

= Stigand =

Stigand (Latin : Stigantus ; died 1072) was an Anglo - Saxon churchman in pre - Norman Conquest England who became Archbishop of Canterbury . His birth date is unknown , but by 1020 he was serving as a royal chaplain and advisor . He was named Bishop of Elmham in 1043 , and was later Bishop of Winchester and Archbishop of Canterbury . Stigand was as an advisor to several members of the Anglo - Saxon and Norman English royal dynasties , serving six successive kings . Excommunicated by several popes for his pluralism in holding the two sees , or bishoprics , of Winchester and Canterbury concurrently , he was finally deposed in 1070 , and his estates and personal wealth were confiscated by William the Conqueror . Stigand was imprisoned at Winchester , where he died without regaining his liberty .

Stigand served King Cnut as a chaplain at a royal foundation at Ashingdon in 1020 , and as an advisor then and later . He continued in his role of advisor during the reigns of Cnut 's sons , Harold Harefoot and Harthacnut . When Cnut 's stepson Edward the Confessor succeeded Harthacnut , Stigand in all probability became England 's main administrator . Monastic writers of the time accused Stigand of extorting money and lands from the church , and by 1066 the only estates richer than Stigand 's were the royal estates and those of Harold Godwinson .

In 1043 Edward appointed Stigand to the see of Elmham . Four years later he was appointed to the see of Winchester , and then in 1052 to the archdiocese of Canterbury , which Stigand held jointly with that of Winchester . Five successive popes , including Nicholas II and Alexander II , excommunicated Stigand for holding both Winchester and Canterbury . Stigand was present at the deathbed of King Edward and at the coronation of Harold Godwinson as king of England in 1066 . After Harold 's death , Stigand submitted to William the Conqueror . On Christmas Day 1066 Ealdred , the Archbishop of York , crowned William King of England . Stigand 's excommunication meant that he could only assist at the coronation .

Despite growing pressure for his deposition , Stigand continued to attend the royal court and to consecrate bishops , until in 1070 he was deposed by papal legates and imprisoned at Winchester . His intransigence towards the papacy was used as propaganda by Norman advocates of the view that the English church was backward and needed reform .

= = Early life = =

Neither the year nor the date of Stigand 's birth is known . He was born in East Anglia , possibly in Norwich , to an apparently prosperous family of mixed English and Scandinavian ancestry , as is shown by the fact that Stigand 's name was Norse but his brother 's was English . His brother Æthelmær , also a cleric , later succeeded Stigand as bishop of Elmham . His sister held land in Norwich , but her given name is unrecorded .

Stigand first appears in the historical record in 1020 as a royal chaplain to King Cnut of England (reigned 1016 ? 1035) . In that year he was appointed to Cnut 's church at Ashingdon , or Assandun , which was dedicated by the reforming bishop Wulfstan of York . Little is known of Stigand 's life during Cnut 's reign , but he must have had a place at the royal court , as he witnessed occasional charters . Following Cnut 's death Stigand successively served Cnut 's sons , Harold Harefoot (reigned 1035 ? 1040) and Harthacnut (reigned 1040 ? 1042) . After Harthacnut died Stigand became an advisor to Emma of Normandy , Cnut 's widow and the mother of Harthacnut and his successor Edward the Confessor . He may have been Emma 's chaplain , and it is possible that Stigand was already one of her advisors while Cnut was alive , and that he owed his position at Ashingdon to Emma 's influence and favour . Because little is known of Stigand 's activities before his appointment as a bishop , it is difficult to determine to whom he owed his position .

= = Bishop of Elmham and Winchester = =

Stigand was appointed to the see of Elmham shortly after Edward the Confessor 's coronation on 3 April 1043 , probably on Emma 's advice . This was the first episcopal appointment of Edward 's

reign . The diocese of Elmham covered East Anglia in eastern England , and was one of the poorer episcopal sees at that time . He was consecrated bishop in 1043 , but later that year Edward deposed Stigand and deprived him of his wealth . During the next year , however , Edward returned Stigand to office . The reasons for the deposition are unknown , but it was probably connected to the simultaneous fall from power of the dowager queen , Emma . Some sources state that Emma had invited King Magnus I of Norway , a rival claimant to the English throne , to invade England and had offered her personal wealth to aid Magnus . Some suspected that Stigand had urged Emma to support Magnus , and claimed that his deposition was because of this . Contributing factors in Emma and Stigand 's fall included Emma 's wealth , and dislike of her political influence , which was linked to the reign of the unpopular Harthacnut .

