

# Knowledge Organiser— KS2 The Great Plague and Eyam.

**The Bubonic Plague** also known as **The Black Death**, was a disease carried by infected **fleas** living on **rats**. The deadly disease began spreading in **London**, in the poor and overcrowded parish of **St.Giles-in-the-Fields** in **February 1665**. By July 1665, 17,036 Londoners had died from this disease.

In August 1665, **The Plague** reached the Derbyshire village of **Eyam**. A flea-infested bundle of cloth arrived from **London** for the local **tailor's** assistant, **George Viccars**. Unfortunately, **George Viccars** was the first person to die from **The Plague** in **Eyam**.

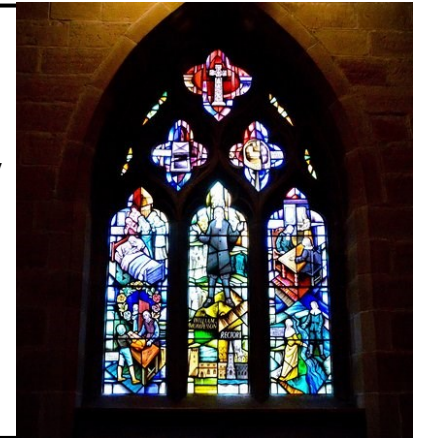
The Eyam **Rector**, **William Mompesson** met with **Thomas Stanley** to decide upon a plan to prevent the spread of the disease. They chose to **quarantine** the village.

Despite this, the disease continued to spread throughout **Eyam** killing **260** villagers out of a population of **350**.



## The Plague Story Window

This can be found in Eyam Parish Church. It tells the story of the Plague in Eyam and it features **William Mompesson**, **Thomas Stanley** and **George Viccars**.



## Key People

- King Charles II** - The King of England during the outbreak of The Plague. He left London for Salisbury to avoid the disease.
- William Mompesson** - The Rector of Eyam who decided to quarantine the village.
- Catherine Mompesson** - Married to William Mompesson. Catherine died from The Plague in August 1666.
- Thomas Stanley** - The Rector of Eyam from 1660-1664. He helped William Mompesson decide how to best protect the village.
- George Viccars** - The tailor's assistant who became the first person to die from The Plague in Eyam on 7th September 1665.
- Alexander Hadfield** - The local tailor who employed George Viccars. He died from The Plague on 3rd August 1666.
- Mrs Hancock** - A notable figure who buried six of her children and her husband close to the family farm. This spot is now known as The Riley Graves and is part of the National Trust.
- Margaret Blackwell** - Claimed that drinking bacon fat and therefore vomiting led her to become plague-free.
- Marshall Howe** - The local grave digger who helped families bury their loved ones.

## The Plague 1665 Timeline of Events



**February 1665** The outbreak of the plague returned to London for the second time after the 1348 outbreak.

**July 1665** The plague was rampant. King Charles II of England and his family left London and fled to Salisbury.

**August 1665** The plague reached the Derbyshire village of Eyam.

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**Bubonic-** A disease which can cause sickness, fever and swelling.

**Contagious-** Able to be passed on from one individual to another.

**Disease** - A condition that impairs the proper function of the body or one of its parts.

**Outbreak-** A sudden occurrence or increase of something.

**Pandemic-** Occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting a high proportion of the population.

**Population-** The whole number of people living in a country, city or area.

**Rector-** The leader of a Church is known as a Rector.

**Remedy-** A medicine or treatment that cures or relieves pain.

**Symptom-** A noticeable change in the body or its functions that indicates the presence of a disease.

**Tailor-** Someone who makes clothes.

**Quarantine-** Where a group of people are separated from the general public and have to stay in one place, not having contact with anyone else.