

= William de St @-@ Calais =

William de St @-@ Calais (also Calais or Carileph or Carilef ; died 1096) was a medieval Norman monk , abbot of the abbey of Saint @-@ Vincent in Le Mans in Maine , who was nominated by King William I of England as Bishop of Durham in 1080 . During his term as bishop , St @-@ Calais replaced the canons of his cathedral chapter with monks , and began the construction of Durham Cathedral . In addition to his ecclesiastical duties , he served as a commissioner for the Domesday Book . He was also a councilor and advisor to both King William I and his son , King William II , known as William Rufus . Following William Rufus ' accession to the throne in 1087 , St @-@ Calais is considered by scholars to have been the new king 's chief advisor .

However , when the king 's uncle , Odo of Bayeux , raised a rebellion against the king in 1088 , St @-@ Calais was implicated in the revolt . William Rufus laid siege to St @-@ Calais in the bishop 's stronghold of Durham , and later put him on trial for treason . A contemporary record of this trial , the *De Iniusta Vexacione Willelmi Episcopi Primi* , is the earliest surviving detailed contemporary report of an English state @-@ trial . Imprisoned briefly , St @-@ Calais was allowed to go into exile after his castle at Durham was surrendered to the king . He went to Normandy , where he became a leading advisor to Robert Curthose , Duke of Normandy , the elder brother of William Rufus . By 1091 , St @-@ Calais had returned to England and regained royal favour .

In England , St @-@ Calais once more became a leading advisor to the king . In 1093 he negotiated with Anselm , Abbot of Bec , concerning Anselm 's becoming Archbishop of Canterbury ; in 1095 it was St @-@ Calais who prosecuted the royal case against Anselm after he had become archbishop . During his bishopric , St @-@ Calais stocked the cathedral library with books , especially canon law texts . He was also active in defending the north of England against Scots raids . Before his death , he had made his peace with Anselm , who blessed and consoled St @-@ Calais on his deathbed .

= = Early life = =

St @-@ Calais was a Norman , and a native of Bayeux ; he may have been a member of one of its clerical dynasties . His mother 's name , Ascelina or Anselma , is given in Durham 's records ; his father , whose name is unknown , became a monk at the monastery of Saint @-@ Calais in Maine , and may previously have been a knight . Although St @-@ Calais is generally referred to as Saint Calais or St @-@ Calais , the main source of information about his life , the monastic chronicle of Symeon of Durham , does not call him such .

St @-@ Calais studied under Odo , Bishop of Bayeux , the half @-@ brother of the future William I of England , who was then Duke of Normandy . Other bishops educated at Bayeux around this time included Archbishop Thomas of York and Samson , Bishop of Worcester . Symeon of Durham considered St @-@ Calais to be well @-@ educated in classical literature and the scriptures ; at some point St @-@ Calais also acquired a knowledge of canon law . He became a Benedictine monk at Saint @-@ Calais in Maine , where his father had become a monk , and soon became the prior of that house . He became abbot of St Vincent @-@ des @-@ Prés near Le Mans in Maine , sometime around 1078 . As abbot , his only appearance in historical records is his upholding of the monasteries ' right to some property , and his acceptance of a gift of property in the town .

William the Conqueror nominated him to the see of Durham on 9 November 1080 , and he was duly consecrated on either 27 December 1080 or 3 January 1081 . His elevation may have been a reward for diplomatic services he rendered to the king in France , or to help secure the see from further disorder following the death of the previous bishop , William Walcher , during a feud . However , it was most likely in recognition of his administrative ability . Symeon of Durham stated that St @-@ Calais was chosen as a bishop for this reason , describing him as " very well versed in sacred and secular learning , very conscientious in matters of divine and worldly business , and so remarkable for good conduct that he had no equal amongst his contemporaries " .

= = Early ecclesiastical affairs = =

The chronicler Symeon of Durham asserted that when St @-@ Calais was consecrated bishop by Archbishop Thomas of York , he managed to avoid professing obedience to the archbishop , which , if true , would have freed St @-@ Calais from interference in his diocese . After his appointment , St @-@ Calais decided to replace his cathedral chapter of secular clergy with monks , and consulted the king and Lanfranc , the Archbishop of Canterbury , before going to Rome to receive permission from Pope Gregory VII . These consultations , and the conditions within his diocese , may have kept St @-@ Calais from visiting Durham until some time after his elevation . In 1083 he expelled the married clergy from the cathedral , and moved a small community of monks from Bede 's old monastery at Jarrow to Durham , to form the new chapter . This community had been founded at Jarrow by Reinfrid , a Norman ex @-@ knight and monk of Evesham Abbey , and Eadwine , an English monk from Winchcombe Abbey . After the community had settled in Durham , St @-@ Calais named Eadwine as prior , and arranged for lands to be set aside to support the monks . The expelled clergy were offered the option of joining the new monastic house , but only one actually joined .

