

= Ealdred (archbishop of York) =

Ealdred (or Aldred ; died 11 September 1069) was Abbot of Tavistock , Bishop of Worcester , and Archbishop of York in Anglo - Saxon England . He was related to a number of other ecclesiastics of the period . After becoming a monk at the monastery at Winchester , he was appointed Abbot of Tavistock Abbey in around 1027 . In 1046 he was named to the Bishopric of Worcester . Ealdred , besides his episcopal duties , served Edward the Confessor , the King of England , as a diplomat and as a military leader . He worked to bring one of the king 's relatives , Edward the Exile , back to England from Hungary to secure an heir for the childless king .

In 1058 he undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem , the first bishop from England to do so . As administrator of the Diocese of Hereford , he was involved in fighting against the Welsh , suffering two defeats at the hands of raiders before securing a settlement with Gruffydd ap Llywelyn , a Welsh ruler .

In 1060 , Ealdred was elected to the archbishopric of York , but had difficulty in obtaining papal approval for his appointment , only managing to do so when he promised not to hold the bishoprics of York and Worcester simultaneously . He helped secure the election of Wulfstan as his successor at Worcester . During his archiepiscopate , he built and embellished churches in his diocese , and worked to improve his clergy by holding a synod which published regulations for the priesthood .

Some sources state that following King Edward the Confessor 's death in 1066 , it was Ealdred who crowned Harold Godwinson as King of England . Ealdred supported Harold as king , but when Harold was defeated at the Battle of Hastings , Ealdred backed Edgar the Ætheling and then endorsed King William the Conqueror , the Duke of Normandy and a distant relative of King Edward 's . Ealdred crowned King William on Christmas Day in 1066 . William never quite trusted Ealdred or the other English leaders , and Ealdred had to accompany William back to Normandy in 1067 , but he had returned to York by the time of his death in 1069 . Ealdred supported the churches and monasteries in his diocese with gifts and building projects .

= = Early life = =

Ealdred was probably born in the west of England , and could be related to Lyfing , his predecessor as bishop of Worcester . His family , from Devonshire , may have been well - to - do . Another relative was Wistan or Wulfstan , who under Ealdred 's influence became Abbot of Gloucester . Ealdred was a monk in the cathedral chapter at Winchester Cathedral before becoming abbot of Tavistock Abbey about 1027 , an office he held until about 1043 . Even after leaving the abbacy of Tavistock , he continued to hold two properties from the abbey until his death . No contemporary documents relating to Ealdred 's time as abbot have been discovered .

Ealdred was made bishop of Worcester in 1046 , a position he held until his resignation in 1062 . He may have acted as suffragan , or subordinate bishop , to his predecessor Lyfing before formally assuming the bishopric , as from about 1043 Ealdred witnessed as an episcopus , or bishop , and a charter from 1045 or early 1046 names Sihtric as abbot of Tavistock . Lyfing died on 26 March 1046 , and Ealdred became bishop of Worcester shortly after . However , Ealdred did not receive the other two dioceses that Lyfing had held , Crediton and Cornwall ; King Edward the Confessor (reigned 1043 ? 1066) granted these to Leofric , who combined the two sees at Crediton in 1050 .

= = Bishop and royal advisor = =

Ealdred was an advisor to King Edward the Confessor , and was often involved in the royal government . He was also a military leader , and in 1046 he led an unsuccessful expedition against the Welsh . This was in retaliation for a raid led by the Welsh rulers Gruffydd ap Rhydderch , Rhys ap Rhydderch , and Gruffydd ap Llywelyn . Ealdred 's expedition was betrayed by some Welsh soldiers who were serving with the English , and Ealdred was defeated .

In 1050 , Ealdred went to Rome " on the king 's errand " , apparently to secure papal approval to move the seat , or centre , of the bishopric of Crediton to Exeter . It may also have been to secure

the release of the king from a vow to go on pilgrimage , if sources from after the Norman Conquest of England are to be believed . While in Rome , he attended a papal council , along with his fellow English bishop Herman . That same year , as Ealdred was returning to England he met Sweyn , a son of Godwin , Earl of Wessex , and probably absolved Sweyn for having abducted the abbess of Leominster Abbey in 1046 . Through Ealdred 's intercession , Sweyn was restored to his earldom , which he had lost after abducting the abbess and murdering his cousin Beorn Estrithson . Ealdred helped Sweyn not only because Ealdred was a supporter of Earl Godwin 's family but because Sweyn 's earldom was close to his bishopric . As recently as 1049 Irish raiders had allied with Gruffydd ap Rhydderch of Gwent in raiding along the River Usk . Ealdred unsuccessfully tried to drive off the raiders , but was again routed by the Welsh . This failure underscored Ealdred 's need for a strong earl in the area to protect against raids . Normally , the bishop of Hereford would have led the defence in the absence of an Earl of Hereford , but in 1049 the incumbent , Æthelstan , was blind , so Ealdred took on the role of defender .

