

# Medieval England

by Angella Radcliffe, Aspasia Winslet

It is common knowledge that England is rich in history. In this post, we will unfold the secrets of the Medieval period, which extends from 1066 until the death of Richard III in 1485.

It was then that London became the capital of England as monarchs held Parliament at the Palace of Westminster. In 1189 London appointed its first Lord Mayor, Henry FitzAilwin.



London was the center of England's Jewish population. After Jews were expelled from the country by the 1290 Edict of Expulsion, there was only one legal way for Jews to remain in England, which was to convert to Christianity. There was an almshouse called the *Domus Conversorum* on Chancery Lane for converted Jews, who were still banned from entering into trades

and therefore dependent on charity.

Several communities of foreign merchants were resident in London, including French wine merchants, and Danish and German traders. The only parts of what is now known as Greater London that were built up were the City of London and Westminster, and indeed the outlying areas were not yet considered to be part of London itself.

This period saw a great deal of new church building and rebuilding of older churches, and by the 12th century there were over 100 churches within the city walls alone. St. Paul's Cathedral, although existing before this period, was rebuilt as what is now known as Old St. Paul's during this period, begun in the 12th century and finished in 1314. London suffered several large fires in this period, in one of those the Cathedral was destroyed (1087).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Norman and Medieval London”. *Wikipedia*, at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman\\_and\\_medieval\\_London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_and_medieval_London) , accessed 8 April 2025