St @-@ Calais enjoyed good relations with his cathedral chapter , and they supported him when construction began on a new cathedral in 1093 . He also gave a set of constitutions to the cathedral chapter , modeled on Lanfranc 's rule for Canterbury . Symeon of Durham said that the bishop acted towards the monks of his chapter as a " loving father " , and that the monks fully returned the sentiment . St @-@ Calais is said to have researched exhaustively the pre @-@ Norman Conquest customs of the cathedral , before re @-@ establishing monks in the cathedral . He imposed the Monastic Constitutions of Lanfranc on the community , instead of the older Regularis Concordia .

= = Work for William the Conqueror = =

During William the Conqueror 's reign , St @-@ Calais was a frequent witness on charters . While it is often difficult to determine who was considered most important on a charter 's witness list , placement near the top of the list is usually understood to mean that the signatory was considered important . Almost always during the Conqueror 's reign , St @-@ Calais is listed right below the royal family and the archbishops .

The king sent St @-@ Calais on diplomatic missions to the French royal court and to Rome . After the king 's imprisonment of Odo of Bayeux , Pope Gregory VII complained to him . The pope was also concerned about the king 's refusal to allow the delivery of papal letters to the English bishops unless royal permission was secured . To placate the pope , the king dispatched St @-@ Calais to Rome , possibly with Lanfranc , to explain to the pope the reasons for imprisoning Odo . St @-@ Calais also served as a commissioner in the south @-@ western part of England for the Domesday Book , which aimed to survey the whole of England and record who owned the lands . Some historians , including David Bates , have argued that St @-@ Calais was the driving force behind the organization of the entire Domesday survey , although other candidates have been put forward , including Samson , Bishop of Worcester , before he became bishop . Pierre Chaplais , who argues for St @-@ Calais being the main organizer of the survey , argues the bishop 's exile in 1088 interrupted work on the Little Domesday Book , a subproject of the survey which was left uncompleted .

= = Rebellion = =

Soon after the accession of William Rufus , St @-@ Calais became one of the king 's most trusted lieutenants , along with the recently released Odo of Bayeux . Later chroniclers often referred to the position that St @-@ Calais held as justiciar , although the formal office did not yet exist . Around Easter 1088 , Odo of Bayeux and many of the nobles revolted against the king and tried to place the king 's elder brother Robert Curthose , Duke of Normandy , on the throne . After the king had set off with St @-@ Calais and some troops to counter Odo in Kent , St @-@ Calais suddenly deserted , shutting himself in Durham Castle . Why St @-@ Calais joined the rebellion , or at least did nothing

to aid the king , is unclear . He and Odo had never been close , and despite the fact that St @-@ Calais was educated at Bayeux , there is no evidence that Odo helped St @-@ Calais ' career . Some historians , including W. M. Aird , have suggested that St @-@ Calais felt the division of the Conqueror 's realm between two sons was unwise . It has been suggested that St Calais joined the rebellion to reunite the Normans and English under one ruler .

St @-@ Calais was the only bishop who did not actively aid the king ; the rebelling magnates included Roger de Montgomery Earl of Shrewsbury , Robert de Mowbray Earl of Northumbria , and Odo 's brother Robert Count of Mortain . The rebellion had failed by the end of the summer , but St @-@ Calais continued to hold out in Durham , at first claiming he had never actually rebelled . When the king 's army arrived , St @-@ Calais agreed to come out , but only after receiving a safe conduct that would allow him to attend a trial while his men continued to hold the castle . St @-@ Calais 's actions suggest that he did rebel , whatever his claims to the contrary and affirmations of his innocence in northern chronicles .

= = Trial = =

St @-@ Calais was brought before the king and royal court for trial on 2 November 1088 , at Salisbury , before which the king seized his lands . At the trial , St @-@ Calais held that as a bishop he could not be tried in a secular court , and refused to answer the accusations . Lanfranc presented the king 's case , declaring that the confiscated lands had been held as fiefs , and thus St @-@ Calais could be tried as a vassal , not as a bishop . St @-@ Calais objected , and continued to refuse to answer the allegations . After numerous conferences and discussions , the court held that St @-@ Calais could be tried as a vassal in a feudal court . St @-@ Calais then asked for an appeal to Rome , which was rejected by the king and the judges . Those judging the case held that because St @-@ Calais never answered the formal accusation , and because he appealed to Rome , his fief , or lands , was forfeit . Although St @-@ Calais claimed to be defending the rights of clergy to be tried in clerical courts and to appeal to Rome , his fellow bishops believed otherwise . Lending support to their belief is the fact that St @-@ Calais never pursued his appeal to Rome , and that later , in 1095 , he took the side of the king against Anselm of Canterbury when Anselm tried to assert a right to appeal to Rome .