By 1046 Stigand had begun to witness charters of Edward the Confessor , showing that he was once again in royal favour . In 1047 Stigand was translated to the see of Winchester , but he retained Elmham until 1052 . He may have owed the promotion to Earl Godwin of Wessex , the father @-@ in @-@ law of King Edward , although that is disputed by some historians . Emma , who had retired to Winchester after regaining Edward 's favour , may also have influenced the appointment , either alone or in concert with Godwin . After his appointment to Winchester , Stigand was a witness to all the surviving charters of King Edward during the period 1047 to 1052 .

Some historians , such as Frank Barlow and Emma Mason , state that Stigand supported Earl Godwin in his quarrel with Edward the Confessor in 1051 ? 1052 ; others , including Ian Walker , hold that he was neutral . Stigand , whether or not he was a supporter of Godwin 's , did not go into exile with the earl . The quarrel started over a fight between Eustace of Boulogne , brother @-@ in @-@ law of the king , and men of the town of Dover . The king ordered Godwin to punish the town , and the earl refused . Continued pressure from Edward undermined Godwin 's position , and the earl and his family fled England in 1051 . The earl returned in 1052 with a substantial armed force , but eventually reached a peaceful accord with the king . Some medieval sources state that Stigand took part in the negotiations that reached a peace between the king and his earl ; the Canterbury manuscript of the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle calls Stigand the king 's chaplain and advisor during the negotiations .

= = Archbishop of Canterbury = =

= = = Appointment to Canterbury and issues with the papacy = = =

The Archbishopric of Canterbury became drawn into the conflict between Edward and Godwin . Pope Leo IX was beginning a reform movement later known as the Gregorian Reform . Leo first focused on improving the clergy and prohibiting simony ? the buying and selling of clerical and ecclesiastical offices . In 1049 Leo IX publicly pronounced that he would take more interest in English church matters and would investigate episcopal candidates more strictly before confirming them . When Archbishop Edsige of Canterbury died in 1051 the monks of the cathedral chapter elected Æthelric , a relative of Earl Godwin 's , as archbishop . King Edward opposed the election and instead appointed Robert of Jumièges , who was Norman and already Bishop of London . Besides furthering Edward 's quarrel with Godwin , the appointment signalled that there were limits to Edward 's willingness to compromise on ecclesiastical reform .

Although not known as a reformer before his appointment , Robert returned in 1051 from Rome , where he had gone to be confirmed by the papacy , and opposed the king 's choice for Bishop of London on the grounds that the candidate was not suitable . Robert 's attempts to recover church property that had been appropriated by Earl Godwin contributed to the quarrel between the earl and the king . When Godwin returned to England in 1052 Robert was outlawed and exiled , following which King Edward appointed Stigand to the archbishopric . The appointment was either a reward from Godwin for Stigand 's support during the conflict with Edward or a reward from King Edward for successfully negotiating a peaceful conclusion to the crisis in 1052 . Stigand was the first non @-@ monk to be appointed to either English archbishopric since before the days of Dunstan (archbishop

from 959 to 988) .

The papacy refused to recognise Stigand 's elevation , as Robert was still alive and had not been deprived of office by a pope . Robert of Jumièges appealed to Leo IX , who summoned Stigand to Rome . When Stigand did not appear , he was excommunicated . Historian Nicholas Brooks holds the view that Stigand was not excommunicated at this time , but rather was ordered to refrain from any archiepiscopal functions , such as the consecration of bishops . He argues that in 1062 papal legates sat in council with Stigand , something they would not have done had he been excommunicated . The legates did nothing to alter Stigand 's position either , although one of the legates later helped depose Stigand in 1070 . However Pope Leo IX and his successors , Victor II and Stephen IX , continued to regard Stigand as uncanonically elected .

Stigand did not travel to Rome to receive a pallium , the band worn around the neck that is the symbol of an archbishop 's authority , from the pope . Traveling to Rome for the pallium had become a custom , practised by a number of his predecessors . Instead , some medieval chroniclers state that he used Robert of Jumièges ' pallium . It is not known if Stigand even petitioned the papacy for a pallium soon after his appointment . Owing to the reform movement , Stigand probably knew the request would be unsuccessful . In 1058 Antipope Benedict X , who opposed much of the reform movement , gave Stigand a pallium . However , Benedict was deposed in the following year ; the reforming party declared Benedict an antipope , and nullified all his acts , including Stigand 's pallium grant . The exact circumstances that led to Benedict granting a pallium are unknown , whether it was at Stigand 's request or was given without prompting .

