

Westminster Abbey Muniments 1853
Surrey History Centre K85/3/29

WAM 1853: 2 seals:-

Red, broken - large red oval of Cardinal Beaufort

Green, chipped - Abbat and Convent of Westminster (good impression)

[The original is badly stained, but a 16th-century copy **SHC K85/3/29** survives intact, as well as **K85/3/30** – part of an attested copy of WAM 1853, also dating from the 16th-century, followed by a copy of WAM 1854 [= WD fo. 172a]]

[The two 16th-century transcripts at Surrey History Centre SHC K85/3/29-30 give the year as 1442]

Ordination of vicarage of Morden by the reverend father Henry, cardinal of the diocese of the same place **1442/43**

Henry, by divine mercy, by title of the holy Roman church of St Eusebius,* cardinal priest of England and bishop of Winchester, to all sons of holy mother church, to whom the present letters shall have come, greetings, grace and blessing. We wish to bring to the notice of all of you by these presents that, whereas lately, a matter of dispute of some sort is pending between the venerable and religious men, lord Edmund, abbot of the monastery of Westminster near London of the order of St Benedict, and the convent of the same place – the parish church of Morden of our diocese, having been canonically appropriated, annexed and united to them and their monastery to be possessed to their own uses forever – on the one part, and the discreet man, Sir John Cecily, perpetual vicar of the same parish church of Morden, on the other part, of and concerning the scantiness of the portion of the vicarage of the aforesaid parish church, at length the aforesaid parties, after having discussions of some sort among themselves, desiring that the suit avoid expenses by the express consent of both parties aforesaid, with our authority and consent in this matter leading the way and finally intervening they came to an agreement and compounded in this manner: namely that the same Sir John Cecily, vicar of the aforesaid parish church, by right and in the name of the said religious men and their aforesaid monastery, will receive and have all and all kinds of tithes, great and small, within the said parish of Morden in whatsoever manner and howsoever issuing to the same religious men, the abbot and convent, aforesaid, by the right and in the name of the aforesaid parish church howsoever belonging. And thus the successors of the said Sir John Cecily, the aforesaid vicar of the afore-mentioned parish church, whosoever of them as vicars at succeeding times, shall receive and have forever without trouble, disturbance or interference of the abbot and convent of the aforesaid monastery whomsoever for the time being, only excepting the rents, glebe and demesne land of the same parish church. And the same Sir John, the present vicar of the aforesaid parish church, for his time and his successors, whosoever as vicars of the aforesaid parish church, at their succeeding times, for the aforesaid tithes will faithfully render and pay, or cause to be rendered and paid, to the afore-mentioned abbot and convent, proprietors of the aforesaid parish church or their attorneys twenty six shillings and eight pence sterling, to be faithfully paid to them annually at Easter. And that the abbot and convent, aforesaid, and their successors whosoever for the time being, will regard themselves as contented of and with the glebe and the demesne land of the aforesaid parish church and the twenty six shillings and eight pence sterling, to be actually paid annually, as is aforesaid, for all and all kinds of these tithes belonging and pertaining to them howsoever in the right and in the name of the aforesaid parish church from now on forever, and they will refrain and cease forever from the taking and collecting of these tithes, as long as a pension of this kind of twenty six shillings and eight pence is paid to them faithfully.

{continued overleaf}

* All cardinals are appointed to a titular church within the city of Rome. This practice goes back to the days when the pope's advisers came from the local clergy, serving as pastors of churches near the Vatican.

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(continued)

