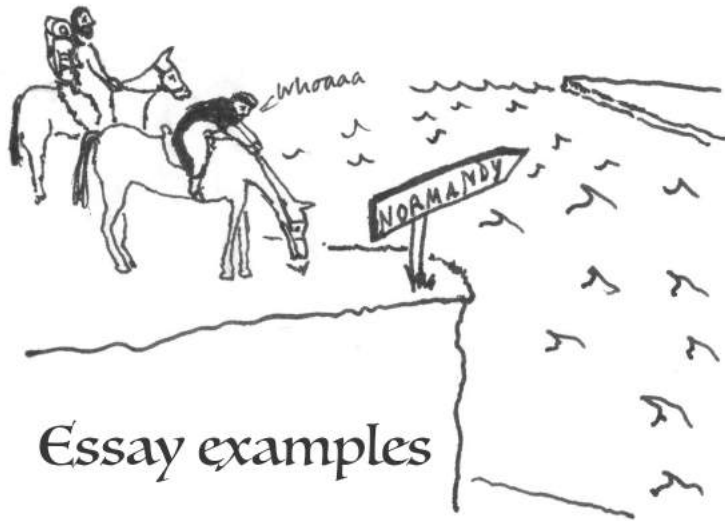


In 1205, King John sent a Merton Canon as an ambassador to Normandy.



Henry III had his wedding party at Merton (1236)...



...and a parliament (1236)...



In December 1307, Edward II borrowed 2 carts to take all his royal stuff to Dover.



Merton's canons will help save my soul...



King John

...and pawn my jewels when I'm short of royal readies



...and had royal quarters there, from which he conducted government.

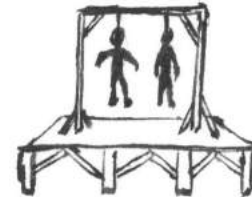
To my exchequer barons, the archbishop's friends Robert and Joan are going to pay me the archbishop's fine, so go to them for the money, not the archbishop. Is that clear?



I just want to read my obituary...



Merton Priory looks after the gallows and tumbrels in several places for me



I thought we churchmen shouldn't kill

We're not killing. We've just hanging around.



In 1207, the Pope had Stephen Langton elected Archbishop of Canterbury. John didn't want an archbishop he couldn't control.

Etienne Langton? Jamais de la vie. Stephen Langton? Over my dead body.

Go to hell, Popey. Hahaha!



Te excommunico!

You're excommunicated. And I'll close all your churches and everyone will hate you. Even more than they do.

Go to hell. Hahaha!



In 1213, John allowed Stephen to be archbishop. But Stephen agreed with the barons that John had overstepped the mark and needed reining in. So he helped write Magna Carta.



John wasn't pleased. War followed.

We know all about Henry II and Thomas Becket, don't we?



Up in Scotland, in 1317 Bishop William of Dunkeld led an army against Edward II's English army.



But Scottish politics was so complicated that everyone was against someone, so it wasn't Church v. Crown but everyone v. everyone else. And the English.

When the Pope refused to give Henry III a divorce in 1527, Henry declared himself head of the Church in England & Wales.



Sometimes the Church could struggle against itself. In 1159, 2 popes were elected: Pope Alexander was supported by Henry II; "Antipope" Victor was supported by Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. Confusing, eh?