= = Diplomatic travels = =

Earl Godwin 's rebellion against the king in 1051 came as a blow to Ealdred , who was a supporter of the earl and his family . Ealdred was present at the royal council at London that banished Godwin 's family . Later in 1051 , when he was sent to intercept Harold Godwinson and his brothers as they fled England after their father 's outlawing , Ealdred " could not , or would not " capture the brothers . The banishment of Ealdred 's patron came shortly after the death of Ælfric Puttoc , the Archbishop of York . York and Worcester had long had close ties , and the two sees had often been held in plurality , or at the same time . Ealdred probably wanted to become Archbishop of York after Ælfric 's death , but his patron 's eclipse led to the king appointing Cynesige , a royal chaplain , instead . In September 1052 , though , Godwin returned from exile and his family was restored to power . By late 1053 Ealdred was once more in royal favour . At some point , he was alleged to have accompanied Swein on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land , but proof is lacking .

In 1054 King Edward sent Ealdred to Germany to obtain Emperor Henry III 's help in returning Edward the Exile , son of Edmund Ironside , to England . Edmund (reigned 1016) was an elder half @-@ brother of King Edward the Confessor , and Edmund 's son Edward was in Hungary with King Andrew I , having left England as an infant after his father 's death and the accession of Cnut as King of England . In this mission Ealdred was somewhat successful and obtained insight into the working of the German church during a stay of a year with Hermann II , the Archbishop of Cologne . He also was impressed with the buildings he saw , and later incorporated some of the German styles into his own constructions . The main objective of the mission , however , was to secure the return of Edward ; but this failed , mainly because Henry III 's relations with the Hungarians were strained , and the emperor was unable or unwilling to help Ealdred . Ealdred was able to discover that Edward was alive , and had a place at the Hungarian court . Although some sources state that Ealdred attended the coronation of Emperor Henry IV , this is not possible , as on the date that Henry was crowned , Ealdred was in England consecrating an abbot .

Ealdred had returned to England by 1055 , and brought with him a copy of the *Pontificale Romano @-@ Germanicum* , a set of liturgies , with him . An extant copy of this work , currently manuscript Cotton Vitellus E xii , has been identified as a copy owned by Ealdred . It appears likely that the Rule of Chrodegang , a continental set of ordinances for the communal life of secular canons , was introduced into England by Ealdred sometime before 1059 . Probably he brought it back from Germany , possibly in concert with Harold .

After Ealdred 's return to England he took charge of the sees of Hereford and Ramsbury . Ealdred also administered Winchcombe Abbey and Gloucester Abbey . The authors of the *Handbook of British Chronology Third Edition* say he was named bishop of Hereford in 1056 , holding the see until he resigned it in 1060 , but other sources say that he merely administered the see while it was vacant , or that he was bishop of Hereford from 1055 to 1060 .

Ealdred became involved with the see of Ramsbury after its bishop Herman got into a dispute with King Edward over the movement of the seat of his bishopric to Malmesbury Abbey . Herman wished

to move the seat of his see , but Edward refused permission for the move . Ealdred was a close associate of Herman 's , and the historian H. R. Loyn called Herman " something of an alter ego " to Ealdred . According to the medieval chronicler John of Worcester , Ealdred was given the see of Ramsbury to administer while Herman remained outside England . Herman returned in 1058 , and resumed his bishopric . There is no contemporary documentary evidence of Ealdred 's administration of Ramsbury .

= = Welsh affairs , Jerusalem , and Worcester = =

The king again employed Ealdred as a diplomat in 1056 , when he assisted earls Harold and Leofric in negotiations with the Welsh . Edward sent Ealdred after the death in battle of Bishop Leofgar of Hereford , who had attacked Gruffydd ap Llywelyn after encouragement from the king . However , Leofgar lost the battle and his life , and Edward had to sue for peace . Although details of the negotiations are lacking , Gruffydd ap Llywelyn swore loyalty to King Edward , but the oath may not have had any obligations on Gruffydd 's part to Edward . The exact terms of the submission are not known in total , but Gruffydd was not required to assist Edward in war nor attend Edward 's court . Ealdred was rewarded with the administration of the see of Hereford , which he held until 1061 , and was appointed Archbishop of York . The diocese had suffered a serious raid from the Welsh in 1055 , and during his administration , Ealdred continued the rebuilding of the cathedral church as well as securing the cathedral chapter 's rights . Ealdred was granted the administration in order that the area might have someone with experience with the Welsh in charge .

