

# Archbishops of Canterbury

of the one, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church 'Orthodox'.



## Augustine 597 - 604

Apostle of Kent, was a Benedictine monk who died 26 May 605 (Feast Day 26 May). He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury of the orthodox church 'Western Rite' and why did he come to Kent land of the Cantwara.

King Ethelbert was the King of Kent who was a heathen, married Bertha daughter of Charibert former King of Paris, one of the Merovingian Kings of the Franks. One of the agreed gifts of betrothal to his wife was a church so that she could continue with her christian worship, her chaplain was Ludhard. The King renovated a derelict church and it was dedicated to St. Martin of Tours a major patronal saint of the merovingian Royal family.

This marriage no doubt was an opportunity for Pope Gregory 1 to send a mission, who in 596 directed a Prior Augustine of the monastery of Saint Andrew, founded by Gregory. Augustine was not very enthusiastic, but set off with 40 monks to Kent, they turned back in Province to Rome, but Gregory commanded and encouraged! him to continue, the journey took nearly a year with stopovers.

They landed at Ebbsfleet on the Isle of Thanet on the 26 May 597 whereupon on learning of their arrival King Ethelbert, who was Bretwalda over other Kings was rowed over to meet Augustine at what is known as St. Augustine cross. Ethelbert permitted Augustine with his monks, he was all so accompanied with Laurance of Canterbury, to settle and preach in Canterbury the capital of Kent, by the end of the year Ethelbert with 10,000 of his subjects at christmas were baptised.

Also, Augustine was consecrated Bishop of Arles. Augustine reported his success to Gregory who in 601 sent Mellitus and Justus with others who brought Gregory's reply plus the Pallium for Augustine with sacred vessels, vestments, books relics etc. Gregory directed the new Archbishop to ordain twelve suffragan Bishops and send a Bishop to York also twelve suffragan Bishops this plan never happened nor the Primatial See in London, at the time it was very vulnerable to attacks by pagans, so Canterbury was selected.

Augustine consecrated Mellitus Bishop of London and Justus Bishop of Rochester. Augustine did meet the Bishops of the celtic church at Aust/Aust cliff, Gloucestershire, in an attempt to unite the church in Britain, but this was premature at the time, the site is named after him. Gregory's practical common sense approach to pagan sites and feast days was to consecrate them as churches and the feasts for martyrs or ceremony days.

Augustine reconsecrated and rebuilt an old church in Canterbury for his cathedral and founded a monastery nearby, he also restored a church and founded the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul outside the wall.

## Major Kings at that time (there was subject/minor Kings as well)

King of Kent - Aethelbert I (560-616)  
King of East Anglia - Raedwald (593-617)  
King of Mercia - Pylba (593-606)  
King of Bernicia - Aethelfrith (593-617)  
King of Deira - Aethelfrith of Bernicia (593-617)  
King of Wessex - Ceolwulf (597-611)

## Laurentius 604 - 619

One of the original companions of Augustine, he was the person who carried Augustine's queries to Gregory and brought back the answer in 601. He was consecrated as his spiritual Father's coadjutor not long before so as to make certain on Augustine's passing that the church would not falter due to lack of a pastor. Little is known of him but he did try to reopen the negotiation with the British/Celtic church which had failed so lamently in his predecessors time, nothing came from his efforts.

In the 12th year of his archiepiscopate King Aethelbert passed on (24 February 616). His son Eadbald succeeded his father and then scandalised Laurentius by marrying his young father's bride. His father had married again in old age after the passing on of Queen Bertha, this caused a breach between the King and the christian community. The King seemed to be quite happy just to ignore the Archbishops protests, who himself lived for sometime under the daily expectation of exile or at least misuse, but there was no open persecution of the church Archbishops Laurentius passing was on 3 February 619 and his tomb still exists and was opened at the beginning of the last Century (20th).



### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well)**

King of Kent - Aethelbert I (560-616)  
Eadbald (616-628)  
King of East Anglia - Raedwald (593-617)  
Eorpwald (617-628)  
King of Mercia - Pybba (593-606)  
Cearl (606-626)  
King of Bernicia - Aethelfrith (593-617)  
Edwin of Deira (617-633)  
King of Deira - Aethelfrith of Bernicia (593-617)  
Edwin (617-633)  
King of Wessex - Ceolwulf (597-611)  
Cynegillis (611-643)

### **Mellitus 619 - 624**

A Roman like the others, came to Kent in 601 as an Abbot. In 604 Augustine consecrated him the first Bishop of London, where a church dedicated to St. Paul had been built, located at the very spot where St. Paul was alleged to have preached, this church is now called St. Paul's Cathedral. However, Mellitus was soon expelled for refusing to give communion (white bread, as the unbaptized called it) to unbaptized, nevertheless he served in the church at Canterbury, but fled to France with Justis, when Eathelbert's son Eadbald ruled despairing at the situation. But he came back sometime as he became the third Archbishop, when Laurentius passed on. Mellitus passed on 10 november 624.

### **Major Kings at the times (there was subject/minor Kings as well)**

King of Kent - Eadbald (616-640)  
King of East Anglia - Eorbald (617-628)  
King of Mercia - Cearl (606-626)  
King of Bernicia - Edwin of Deira (617-633)  
King of Deira - Edwin (617-633)  
King of Wessex - Cynegillis (611-643)

### **Justus 624 - 627**

The fourth Archbishop also from Italy in his time self governing states/regions, he arrived with Mellitus and in 604 was consecrated as the first Bishop of Rochester, fleeing to France when the breach happened between King Eadbald and the church, at sometime coming back no doubt with Mellitus becoming Archbishop with passing of Mellitus, both of their archiepiscopate was not very long due to their ages, passing on 10th November 627.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject Kings/Minor Kings as well).**

Kings of Kent - Eadbald (616-640)  
King of East Anglia - Eorpwald (617-628)  
King of Mercia - Ceorl (606-626)  
Penda (626-633)  
King of Bernicia - Edwin of Deira (617-633)  
King of Deira - Edwin (617-633)  
King of Wessex - Cynegillis (611-643)



### **Honorius 627 - 653**

He was the fifth Archbishop destined to see times of better omen and greater prosperity arriving in 601 and was consecrated at Lincoln. The new advances was due to a political change, which once more placed a convert zealous for the new faith at the head of the English Kingdom. Raedwald of East Anglia had passed on a year after the destruction of Aethelfrith.

Prince Edwin of Deira came to the fore, Edwin a heathen had subdued some Kingdoms before 625. Then on 625 asked for the marriage of Aethelberga sister of King Eadbald of Kent, the same situation as his father and mother, he agreed to this betrothal as aligning with the most powerful monarch in England or more correctly land of the English. So Aethelberga set off with her chaplain Paulinus being ordained Bishop by Archbishop Justus before they parted in July 625.

