

= Jænberht =

Jænberht (also Jambert , Jaenbeorht , Jænbert , Jaenberht or Jaenbert ; died 792) was a medieval monk , and later the abbot , of St Augustine 's Abbey , Canterbury who was named Archbishop of Canterbury in 765 . As archbishop , he had a difficult relationship with King Offa of Mercia , who at one point confiscated lands from the archbishopric . By 787 , some of the bishoprics under Canterbury 's supervision were transferred to the control of the newly created Archbishopric of Lichfield , although it is not clear if Jænberht ever recognised its legitimacy . Besides the issue with Lichfield , Jænberht also presided over church councils in England . He died in 792 and was considered a saint after his death .

= = Early life = =

Jænberht was a monk at St Augustine 's Abbey , Canterbury before being selected as abbot of that monastic house . He came from a prominent family in the kingdom of Kent , and a kinsman of his , Eadhun , was the reeve of King Egbert II of Kent . Jænberht himself was on good terms with Egbert .

= = Archbishop of Canterbury = =

Jænberht was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury on 2 February 765 , at the court of King Offa of Mercia ; this location implies that his election was acceptable to the king . In 766 , he received a pallium , the symbol of an archbishop 's authority given by the papacy . At this time , Kent had been subjected by Offa ; in 776 , perhaps at the urging of Jænberht , Kent rebelled and secured its freedom . In 780 and 781 , Jænberht attended church councils at Brentford that were led by King Offa . Although initially on good terms with Offa , Jænberht 's ties to Egbert were also strong : after the Battle of Otford , Egbert granted a number of estates to Christ Church . When Offa reasserted control over Kent , which occurred by 785 at the latest , he confiscated these lands and regranted to some of his thegns .

= = Elevation of Lichfield = =

During Jænberht 's term of office , a dispute arose between the see of Canterbury and Offa which led in 787 to the creation of the rival Archdiocese of Lichfield under Hygberht . Originally , Offa attempted to bring the southern archbishopric of Canterbury to London , but when the papacy refused permission , Offa secured the creation of a third archbishopric in the British Isles . Lichfield was the main Mercian bishopric , and thus the new archbishopric was under Offa 's control . There were several reasons for the conflict between Jænberht and Offa . Jænberht 's opposed Offa 's deposition of the Kentish dynasty . They conflicted over land which they both claimed as theirs , and Jænberht refused to crown Offa 's son Ecgrith . Problems were also caused by the archbishop minting his own coins at Canterbury . Matthew Paris , writing in the thirteenth century , stated that Jænberht conspired to admit Charlemagne to Canterbury if he invaded Britain . This story may reflect a genuine tradition recorded at St Albans Abbey , where Paris was based , or it may be a fabrication to fill in details of Jænberht 's life where Paris had no other information . A rumour during Jænberht 's reign also falsely claimed that Offa was plotting with Charlemagne to depose Pope Hadrian I ; at least one modern historian , Simon Keynes , believes it possible Jænberht was behind the rumour . Offa 's eventual successor later admitted to the papacy that Offa 's actions had been motivated by hatred of Jænberht and the Kentish people .

In 787 , Pope Hadrian sent a pallium to Hygberht of Lichfield , elevating Lichfield to an archbishopric , and Ecgrith was crowned . There is no extant contemporary evidence , however , that Jænberht ever recognised Hygberht as an archbishop . Canterbury retained as suffragans the bishops of Winchester , Sherborne , Selsey , Rochester , and London . The dioceses of Worcester , Hereford , Leicester , Lindsey , Dommoc and Elmham were transferred to Lichfield .

= = Later life = =

Jænberht presided at a council held at London , sometime after the elevation of Lichfield , attended by most of the bishops from southern Britain . Jænberht died on 12 August 792 . Jænberht was buried in the abbey church of St Augustine 's Abbey in Canterbury . Jænberht has since been revered as a saint , with a feast day of 12 August .