

The story of Holy Relics.

Holy relics were an important part of medieval Christianity. People and churches would spend time and money finding them and the churches would advertise that they had the best relics, and would put them on show in highly decorated surroundings. Relics were often associated with miracles such as curing illness, but they were also seen as an important link to the important religious figures of the past. This included Christ, Mary, the Apostles and the Saints.

Pilgrims would travel many miles to visit relics, sometimes to pray for specific help, or for a cure, but sometimes just as an act of faith.

The church also used the relics to tell stories that provided an example of good behaviour.

Look at the objects that have been placed upon the table and take it in turns to select one.

Discuss with your group what the object is and what it is made of. Then discuss why that might be a relic, rather than just something thrown away.

Examples might be a small piece of cloth might be from the veil of Mary, a piece of wood may be from the cross, or a famous hermits house, a piece of pottery may be from a cup that a saint drank from.

Take it in turns to tell the story of your relic. You may also think of some power that it is said to have such as healing, or calming a troubled mind.

Think about how you might display your relic and how you might let people who what it is.

There are still relics in churches around the world, and people who visit them as an act of faith, so remember to treat your relics with care and respect.