In 1058 Ealdred made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem , the first English bishop to make the journey . He travelled through Hungary , and the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle stated that " he went to Jerusalem in such state as no @-@ one had done before him " . While in Jerusalem he made a gift of a gold chalice to the church of the Holy Sepulchre . It is possible that the reason Ealdred travelled through Hungary was to arrange the travel of Edward the Exile 's family to England . Another possibility is that he wished to search for other possible heirs to King Edward in Hungary . It is not known exactly when Edward the Exile 's family returned to England , whether they returned with Edward in 1057 , or sometime later , so it is only a possibility that they returned with Ealdred in 1058 .

Very little documentary evidence is available from Ealdred 's time as Bishop of Worcester . Only five leases that he signed survive , and all date from 1051 to 1053 . Two further leases exist in Hemming 's Cartulary as copies only . How the diocese of Worcester was administered when Ealdred was abroad is unclear , although it appears that Wulfstan , the prior of the cathedral chapter , performed the religious duties in the diocese . On the financial side , the Evesham Chronicle states that Æthelwig , who became abbot of Evesham Abbey in 1058 , administered Worcester before he became abbot .

= = Archbishop of York = =

Cynesige , the archbishop of York , died on 22 December 1060 , and Ealdred was elected Archbishop of York on Christmas Day , 1060 . Although a bishop was promptly appointed to Hereford , none was named to Worcester , and it appears that Ealdred intended to retain Worcester along with York , which several of his predecessors had done . There were a few reasons for this , one of which was political , as the kings of England preferred to appoint bishops from the south to the northern bishoprics , hoping to counter the northern tendency towards separatism . Another reason was that York was not a wealthy see , and Worcester was . Holding Worcester along with York allowed the archbishop sufficient revenue to support himself .

In 1061 Ealdred travelled to Rome to receive the pallium , the symbol of an archbishop 's authority . Journeying with him was Tostig , another son of Earl Godwin , who was now earl of Northumbria . William of Malmesbury says that Ealdred , by " amusing the simplicity of King Edward and alleging the custom of his predecessors , had acquired , more by bribery than by reason , the archbishopric of York while still holding his former see . " On his arrival in Rome , however , charges of simony , or the buying of ecclesiastical office , and lack of learning were brought against him , and his elevation

to York was refused by Pope Nicholas II , who also deposed him from Worcester . The story of Ealdred being deposed comes from the Vita Edwardi , a life of Edward the Confessor , but the Vita Wulfstani , an account of the life of Ealdred 's successor at Worcester , Wulfstan , says that Nicholas refused the pallium until a promise to find a replacement for Worcester was given by Ealdred . Yet another chronicler , John of Worcester , mentions nothing of any trouble in Rome , and when discussing the appointment of Wulfstan , says that Wulfstan was elected freely and unanimously by the clergy and people . John of Worcester also claims that at Wulfstan 's consecration , Stigand , the archbishop of Canterbury extracted a promise from Ealdred that neither he nor his successors would lay claim to any jurisdiction over the diocese of Worcester . Given that John of Worcester wrote his chronicle after the eruption of the Canterbury ? York supremacy struggle , the story of Ealdred renouncing any claims to Worcester needs to be considered suspect .

For whatever reason , Ealdred gave up the see of Worcester in 1062 , when papal legates arrived in England to hold a council and make sure that Ealdred relinquished Worcester . This happened at Easter in 1062 . Ealdred was succeeded by Wulfstan , chosen by Ealdred , but John of Worcester relates that Ealdred had a hard time deciding between Wulfstan and Æthelwig . The legates had urged the selection of Wulfstan because of his saintliness . Because the position of Stigand , the archbishop of Canterbury , was irregular , Wulfstan sought and received consecration as a bishop from Ealdred . Normally , Wulfstan would have gone to the archbishop of Canterbury , as the see of Worcester was within Canterbury 's province . Although Ealdred gave up the bishopric , the appointment of Wulfstan was one that allowed Ealdred to continue his considerable influence on the see of Worcester . Ealdred retained a number of estates belonging to Worcester . Even after the Norman Conquest , Ealdred still controlled some events in Worcester , and it was Ealdred , not Wulfstan , who opposed Urse d 'Abetot 's attempt to extend the castle of Worcester into the cathedral after the Norman Conquest .

While archbishop , Ealdred built at Beverley , expanding on the building projects begun by his predecessor Cynesige , as well as repairing and expanding other churches in his diocese . He also built refectories for the canons at York and Southwell . He also was the one bishop that published ecclesiastical legislation during Edward the Confessor 's reign , attempting to discipline and reform the clergy . He held a synod of his clergy shortly before 1066 .

