

Anglo Saxon Religion

Early Anglo-Saxons were pagans and like the Romans believed in many different Gods. They worshipped in temples, although none have ever been found by Archaeologists. Later Christian Anglo-Saxons wrote about such pagan worship. Looking at place-names can tell us that temples and shrines existed. Places like Wye, Wheely and Patchway come from the Saxon word 'Weoh' meaning holy place. Places like Harrow and Harrowdown come from the word 'hearg' which means temple.

Pagan Anglo- Saxons sacrificed animals to their Gods. The eleventh month of each year was called Blotmonath or 'blood-month' This meant a month of sacrifices.

It is thought that the Anglo-Saxons also made human sacrifices to their gods, but although Archaeologists found bodies at Sutton Hoo, which could have been sacrificed, no-one knows for sure. At the end of the sixth century Christianity slowly began to spread throughout the country. Stone churches and monasteries were built and people gave up their pagan beliefs.