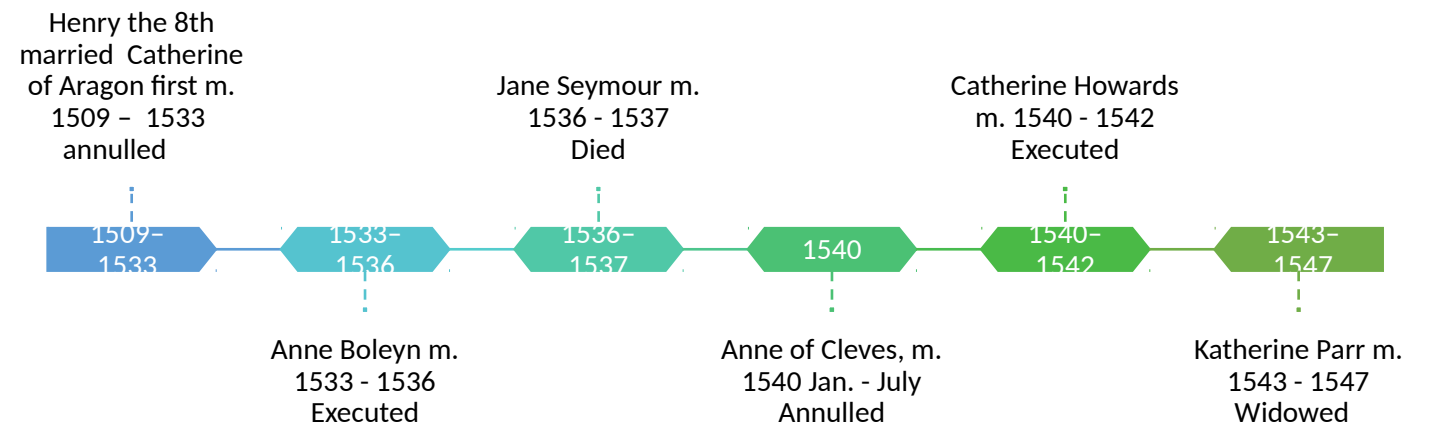
Eleanor Lewis
History Presentation



Do you know what this nursery rhyme is really about?

- For my topic, I have chosen the church built by John Minshull. He was alive at the same time of Henry the 8th and his 6 wives. I see his work every day from my kitchen window – St. Bartholomew's Church in Church Minshull.
- This Nursery rhyme could explain how the church came about and I will use this presentation to explain why.

Henry the 8th and his 6 wives



Henry the 8th and his 1st and 2nd wives

Henry the 8th married Catherine of Aragon first, but then he wanted to marry Anne Boleyn. He could not kill Catherine because she was princess of another country. England was Catholic and this meant he could not divorce her either.

The solution!

Get rid of the catholic monestries and make himself Head of the Church of England.

Bonus!

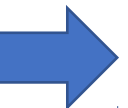
Get all of the catholic's money!





John Minshull

- As you already know, John Minshull was alive at the same time as Henry the 8th. In 1541, 8 years after Henry and Catherine divorced, he finished building the church near my house.
- John was lord of the manor and became the first rector of the new St Bartholomew's church.
- The Minshull's were cheese makers and the bridge over the River Weaver near the church was the only safe place for carts full of heavy salt to cross between Nantwich and Middlewich. Our house is in between the church and the bridge. At that time, our barn was used as a resting place for the horses and drivers of these carts.
- St Bartholomew is the patron Saint of cheesemakers, weights and measures – this is probably why this Saint was chosen by John Minshull to dedicate the church to.



St Bartholomew's Church, Church Minshull

Can you spot the differences?

Before 1541, chapel



After 1541, church



Here are just a few differences!

There are many, many more ...

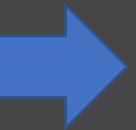
- You may have noticed that the new church, which still stands today, has slates on its roof. Before 1541 it had a thatched roof made of straw.
- In the old church, there was a smaller distance between the top of the church tower and roof than the new church.
- The windows were different.
- The old church was made of timber. The new church is made of more bricks and stones.
- After lockdown, when it is safer, you could have a look around the church.