Paulinus was a man of tact as well as zeal and like before, in time Edwin became a christian as King of Northumbria know doubt like Eathelbert before him encourage by his Queen! and in time Paulinus with his good works was given the title Archbishop by Honorius Bishop of Rome, equal to his namesake Archbishop of Canterbury Honorius and Paulinus became Archbishop of York the first of this title.

Hand in hand with this from the very beginning Honorius was able to expand with the church, to expand his missionary work making the Roman mission to the English truely national, encouraging Aidan a Celtic in Northumbria, Felix a Burgundian in East Anglia, Birinus the Lambard in Wessex and finally Agilbert the Frank (who later became Bishop of Paris) also in Wessex. One can speak of a national church from this time, with the beginning of a national consciousness even unity.

Honorius passed on 30th September 653.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Eadbald (616-640)  
Earconbert (640-664)  
King of East Anglia - Eorpwald (617-628)  
Sigebert (631-634)  
Egrice (634-635)  
Anna (635-654)  
King of Mercia - Cearl (606-626)  
Penda (626?-655)  
King of Bernicia - Edwin of Deira (617-633)  
Eanfrith (633-634)  
Oswald (634-642)  
Osway (642-655)  
King of Deira - Edwin (617-633)  
Osrice (633-634)  
Oswald of Bernicia (634-642)  
Oswin (644-651)  
Aethelwald (651-655)  
King of Wessex - Cynegilis (611-643)  
Coenwalch (643-645)  
anarchy! (645-648)  
Ceonwalch restored (648-672)

### **Deusdedit (Frithona) 655 - 664**

The sixth Archbishop being important for the fact he was English, being a South Saxon, apart from Theodore all the Archbishops were English, no doubt Honorius prepared Deusdedit for this position as part of the organisation of a national church. Frithona took the name Deusdedit meaning 'dedicated to God', founding monasteries in Peterborough and the Isle of Thanet, consecrating Domian Bishop of Rochester. Also something else came about which was very important the Synod of Whitby during his time of office. Here King Oswy a christian of the Celtic church married to Eanflaed daughter of the late King Edwin of the English orthodox church and its direct link with Rome, the Celtic church had drifted away somewhat to be an independent church not liking the stance taken by the English orthodox church encouraged by Rome.



they were encourage to attend the Synod the main architects being King Oswy under the influence of Queen Eanflaed and the Bishop of Ripon Wilfred to settle their differences once and for all. King Oswy was coming towards the end of his reign, he still was a great Northumbrian King and although his power was waning, he still had allies such as Kent and Wessex for example. So the Synod was set up during the year 664, the main problem was the celebration of Easter where the Celtic church and the English Orthodox worked from different calenders which caused problems in King Oswy household, plus there was other minor differences. Oswy held the Synod knowing the best way forward was to go towards the English church and the Orthodox church in Europe.

Wilfred was very harsh towards the Celtic church holding them in contempt, so it was, Oswy allowed the English church to hold sway and the start of the end of the Celtic church which slowly withered away over the centuries, the Scottish preachers returned to Iona a subdued group.

Not long after this, Archbishop Deusdedit passed on 14th July 664, due to a pestilance.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Earconbert (640-664)  
King of East Anglia - Anna (635-654)  
Aethethere (654-655)  
Aathelwald (655-664)  
Ealdwulf (664-713)  
King of Mercia - Penda (625-655)  
Peada (655-656)  
Oswy of Bernicia (656-659)  
Wulfhere (659-675)  
King of Northumbria (Kingdoms of Bernicia and Deira combined) - Oswy (655-671)  
King of Wessex - Ceonwalch restored (648-672)

#### **No primate, primate elect was Wighard (664-668)**

Wighard was to be the next archbishop, selected by Oswy and Ecgbert the new King of Kent 'with the consent of the holy church of the English nation' no doubt after a Synod, Wighard was selected as the next Primate and set off to Rome to receive consecration and the Pallium from the Bishop of Rome Vitalian. Unfortunately, Wighard passed on, not long after he had presented his credentials, like Deusdedit before him a victim of pestilance, so another was selected in his place, so for four years the English church had no Primate at Canterbury. The man selected was immensely dynamic and brought about great changes his name was Theodore.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Earconbert (640-644)  
Ecgbert (664-673).  
King of East Anglia - Aethelwald (655-664).  
Ealdwulf (664-713).  
King of Mercia - Wulfhere (659-675).  
King of all Northumbria - Oswy (655-671).  
King of Wessex - Ceonwalch (648-672).

#### **Theodore of Tarsus 668 - 690**

The eighth Archbishop he was selected by the bishop of Rome, after two others had declined the position. Theodore is one of the greatest Saints of England, he originally came from Tarsus the city of St Paul now in Turkey, who left after regular incursions by Saracen raiders for a safe place. The Orthodox church spread over the whole of Europe then with only national differences like today. Theodore was a highly educated man and dynamic the man just right for the job in hand. He was ordained at the age of sixty six and came in company with Abbot Hadrian an African monk, skilled in Greek and Latin literature, who was his helper during his whole career. Canterbury became a place of Greek learning for some generations after because of these two men.



Theodore was detained for some months by the mayor of Paris Ebrion thinking that Theodore was a spy for the Byzantine Emperor, so he reached Canterbury in 669, because of the four years delay and the consequence of the Whitby Synod the church needed to be reorganised, ie, in Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria there was only one bishop in each kingdom, so for practicable purposes they needed to be divided up into more manageable areas, this upset Wilfred of York who went off to Rome to lodge his complaint, after working for nine years with great energy, he did get back his position after imprisonment by the King, but importantly the new Sees were not disbanded and peace was made with him for the time being, but he rose up later to complain again.

Theodore had to do these changes as kingdoms went to war with each other, ie, Northumbria against Mercia, with his great energy he reorganised the church and put it onto a secure footing, also in a Synod at Hatfield on the 17th September 679 maintained the Orthodox church against the monothelite controversy, because of the growing stability of the church missionaries were sent out to North Western Europe to spread the word amongst the Heathen peoples. Theodore was an amazing man who achieved great things considering his age, passing on at the age of eighty seven 19th September 690.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor as well).**

King of Kent - Ecgbert (664-673)  
Lothere (673-685 with Eddric 684)  
Eddric (685-686)  
Anarchy! (686-690)  
No King (690-694)  
King of East Anglia - Ealdwulf (664-713)  
King of Mercia - Wulfhere (659-675)  
Aethelred (675-704)  
King of all Northumbria - Oswy (655-671)  
Ecgfrith (671-685)  
Aldfrid (685-705)  
King of Wessex - Ceonwalch restored (648-672)  
Queen Seaxburh (672-674)  
Aescwine (674-676)  
Centwine (675-685)  
Ceadwalla (685-688)  
Ine (688-726)

### **Berthwald / Brithwald (692 - 731)**

The ninth Archbishop again a long vacancy, he was the Abbot of Reculver, in Kent, for some reason he sought consecration in Gaul and received it a year after his election from the Archbishop of Lyons. He was not comparable to his predecessor, but maintained the authority of his See and increased the number of Suffragan Bishops.

