

= Burchard du Puiset =

Burchard du Puiset (sometimes Bourchard du Puiset , or Bourchard of Le Puiset ; died 1196) was a medieval Anglo @-@ Norman clergyman and treasurer of the diocese of York . Either the nephew or son of Hugh du Puiset , the Bishop of Durham , Burchard held a number of offices in the dioceses of York and Durham before being appointed treasurer by King Richard I of England in 1189 . His appointment was opposed by the newly appointed Archbishop Geoffrey , which led to a long dispute between Geoffrey and Burchard that was not resolved until the mid 1190s . After the death of Hugh du Puiset , Burchard was a candidate for the Hugh 's old bishopric , but lost out in the end to another candidate . Burchard died in 1196 .

= = Background and early career = =

Burchard was a relative of Hugh du Puiset , the Bishop of Durham . Some sources name him as Hugh 's nephew , but other sources call him Hugh 's son , including the modern biographer of Hugh . G. W. S. Barrow , the author of the entry for Hugh in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography , merely states that Burchard could possibly be the son of Hugh . Burchard was among the most common witnesses to Hugh 's charters , and Hugh 's biographer calls Burchard the " intimate counsellor " of the bishop .

Burchard held a prebend in the cathedral chapter of York , although the exact prebend that he held is unknown . He then held the office of archdeacon for the East Riding , which he held along with the archdeaconry of Durham ; all known mentions of his archdeaconry of the East Riding also call him archdeacon of Durham . He acquired the Durham archdeaconry before 24 May 1172 , when he first appears holding the office , and held it until his death . Burchard also held a number of churches , including those at Heighington Alne , and Aycliffe . Hugh is thought to have wanted the archbishopric of York for Burchard , most notably in 1189 .

In 1172 Burchard witnessed a charter of Henry the Liberal , Count of Champagne , written at Troyes . A further charter of Henry 's in 1175 mentions a " Burchard archdeacon " who is named as a relative of Henry 's . This may also be Burchard du Puiset .

= = Treasurer of York = =

Burchard was appointed as treasurer of York by King Richard I of England on 15 September 1189 , but his appointment was at first opposed by the newly chosen Archbishop of York , Geoffrey . Along with Burchard , Richard also appointed Henry Marshal the dean ; and Roger of London the abbot of Selby Abbey . Because of Geoffrey 's objections , his estates were confiscated by the king until he submitted . Burchard and Marshal retaliated by accusing the archbishop @-@ elect of being a murderer as well as the son of a prostitute . When Geoffrey visited York in October 1189 , both Burchard and Marshal requested their installation in their offices , but Geoffrey refused to do so until he himself was confirmed in his archbishopric by the papacy . Geoffrey 's refusal to install the royal nominees meant the archbishop @-@ elect was out of favour with Richard , and the king refused to allow Geoffrey 's officials to travel to Rome to request confirmation of the archbishopric .

Geoffrey accepted Burchard 's appointment in December 1189 , but then excommunicated Burchard in January 1190 . The excommunication , which was shared with Henry Marshal , was retaliation for a dispute with the archbishop @-@ elect that happened during a church service . The actual dispute occurred on 5 January 1190 when Burchard and Marshal were conducting vespers , either early or on time , depending on whose side was telling the story . Geoffrey appeared in the middle of their service and attempted to perform the same service , either late or on time , again depending on who was relating the story . When Burchard and Marshal finished their service , they put out all the lights in the church , leaving the archbishop in the dark . Despite that , he finished the service but then complained to the cathedral chapter of York about the incident . Attempts to mediate a dispute led nowhere , and the citizens of York soon became involved . Geoffrey attempted to keep the townspeople from abusing his two opponents , but Burchard was eventually

forced to take refuge in the tomb of William of York , an earlier Archbishop of York . Hugh du Puiset then intervened with the king , and Geoffrey once more lost the royal favour . The king sent Burchard to Rome , along with Reginald fitzJocelin the Bishop of Bath , to attempt to secure the deposition of Geoffrey from York . Although Burchard 's efforts in Rome in mid @-@ 1190 contributed to a papal prohibition on Geoffrey 's consecration by Pope Clement III , Geoffrey was not deposed . Burchard did secure his own absolution of the excommunication placed by Geoffrey in January .

Burchard , along with Marshal and other members of the chapter , were often opposed to the actions of their archbishop . They objected to the archbishop having given a large part of York 's treasury towards Richard 's ransom , and to some of the archiepiscopal appointments in the church of York . Burchard and the others charged Geoffrey with simony , extortion , and neglect of his duties and the archbishop in return excommunicated the ringleaders more than once , and locked the canons out of church . The disputes flared up in 1192 , with Burchard facing an effort by Geoffrey to replace him in the treasurership with Hamo , but the dispute was resolved by the gift of a church to Hamo by Burchard and Hamo 's relinquishing of any claim to the treasurership . At another dispute , Geoffrey had confiscated the revenues of Burchard 's offices , along with the revenues of Marshal , Peter de Ros the Archdeacon of Carlisle , and the canons Hugh Murdac and Adam of Thornover . Geoffrey refused to restore the incomes unless the offenders came barefoot into York Minster and begged for the archbishop 's forgiveness . This all but Marshal did and they had their official revenues restored .

= = Later life = =

Burchard continued to hold the treasurership until at least October 1194 , when he last is mentioned in the office . In 1195 , after the death of Hugh du Puiset , Burchard was a candidate for the see of Durham , perhaps as part of a plan by his relative to pass the office on to his family . In June 1195 both Burchard and his rival , Philip of Poitou , were at the royal court in Le Mans , presumably both attempting to secure the bishopric . Philip was appointed to the see in November 1195 .

Burchard died 6 January 1196 .