

Confirmation of Gregory the ninth over the pension of the churches of Morden and White Roding

Bishop Gregory, servant of the servants of God, to the beloved sons, the abbot and convent of Westminster, greetings and apostolic blessing.

It is worthy for us to show ready consent to the just desires of the petitioners and to fulfil their wishes, which do not disagree with the path of reason, with the following effect. We have clearly learnt from your report that the precentor of your monastery receives a certain pension in the tithes of the churches of Morden and of White Roding, London and Winchester dioceses, in which you claim to have the right of patronage, to the use of the same every single year, by grant of the diocesan bishops of those places and your common assent, just as in the letters of the diocesan bishops, themselves, it is clearly known to appear. We, being gracious to your supplications, confirm by apostolic authority and by the patronage of the present writing we strengthen the aforesaid pension to you and through you for the same precentor, as it prevails justly and peacefully. Consequently no one at all is permitted to break this document of our confirmation or to oppose it by rash daring. If anyone presumes to attempt this, he will know that he will incur the indignation of omnipotent God and of his blessed apostles Peter and Paul. Dated at Anagni, on the 8th kalend of December [23 November], in the fourth year of our pontificate [1230].

NOTES:

This section of the Cartulary has the header *Scripta Cantor'* [i.e. Precentor], and this page is headed in right margin *Morden*.

The Abbey was entitled to an annual payment or pension of a half mark (6s 8d) from the incumbent of Morden church (see WAM 1846 overleaf).

In the 14th and 15th centuries this pension was paid to the Precentor of the Abbey – see WAM Liber Niger CXLII (540, 545) [1380] and WAM Reg Bk I fo.5b [1485-1503], as well as various acquittances for taxes – WAM 29142, 29313, 29537, 23318, etc.

Gregory IX, a native of Agnani in Italy, was Pope 1227-41.

'A pension in the church at White Roding (Essex) was quitclaimed to the rector there in 1300' – B Harvey (2002) p130.