After his translation to Canterbury , Stigand released Elmham to his brother Æthelmær , but retained the bishopric of Winchester . Canterbury and Winchester were the two richest sees in England , and while precedent allowed the holding of a rich see along with a poor one , there was no precedent for holding two rich sees concurrently . He may have retained Winchester out of avarice , or his hold on Canterbury may not have been secure . Besides these , he held the abbey of Gloucester and the abbey of Ely and perhaps other abbeys also . Whatever his reasons , the retention of Winchester made Stigand a pluralist : the holder of more than one benefice at the same time . This was a practice that was targeted for elimination by the growing reform movement in the church . Five successive popes (Leo IX , Victor II , Stephen IX , Nicholas II and Alexander II) excommunicated Stigand for holding both Winchester and Canterbury at the same time . It has been suggested by the historian Emma Mason that Edward refused to remove Stigand because this would have undermined the royal prerogative to appoint bishops and archbishops without papal input . Further hurting Stigand 's position , Pope Nicholas II in 1061 declared pluralism to be uncanonical unless approved by the pope .

Stigand was later accused of simony by monastic chroniclers , but all such accusations date to after 1066 , and are thus suspect owing to the post-Conquest desire to vilify the English Church as corrupt and backward . The medieval chronicler William of Poitiers also claimed that in 1052 Stigand agreed that William of Normandy , the future William the Conqueror , should succeed King Edward . This claim was used as propaganda after the Conquest , but according to the historian David Bates , among others , it is unlikely to be true . The position of Stigand as head of the church in England was used to good effect by the Normans in their propaganda before , during and after the Conquest .

== = Ecclesiastical affairs == =

The diocese of York took advantage of Stigand 's difficulties with the papacy and encroached on the suffragans , or bishops owing obedience to an archbishop , normally subject to Canterbury . York had long been held in common with Worcester , but during the period when Stigand was excommunicated , the see of York also claimed oversight over the sees of Lichfield and Dorchester . In 1062 , however , papal legates of Alexander II came to England . They did not depose Stigand , and even consulted with him and treated him as archbishop . He was allowed to attend the council they held and was an active participant with the legates in the business of the council .

Many of the bishops in England did not want to be consecrated by Stigand . Both Giso of Wells and

Walter of Hereford travelled to Rome to be consecrated by the pope in 1061 , rather than be consecrated by Stigand . During the brief period that he held a legitimate pallium , however , Stigand did consecrate Aethelric of Selsey and Siward of Rochester . Abbots of monasteries , however , came to Stigand for consecration throughout his time as archbishop . These included not only abbots from monastic houses inside his province , such as Æthelsige as abbot of St Augustine 's Abbey in Canterbury , but also Baldwin as Abbot of Bury St. Edmunds and Thurstan as Abbot of Ely . After the Norman Conquest , Stigand was accused of selling the office of abbot , but no abbot was deposed for buying the office , so the charge is suspect .

Stigand was probably the most lavish clerical donor of his period , when great men gave to churches on an unprecedented scale . He was a benefactor to the Abbey of Ely , and gave large gold or silver crucifixes to Ely , St Augustine 's Abbey in Canterbury , Bury St. Edmunds Abbey , and to his cathedral church at Winchester . The crucifixes given to Ely , Bury and Winchester all appear to have had about life @-@ size figures of Christ with matching figures of the Virgin and John the Evangelist , as is recorded in the monastic histories , and were probably permanently mounted over the altar or elsewhere . These would have been made with thin sheets of precious metal over a wooden core . No comparably early rood crosses with the side figures of Mary and John seem to survive , though we have large painted wooden crucifixes like the German Gero Cross of around 980 , and the Volto Santo of Lucca (renewed with a later figure) which is known to have inspired Leofstan , Abbot of Bury (d . 1065) to create a similar figure , perhaps covered in precious metal , on his return from a visit to Rome . To Ely he gave gold and silver vessels for the altar , and a chasuble embroidered in gold " of such inestimable workmanship and worth , that none in the kingdom is considered richer or more valuable " . Although it does not appear that Stigand ever travelled to Rome , there are indications that Stigand did go on pilgrimage . A 12th @-@ century life of Saint Willibrord , written at the Abbey of Echternach in what is now Luxembourg , records that " to this place also came Stigand , the eminent archbishop of the English " . In the work , Stigand is recorded as giving rich gifts to the abbey as well as relics of saints .