The authority of Berthwald can be seen in a letter about an intercession between two kingdoms as a mediator and how the lay world respected the Bishops office, but also shows more importantly as evidence of the strength of the tradition, which Theodore had established the idea of a centralised church.

This idea thwarted for ten years after Berthwald election, due to the attitude of Bishop Wilfred, who reopened the wounds of before, going through the whole scenario again, going to Rome, being exiled on return, but after a Synod he was restored to his churches of Ripon/Hexham in 705 passing on in 709.

Berthwald passed on 9th January 731.



### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Wihtred (694-724)  
Eadbert I (725-748)  
King of East Anglia - Ealdwulf (664-713)  
Aelwald (713-749)  
King of all Northumbria - Aidfrid (685-705)  
Eardwulf I (705)  
Osred I (705-716)  
Coenred (716-718)  
Osric (718-729)  
Ceolwulf (729-737)  
King of Wessex - Ine (688-726)  
Aethelheard (726-740)

### **Tatwine 731 - 734**

The tenth Archbishop, a Mercian Abbot at the monastery at Breedon in Leicestershire, he was famed for his piety and learning unfortunately he passed on 30th July 734.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor as well).**

King of Kent - Eadbert I (725-748)  
King of East Anglia - Aelfwold (713-749)  
King of Mercia - Aethelbald (716-757)  
King of Northumbria - Ceolwulf (729-737)  
King of Wessex - Aethelheard (726-740)

### **Nothelm 735 - 739**

This was the eleventh Archbishop, he was a learned priest of the diocese of London. He also helped the venerable Bede as a zealous compiler of Bede's work on the English church, later corresponded with the English St. Boniface who became the Apostle of Germany, his term in office was short like his predecessor, both were venerated at Canterbury, passing on 26th October 739.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Eadbert (725-748)  
King of East Anglia - Aelfwald (713-749)  
King of Mercia - Aethelbald (716-757)  
King of Northumbria - Eolwulf (729-737)  
Eadbert (737-758)  
King of Wessex - Aethelheard (726-740)

### **Cuthbert 740 - 761**

This was the twelfth Archbishop of Canterbury, being of noble birth becoming Abbot of Liminge in Kent, consecrated Bishop by Archbishop Nothelm. On being consecrated Archbishop in 740 he went to Rome to receive his Pallium, on return assisted at the council of Cloveshoe.

In 742 King Ethelbald of Mercia conferred many privileges to churches and monasteries, also had friendship with the Archbishop Boniface of Mainz who did not approve of the moral laxity of the clergy in England and beyond, writing to Cuthbert which caused another council at Cloveshoe in 747, which formulated many canons for the monastic life, bishops and clergy for their guidance. Archbishop Boniface initiated similar action in Germany, with greater union with Rome, which is now agreed was initiated by the council of Cloveshoe. Cuthbert had built a church of St. John the Baptist as a baptistery, a court of Archbishops and a place of burial where Cuthbert was buried on his passing on 25th October 758.



### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Eadbert I (725-748)  
Aethelbert II (748-762)  
King of East Anglia - Aelfwald (713-749)  
Beorna (749-?)  
King of Mercia - Aethelbald (716-757)  
Beorned (757)  
Offa (757-796)  
King of all Northumbria - Eadbert (737-758)  
Oswulf (758-759)  
King of Wessex - Cuthred (740-756)  
Sigebert (756-757)  
Cynewulf (757-786)

### **Bregwine 759-764**

This was the thirteenth Archbishop of Canterbury, he was a continental Saxon who drawn to Canterbury with all its learning, at the seminary school founded by Augustine. In 759 called to the chair of Archbishop, two years later received the Pallium in Rome. He corresponded with Archbishop Lull of Mainz, letters of which still exist, this friendship began when he met him in a visit to Rome, passing on 24th August 764.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of Kent - Aethelbert II (748-762)  
Kent was divided among several Kings, vassals to Mercia (762-796)  
Kings of East Anglia - Beornal (749-?)  
Aethelbert (?-793)  
Kings of Mercia - Offa (757-796)  
Kings of all Northumbria - Oswulf (758-759)  
Aethelwald Moll (759-765)  
Kings of Wessex - Cynewulf (757-786)

### **Jaenbert 765-792**

The fourteenth Archbishop of Canterbury, he became a monk at Canterbury and was later elected Abbot of St. Augustine's, apparently he asserted the rights of his own Abbey (Christ church) to be the traditional burying place when Bregwine was buried there with such vigour, that the monks elected him Archbishop to avoid him appealing to Rome. He was consecrated in 765 and received his Pallium in Rome in 766. During his time King Offa of Mercia's power was growing, to the extent that Kent was defeated and with Rome's approval a new Archbishopric was established in Lichfield, although Jaenbert vigorously apposed this action, he was forced to surrender much of the jurisdiction of Canterbury to Archbishop Higbald at the council of Chelsea in 787. This decision was reversed by Rome later but not in Jaenbert's time. He also minted coins some of which still exist, he passed on 13 August 792.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

Kings of Kent - Kent was divided among several Kings, vassals to Mercia (762-796)  
Kings of East Anglia - Aethelbert (?-793)  
Kings of Mercia - Offa (757-796)  
Kings of all Northumbria - Aethelwald (759-765)  
Alchred (765-774)  
Aethelred I (765- 779)  
Aelfwald (779-788)  
Osred II (788-790)  
Aethelred I restored (790-796)  
Kings of Wessex - Cynewulf (757-786)  
Beorhtric (786-802)



### **Aethelhard 793-805**

The fifteenth Archbishop of Canterbury, was an Abbot of a monastery at Louth in Lincolnshire. He was consecrated Bishop of Winchester between 759-778, but this is uncertain in some quarters. He was enthroned Archbishop of Canterbury on 21st July 793, by the then senior-bishop, Archbishop Highard of Lichfield, this required King Offa of Mercia to consult Alcuin of York over proper procedure.

The rise of Offa who had conquered Kent, divided England into three great states of Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex. Northumbria had its own Archbishop and Canterbury ruled the rest. He wanted and achieved an Archbishop of Lichfield for Mercia and he desired and gained supremacy over Canterbury.

