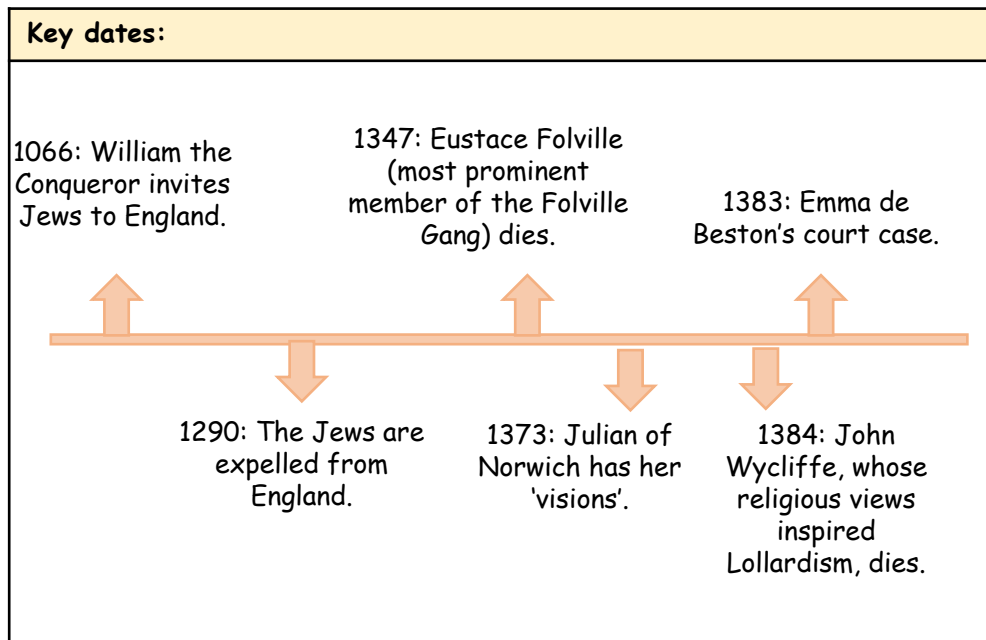


# What was it like to be an 'alien' or an outsider in medieval England?

Outsider groups:	
Jewish people	Although they were invited to England by William the Conqueror, they faced increasing discrimination. Eventually, they were expelled from England in 1290.
Disabled people	Although help was put in place for people with some kinds of disabilities (for example, the period saw the first hospitals for lepers), there was not much understanding of learning difficulties and mental illness.
Anchorites/ anchoresses	Some people chose to remove themselves from society, so they could feel closer to God.
Migrants	The medieval period saw lots of different people migrate to England, including people from the 'Low Countries', from Scotland and from Ireland.
Heretics	People with different religious views faced possible punishment. The Lollards were one group whose members grew in number during the period.



Key terms:	
'Alien'	Term used to describe someone not born in England.
Expel	To force someone to leave (like the Jews who were expelled in 1290).
Physical disability	Something that limits a person's ability to do things physically, using their body.
Learning difficulty	A reduced ability to deal with some kinds of activities, which might be caused by a range of different conditions.
Leprosy	A contagious disease affecting the skin and nerves, sometimes leading to deformities.
Anchoress	A woman who chose to separate herself from society, and live alone in religious contemplation.
Hermit	Another word for anchorite (male) or anchoress (female).
Theology	The study of religion and God.
Outlaw	Someone who has broken the law, and is on the run.
Migrant	Someone who moves from one place to another, often to find a better life.
Denization	The process which saw someone born abroad become 'English' in the eyes of the law.
Lollard	A follower of John Wycliffe. Believed that the Catholic Church needed reforming.
Heretic	Someone with beliefs that go against the official religion of the country.