SOCIAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND

Presented by:

Ms. Aroma Delight Samson Assistant Professor Department of English St. John's College.

Renaissance means 'rebirth'

- It was a period of transition in the European history from the Middle age to the Modern age.
- Renaissance covered the 15th and the 16th centuries of the European history.

- To a student of History Renaissance would mean breaking of feudalism and birth of new social conditions.
- To a student of religion, Renaissance would mean new reformations in the religion.
- To a student of art, renaissance would mean recovery of masterpieces of the ancient world and revived knowledge of Greek and Latin.
- According to Walter Pater, it is a complex and a well-sided movement.

- An important invention was the invention of printing press.
- It was invented by John Guttenberg in 1454 in Germany.
- The first Latin Bible was printed in 1455.
- The printing press then was used in Switzerland, France, Austria, Netherland and finally introduced in England in 1476 by William Caxton.
- Another important invention was the Mariner's compass which enabled sailors to undertake longer voyages.
- □ It was welcomed in many parts of Europe.

- Renaissance started in Italy.
- The works of Virgil, Ovid, Cicero, Plutarch were translated into English.
- An important work of the renaissance priod is Thomas More's 'Utopia'.
- It was published in Latin in 1516 and translated into English in 1551.

 Travel through sea routes started flourishing.
Columbus discovered America in 1492.
Vasco Da Gama reached Calicut in 1498 through Cape of Good Hope.
Magellan reached Philippines through Pacific ocean in 1519.

- A lot of changes started happening in religion.
- Translations of Bible took place which helped people to understand it by themselves.
- This led to people protest against the supremacy of the Pope.
- People started getting divided on the basis of religion
- The age of Renaissance also led to the birth of lots of arts and paintings.
- Medieval gothic style of architecture was replaced by Roman and Greek style.
- An important architecture of this period is the St. Peter's Basilica which is the largest church in existence with the capacity to hold 80,000 people.
- Thus Renaissance can be called the shift from the Middle Age to Modernity in Europe.