Canterbury being left with London, Winchester, Sherborne, Rochester and Selsey as suffragan Sees. Offa raised Aethelhard to the archiepiscopal See, as most probably he was an Mercian Abbot, hence the uncertainty of him being Bishop of Winchester. He was elected in 792, but was delayed to 793, no doubt as the clergy of Kent were unwilling to except a Mercian Archbishop and being consecrated by the Archbishop of Lichfield.

Had the policy of separate ecclesiastical organisation prevailed, then it would have impeded national unity and its defeat by Aethelhard was of the greatest importance in making of the English nation.

During Offa's reign nothing could be done about the restoration of Canterbury, many things happened in 796. The Kent nobles rose in arms, rallying around Eadbert 'Praen' a member of their Royal household and a cleric, as they endeavoured to shake off the Mercian yoke. Aethelhard was under severe pressure although Alcuin implored him not to desert, but in the end he was obliged to flee.

Offa passed on 16th July 796, but his successor Egfrith passed on about 13th December where Coenwulf succeeded, all this time the people of Kent were still revolting, until the capture of Eadbert in 798. Coenwulf had a mind of moving the primary Archieposicopal See from Canterbury to London, when Aethelhard had returned to his See. Coenwulf had asked Rome about the question of the diminution of the rights of the See, with letters from Aethelhard. Aethelhard went to Rome and his friendship with Alcuin, once again stood him in good stead so this whole dispute between Canterbury and Lichfield was looked at, the conclusion being set out at the council of Cleveshoe on 12th October 803. Where Archbishop Higbald was unceremoniously deprived of his Pallium, something which Alcuin had asked for it not to be done in this way, as Higbald was a pious man, never the less, this how it was done and Canterbury was re-established, in the presence of Coenwulf and his Witan.

Also Aethelhard established that every new bishop gave a written confession of his Orthodoxy, he passed on 12th May 805.

### **Major Kings at the time (there were subject/minor Kings as well)**

King of Kent - Kent was divided among several Kings, vassal to Mercia (762-796)

Eadbert II 'Praen' (796-798)

Coenwulf of Mercia (798)

Cuthred (798-805)

King of East Anglia - Aethelbert (/ -793)

Kings of Mercia (793-823)

Kings of Mercia - Offa (757-796)

Egfrith (796)

Coenwulf (796-821)

Kings of all Northumbria - Aethelred (790-796)

Osald (796)

Eardwulf II (796-806)

Kings of Wessex - Beorhtric (786-802)

Eagbert (802-839)

### **Wulfred 805-832**

The sixteenth Archbishop of Canterbury elected on the 3rd August, being from a family of wealthy landowners in Middlesex and beyond, being an archdeacon in Christ Church in Canterbury.





Wulfred had a long archiepiscopacy in which time there was considerable reforms and changes at Christ Church and with his considerable wealth funded the construction of new buildings and also reformed the community, possibly under the Benedict rule, all this can be gleaned from the plentiful documentation which survives. He was the first archbishop to strike coins with his head on with no reference to the Mercian King, coins being struck by the moneyer Swefheard.

There was tensions with the Mercian King about lay control of monasteries which had been customary for centuries, but the Archbishops of Canterbury before Wulfred within the last fifty years had started to take episcopal control over the monasteries in England, this manifested in the Synods of Clofesho in 803 and Chelsea in 816.

These tensions manifested in Wulfred being deprived of his authority by the King for about six years, maybe four. Wulfred and the community of Canterbury fought against King Cenwulf on this, sending a deputation to Rome.

In 820 King Cenwulf forced Wulfred into giving to the King a large gold payment and a loss of an estate so he could gain control of the debated monasteries, Wulfred still had problems of Cenwulf seeding control over some monasteries but this was settled with King Ceowulf when he was consecrated in 822 and this conflict was fully settled by the council of Clofesho in 825 when another Mercian King, King Beornwulf settled in favour of Wulfred.

This all changed in 825! when Beornwulf was defeated by King Ecgbert of Wessex at Ellenden and Mercia lost control of Kent, the relationship was cold between the King of Wessex and Wulfred. The final settlement of the debate on lordship of monasteries was settled with Ecgbert shortly before his passing in 838 in a debate at Kingston Upon Thames.

Although Wulfred is obscure, he had to challenge the threat of ecclesiastical rights against considerable opposition making him one of the greatest Archbishops of Canterbury, passing on 24th March 832.

#### **Major Kings at that time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

Kings of Kent - Baldred (805-823)

Ecgbert of Wessex - (825)

Aethelwulf of Wessex - (825-839)

Kings of East Anglia - Kings of Mercia (793-823)

Eadwold (823-829)

Athelstan I son of Ecgbert (829-839)

Kings of Mercia - Coenwulf (796-821)

Ceolwulf I (821-823)

Beornwulf (823-825)

Ludcan (825-827)

Wiglaf (827-829)

Ecgbert of Wessex (829-830)

Wiglaf restored (830-839)

Kings of Northumbria - Eardwulf II (796-805)

Aelfwald II (806-808)

Eardwulf II 'restored' (808-810)

Eanred (810-840)

Kings of Wessex

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Ecgbert (802-829)



### **Syred 832-832**

The sixteenth Archbishop of Canterbury, unfortunately his enthronement was very short only a matter of months, passing on sometime in 832.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject /minor Kings as well)**

Kings of Kent - Aethelwulf of Wessex (825-839)  
Kings of East Anglia - Aethelstan son of Ecgbert (829-839)  
Kings of Mercia - Wiglaf 'restored' (830-839)  
Kings of all Northumbria - Eanred (810-840)  
Kings of Wessex - Ecgbert (802-839)

### **Feoligild 832 - 832**

The seventeenth Archbishop of Canterbury being enthroned on 9th June 832, it shows how short Syred's archbishopric was. Feoligild was at Clovesho council of 803, being listed as Abbot of a Kentish monastery, but like his predecessor his enthronement was very short, passing on 30th August 832.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

Kings of Kent - Aethelwulf (825-839)  
King of East Anglia - Aethelstan son of Ecgbert (829-839)  
Kings of Mercia - Wiglaf 'restored' (830-839)  
Kings of all Northumbria - Eanred (810-840)  
The house of Ecgbert - King of all England - Ecgbert (802-839)

### **Ceolnoth 833 - 870**

The eighteenth Archbishop of Canterbury, his position before being elected as Archbishop was Dean to the See of Canterbury, elected as Archbishop on 27th August 833.

In 838 a council was held at Kingston upon Thames where an alliance was made between Ecgbert King of Wessex and Aethulwulf of Wessex, King of Kent granting Ceolnoth a charter for certain tithes to religious communities, in return for the donors. Kingston upon Thames by then was a main fording point of the Thames, it became more important later with the coronations held there.