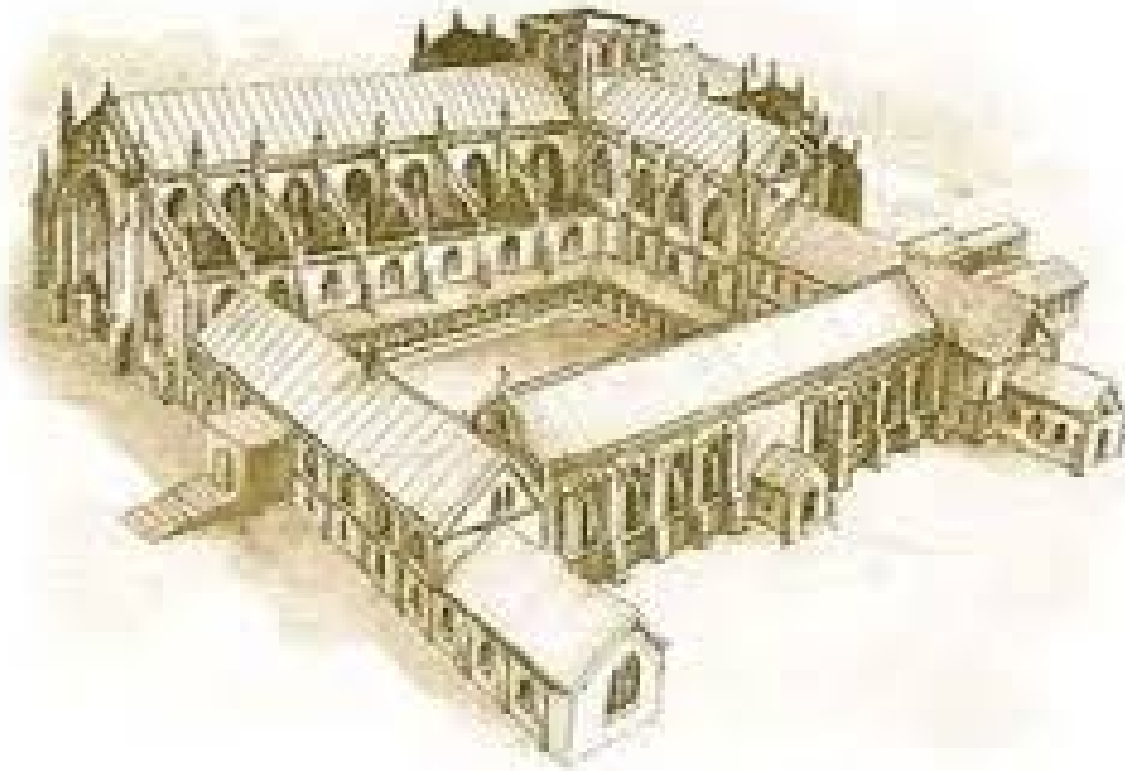


On display, are items, John Headon and his team found whilst renovating the church in 2019...



Where do you think all
the new bricks, stones
and even the tiles in
the church came from?





It is believed that some of the building materials came from 2 nearby Catholic Abbeys that were demolished at the time.

Vale Royal and Combermere Abbey. Remember, Henry the VIIIth, wanting to divorce his first wife and get money from the catholic church to build his navy, had made himself “Head of the Church of England” and banned Catholicism in England. They called this the “Dissolutions of the Monasteries Act”.

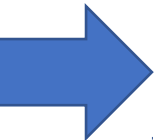
The ruthless and unliked monks were marched off never to be seen again! Previously, they had executed, without trial, villagers for collecting twigs on their land! They did not have many fans willing to help them!



Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds
Baked in a pie.

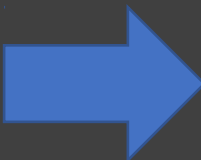


- Some people believe this verse refers to the monks (blackbirds) trying to flatter and bribe the king not to take all their money and lives.
- Others think the 24 refers to the 24 letters used to write the first Church of England bible.





When the pie was
opened
The birds began to
sing—
Wasn't that a dainty
dish
To set before the
king?





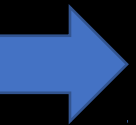
The king was in the counting-house

Counting out his money,

The queen was in the parlour

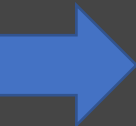
Eating bread and honey,

- The king was counting all his money from the Catholic Church and the Queen in her parlour is Catherine.



**The maid was in the
garden
Hanging out the clothes.
Along came a blackbird
And snipped off her nose.**

- The maid in the garden was Anne Boleyn. Her nose being snipped off means that her soul left her body when she was executed.



John Headon

- This is the man who kindly told me all of this. He is an historian and the author of the book “...Too proud to be forgot” The history of Church Minshull Village.

Thank you John!



The End

by Eleanor Lewis

The image features a dark gray background. At the bottom, there is a white, torn paper-like border that runs horizontally across the width of the image. The text "The End" is centered in the upper half of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, the text "by Eleanor Lewis" is also centered in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.