

= Clement of Dunblane =

Clement (died 1258) was a 13th @-@ century Dominican friar who was the first member of the Dominican Order in Britain and Ireland to become a bishop . In 1233 , he was selected to lead the ailing diocese of Dunblane in Scotland , and faced a struggle to bring the bishopric of Dunblane (or " bishopric of Strathearn ") to financial viability . This involved many negotiations with the powerful religious institutions and secular authorities which had acquired control of the revenue that would normally have been the entitlement of Clement 's bishopric . The negotiations proved difficult , forcing Clement to visit the papal court in Rome . While not achieving all of his aims , Clement succeeded in saving the bishopric from relocation to Inchaffray Abbey . He also regained enough revenue to begin work on the new Dunblane Cathedral .

He faced a similar challenge with the impoverished bishopric of Argyll in the 1240s . He was given the job of restoring the viability of the diocese and installing a new bishop ; this involved forming a close relationship with King Alexander II of Scotland . Clement was with the king during his campaign in Argyll in 1249 and was at his side when he died during this campaign . In 1250 Clement had been able to install a new bishop in Argyll and had become one of the Guardians appointed to govern Scotland during the minority of King Alexander III . By 1250 he had established a reputation as one of the most active Dominican reformers in Britain . Clement helped to elevate Edmund of Abingdon and Queen Margaret to sainthood . After his death , he received veneration as a saint himself , although he was never formally canonised .

= = Early years and background = =

The *Analecta Ordinis Fratrum Praedicatorum* claims that he was " a Scot by birth " , and that he was admitted into the Dominican Order of Paris in 1219 . The latter source , however , is often highly unreliable , and cannot be fully trusted . The historian Archie Duncan was cautious about a date as firm and early as 1221 , and wrote that Clement " had entered the Dominican order by the later 1220s " . Although " Clement " is neither a Scottish nor an English name , the large number of French @-@ speakers in both Scotland and England during this period means that this consideration carries limited weight ; indeed " Clement " need not even have been his birth @-@ name . The diocese of Dunblane was entirely Gaelic @-@ speaking in Clement 's day , and in this era it was often frowned upon for a bishop to be ignorant of the language of his diocese . If this had been a consideration in Clement 's later appointment , then this would strongly suggest that Clement was in fact a Scot . It is worth adding that Clement was later noted for his skill in languages . Clement received his university education at either the University of Oxford or the University of Paris , perhaps at both of these institutions . There is a possibility that he can be identified more fully as " Clement Rocha " . A " Father Clement Rocha " was the owner of a manuscript from the period now held in Edinburgh . This , however , says nothing more about his background .

The Dominican Order had its origins in the reformist ideology of Dominic de Guzmán , later Saint Dominic . By 1219 , Dominic had established houses as far apart as Paris , Bologna , Madrid and Segovia ; at his death in 1221 , there were 21 houses . Expansion of the order continued into England as houses were established at Oxford in 1221 and London in 1224 . There were five houses in England by 1230 , by which time the Order was poised to enter Scotland . Later tradition had it that the Dominican Order entered Scotland in 1230 , encouraged by King Alexander II and William de Malveisin , Bishop of St Andrews . However , the earliest certain date for the foundation of a Dominican house in Scotland is 1234 .

These details form the context for Clement 's appearance in Scotland and his selection as the new Bishop of Dunblane . Three years had passed since the death of the last bishop , Osbert . Since there was no electoral college for the diocese , Pope Gregory IX charged the bishops of St Andrews , Brechin and Dunkeld , to find and nominate a suitable replacement . There can only be informed speculation regarding the choice of Clement . Importantly , perhaps , King Alexander was later noted for " his concern for building churches for the Friars Preacher [*Fratrum precipue Predicatorum*] " . The status of the Dominicans at the cutting edge of religious reform , together with

Clement 's background , may have been the decisive factors . At any rate , Clement was consecrated as bishop at Wedale on 4 September 1233 , by William de Malveisin , Bishop of St Andrews . His consecration meant that he was the first Dominican in the British Isles to obtain a bishopric . This has prompted the historian Archie Duncan to comment that " the choice of the first friar @-@ bishop ... can only be called daring " .