And the same Sir John, the present vicar of the said parish church for his time and his successors whosoever as vicars of the said parish church for the time being, shall sustain and bear all ordinary and extraordinary charges howsoever falling upon the afore-mentioned abbot and convent by occasion or reason of the said parish church (only excepting the royal tithe due from ancient times from the said abbot and convent by occasion of the payment of the tithes of the said church). The payment of which same royal tithe the same abbot and convent and their successors whosoever for the time being will undertake, whenever it happens that this is granted, and they will duly pay it with effect. And in addition it is well permitted for the aforesaid Sir John Cecily, the present vicar, to entirely and freely move a certain ancient barn, situated on the ground of the lord there, away from the place where it now is, and to rebuild it elsewhere within the aforesaid lordship, where it will seem most useful to the aforesaid vicar. And the aforesaid Sir John Cecily, the present vicar, and his successors as vicars there in the future, will repair both the chancel of the said parish church of Morden and the aforesaid barn and all things that are necessary to be repaired in both of them at his and their own costs and expenses as vicars. And the aforesaid abbot and convent and their successors are obliged to give the same Sir John annually his livery, namely four yards of coloured cloth for clothing, as long as he is the vicar there. And we Henry, cardinal and bishop, aforesaid, listening to and fully considering the said agreement and composition between the aforesaid parties for the good of peace and the advantage and quietude of both of the aforesaid parties, have therefore authorised this composition and agreement that was begun, had and made by our authority and consent leading the way and intervening, and by the tenor of the presents we authorise it by our ordinary and pontifical authority from our certain knowledge and that the aforesaid parties are to thus come to a settlement, and we have offered and we offer our consent and assent equally to the said settlement, and we approve, ratify and confirm the said agreement and settlement in the manner and form, recited above, and wish, decree, pronounce and declare that it should be inviolably held and observed by the aforesaid parties and their successors whomsoever forever in the future and also as real and everlasting among the aforesaid parties and their successors whomsoever from the consent and at the petition of both of the aforesaid parties. In testimony of which matter, together with the common seal of the said monastery of Westminster that has been affixed to these presents for the greater strength of the premises, we have ordered that there be affixed to these presents our seal that is accustomed for causes of our bishopric, in the absence of the seal of our office of cardinal. Dated in our manor of Southwark 26 June AD 1442, and the 38th of our Translation.

[The foot of the page records the following additional information, mostly in English:]

These 5 several peces of evydence are conteyned in the parchement booke hereunder mencioned

- Pardon with licence of king E III appropriating Morden church, Winchester diocese Year 12 E III ¹³⁰⁸
~~1300-1337~~
- Confirmation by prior and chapter of Winchester church over the same appropriation of Morden church made 1300
- Appropriation of Morden church, Winchester diocese by John Bishop of the same place 1300
- Ordinance of the Vicarage of Morden by the aforesaid bishop of the said diocese 1331 year 5 E III
- Another Ordinance of the same vicarage by the Cardinal bishop of the said diocese 1442

In which book written in parchment containing 79 folios ^{pages} made in the time of the most reverend father in Christ John Islyp of good memory, then abbot of Westminster, at the expense of brother Thomas Jay, formerly treasurer of the monastery of St Peter, Westminster, are contained the appropriations of various churches with their appurtenances, appropriated to the said monastery, the names of which follow alphabetically below, namely:

Aldenham; Ashwell; Battersea; Wandsworth; Benfleet; church of St Bot' outside Aldgate, London; Basingbourn, Ely diocese; church of Feering; Shepperton; Halliford; Hendon with the chapel of Hampstead; liberty of St Martin the Great London; Kelvedon; Sawbridgeworth; Longdon; ^{Morden}; church of St Martin in the Fields; Oakham; Hambledon; Staines; Laleham; Ashford (Echelford); Teddington; Wheathampstead, Lincoln diocese. Morden was left out of the table.

Likewise in a litle paper boke annexed to the sayde parchement boke wherein the 2 composicions of Morden of 1331 and 1442 be conteyned is entitled as foloweth, viz:

There follows the appropriations of churches and other evidences concerning the tithes pertaining to the monastery of Westminster and being in the custody of me, John Gemme, 5 September 29 Henry VIII, as follows:-

The church of Hendon with the chapel of Hampstead annexed; church of Aldenham; church of Staines with members Halliford and Shepperton; church of Oakham and Langham and others; church of Feering with chapel; church of Kelvedon; church of Sawbridgeworth and church of Morden.

Church of Morden:

Morden: Likewise I have in my custody the appropriation of the same church, a charter of the king for licence to appropriate the same church and confirmation of the same appropriation and the ordination of the vicarage there and the decree for the vicar's portion there.