

SESSION 1

Introduction

You should begin by thinking about the background to the Becket dispute by looking at:

- (1) Henry II and the political situation in 1154
- (2) Church and State in England 1066-1154
- (3) Problems of interpreting the Becket conflict

English provinces and dioceses

The English church was divided into two provinces. The southern province contained 14 dioceses: Canterbury, Exeter, Bath (later Bath and Wells), Salisbury, Winchester, Chichester, Rochester, London, Lincoln, Worcester, Hereford, Norwich, Ely, Coventry (from Lichfield and then Chester). The northern province comprised the dioceses of York, Durham, and Carlisle (founded in 1133 this diocese was in existence to 1157, and then from 1203).

It was a feature of the English church that the majority of cathedrals were monastic: Canterbury, Bath, Winchester, Rochester, Worcester, Norwich, Ely, Coventry, Durham, Carlisle (10 out of 19). All but Carlisle (which was served by Augustinian canons) were served by Benedictine monks. This included the cathedral church of Canterbury.

Episcopal Careers: Kings and archbishops

The following chart shows the archbishops of Canterbury and York who were appointed under the kings of England from 1066 to 1154:

<u>Kings</u>	<u>Canterbury</u>	<u>York</u>
William I (1066-87)	Stigand (–1070) Lanfranc (1070–89)	Ealdred (–1069) Thomas I (1070–1100)
William II (1087-1100)	Lanfranc vacancy 1089–93 Anselm (1093–1109)	Thomas I Thomas I
Henry I (1100-35)	Anselm vacancy 1109–1114 Ralph d'Escures (1114–22) William of Corbeil (1123–36)	Gerard (1100-1108) Thomas II (1109–1114) Thurstan (1114–1140)
Stephen (1135-54)	William Theobald of Bec (1138–61)	Thurstan William fitz Herbert (1143–47) Henry Murdac (1147–53) Roger de Pont L'Evêque (1154–81)



Canterbury Cathedral seen from the south-west.