= = Bishopric of Dunblane = =

The bishopric of Dunblane was a small diocese , essentially confined to the earldoms of Strathearn and Menteith . Size was a problem for providing the bishopric with adequate income , a problem compounded by the fact that Gille Brígte , Mormaer of Strathearn , had established Inchaffray Priory in 1200 (promoted to Abbey in 1221) . In the 1440s , Bower wrote that Gille Brígte :

Divided his earldom into three equal portions . One he gave to the church and bishop of Dunblane , the second to St John the Evangelist and the canons of Inchaffray , the third he kept for himself and his own needs .

If this were not enough , much of the income not granted to Inchaffray had since been given to other religious institutions ; some revenue was even controlled by the Bishop of Dunkeld . Dunblane had its origins in an older Gaelic monastic establishment , that is , in an institution with an abbot @-@ bishop heading a relatively informal establishment of smaller cells with little geographical compactness . Dunblane emerged as a bishopric in 1155 , probably , like bishoprics with a similar history (e.g. Brechin) , having changed in little more than name . There was a community of Céili Dé at Muthill until at least the end of the 13th century , and the base for the archdeaconry of the diocese appears to have varied between there and Dunblane until the time of Bishop Clement . The bishopric itself appears to have been without a single base , although it was probably associated with both locations . Clement visited the papal court to present his difficult situation . In spring 1237 , the Pope wrote to the Bishop of Dunkeld that :

Bishop Clement ... found the Church so desolated that there was no place in the Cathedral Church where he could lay his head ; it had no college of clergy ; the divine offices were celebrated in a roofless church and by a rural chaplain only ; and the episcopal revenues were so slender , and had been alienated to such a degree , that they scarcely sufficed to support him for half a year .

In response to Clement 's visit , moreover , the Pope had empowered the Bishops of Dunkeld , Brechin and St Andrews to take action to rescue the bishopric . He told these bishops that ,

Since the continual care of all the churches is our daily burden , we grant to the said Church [Dunblane] , so far as we personally can , and authorise you , if you find the situation to be as described , to assign to the said Bishop , if it can be done without scandal , a quarter of the teinds of all the parish churches of the Diocese of Dunblane , so that under your guidance and that of upright men , he may set aside a suitable portion of them for his own maintenance , and thereafter assign revenues for a dean and canons whom we wish and authorise you to institute there .

Failing this , the Pope wrote ,

The quarter teinds of all the churches of the Diocese assigned to the Bishop , which are held by laymen , you shall transfer with the episcopal seat to the Canons Regular of St. John in the Diocese [i.e. to Inchaffray Abbey] , who shall have power to elect a Bishop in any vacancy .

So the Pope 's help was two @-@ sided . It made Clement 's task vis @-@ à @-@ vis these institutions easier , but on the other hand the possibility had emerged that Dunblane could disappear as an episcopal centre .

= = Recovery and rebuilding = =

In the three or four years after his visit to the papacy , agreements were made with the various institutions who were drawing income from Clement 's diocese ? namely Coupar Angus Abbey , Lindores Abbey , Cambuskenneth Abbey , Arbroath Abbey , the nunnery of North Berwick and the Hospital of Brackley , Northamptonshire . These agreements did not constitute complete success . Clement was able to recover some revenue , but in fixed payments liable to real decline by way of

inflation . Moreover , he had to concede permanent canonries to several of the abbots , concessions which would give them a role in the election of his successors . Another partial set @-@ back took place . Walter Comyn , Earl of Menteith , had decided to found a monastery in his earldom and take up the income of Menteith 's churches to do it ; the whole of Menteith constituted nearly half of the diocese . Despite the Pope 's previously helpful behaviour towards Clement 's cause , he granted the earl permission to found the new monastery . The earl established Inchmahome Priory in the Lake of Menteith in 1238 . Walter and Clement came to conflict over the new priory 's rights , but in the same year an agreement was drawn up in a meeting of churchmen at Perth . The agreement placed most of Menteith 's churches under the control of the earl ; however , Clement obtained several concessions , including the right to receive episcopal dues from the new priory . Overall , Clement 's successes were considerable considering the opposition which he faced , but even after his death , only 12 of the 26 parish churches in the diocese were under the bishop 's direct control .