During the course of the trial , Lanfranc is said to have stated that the court was " trying you not in your capacity as bishop , but in regard to your fief ; and in this way we judged the bishop of Bayeux in regard to his fief before the present king 's father , and that king did not summon him to that plea as bishop but as brother and earl . " Unlike the later case of Thomas Becket , St @-@ Calais received little sympathy from his fellow bishops . Most of the bishops and barons that judged the case seem to have felt that the appeal to Rome was made to avoid having to answer an accusation that St @-@ Calais knew was true . The final judgement was only reached after the king lost his temper and exclaimed : " Believe me , bishop , you 're not going back to Durham , and your men aren 't going to stay at Durham , and you 're not going to go free , until you release the castle . " The extant *De Iniusta Vexacione Willelmi Episcopi Primi* , or *Of the Unjust Persecution of the Bishop William I* , details the trial of St @-@ Calais before the king . This work is the earliest surviving detailed contemporary report of an English state @-@ trial ; some have doubted its authenticity , however , claiming St @-@ Calais would not have been as knowledgeable in canon law as the work portrays him . The historian Mark Philpott , however , argues that St @-@ Calais was knowledgeable in canon law , since he owned a copy of the canon law , the *False Decretals* , which still survives .

= = Return to favour = =

After the court adjourned , St @-@ Calais was held as a prisoner at Wilton Abbey until his followers in Durham relinquished the castle . Once the castle was back under the king 's control , St @-@ Calais was released , and left for Normandy , and no more was heard of his appeal to Rome . Pope Urban II did write to the king in 1089 requesting that St @-@ Calais be restored to his see , but

nothing came of it . In Normandy , St @-@ Calais quickly became one of Duke Robert 's principal advisors and his chief administrator . On 14 November 1091 he regained the favour of William Rufus , and was restored to his see . Duke Robert had persuaded the king to allow Bishop William 's return , perhaps in recognition of a service St @-@ Calais performed for the king by brokering the end of a siege in Normandy that the king 's forces were about to lose . The end of the siege prevented the loss of the castle .

St @-@ Calais returned to Durham on 11 September 1091 , with a large sum of money and gifts for his church . Thereafter he remained in the king 's favour . In fact , in 1093 his lands were restored without the need to perform feudal services . For the rest of his life , St @-@ Calais remained a frequent advisor to the king . It was St @-@ Calais , along with Robert , Count of Meulan who negotiated with Anselm , the abbot of Bec , in 1093 over the conditions under which Anselm would allow himself to be elected Archbishop of Canterbury .

St @-@ Calais managed the king 's case against Anselm at Rockingham in 1095 , when Anselm wished to go to receive his pallium from Pope Urban II . At that time St @-@ Calais opposed Anselm 's attempt to appeal to Rome over the issue , and steadfastly maintained the king 's position against Anselm , even advocating that the archbishop be deprived of his lands and sent into exile . Later , when the king was negotiating with Walter of Albano , the papal legate sent by Urban to convey the pallium to Anselm and to secure the king 's recognition of Urban as pope , St @-@ Calais was the king 's chief negotiator . The clerical reformers , Eadmer among them , who supported Anselm in these quarrels , later tried to claim that St @-@ Calais had supported the king out of a desire to succeed Anselm as archbishop if Anselm was deposed , but it is unlikely that St @-@ Calais seriously believed that Anselm would be deposed . St @-@ Calais secured grants from the king in return for his services . His efforts on behalf of the king earned him hostile accounts in Eadmer 's later writings .

= = Diocesan affairs = =

Durham 's location in the north left it insecure , as Malcolm Canmore , King of Scots , raided and invaded the north of England on a number of occasions . Malcolm claimed Northumbria , in which Durham was located , as part of his kingdom . St @-@ Calais managed to befriend Malcolm , and secured his support for the patron saint of Durham , Saint Cuthbert . Malcolm and his wife helped lay the foundation stone of the new cathedral dedicated to Cuthbert . Respect for the saint did not mean that Malcolm refrained entirely from raiding the north ; he was killed in 1093 while once more raiding Northumbria . Both the English king and St @-@ Calais did all in their power to support Malcolm 's sons , who had been educated in England , in their attempts to secure the Scottish throne .

