

= Cynesige =

Cynesige (or Kynsige ; died 1060) was a medieval English Archbishop of York between 1051 and 1060 . Prior to his appointment to York , he was a royal clerk and perhaps a monk . As archbishop , he built and adorned his cathedral as well as other churches , and was active in consecrating bishops . After his death in 1060 , the bequests he had made to a monastery were confiscated by the queen .

= = Life = =

Cynesige perhaps came from Rutland , as he owned the manor of Tinwell there later in life . The Liber Eliensis claimed that he had been born by Caesarian section , but this is most likely a later accretion to his lifestory , added after his death because of efforts to have him declared a saint . The belief was that for an infant to survive a caesarian section was a miracle , and thus a fitting beginning for a future saint .

Cynesige had been a royal clerk prior to his appointment to York in 1051 , although the monks of Peterborough Abbey maintained that he had been a monk in their house . It is possible he was both a monk and a royal clerk . He delayed his visit to Rome to receive his pallium until 1055 , when he was given it by Pope Victor II . During his time as archbishop he was claimed to have consecrated both John and Magsuen as Bishops of Glasgow , although the two bishops probably never lived in their diocese . John may have ended up as the Bishop of Mecklenburg in Germany . Cynesige dedicated the church of the Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross in the presence of King Edward the Confessor around 3 May 1060 . This was at the invitation of Earl Harold Godwinson of Wessex . The chronicle of Waltham Abbey states that Cynesige did the consecration because the archbishopric of Canterbury was vacant . However , there was an occupant of Canterbury , Stigand , but his election to Canterbury was not considered canonical by the papacy , and Harold may have excluded him because of concerns about Stigand 's canonical status .

Cynesige expanded and embellished York Minster and other churches in his archdiocese , and built the tower at Beverley , as well as giving books and other items to the church there . He consecrated Herewald as Bishop of Llandaff at a council held at London in 1056 , although this information is only attested in the Book of Llandaff , a sometimes unreliable source . In 1059 he , along with Earl Tostig and Æthelwine Bishop of Durham , escorted King Malcolm III of Scotland to King Edward 's court at Gloucester when Malcolm came south , probably to thank Edward for his help in restoring Malcolm to the Scottish throne , and perhaps to acknowledge the English king as Malcolm 's lord .

Cynesige died on 20 December 1060 and was buried at Peterborough , in what is now Peterborough Cathedral . After his death , he was honoured as a saint by the monks at Peterborough , although the cult does not seem to have spread far . His bones , along with those of his predecessor Ælfric Puttoc , were found in 1643 . His reputation for sanctity and poverty was based on his actions , as he often traveled on foot , and spent much time preaching and giving alms . The Northumbrian Priests ' Law which is usually attributed to Wulfstan II , Archbishop of York , might have been authored instead by Cynesige , or possibly Cynesige 's predecessor Ælfric Puttoc . He gave gifts to Peterborough in his will , but the gifts were taken by Queen Edith instead .