

= Plegmund =

Plegmund ( or Plegemund ; died 2 August either 914 or 923 ) was a medieval English Archbishop of Canterbury . He may have been a hermit before he became archbishop in 890 . As archbishop , he reorganised the Diocese of Winchester , creating four new sees , and worked with other scholars in translating religious works . He was canonised after his death .

= = Early life = =

Little is known of the early life of Plegmund except that he was of Mercian descent . A later tradition , dating 300 years after his death , stated that Plegmund lived as a hermit at Plemstall in Cheshire . His reputation as a scholar attracted the attention of King Alfred the Great , who was trying to revive scholarship . Some time before 887 , Alfred summoned Plegmund to his court . There he worked with three other scholars , Wærferth , Bishop of Worcester , Æthelstan and Wærwulf in working on translating Pope Gregory the Great 's treatise Pastoral Care into Old English .

= = Archbishop of Canterbury = =

Plegmund was selected for the see of Canterbury in 890 by King Alfred . Plegmund 's election to the Archbishopric of Canterbury is recorded in Manuscript E of the Anglo -@- Saxon Chronicle : " Here Archbishop Plegmund was elected by God and all the people . " Fulk , Archbishop of Reims , praised the election of Plegmund , stating that he would help root out the last remnants of paganism in the people . However , there was a gap in time between the death of the previous Archbishop of Canterbury , Ethelred , and the consecration of Plegmund ; this may have been because the see had been offered to Grimbald , a Flemish monk and scholar , who refused it . Plegmund was granted his pallium by Pope Formosus .

During the 9th century , the see of Canterbury was at a low point . As such , one of Plegmund 's responsibilities was to re @-@ establish its authority , and , in an attempt to do this , between 909 and 918 he created new sees within the existing Diocese of Winchester in Crediton , Ramsbury , Sherborne and Wells . This meant that each future shire of Wessex had its own bishop ; of Crediton for Devon and Cornwall , of Ramsbury for Wiltshire , of Sherborne for Dorset and of Wells for Somerset , as well as the diocese of Winchester for Hampshire . To do this , Plegmund had to gain the approval of Pope Sergius III , who had annulled all of the acts of Pope Formosus , and in 908 Plegmund travelled to Rome so that he could be regranted his pallium . He was the first archbishop of Canterbury to visit Rome for nearly a century , and he returned with the relics of Saint Blaise .

Under Plegmund 's archbishopric , the quality of the Latin used by his scribes improved , surpassing the poor quality used by the scribes of the previous two archbishops , Ceolnoth and Æthelred . When Alfred died in 899 , Plegmund crowned his son Edward as king .

In addition to his religious duties , Plegmund was involved in matters of state and he attended the formal councils held by Edward the Elder in 901 , 903 , 904 and 909 . He dedicated the tall tower of the New Minster at Winchester in 909 .

= = Death and legacy = =

Plegmund died on 2 August 914 or 2 August 923 . After his death Plegmund was considered a saint , with a feast day of 2 August . However , his cult dates only from the 13th century .