Later , in 1095 , an English noble , Robert de Mowbray , who was Earl of Northumbria , challenged the bishop 's authority in the north . When Mowbray rebelled again in 1095 , St @-@ Calais helped the king put down the rebellion , and Mowbray was captured . The death of Malcolm and the capture of Mowbray did much to make the north more secure .

In St @-@ Calais ' time as bishop , a long @-@ running dispute began between the monks of the cathedral chapter and successive bishops . This arose because St @-@ Calais did not make a formal division of the diocesan revenues between the bishop 's household and the monks of the chapter . Nor had he allowed free elections of the prior . He may have promised these things to the monks before his death , but nothing was in writing . Thus , when a non @-@ monk was selected to replace St @-@ Calais , the monks began a long struggle to secure what they felt had been promised to them , including the forging of charters ascribed to St @-@ Calais that supported their case . These forged charters date from the second half of the 12th century .

St @-@ Calais also ordered the destruction of the old cathedral that had been built by Aldhun , to make way for the construction of a new , larger cathedral , the current Romanesque @-@ style Durham Cathedral . The construction of the new cathedral began on 29 July 1093 , when St @-@ Calais led his cathedral chapter in dedicating the site . The first stones were laid shortly afterwards , on 11 August 1093 . However , St @-@ Calais ' exile after his trial as well as his employment in the

royal service meant that he was often absent from his bishopric , and this probably is the cause of the medieval chronicler Symeon of Durham 's comparatively neutral treatment of St @-@ Calais in his works . There is no evidence of St @-@ Calais performing any of the normal episcopal functions , including consecrating priests or churches .

Probably dating from St @-@ Calais ' time is the confraternity relationship between the monks of Durham and the monks of the monastery of Saint Calais in Maine . The cult of Saint Calais appears to have been confined to the region around the monastery which the saint had founded . St @-@ Calais appears to have been a devotee of the cult , and the most likely date for the creation of the confraternity link between the two houses is during St @-@ Calais ' time as bishop .

= = Death and legacy = =

Shortly before Christmas 1095 , one of St @-@ Calais ' knights , Boso , fell ill and dreamed he was transported to the afterlife , where he found a large house with gates made of iron . Suddenly , St @-@ Calais emerged from the gates , asking the knight the whereabouts of one of his servants . Boso 's guide in the dream then informed Boso that this was a warning that St @-@ Calais would soon die . Boso recovered and warned St @-@ Calais of the dream .

St @-@ Calais died on 2 January 1096 after falling gravely ill on the previous Christmas Day . Before his death he was consoled by Anselm and was blessed by his former opponent . He was buried on 16 January 1096 in the chapter house at Durham . The king had summoned St @-@ Calais shortly before Christmas to answer an unknown charge , and it is possible that the stress of this threat caused his death . In 1796 St @-@ Calais ' grave was supposedly found during the demolition of the chapter house at Durham Cathedral . Found in the grave were a pair of sandals , which still survive , and fragments of a gold embroidered robe .

While in office as bishop , St @-@ Calais gave a copy of the False Decretals to his cathedral library . The manuscript was an edition that had been collected or prepared by Lanfranc for the use of the chapter of Canterbury . St @-@ Calais may have used this copy in his trial . His plea for an appeal to Rome was grounded in the False Decretals , whether or not it was based on this particular manuscript . The manuscript itself is now in the Peterhouse Library . St @-@ Calais also gave a copy of Bede 's *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* to his cathedral chapter ; this copy still survives . Other works that St @-@ Calais gave to the cathedral library were copies of Augustine of Hippo 's *De Civitate Dei* and *Confessions* ; Gregory the Great 's *Pastoral Care* , *Moralia* , and *Homilies* ; and Ambrose 's *De Poenitentia* .

St @-@ Calais was known to his contemporaries as an intelligent and able man . He had an excellent memory . Frank Barlow , a historian , describes him as a " good scholar and a monk of blameless life " . Besides his copy of the Decretals , he left at his death over fifty books to the monks of Durham , and the list of those volumes still exists . His best @-@ known legacy is the construction of Durham Cathedral , although the nave was not finished until 1130 . The construction technique of combining a pointed arch with another rib allowed a six @-@ pointed vault , which enabled the building to attain a greater height than earlier churches . This permitted larger clerestory windows , and let more light into the building . The technique of the six @-@ pointed vault spread to Saint @-@ Etienne in Caen from which it influenced the development of early Gothic architecture near Paris . The system of rib vaulting in the choir was the earliest use of that technique in Europe . The historian Frank Barlow called the cathedral " one of the architectural jewels of western Christendom " .