Although his successor Robert de Prebenda claimed that the income of the see was still inadequate , it was nevertheless enough for Clement to begin building a new cathedral . This was despite the virtual hostility of the earl of Menteith and what Cynthia Neville has noted as the lack of interest by the earls of Strathearn , evidenced by their reluctance to bestow patronage on the bishopric . Neville 's explanation for this is that " the bishops ' ambition represented a challenge to their proprietary interests " . It has been suggested that Clement dismantled the small church building which had served Dunblane previously , before beginning work . The cathedral was constructed in the Gothic manner , beginning with the " Lady Chapel " ; the Lady Chapel was used while the rest of the cathedral was being built . It is possible that the cathedral of Dunblane was completed during Clement 's episcopate , and it is almost certain that most of it was .

= = On the wider stage = =

Clement 's position as Bishop of Dunblane provided the opportunity to participate on the larger national and international stage . In 1241 , the Cistercian general chapter began postulating the Pope about the saintliness of Edmund of Abingdon , formerly Archbishop of Canterbury . In the following year , various clerics wrote pieces and compiled evidence supporting this Edmund 's claim to sainthood . Clement was one of these clerics . Edmund 's saintliness was endorsed by Pope Innocent IV in 1246 . Clement took part in a similar campaign in 1249 . He was part of the movement to canonise Queen Margaret , one of the ancestors of the contemporary Scottish kings . Clement was appointed to investigate her saintliness , and in the following year Margaret too was canonised . Meanwhile , in 1247 , Pope Innocent IV gave Clement the more onerous and demanding appointment of papal tax collector . Clement was charged with collecting one twentieth of all ecclesiastical revenues within the Kingdom of the Scots . The purpose was to finance a new crusade , and Clement 's appointment was part of a money @-@ raising initiative carried out throughout Western Christendom .

Perhaps Clement 's most significant activities were , however , in relation to the bishopric of Argyll . In 1241 , Argyll 's last bishop , William , had been drowned while at sea . Argyll was the poorest bishopric in Scotland , and the area lacked strong royal authority , and hence good royal protection . In the following six years , no one had taken up the vacant bishopric . From at least 1247 , then , Clement was given charge of the diocese . He was essentially being asked to do for Argyll what he had previously done for Strathearn . The sources are quite thin on this ground , but by 1249 he had brought at least one more church into the control of the bishopric . On 23 December 1248 , he was also authorised by the Pope to appoint , with the agreement of the Bishop of Glasgow , a new bishop for Argyll . In January 1249 , Clement was given permission to move the cathedral of Argyll , based on Lismore , to the mainland . Clement 's problem seems to have been with the ruler of Argyll , Eóghan . The lack of royal authority in Argyll made it difficult for the national and international church to exercise control in the province ; at the same time , establishing a strong bishopric in the area was vital to integrating the area fully into the kingdom , an aim cherished by the contemporary king , Alexander II . Thus Alexander 's goal and Clement 's goal were essentially one and the same . It is impossible to be more specific , but in 1249 , King Alexander II launched an expedition against

Eóghan . The king was attempting to force Eóghan , whose lands lay within both the overlordship of the Kingdom of Scotland and the Kingdom of Norway , to renounce his allegiance to the King of Norway . Eóghan told Alexander that he was unable to do this . The contemporary historian Matthew Paris wrote that :

The king therefore declared Eóghan unfaithful and pursued him hostilely by ship near Argyll ; urged , as is said , by the vehement promptings of a certain indiscreet bishop of Strathearn , a friar to wit of the order of the Preachers .

