

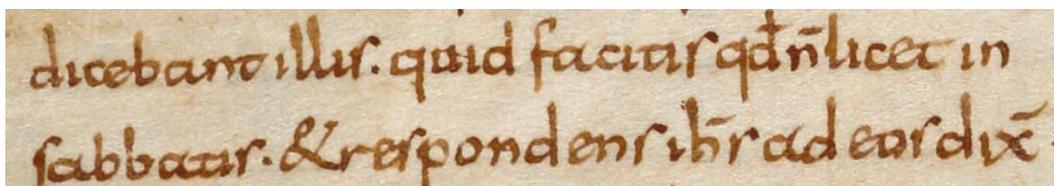
## Carolingian Miniscule

Carolingian Minuscule was a script used in the holy roman empire between approximately the ninth century to the thirteenth. Soon after its original creation in 778 AD, it became the calligraphic standard in Europe at the time. It was made to be easily recognised by the upper, or literate class from every region in England. It was made to be more legible than the ones used by the Romans previously, and new features included word spacing, punctuation and lowercase letters.

a b c d e f  
g h i j k l  
m n o p q  
r s t u x y

This is how the alphabet would've looked at the time. You can see that it is very similar to the ones from today. The characteristics of this script is that is that all of the letters are round and uniform. This was very important in the sense that they wanted it to be very clear and legible, and to be understood by all literate regions. Some notable differences are that the letter the letter l has no tittle (dot on top), and the letter t (third on the bottom line) is written all in one go, with no crossbar. The letter 'S' (second on the last line) looks different and is called the 'long s'.

To decode the extract, we first need to understand where it is from, and what it could be about. It is from a Brittany Gospel written in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. A gospel is 'a teaching or revelation of Christ'. This means we can expect it to be about God or another holy figure. It is also important to note that in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, they didn't speak modern English, as languages change over time, and instead people living in England spoke a mixture of Middle English, Latin or Anglo-Norman (a medieval variation of French) meaning to transcribe it, we would need to understand these. However, it is also necessary to note that all Gospels at the time were written in Latin, it is thought that the books were copied by a scribe.



When we first see this, we can look at it as 'dicebano illis. quid faciat quod nō licet in sabbatis. & respondens illis ad eos dixit' this obviously isn't modern English, and as mentioned previously, must be in a form of Latin. To be able to decode it properly, we will need to break it down further. To begin with, "dice" means tell and "bano illis" means "them what" so the first part could mean "tell them what.". "quid faciat" could translate to "what God can do" or "what makes" so we can infer that this extract is indeed about God.

If you move a bit further you can see that “licet” means “it is allowed, granted or although” and so far, we can see that it is talking that someone wants to tell everyone that God allows or grants something. But what? We can figure this out through the next word. The first letter is called a “long s” and is the letter s but written differently. “sabbatir” is a word very similar to the Latin word “sabbatum” which means “sabbath”. Sabbath is a day in Christianity which is set aside for rest and worship. Christians are not allowed to do work on this day. This means that the first part of the extract is talking about how God allows the people to have a rest day on Sabbath.

In conclusion we can work out that the extract is talking about how God allows people to have a rest day on the Sabbath.