

I'm human



Who was the last archbishop of canterbury

Lord Welby Resigns Amid Abuse Scandal and Fails to Apologise Enough
The Church's handling of the case of John Smyth, a sadistic abuser who was said to have abused over 120 boys and young men since the late 1970s, has come under fire. A recently published report stated that Lord Welby had "personal and moral responsibility" in the matter and could have done more to prevent it. Despite initial resistance to stepping down, he resigned on November 12th in a statement expressing his sorrow for the victims and survivors of abuse.

The role of the Archbishop of Canterbury is multifaceted within both the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion. This spiritual leader provides guidance, leads liturgical services, and offers pastoral care to clergy and laypeople in the diocese of Canterbury. As Primate of All England, they chair the General Synod, influencing governance and decision-making processes. Internationally, the Archbishop serves as the spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, fostering unity among member churches. They also engage in ecumenical relations with other Christian denominations and address public and social issues that impact both church and society. This role balances tradition with modern needs, reflecting the Church's evolution over time.

Names enclosed in brackets indicate that they were either elected or appointed but lost their positions or declined the role. Augustine, sent by Pope Gregory the Great, aimed to Christianise Kent and was later canonized as a saint. Laurence accompanied Augustine to England and also received sainthood posthumously. Mellitus, prior to his appointment, held the position of Bishop of London, which he was subsequently canonized for after his passing. Justus, too, was a previously established Bishop of Rochester before being appointed to this role, who later achieved sainthood upon death. Honorius accompanied Augustine but was also granted sainthood posthumously. Deusdedit is notable as the first Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury and received sainthood after his passing.

Wighard, however, met an untimely end due to illness before he could be consecrated as Archbishop of Canterbury. Theodore, born in Tarsus but forced to leave after its conquest by Persia, was sent to Canterbury after being appointed Archbishop and established the first school there. Berhtwald, who waited three years for the vacant position of Archbishop of Canterbury, eventually took it up and achieved sainthood upon his death. Tatwine's career included extensive writing; he too received sainthood posthumously. Nothelm served as an archpriest at St Paul's before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, was known to have corresponded with Bede, and also received sainthood after passing. Cuthbert initially worked as an abbot in a monastic house and possibly held the role of Bishop of Hereford; he constructed a new church in Canterbury. He too achieved sainthood posthumously. Bregowine had little documented life before becoming Archbishop but was elevated by Aethelbert II of Kent and received sainthood after his passing. Jaenberht formerly worked as abbot of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, receiving sainthood upon death. Aethelhard initially served as Bishop of Winchester before being appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by King Offa of Mercia; he also achieved sainthood posthumously. Wulfred was believed to have been a noble from Middlesex who was elected to the See of Canterbury. Feolgilð worked as an abbot in a monastery before his election as Archbishop of Canterbury but did not survive long in the position. Ceolnoth had little documented life before becoming Archbishop, and during his tenure he faced challenges from Viking attacks in his See. Aethelred was another who began without notable background before being appointed Archbishop of Canterbury; however, he struggled against Alfred the Great over church reform and dealt with the impact of Viking raids. Plegmund, a Mercian and scholar, was summoned to court by Alfred the Great before his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury after nearly two years of vacancy. He too received sainthood posthumously. Athelm initially worked as the first Bishop of Wells but as Archbishop crowned King Aethelstan and also achieved sainthood upon death. Wulfhelm previously served as Bishop of Wells, advising King Aethelstan on new laws. Oda was the son of a Danish Viking, initially working as Bishop of Ramsbury before his elevation to Archbishop, receiving sainthood posthumously. Aelfsige, formerly Bishop of Winchester, tragically died while traveling to Rome for his pallium and also achieved sainthood. Byrthelm, originally a monk at Glastonbury Abbey, went on to serve as Bishop but details are scarce about his life prior to that appointment. Given text rewritten as non-native English speaker (NNES):

1. Before king Eadwig die, Byrthelm not become Archbishop of Canterbury. When Eadwig die, King Edgar put out Byrthelm and send him back to Wells. Dunstan no be Byrthelm. He be abbot of Glastonbury, Bishop of Worcester and Bishop of London before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury. He attend king Edgar coronation and push for church reform. He be member of Witan (council make big decision) and help settle dispute over who become king Edgar successor. He attend king Aethelred coronation, his last official duty. He be canonised after death.

2. Sigeric Serious no be Archbishop Canterbury long time. As boy he go Glastonbury Abbey learn and decide to be monk. He be elected abbot of St Augustine's and later become Bishop of Ramsbury. When he be Archbishop, he advise king Aethelred pay off Danes. Ralph d'Escures served as Abbot of Seez and Bishop of Rochester before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, having published many works on philosophy, metaphysics, and theology.