Also during his archiepiscopate raids by Danes were becoming more regular, Ceolnoth was able to pay them off! with coins he was able to mint, with these raids came the loss of monasteries and the decline in the quality of books and other works produced by the scriptoriums, passed on 4th February 870.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

Kings of Kent - Aethelwulf of Wessex (825-839)  
Aethelstan, 'brother of Aethulwulf' (839-850?)  
Aethulwulf, 'again' (856-858)  
Aethelbert, 'son of Aethulwulf' (858-860)  
Kings of East Anglia - Aethelstan I, son of Ecgbert (829-839?)  
Aethelweard (839-852)  
Beortric (852-856)  
Edmund (856-870)  
Kings of Mercia - Wiglaf, 'restored' (830-839)  
Beorhwulf (839-852)  
Burhred (852-874)  
Kings of all Northumbria - Eanred (810-840)  
Aethelred (840-844)



Redwulf (844)  
Aethelred, 'restored' (844-848)  
Osbeorht (848-867)  
Aelia (861-867)  
House of Ecgbert - King of all England - Ecgbert (802-839)  
Aethulwulf (839-858)  
Aethelbald (858-860)  
Aethelbert (860-866)  
Aethelred (866-871)

### **Ethelred 870 - 889**

The nineteenth Archbishop of Canterbury some sources say he was transferred from the Bishopric of Wiltshire in 870, but this has been proven that this was taken from the life of Aelfric of Abingdon. Unfortunately most of his time was spent with dealing with the affects of norsemens raids.

He had an ecclesiastical matters with King Alfred which unfortunately grew into a conflict, also in his time, 'The Golden Gospels' were donated to Canterbury, after they were ransomed by a raiding army of norsemens, he passed on 30th June 889.

### **Major Kings at the time (there were subject/minor Kings as well).**

King of East Anglia - Edmund (856-870)  
King of Mercia - Burhred (852-874)  
Ceolwulf II (874)  
The house of Ecgbert - King of all England - Aethelred I (866-871)  
Alfred (871-899)  
Danish Kings - Guthrum I (878 890)

### **Plegmund 890 - 923**

This was the twentieth Archbishop of Canterbury, he was of Mercian descent, for sometime he lived as a hermit on an island, at that time, in Cheshire. The place was called Plegmundstow, today called Plemstall meaning 'Plegmund hermitage'. He had a reputation as a scholar of great piety, this was the time when the norsemens had all but destroyed monastic life and literacy.

In 887 he with three other scholars were summonsed to the court of King Alfred, the others were Waerferth Bishop of Worcester, Athelstan and Warwulf. Plegmund helped translate St. Gregory's 'Pastoral Care' into Old English, taking part in other activities.

There is a slight gap from the passing of Ethelred to the enthronement of Plegmund, this could be due to the fact the See had been offered to a Flemish monk called Grimbald who declined. Plegmund crowned Edward the Elder at Kingston upon Thames in 899. In 908 he founded the New Minster in Winchester and he reorganised the church, creating new Sees within the existing Diocese of Winchester. Crediton the future Devon and Cornwall, Ramsbury the future Wiltshire, Sherborne the future Dorset, Wells the future Somerset, and finally the Diocese of Winchster the future Hampshire. He needed to go to Rome to gain approval and to be regranted his Pallium as the Bishop of Rome Sergius had annulled the acts of Formosa, this was the first time for nearly a century of an Archbishop visiting Rome.

Later he was on the formal councils of Edward 'The Elder' in 901, 903, 904 & 909. His works led to a golden age of the old English church, passing on 2nd August 923.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

House of Ecgbert - King of all England - Alfred (871-899)  
Edward The Elder, 'Son of Alfred' (899-924)  
Danish Kings - Guthred-Cnut (883-894)  
Eohric (890-902)  
Guthrum II (902-916)



Danish Kings of York - Guthred-Cnut (883-894)  
Siefred (Sievrt) (893-896)  
Aethelward of Wessex (900-902)  
Regnald (918-921)  
Sihtric Coach (921-926)

### **Athelm 923 - 926**

This was the twentyfirst Archbishop of Canterbury, he most probably came from the west country becoming a monk at Glastonbury, later becoming Abbot of this famous monastery in 909, then later he was elevated to be the first Bishop of Wells.

When he became Archbishop he carried on the work of his predecessor, being uncle of Dunstan who he inspired to follow in his path, even inviting him to Canterbury when he became Archbishop. He also help to prepare Athelstan 'Grandson of King Alfred', who he later crowned at Kingston upon Thames in 924 who was to become one of Englands greatest Kings. Athelm passed on 8th January 926.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

The House of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Edward The Elder (899-924)  
Danish Kings of York - Sihtric coach (921-926)  
Guthfrith Sihtricson (926)  
Athelstan (926-939)

### **Wulfhelm 926 - 942**

Becoming the twenty second Archbishop of Canterbury, before this he was Bishop of Wells consecrated in 914. Wulfhelm went to Rome to receive his Pallium, he frequently attended the court of Athelstan, who says in his law code Wulfhelm was consulted with the drafting of these laws. Wulfhelm passed on 12th February 942.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Athelstan (924-939)  
Edmund I (939-946)  
Danish Kings of York - Sihtric coach (921-926)  
Guthfrith (926)  
Athelstan (926-939)  
Anlaf/Guthfrithson (940-942)  
Anlaf I /Quaran (942-944)

### **Oda 'The Severe / The Good' 942-958**

The twenty-third Archbishop of Canterbury, he was the son of Danish parents living in East Anglia, working in the household of a pious nobleman who went with him to Rome.

Some say he became a monk in France,whatever,he later became Bishop of Ramsbury in Wiltshire between 923-927. He was said to have been with Athelstan at Brunanburh in 937 and to arranged the King of France who had been exiled in England for a number of years.

In 942 on gaining the archispiscopal he was an able man, helping King Edmund I with legislation, as well as with church rules and constitutions. On the passing of Edmund he carried on advising King Edred and on his passing with King Edwig (Edwy). He gave support to Dunstan's reforms of the monastic life and encouraged his own nephew Oswald, who became a great Archbishop of York. He received the title 'The Good' or 'The severe', which reflected his tireless efforts to revive the church, as his title says he was a model archbishop, passing on 2nd June 958.



### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - The King of all England - Edmund I (939-946)  
Edred (946-955)  
Edwig (955-959)  
Edwig brother of Edred was proclaimed King of Mercia (957-959)  
Danish Kings of York - Anlaf I, Guthfrithson (940-942)  
Anlaf II, Quaran (942-944)  
Edmund & Edred (944-947)  
Eric blood axe (947-948)  
Anlaf, Quaran 'restored' (949-952)  
Eric blood axe 'restored' (952-955)

### **Aelfsige 959 - 959**

The twenty-fourth Archbishop of Canterbury. In 959 he was translated from the See of Winchester as Bishop to Canterbury. Unfortunately he passed on due to very cold conditions somewhere in the Alps, he was journeying to Rome to receive his Pallium, where upon King Edwig (Edwy) nominated the Bishop Birthem of Wells. Aelfsige's will survives showing he was married with a son named Godwine of Worthy, who died fighting the norsemen.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well)**

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Edred (946-955)  
Edwig (Edwy) (955-959)

### **Birthem 959 - 959**

This the twenty-fifth Archbishop of Canterbury, he was Bishop of Wells, serving before this as a monk at Glastonbury. King Edwig (Edwy) appointed Birthem as archbishop, this was one of his last acts as King, before he passed on in October 959, but as soon as his brother Edgar who was King of Mercia came to power, as King of Wessex and all England he reversed this decision, saying Birthem was too gentle for the role of archbishop, so replaced him with Dunstan, whilst Birthem went back to Wells.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Edwig (Edwy) (955-959)  
Eadgar (959-975)

### **Dunstan 959 - 988**

The twenty-sixth Archbishop of Canterbury, born in Baltonsborough of a noble family and linked to the Royal family. As a young boy he studied at Glastonbury under Irish monks, having a vision of the restoration of the ruined Abbey.

Noted for his devotion to learning and artistic craftsmanship, with his parents consent received minor orders, which in time he was summoned to uncle Athelm, who was Archbishop of Canterbury, to enter his service. Later appointed to the court of King Athelstan, but because of him becoming a favourite with the King, envy reared its ugly head and so he was discredited by others of the court, in front of the King, Dunstan was dismissed, attacked and then thrown into a cesspool.

Here he went to his uncle Aelfheah Bishop of Winchester who tried to secure from him to become a monk, he became very ill no doubt the effect of being in a cesspool and like in childhood, he miraculously recovered, where upon he became a monk (943), returning to Glastonbury to live as a hermit.

He became a famous musician, illuminator and metalworker, becoming a trusted advisor to the Lady Athelflaed niece of King Aethelstan, on whose passing and with passing of his father Heorstan, Dunstan acquired a fortune which he later used to foster and encourage a monastic revival in England, this also helped him gain great influence in the court of King Athelstan, who on passing in 940, was then summoned to the court of King Edmund, who was made a minister. But once again envy



reared its ugly head, the King was prepared to send Dunstan away to the 'Eastern Kingdom' (East Anglia), Dunstan had implored the envoys from that Kingdom to take him home with them, but this never happened due to an incident which happened to the King.

King Edmund on a hunting trip following the chase, very nearly went over a cliff after the hounds, saw this as the consequence of his harsh treatment of Dunstan, who then went to Glastonbury, after prayer took Dunstan by the hand to the Abbot's chair and promised the restoration of Divine Worship and regular observance.

Now Abbot, Dunstan went to work to reform the monastic life and rebuild the Abbey, using the rule of St. Benedict, creating a school for the local youth and completed the irrigation system of the Somerset levels.

In 946 King Edmund was assassinated, to have King Edred crowned in his place. Under him there was a policy of unification and conciliation with the whole of England (this includes the Danish part). Dunstan was dominant here refusing the office of Bishop twice, so he could stay with the King.

In 955 Edred passed on and the elder son of Edmund, Edwy took his place, unfortunately for Dunstan conflict with the King made him flee first to Glastonbury, then to Flanders onto the Abbey of Mont Blanden near Ghent, he saw first hand the Benedictine revival. His exile was not for long as the Mercians and Northumbrians revolted against Edwy, replacing him with his brother Edgar, he was recalled to be consecrated as Bishop of Worcester (957) and in the following year Bishop of London.

In October 959, Edwy passed on and was replaced by his brother Edgar as King of Wessex. Dunstan became Archbishop of Canterbury on the passing of Aelsige in the Alps and the reversal by Edgar of Brithelm as Archbishop who was thought to gentle for such a position, this was excepted by Brithelm, this was in 960.

On returning from Rome with his Pallium, he became virtual Prime minister of England, pushing forward reforms of the English church and building monasteries.

In 973 Dunstan performed the solemn coronation of King Edgar in Bath which forms the basis of today's coronation ceremony. 975 two years later Edgar passed onto be succeeded by his eldest son Eadweard II, which was disputed by his stepmother, who wish her son Ethelred to be crowned. Dunstan supported Eadweard, who was crowned at Winchester, but there was a reaction against this and about the reforms. Dunstan was at the Witan meetings to try to settle these disputes, Kyrtlington, Calne,(where the floor fell through leaving Dunstan clinging to a beam), and finally Amesbury.

In March 978 King Eadweard was assassinated at Corfe castle as he took a cup of drink, as a form of welcome to him on his arrival, no doubt inspired by his stepmother. Ethelred 'The Unready', her son was coronated as King, in which Dunstan took part, but he gave a solemn warning, saying the act against Eadweard would cumulate in misfortune for the kingdom of England, Dunstan retired from court.

He with Aelhere of Wareham translated the relics of Eadweard II from Wareham to Shaftsbury Abbey where Eadweard became known as King Edward 'The Martyr'.

At Canterbury Dunstan spent many long hours at prayer also working to improve the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, build and restored churches, established schools, judging suites, defending widows and orphans, promoting peace and enforce respect for purity. He also practiced crafts, made bells and organs and corrected books in the library of the cathedral, encouraged scholars to come from Europe.

Having a vision of his passing on the vigil of Ascension day, knowing he had three days before his own passing, on Saturday 19th May he got himself ready, with services in preparation his final reported words were "He hath made a remembrance of his wonderful works, being a merciful and gracious Lord, he hath given food to them that fear him". On his passing he became the favourite Saint of the English, until overshadowed by Thomas Becket. Dunstan passed on 19th May 988.

### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - King of all England - Eadgar (959-975)  
Edward II 'the martyr' (975-978)  
Æthelred II 'the unready' (978-1016)



### **Æthelgar 988 - 990**

This the twenty-seventh Archbishop of Canterbury, like Dunstan before him he was a monk at Glastonbury Abbey, then on to Abbingdon Abbey.

Appointed Abbot of New Minster, Winchester in 964, consecrated Bishop of Selsey, Sussex on 2nd May 980, then on to Archbishop in 988. Unfortunately his Archbishopric was not for very long passing on 13th February 990.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

The House of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Æthelred II (978-1016)

### **Sigeric 'The Serious' 990- 994**

The twenty-eight Archbishop of Canterbury, educated at Glastonbury Abbey where later to become a monk at the Abbey. Elected Abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey in 980 and consecrated to the see of Ramsbury and Sonning in 985 by Archbishop Dunstan.

