**HENRY VIII**

* **Henry VIII** was the King of England from 1509-1547
* At first he was an opponent of Luther’s beliefs and because of this the pope awarded him the title **‘Defender of the Faith.**
* He married Catherine of Aragon and had a daughter called Mary
* He wanted a boy so he decided to divorce Catherine.
* The pope refused to give him a divorce so Henry decided to set up his own Church called the Church of England.
* He passed an **Act of Supremacy** which made him the head of this new Church.
* Henry married Anne Boleyn and had a daughter. In all, he married 6 times.
* Henry did not trust the monks to be loyal to his new Church so he decided to close the monasteries – this was called the **Dissolution of the Monasteries** – not a popular decision.
* He also closed the monasteries because he wanted their wealth and land.
* Even though he had broken with the Catholic Church, Henry did not allow Protestant religious teachings in the English Church.

Henry had **three children** and each one brought different religious changes to England.

* **Edward VI** was strongly **Protestant** and under his rule the Book of Common Prayer was brought in and Latin mass was now replaced by a service in English.
* **Mary I** was queen for 5 years and was strongly **Catholic.** Under her rule Protestants were persecuted – 300 people burned at the stake – nicknamed Bloody Mary
* **Elizabeth I** was **Protestant** and reigned for 45 years. She wanted to find a **middle ground** between Catholics and Protestants so she combined both Protestant and Catholic beliefs in her Church. She kept bishops and allowed the churches to be decorated. Church services however were in English and the Book of Common prayers was used. Priests were allowed to marry. By the time of her death England was a stronghold of the Protestant faith.