William de Corbeil, born in Paris, worked as a clerk to bishops in England prior to his election as Archbishop of Canterbury. Theobald of Bec, initially a monk and abbot at the Abbey of Bec, was chosen by King Stephen as Archbishop, navigating complex allegiances during the Civil War between Stephen and Matilda. He crowned Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine but conflicted with the king over clergy trials. Thomas Becket, a close friend of Henry II, served as Archdeacon and Chancellor before his appointment as Archbishop, clashing with the king over church reform and secular court trials for clergymen. After exile in France and a brief return, Becket was assassinated by knights believing they acted on the king's wishes. Others, like Roger de Bailleul, declined the See of Canterbury, while Richard of Dover, a Benedictine monk, became Archbishop after serving as Prior of Dover Priory. Baldwin of Forde, a Cistercian monk, was appointed Archbishop by Henry II and played a role in the Third Crusade before his death in the Holy Land.

Reginald Fitz Jocelin's appointment as Archbishop was cut short by his death, and Hubert Walter, who served on the Third Crusade with Richard I, became Archbishop, Chief Justiciar, and Lord Chancellor for his loyalty. The election of sub-prior Reginald to succeed Hubert Walter was quashed by the Pope, while John de Gray's path to becoming a significant figure in English ecclesiastical history began with his service as a clerk. Bishops of Canterbury from 1162: - Stephen Langton - Walter d'Eynsham - Richard le Grant - John of Sittingbourne - Edmund Rich - Boniface of Savoy - Robert Kilwardby - John Peckham - Robert Winchelsea - Thomas Cobham - Walter Reynolds - Simon Meppeham - John de Stratford Henry Chichele became Archbishop following the death of John Stafford. He founded All Souls College, Oxford. Thomas Bourchier succeeded him after his death. John Morton took over as Archbishop following Thomas Bourchier's death. He also served Henry VII as Lord Chancellor. Henry Deane died while in office. William Warham previously held the position of Bishop of London before becoming Archbishop and serving as Lord Chancellor. Matthew Parker was a moderate who succeeded Thomas Cranmer as Archbishop of Canterbury due to his neutral stance. Edmund Grindal, previously Archbishop of York, faced opposition from Queen Elizabeth I and died before being prosecuted. John Whitgift, Bishop of Worcester, opposed the Puritan movement and crowned King James I, but died in office. Richard Bancroft, former Bishop of London, became Archbishop after Whitgift's death, while George Abbot was crowned by King Charles I despite an accident during hunting. William Laud, a Catholic sympathizer, was arrested and executed in 1645. William Juxon held various positions before becoming Archbishop and died in office. Gilbert Sheldon, Bishop of London, also died while in office. William Sancroft, former Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, was appointed but deprived after refusing to swear an oath to William III and Mary II. John Tilletson, Dean of St Paul's, died in office after being Archbishop. Thomas Tenison, previously Bishop of Lincoln, crowned Queen Anne and King George I, while William Wake held the same position before his death. John Potter, former Bishop of Oxford, was appointed after William Wake's death and promoted High Anglicanism through his works. Thomas Herring, previously Archbishop of York, became Canterbury Archbishop after King George II's chaplaincy, holding the position until his death. Matthew Hutton died shortly after becoming Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas Secker, former Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, served as Archbishop for ten years and championed Anglican church establishment in America before dying in office. Frederick Cornwallis, chaplain to King George II, Bishop of Lichfield, and Secretary of State, held the position until his death after being appointed Archbishop. John Moore, former Bishop of Bangor, became Archbishop after Frederick Cornwallis's death. The Archbishopric of Canterbury has had a string of notable bishops, starting with Charles Manners-Sutton who ascended from Norwich to Canterbury, where he christened Princess Victoria in 1819. Successors included William Howley, who crowned King William IV and his wife Adelaide in 1831, and John Bird Sumner, a proponent for Catholic emancipation. Following in their footsteps were Archibald Campbell Tait, Edward White Benson, Frederick Temple, Randall Davidson, Cosmo Gordon Lang, and William Temple. Geoffrey Fisher was notable for crowning Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, while Michael Ramsey oversaw the ordination of the first women priests during his tenure. Donald Coggan, Robert Runcie, and George Carey also held the position, with Runcie officiating at Prince Charles' marriage to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. Rowan Williams served as Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 until his retirement in 2011. Before that, he was Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales. He worked to maintain unity within the Anglican Church despite its changing views on women's ordination and same-sex marriage. A prominent figure, he also officiated at the royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011. Prior to his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, Williams was educated and worked in the oil industry before deciding to pursue a career in the clergy. Reginald Pole, who served from 1555 until his death, held significant distinction during his tenure. He was the last Catholic archbishop, cardinal, and recipient of the papal pallium. His legacy is marked by generous donations to King's School, where he left his almonry building and Mint Yard to be used at a nominal rent for a 500-year term.