In 990 was elected Archbishop of Canterbury and then went to Rome to receive his Pallium of which there are still records of his journey. Sigeric advised King Æthelred 'The Unready' to pay tribute to the Danish King Sweyn and in the following years this became known as the Danegeld which financed more incursions into the land of England not reduce them. As King Æthelred found only a strong defence would prevent these incursions happening.

Sigeric even done the same to protect Canterbury being burnt.

He also advised for the building of an Abbey at Cholsey in Oxfordshire in honour of King Edwærd II 'The Martyr', as being memorilized at Shaftesbury Abbey to King Æthelred II 'The Unready'.

Sigeric passed on 28th October 994.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Æthelred II 'The Unready' (978-1016)

### **Ælfric of Abingdon 995 - 1005**

The twenty-ninth Archbishop of Canterbury, starting as a monk at Abingdon Abbey, now in Oxfordshire then in Berkshire, possibly being Abbot of Abingdon before becoming Abbot of St. Alban's Abbey, Hertfordshire. In 975 or thereabouts he became Bishop of Ramsbury, Wiltshire, and Sonning, Oxfordshire, in 992 whilst his brother Leafric became Abbot of St. Alban's Abbey, Hertfordshire.

On the 21st April 995 he translated to the Archbishopric by a witenagemot held at Amersbury, going to Rome in 997 to receive his Pallium.

Ælfric passed on 16th November 1005, first being buried in Abindon Abbey before being moved to Canterbury, also his will still survives.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Æthelred II 'The Unready' (978-1016)

### **Ælphage 1006 - 1012**

This was the thirtieth Archbishop of Canterbury, he was of noble birth. As a young man he decided to become a monk at the monastery of Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, later becoming an anchrit (hermit) at Bath Abbey, Somerset.

He stood out with his piety and austerity, in 984 becoming Bishop of Winchester, Hampshire, possibly by Archbishop



Dunstan's influence, he had a large organ built at the New Minster also built and enlarged churches in the city. In 994 helped in arranging a peace treaty with Viking raiders, paying a Danegeld, but also converted the leader Olaf to Christianity.

In 1006 becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, did such things as sent Ælfric of Enysham, Oxfordshire to Cerne Abbey so as to take charge of the monastic school and was at the council were the Archbishop of York's sermon of the wolf to the English, which castigated the English for their moral failings, which showed in the state of the country!

In 1011 Kent and Canterbury were overrun with a Viking raid, capturing Ælphage, he was in captivity for 7 months, refusing to be ransomed, he was murdered in Greenwich, Kent.

As the Anglo-Saxon chronicle says, "for there was wine brought to them from the south. Then took they the bishop... on the eve of the Sunday after Easter... They overwhelmed him with bones and horns of oxen, and one of them smote him with an axe-iron on the head, so that he sunk downwards with the blow and his holy blood fell on the earth, whilst his sacred soul was sent to realm of 'God'."

He was the first Archbishop to die a violent death. A Viking leader Thorkell 'The Tall' was so appalled by the brutality, that he switched allegiance to King Æthelred II 'The Unready', this happened on the 19th April 1012.

He was first buried in St. Paul's, then reburied by King Canute in Canterbury.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Æthelred II 'The Unready' (978-1016)

#### **Lyfing 1013-1020**

The thirty-first Archbishop of Canterbury, he changed his name at some time from Ælfstan to Lyfing.

In 989 he was Abbot of Chertsey Abbey, Surrey, later to become Bishop of Wells, Somerset, in 999.

King Æthelred II appointed Lyfing the archbishopric in 1013, unfortunately he was captured during a Viking raid and was held captive for sometime, but he was released in time to attend the Witenagemot in 1014, he also started the repair of damage done to Canterbury by the Vikings.

During the reign of King Æthelred II he was unable to collect his Pallium from Rome, so every bishop was consecrated by the Archbishop of York.

As Archbishop he crowned King Edmund II 'Ironside' (Son of Æthelred) in 1016, and King Canute in 1017. He passed on 12th June 1020.

Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).

The house of Ecgbert - Kings of all England - Æthelbert II 'The Unready' (978-1016)  
Edmund II 'Ironside' (1016)

Danish King - Canute (1017-1035)

#### **Æthelnoth 1029 - 1038**

This was the thirty-second Archbishop of Canterbury, he was the son of Æthelmær an ealdorman and the grandson of Æthelweard the historian, being a member of the Wessex Royal family. Æthelnoth was baptised at Glastonbury by Archbishop Dunstan.

First he became a monk at Glastonbury, then becoming a Dean at the monastery at Christ Church Priory, finally becoming chaplain to King Canute, so on 13th November 1020, where he was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury. Two years after being consecrated, he went to Rome to receive his Pallium, back in England he appeared to have





considerable influence with Canute, he restored the cathedral at Canterbury, Glastonbury and helped in rebuilding Chartres cathedral.

Later on called 'The Good' passing on 29th October 1038.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well).**

Danish King - Canute (1016-1035)

Harold I 'Harefoot' (1035-1040)

#### **Edsige 1038 - 1050**

The thirty-third Archbishop of Canterbury, he was the Royal priest for King Canute, who later encouraged arranged for him to become a monk at Christ church, Canterbury.

In about 1035 became suffragan bishop to Archbishop Æthelnoth, his see being St Martin's Church, Canterbury. Going to Rome to receive his Pallium in 1040.

He may have crowned King Harthacanute in 1040, but he definitely crowned King Edwærd III 'The Confessor' with the Archbishop of York Ælfric on 3rd April 1043, so restoring the English line. Unfortunately due to ill health, he asked to be relieved of his position, seeking the approval from King Edwærd and Earl Godwinson, he sort this in 1044.

So in affect we have another Archbishop of Canterbury, as Siward the Abbot of Abingdon, so in truth the thirty-fourth, he was also the Scigerefa (Sheriff) of Kent, but once again in 1048 Siward became ill and had to retire to Abingdon, where he passed on 8 weeks later.

So Edsige was called upon to carry on as Archbishop, during his time many lands were sold, leased or given away to Earl Godwin.

He passed on 29th October 1050.