= = After the death of Edward the Confessor = =

John of Worcester , a medieval chronicler , stated that Ealdred crowned King Harold II in 1066 , although the Norman chroniclers mention Stigand as the officiating prelate . Given Ealdred 's known support of Godwin 's family , John of Worcester is probably correct . Stigand 's position as archbishop was canonically suspect , and as earl Harold had not allowed Stigand to consecrate one of the earl 's churches , it is unlikely that Harold would have allowed Stigand to perform the much more important royal coronation . Arguments for Stigand having performed the coronation , however , rely on the fact that no other English source names the ecclesiastic who performed the ceremony ; all Norman sources name Stigand as the presider . In all events , Ealdred and Harold were close , and Ealdred supported Harold 's bid to become king . Ealdred perhaps accompanied Harold when the new king went to York and secured the support of the northern magnates shortly after Harold 's consecration .

According to the medieval chronicler Geoffrey Gaimar , after the Battle of Stamford Bridge Harold entrusted the loot gained from Harold Hardrada to Ealdred . Gaimar asserts that King Harold did this because he had heard of Duke William 's landing in England , and needed to rush south to counter it . After the Battle of Hastings , Ealdred joined the group who tried to elevate Edgar the Ætheling , Edward the Exile 's son , as king , but eventually he submitted to William the Conqueror at Berkhamsted . John of Worcester says that the group supporting Edgar vacillated over what to do while William ravaged the countryside , which led to Ealdred and Edgar 's submission to William .

Ealdred crowned William king on Christmas Day 1066 . An innovation in William 's coronation ceremony was that before the actual crowning , Ealdred asked the assembled crowd , in English , if it was their wish that William be crowned king . The Bishop of Coutances then did the same , but in

Norman French . In March 1067 , William took Ealdred with him when William returned to Normandy , along with the other English leaders Earl Edwin of Mercia , Earl Morcar , Edgar the Ætheling , and Archbishop Stigand . Ealdred at Whitsun 1068 performed the coronation of Matilda , William 's wife . The *Laudes Regiae* , or song commending a ruler , that was performed at Matilda 's coronation may have been composed by Ealdred himself for the occasion . In 1069 , when the northern thegns rebelled against William and attempted to install Edgar the Ætheling as king , Ealdred continued to support William . He was the only northern leader to support William , however . Ealdred was back at York by 1069 ; he died there on 11 September 1069 , and was buried in his episcopal cathedral . He may have taken an active part in trying to calm the rebellions in the north in 1068 and 1069 . The medieval chronicler William of Malmesbury records a story that when the new sheriff of Worcester , Urse d 'Abetot , encroached on the cemetery of the cathedral chapter for Worcester Cathedral , Ealdred pronounced a rhyming curse on him , saying " Thou are called Urse . May you have God 's curse . "

= = Legacy = =

After Ealdred 's death , one of the restraints on William 's treatment of the English was removed . Ealdred was one of a few native Englishmen who William appears to have trusted , and his death led to fewer attempts to integrate Englishmen into the administration , although such efforts did not entirely stop . In 1070 , a church council was held at Westminster and a number of bishops were deposed . By 1073 there were only two Englishmen in episcopal sees , and by the time of William 's death in 1089 , there was only one , Wulfstan II of Worcester .

Ealdred did much to restore discipline in the monasteries and churches under his authority , and was liberal with gifts to the churches of his diocese . He built the monastic church of St Peter at Gloucester (now Gloucester Cathedral , though nothing of his fabric remains) , then part of his diocese of Worcester . He also repaired a large part of Beverley Minster in the diocese of York , adding a presbytery and an unusually splendid painted ceiling covering " all the upper part of the church from the choir to the tower ... intermingled with gold in various ways , and in a wonderful fashion " . He added a pulpit " in German style " of bronze , gold and silver , surmounted by an arch with a rood cross in the same materials ; these were examples of the lavish decorations added to important churches in the years before the conquest .

Ealdred encouraged Folcard , a monk of Canterbury , to write the *Life of Saint John of Beverley* . This was part of Ealdred 's promotion of the cult of Saint John , who had only been canonised in 1037 . Along with the *Pontificale* , Ealdred may have brought back from Cologne the first manuscript of the *Cambridge Songs* to enter England , a collection of Latin Goliardic songs which became famous in the Middle Ages . The historian Michael Lapidge suggests that the *Laudes Regiae* , which are included in *Cotton Vitellius E xii* , might have been composed by Ealdred , or a member of his household . Another historian , H. J. Cowdrey , argued that the *laudes* were composed at Winchester . These praise songs are probably the same performed at Matilda 's coronation , but might have been used at other court ceremonies before Ealdred 's death .

Historians have seen Ealdred as an " old @-@ fashioned prince @-@ bishop " . Others say that he " raised the see of York from its former rustic state " . He was known for his generosity and for his diplomatic and administrative abilities . After the Conquest , Ealdred provided a degree of continuity between the pre- and post @-@ Conquest worlds . One modern historian feels that it was Ealdred who was behind the compilation of the D version of the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle , and gives a date in the 1050s as its composition . Certainly , Ealdred is one of the leading figures in the work , and it is likely that one of his clerks compiled the version .