This " indiscreet bishop ... friar " was , of course , Clement . Alexander died from ill @-@ health on this expedition , with Clement by his side at his deathbed . Alexander 's last act was to make a grant to the bishopric of Argyll . Despite the king 's death , the expedition was a success for Clement . There was a new Bishop of Argyll by 27 September 1250 ; in the longer term , the see continued to be ruled by bishops with no long vacancies until the Reformation . Moreover , by 1255 Eóghan had given his full allegiance to the Scottish crown , albeit because of lack of favour given to him by the King of Norway . Clement 's close association with the late King Alexander II and his reputation as a successful bishop made him a key political figure during the minority of Alexander III . Clement was on the Council of Guardians , the small group of nobles and clerics who were to " govern " Scotland until the end of Alexander III 's boyhood . The governing Council broke down around two rival factions , one centred on Walter Comyn and the other around Alan Durward . There is little evidence about Clement 's activities in regard to the Council , but he was associated with the Comyn faction , who enjoyed the ascendancy after Walter gained control of government in 1251 . In 1255 , the Durwards staged a coup at Roxburgh and ousted the " Comyn faction " from effective power . Unfortunately for Alan Durward , Comyn 's supporter Gamelin , who had been placed in the bishopric of St Andrews and excluded from his diocese by Durward , had fled to the papal court and convinced the Pope to excommunicate Alan . The sentence was delivered by Bishop Clement and the abbots of Melrose and Jedburgh . This is Clement 's last known act .

= = Death and legacy = =

The Chronicle of Melrose reports Clement 's death under the year 1258 . Clement 's legacy was to be remembered as the restorer of the diocese of Dunblane and the builder of its cathedral . Thus for future generations , Clement became the father @-@ figure of the see . Clement was later commemorated as a saint , though there is no record of formal canonisation . He was commemorated on 19 March , meaning that was almost certainly believed to have been the date of his death . Clement 's death was also noted by Walter Bower , a Lowland Scottish historian writing in the 1440s , who included the following obituary :

Clement bishop of Dunblane died , that outstanding member of the Order of Preachers , a man most eloquent in translating various tongues , powerful in speech and action in the sight of God and of men . He found the cathedral church of his diocese reduced by the neglect of his predecessors to such a state of decay that the divine offices were celebrated in it scarcely three times a week , as if it were some rural chapel . He built it up to be a hallowed sanctuary , enriched it with lands and possessions , and increased its prestige by adding prebends and canonries .

Such flattering sentiments had even been expressed during Clement 's lifetime . In 1250 , the General Chapter of the Dominican Order met in London , and decreed that :

we grant to Friar Clement of our Order , a bishop of Scotland , after his death , one mass throughout the Order by every friar whomsoever is a priest .

Although there survives a sermon almost certainly written by him , Clement was also credited with being a prolific translator and writing four books (including a hagiography of St Dominic) , all of which are now lost .

Some historians have been ambiguous about Clement 's episcopate . For instance , Cynthia Neville , despite acknowledging that " the successful reform of the see was , in fact , accomplished almost exclusively as a consequence of the efforts of Clement and his successors " , nevertheless expresses some scepticism about his achievements and notices his failure to gain the patronage of the native rulers of Strathearn . Others have been more enthusiastic . The ecclesiastical historian

and former minister of Dunblane Cathedral , James Hutchison Cockburn , agreed with Bower 's eulogy and declared that the " title " of sainthood " would have been worthily bestowed " . Archie Duncan , more recently , stated that Clement " clearly enjoyed a reputation far wider than his domestic accomplishments alone would explain " and concluded that Clement " represents the occasional triumph of the ideal of reform of church life over the careerism which generally motivated thirteenth @-@ century clergy " .