= = = Advisor to the king = = =

During Edward 's reign , Stigand was an influential advisor at court and used his position to increase his own wealth as well as that of his friends and family . Contemporary valuations of the lands he controlled at the death of King Edward , as listed in Domesday Book , come to an annual income of about 2500 pounds . There is little evidence , however , that he enriched either Canterbury or Winchester . He also appointed his followers to sees within his diocese in 1058 , having Siward named Bishop of Rochester and Æthelric installed as Bishop of Selsey . Between his holding of two sees and the appointment of his men to other sees in the southeast of England , Stigand was an important figure in defending the coastline against invasion .

Stigand may have been in charge of the royal administration . He may also have been behind the effort to locate Edward the Atheling and his brother Edmund after 1052 , possibly to secure a more acceptable heir to King Edward . His landholdings were spread across ten counties , and in some of those counties , his lands were larger than the king 's holdings . Although Norman propagandists claimed that as early as 1051 or 1052 King Edward promised the throne of England to Duke William of Normandy , who later became King William the Conqueror , there is little contemporary evidence of such a promise from non @-@ Norman sources . By 1053 , Edward probably realised that he would not have a son from his marriage , and he and his advisors began to search for an heir . Edward the Atheling , the son of King Edmund Ironside (reigned 1016) , had been exiled from England in 1017 , after his father 's death . Although Ealdred , the Bishop of Worcester , went to the Continent in search of Edward the Exile , Ian Walker , the biographer of King Harold Godwinson , feels that Stigand was behind the effort . In the end , although Edward did return to England , he died soon after his return , leaving a young son Edgar the Ætheling .

= = Final years and legacy = =

== Norman Conquest ==

King Edward , on his deathbed , left the crown to his brother @-@ in @-@ law Harold Godwinson , the son of Earl Godwin . Stigand performed the funeral services for Edward . Norman writers claimed that Stigand crowned Harold as king in January 1066 . This is generally considered false propaganda , as it was in William 's interest to portray Harold as uncanonically crowned . If Harold was improperly crowned , then William was merely claiming his rightful inheritance , and not deposing a rightful king . The Bayeux Tapestry depicts Stigand at Harold 's coronation , although not actually placing the crown on Harold 's head . The English sources claim that Ealdred , the Archbishop of York , crowned Harold , while the Norman sources claim that Stigand did so , with the conflict between the various sources probably tracing to the post @-@ Conquest desire to vilify Harold and depict his coronation as improper . Current historical research has shown that the ceremony was performed by Ealdred , owing to the controversy about Stigand 's position . However , one historian , Pauline Stafford , theorises that both archbishops may have consecrated Harold . Another historian , Frank Barlow , writing in 1979 , felt that the fact that some of the English sources do not name who consecrated Harold " tip (s) the balance in favour of Stigand " .

Stigand did support Harold , and was present at Edward the Confessor 's deathbed . Stigand 's controversial position may have influenced Pope Alexander II 's support of William the Conqueror 's invasion of England . The reformers , led by Archdeacon Hildebrand , later Pope Gregory VII , opposed the older type of bishop , rich and installed by the lay powers .

After the death of Harold at the Battle of Hastings , Stigand worked with Earl Edwin and Earl Morcar , as well as Archbishop Ealdred of York , to put Edgar the Ætheling on the throne . This plan did not come to fruition , however , due to opposition from the northern earls and some of the other bishops . Stigand submitted to William the Conqueror at Wallingford in early December 1066 , and perhaps assisted at his coronation on Christmas Day , 1066 , although the coronation was performed by Ealdred . William took Stigand with him to Normandy in 1067 , although whether this was because William did not trust the archbishop , as the medieval chronicler William of Poitiers alleges , is uncertain . Stigand was present at the coronation of William 's queen , Matilda , in 1068 , although once more the ceremony was actually performed by Ealdred .

