

## ✝ The Church's Role in Medicine ✝

- Care given by monasteries was **free**
- Monks preserved and copied works of **Hippocrates** and **Galen**
- However, the Church believed God caused disease and treatments often involved **prayer**



**Al-Razi**

### Islamic Medicine & Surgery

- **Al-Razi** - helped plan building first documented hospital in Baghdad in 805, believed in observation and natural causes of illness
- **Ibn Sina** - wrote 'The Canon of Medicine' (1025) exploring anatomy and natural treatments, one of first to build on Galen's work rather than copy it
- Works were translated to Latin so doctors in England could learn ideas

- ➔ **Purging** - Swallowing herbs and fat to make patient sick or taking a laxative to empty bowels
- ➔ **Blood-Letting** - Done by a surgeon who drew blood out often with leeches
- ➔ **Zodiac Charts** - It was believed the body was linked to the planets and zodiac charts showed doctors when to avoid treating each part of body

**Hippocrates**



Focused on natural causes

Born in 460BC in Ancient Greece

**Hippocrates**

Theory of the Four Humours

- Black Bile
- Yellow Bile
- Blood
- Phlegm

Put forward the idea of clinical observation

Patient was ill if humours out of balance - to be cured must restore balance

## 1. MEDICINE STANDS STILL

**Galen**



Doctor in Ancient Rome

Built upon Hippocrates' Theory of the Four Humours

Theory of Opposites - Patient must be treated with something opposite to restore balance

**Galen**

Not allowed to dissect humans so difficult to disprove him

Very influential ideas as supported by Church

### The Black Death

- Reached England in 1348
- Spread via rats' fleas, however no one knew this
- Believed to be a punishment from God, so people would practice self-flagellation
- Some thought it had an astronomical cause
- Others thought the cause was miasma - bad air

Sufferers of the Black Death had:

- ➔ Fever
- ➔ Headache
- ➔ Vomiting
- ➔ Buboes

Disease developed very quickly



Herbal Remedies  
Many remedies did actually help the sick, such as honey and plantain used in cuts which help fight infection



Black Death killed over **20 million people** in Europe, which was 1/3 of population