The year of 1054 was to have momentous consequences for the English Orthodox church, to the fact of its eradication from the mind of ordinary English people. In essence the Orthodox church lead people by the spiritual path, for you to find the kingdom of heaven from within, through the heart. The fathers of the church with their wives as many are married, set by example, there is no leader like the Pope in Rome, because Christ is the leader and people follow the path, he set the path with his life. Whereas the Roman Catholic church which finally broke away from the Orthodox church in 1050 , now claimed it was only through the church, could salvation come about, man could not or did not have the authority to do this by himself, only the church could do this now and beware anyone, who dared to challenge this new order, but on whose authority were they given this? Charlemagne first stated this approach, King Offa tried to follow this idea , but was stopped by the brave action of the then Archbishop of Canterbury who stood up to him. Today we celebrate Charlemagne by flying his flag in Europe, as has been told.

So from this, came in the future the Pope's sponsor and papal bull to destroy the English heretics, this was start of the conquest of England.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there was subject/minor Kings as well)**

Danish King - Harold I 'Harefoot' (1035-1040)

Harthacanut (1040-1042)

English line - Edwærd III 'The Confessor' (1042-1066)



## **Robert of Jumieges 1050 - 1052**

He was the thirty-fourth Archbishop of Canterbury being the first Norman to be elected as archbishop. Having being Prior of the church of St. Queen of Rouen, then becoming Abbot of the Abbey of Jumieges and then onto being the Bishop of London, also he had become a good friend and advisor of King Edward III, this friendship started before Edward became King crossing with him when he went to England in 1042 becoming bishop of London in 1044. Being who he was a trusted foreign confidant of the King in time, he also became leader of a party hostile to Earl Godwin. With passing of Archbishop Eadsige the Chapter had elected Athelric as the next Archbishop in 1051, him being a kinsman of Godwin and a fellow monk, this was overturned by King Edward who then elected Robert of Jumieges after which went to Rome to receive his Pallium, returning in June 1051.

On returning he refused to consecrate Spearhafoc Abbot of Abingdon, him being the King's goldsmith as his replacement as the bishop of London, claiming the Bishop of Rome had forbidden it no doubt the reason was simony the buying and selling of ecclesiastical preferment but in doing this he was serving his own interests and opposing the King and Godwin, consecrated instead William the Norman, he also discovered some lands that had belonged to Canterbury were now in the hands of Godwin, he tried to recover them through the Shire courts but to no avail, so in September of the same year at a council meeting which was being held in Gloucester accused Earl Godwin of plotting to kill the King! and being a trusted confidant of the King, had Godwin and his family exiled and in so doing was able to claim the Shire of Kent, sitting Eadsige the previous Archbishop, who had held the Shire.

It is claimed that he encouraged the King to divorce Queen Edith but Edward refused sending the Queen to a nunnery, it is more likely that Edward wanted a divorce so to remarry to secure the English succession.

During 1052 Godwin and his family returned from exile, he was able to land with much support and to later receive good terms from the King. with these events unfolding very quickly Archbishop Robert fled in great haste! from England accompanied with Bishop Ulf of Dorchester and Bishop William of London, he was outlawed and deposed on 14th September 1052, he may have taken hostages with him with or without the Kings permission. He died journeying to Rome to complain about what had happened to him, also at this time in Rome, the church was in the process of breaking away from the orthodox church to form the Roman Catholic church of which the English church was not party to so remained Orthodox.

Robert of Jumieges personal property was divided up between Earl Godwin, Harold Godwinson and Queen Edith, who had lately returned to the court.

Robert of Jumieges passed on 26th May 1055.

Later Duke of Normandy 'William the bastard' claimed through Robert of Jumieges that King Edward the Confessor had nominated him to be the heir to the English throne, but it is the Witan/Council who declare the next King will be and that is the most able, on the passing of Edward the Confessor that was Harold Godwinson. who had acted as King in all but name. He also claimed that the English had maltreated Robert of Jumieges, but it was he who had fled England on the successful return of Earl Godwinson and all his plans had come nothing so had to flee or face the consequences of his action.

## **Major Kings at the time (there was also subject/minor Kings as well.**

King Edward III 'The Confessor' (1042-1066)

## **Stigand 1052 - 1070**

He being the thirty fifth Archbishop and the last Englishman, he served before and after the conquest in 1066. By 1020 he was a royal chaplain and advisor to King Canute, becoming Bishop of Elmham in 1043. He served six successive Kings from Canute to William 'the bastard', becoming very wealthy and controversial.

He was born in East Anglia possibly in Norwich to an apparent prosperous family of mixed English and Scandinavian ancestry, who later took up the cloth to serve King Canute, his sons King Harold Harefoot and King Harthecanute, then he became an advisor to Emma of Normandy, Canute's widow and mother of his sons and Edward 'the confessor'

He was appointed Bishop of Elmham after the coronation of King Edward, he being also an advisor to the King, but had a fall out with him, when he stripped of everything, but not long after he was returned, this could have been linked to Emma who used her power and influence.



Stigand took part in the negotiations between King Edward and Earl Godwin, which reached a peaceful conclusion after Godwin's exile, also at this time Robert of Jumieges Archbishop of Canterbury was outlawed and exiled, as he was the course of the trouble between Edward and Godwin.

Stigand was then elevated to the Archbishopric, this did cause controversy even in Rome, although they excepted his position, but later targeted him for having more than one see and other positions, because of this many Bishops did not wished to be consecrated by Stigand. Legates came from Rome as late as 1062 where he was treated as Archbishop and with him, he being a benefactor to many Abbeys and churches and did go on a pilgrimage in Europe, but not to Rome.

He became an influential advisor to Edward 'the confessor' and like with Earl Godwin had lands on the south coast so became an important figure on defending the coast from invasion, he also tried to secure the succession of the crown with Edward 'The Atheling' and his son, but in the end King Edward left the crown to Harold Godwinson, with the Witans approval.

Stigand supported Harold's crowning, but did not crown him due to his position as archbishop on whether he should have this or not, so Ealdred Archbishop of York crown Harold as 'King of England' and on King Harold's death he tried with Ealdred and others to crown Edgar 'The Atheling' as King to no avial. Duke William threatened whole sale slaughter if they attempted this course of action.

Stigand submitted to the Duke William and whilst he was there at his crowning it was Ealdred Archbishop of York who attempted to crown William who took the crown from him and crown himself. Stigand worked with William and English leaders, until he could see that he no longer needed Stigand and prompted Rome to send legates so as to strip Stigand of his Archbishopric and cast him into prison, this was in 1070.

Stigand's treatment by the Normans was in parallel with how they treated King Harold in the Domesday book, where they essentially ignored him as King and with Stigand's time as Archbishop as if it had not occurred.

Stigand passed on in 1072 whilst still in prison, he had served his purpose for the Normans.

#### **Major Kings at the time (there were also subject/minor Kings as well).**

King Edward III 'The Confessor' (1042-1066)

King Harold II (1066)

Duke of Normandy / vassal to the King of France (1066-1087)

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