== Deposition and death ==

After the first rebellions broke out in late 1067 William adopted a policy of conciliation towards the church . He gave Stigand a place at court , as well as giving administrative positions to Ealdred of York and Æthelwig , Abbot of Evesham . Archbishop Stigand appears on a number of royal charters in 1069 , along with both Norman and English leaders . He even consecrated Remigius de Fécamp as Bishop of Dorchester in 1067 . Once the danger of rebellion was past , however , William had no further need of Stigand . At a council held at Winchester at Easter 1070 , the bishops met with papal legates from Alexander II . On 11 April 1070 Stigand was deposed by the papal legate , Ermenfrid , Bishop of Sion in the Alps , and was imprisoned at Winchester . His brother Æthelmær , Bishop of Elmham , was also deposed at the same council . Shortly afterwards Aethelric the Bishop of Selsey , Ethelwin the Bishop of Durham and Leofwin Bishop of Lichfield , who was married , were deposed at a council held at Windsor . There were three reasons given for Stigand 's deposition : that he held the bishopric of Winchester in plurality with Canterbury ; that he not only occupied Canterbury after Robert of Jumièges fled but also seized Robert 's pallium which was left behind ; and that he received his own pallium from Benedict X , an anti @-@ pope . Some accounts state that Stigand did appear at the council which deposed him , but nothing is recorded of any defence that he attempted . The charges against his brother are nowhere stated , leading to a belief that the depositions were mainly political . That spring he had deposited his personal wealth at Ely Abbey for safekeeping , but King William confiscated it after his deposition , along with his estates . The king appointed Lanfranc , a native of Italy and a scholar and abbot in Normandy , as the new archbishop .

King William appears to have left the initiative for Stigand 's deposition to the papacy , and did nothing to hinder Stigand 's authority until the papal legates arrived in England to depose the archbishop and reform the English Church . Besides witnessing charters and consecrating Remigius , Stigand appears to have been a member of the royal council , and able to move freely about the country . But after the arrival of the legates , William did nothing to protect Stigand from deposition , and the archbishop later accused the king of acting with bad faith . Stigand may even have been surprised that the legates wished him deposed . It was probably the death of Ealdred in 1069 that moved the pope to send the legates , as that left only one archbishop in England ; and he was not considered legitimate and unable to consecrate bishops . The historian George Garnett draws the parallel between the treatment of King Harold in Domesday Book , where he is essentially ignored as king , and Stigand 's treatment after his deposition , where his time as archbishop is as much as possible treated as not occurring .

Stigand died in 1072 while still imprisoned , and his death was commemorated on 21 February or 22 February . Sometime between his deposition and his death the widow of King Edward and sister of King Harold , Edith of Wessex , visited him in his imprisonment and allegedly told him to take better care of himself . He was buried in the Old Minster at Westminster .

At King Edward 's death , only the royal estates and the estates of Harold were larger and wealthier than those held by Stigand . Medieval writers condemned him for his greed and for his pluralism . Hugh the Chanter , a medieval chronicler , claimed that the confiscated wealth of Stigand helped keep King William on the throne . A recent study of his wealth and how it was earned , shows that while he did engage in some exploitative methods to gain some of his wealth , other lands were gained through inheritance or through royal favour . The same study shows little evidence that he despoiled his episcopal estates , although the record towards monastic houses is more suspect . There is no complaint in contemporary records about his private life , and the accusations that he committed simony and was illiterate only date from the 12th century .

Although monastic chroniclers after the Norman Conquest accused him of crimes such as perjury and homicide , they do not provide any evidence of those crimes . Almost a 100 years after his death , another Archbishop of Canterbury , Thomas Becket , was taunted in 1164 by King Henry II 's barons with Stigand 's fate for daring to oppose his king . Modern historians views tend to see him as either a wily politician and indifferent bishop , or to see him purely in terms of his ecclesiastical failings . The historian Frank Stenton felt that his " whole career shows that he was essentially a politician " . Concurring with this , the historian Nick Higham said that " Stigand was a seasoned politician whose career had been built on an accurate reading of the balance of power . " Another historian , Eric John , said that " Stigand had a fair claim to be the worst bishop of Christendom " . However , the historian Frank Barlow felt that " he was a man of cultured tastes , a patron of the arts who was generous to the monasteries which he held " . Alexander Rumble argued that Stigand was unlucky in living past the Conquest , stating that it could be said that Stigand was " unlucky to live so long that he saw in his lifetime not only the end of the Anglo @-@ Saxon state but also the challenging of uncanonical , but hiterto tolerated , practices by a wave of papal reforms " .