

= Jocelin of Wells =

Jocelin of Wells , also known as Jocelinus Thoteman or Jocelin Troteman , (died 19 November 1242) was a medieval Bishop of Bath (and Glastonbury) . He was the brother of Hugh de Wells , who became Bishop of Lincoln . Jocelin became a canon of Wells Cathedral before 1200 , and was elected bishop in 1206 . During King John of England 's dispute with Pope Innocent III , Jocelin at first remained with the king , but after the excommunication of John in late 1209 , Jocelin went into exile . He returned to England in 1213 , and was mentioned in Magna Carta in 1215 .

Jocelin was one of the bishops that crowned John 's son Henry III , and throughout the rest of Jocelin 's life was involved in royal administration . He was also active in his diocese , ordering construction on the cathedral at Wells , and issuing rules for his diocesan clergy . During his time as bishop , he settled a dispute between his diocese and Glastonbury Abbey that had started during the bishopric of his predecessor . The memorial brass on his tomb in Wells Cathedral is probably one of the earliest in England .

= = Early life = =

Jocelin born in Wells in Somerset , and was the son of Edward of Wells , a small landowner in the city of Wells . His brother Hugh de Wells , was archdeacon of Wells and Bishop of Lincoln . Some historians say that another relative , although the exact relationship is unknown , was Simon of Wells , who became Bishop of Chichester in 1207 , but other historians dispute this . The name Jocelin Trotman or Thotman , by which he was occasionally known by some modern historians , only dates from the Margam Annals , and is not contemporary with his life .

Jocelin was a royal justiciar in 1203 , as well as the custodian of the vacant diocese of Lincoln . He was a royal clerk as well as a canon of Wells , becoming a canon and a deacon by 1200 . The previous bishop of Wells died in 1205 , and on 3 February 1206 , Jocelin was elected bishop . He was consecrated on 28 May 1206 , at Reading by Bishop William of Sainte @-@ Mère @-@ Eglise of London . It is unclear if the cathedral chapters of Bath and of Wells took the action on their own , or if King John was the driving force behind the election .

= = Advisor to King John = =

Jocelin was one of the main advisors of King John during the dispute with the pope over Stephen Langton 's appointment to the Archbishopric of Canterbury . Jocelin did not immediately leave England after Pope Innocent III placed an interdict on England . Jocelin encouraged John to settle with Innocent in early 1209 , worried that Innocent would expand the interdict into an excommunication , forcing John 's advisors to choose between serving the king or obeying the pope . Nothing came of the negotiations , however . Jocelin did leave England when John was excommunicated in late 1209 . Jocelin, along with Gilbert Glanvill , the Bishop of Rochester , was the subject of a mocking song on his conduct during the interdict .

Jocelin and Hugh were in exile together in Bordeaux in 1212 , but they both returned to England in May 1213 , along with the other English bishops . Jocelin was one of the bishops in August 1214 who refused to pay a scutage to the king . In 1215 , Jocelin sided with Stephen Langton and the barons , and Magna Charta lists Jocelin as one of the king 's councillors .

= = Henry III 's reign = =

Jocelin and Peter des Roches , the Bishop of Winchester , anointed and crowned King Henry III , the young son of John , after John 's death . Later , Jocelin was present at the battle with Eustace the Monk in 1217 , which helped to secure Henry 's rule . Jocelin supported Hubert de Burgh 's work of ejecting French forces from England and regaining control of royal castles seized by Falkes de Breauté and other barons . In 1218 , Jocelin was one of the itinerant justiciars for southwestern England .

In 1218 and 1219 , Jocelin also ended the dispute between his diocese and Glastonbury Abbey . Jocelin gave up any claim to control of the abbey , and the abbey gave the bishopric a number of estates . Previously , the bishops , as part of their attempt to annexe Glastonbury to their bishopric , had been known as the Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury . They also had held the office of abbot . In 1218 , as part of the settlement , a new abbot was elected at Glastonbury . The papacy had never acknowledged Jocelin 's claiming of the title of abbot . The historian J. A. Robinson felt that as part of the settlement , Jocelin began to use the title Bishop of Bath and Wells , but another historian , David Knowles , disagreed .

After 1223 , Jocelin was a baron of the exchequer . In 1225 he served the king as head of one of the receivers of the tax of a fifteenth . After the dismissal of Walter Mauclerk as treasurer , at first Jocelin , along with Richard Poore , the Bishop of Durham , took over many of the treasurers functions , but this did not last long , and after 1233 , Jocelin no longer was involved with financial affairs . He occasionally witnessed charters , however . After the fall of Peter des Roches in April 1234 , Jocelin was given control of the Wardrobe . After this , he appears less regularly in royal government , but he did witness the reconfirmation of Magna Carta in 1237 .

= = Diocesan affairs = =

With his brother Hugh , Jocelin founded St. John 's Hospital at Wells . Jocelin promulgated a set of constitutions for the diocese , ordered that his diocesan clergy reside in their benefices , and gave land and income to the cathedral school . Glastonbury Abbey complained of Jocelin that he plundered lands of the abbey . Jocelin was also involved in mediating between William de Blois , the Bishop of Worcester , and Tewkesbury Abbey over William 's rights over the abbey . Jocelin finally settled the dispute in 1232 .

Jocelin funded the building of Wells Cathedral , begun at the east end in the Early English Gothic style under Reginald Fitz Jocelin . The nave was completed , the west front begun . The new cathedral was consecrated on 23 October 1239 by Jocelin . Other construction work undertaken by Jocelin included the cloisters and bishop 's palace at Wells , and a manor house at Wookey .

= = Death = =

Jocelin died on 19 November 1242 at Wells and was buried in the choir of Wells Cathedral . He may have been the father of Nicholas of Wells . The memorial brass on his tomb is allegedly one of the earliest brasses in England . He employed the medieval architect Elias of Dereham as a household official .