

= Ceolnoth =

Ceolnoth (died 870) was a medieval English Archbishop of Canterbury . Although later chroniclers stated he had previously held ecclesiastical office in Canterbury , there is no contemporary evidence of this , and his first appearance in history is when he became archbishop in 833 . Ceolnoth faced two problems as archbishop ? raids and invasions by the Vikings and a new political situation resulting from a change in overlordship from one kingdom to another during the early part of his archiepiscopate . Ceolnoth attempted to solve both problems by coming to an agreement with his new overlords for protection in 838 . Ceolnoth 's later years in office were marked by more Viking raids and a decline in monastic life in his archbishopric .

= = Archbishop = =

Gervase of Canterbury wrote at the end of the twelfth century that Ceolnoth was Dean of the see of Canterbury previous to being elected to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury , but this story has no confirmation in contemporary records . There is no sign of him being associated with either Canterbury or Kent , the region where Canterbury is located , prior to his elevation as archbishop . Given the length of his archiepiscopate , he was probably a young man when he was elected to Canterbury . Ceolnoth was consecrated archbishop on 27 July 833 . Upon becoming archbishop , Ceolnoth had to deal with two problems ? first the Viking attacks on his archbishopric and the surrounding lands in Kent and second the newly ascendant kings of Wessex who had just gained control of Kent . Previously , the Mercian kings had ruled Kent .

In 836 , Ceolnoth presided , with Wiglaf of Mercia , over a council held at Croft attended by the clergy of the southern part of Britain . This was the last time that the archbishop worked in concert with a Mercian king as , after this , he was an attendee at the Wessex royal court instead of the Mercian . In 838 a council was held at Kingston upon Thames where Ceolnoth made an alliance with the West Saxon kings Egbert and Æthelwulf . This agreement gave control of all of the free minsters under Canterbury 's authority to the king in return for protection from Viking raids . Ceolnoth also ceded the right to influence the election of abbots within Kent to the king . In return , Egbert received the support of Ceolnoth for the succession of Egbert 's son Æthelwulf as king . When Egbert died shortly after this , Æthelwulf succeeded his father and became the first son to follow his father as king of Wessex in almost two centuries . Ceolnoth also recovered control of some lands that had been lost by Canterbury . The end result of this agreement was that the Wessex kings became the secular protectors of the churches and monasteries of the archdiocese of Canterbury .

= = Later life and death = =

During Ceolnoth 's archbishopric , monastic life declined under the pressure of the Viking attacks , and there was a noticeable decline in the quality of the books and other works produced by the scriptoriums . A number of monasteries died out under the pressure of the raids by the invaders , who wintered over in Kent in 851 and 855 . He held councils in 839 and 845 , the second at London . During his later years in office , he was assisted by four clerics , who appear to have been or acted as archdeacons , one of the earliest appearances of this office in England . Ceolnoth is also known to have corresponded with Pope Leo IV .

Archbishop Ceolnoth died on 4 February 870 . Although monastic and secular life suffered during the later part of Ceolnoth 's archbishopric , his agreement with Egbert set the foundation for the co - @ operation between the archbishops of Canterbury and the kings of England in the future .