

Tudor monarchs



Henry VIII (1491 – 1547)

Famous for his six wives and establishing the Church of England, Henry was a man who liked to change his mind. At times he and Cuthbert were close, with Henry giving him important state and religious positions. At others, their relationship was challenging, with Henry searching Cuthbert's homes and punishing his Catholic allies.



Edward VI (1537 – 1553)

Edward became King aged 9 and died at 15. His allies didn't always trust Cuthbert and planned to divide Durham and seize much of his land. Cuthbert's homes were searched for suspicious materials and many of his books were taken from him before he was eventually removed as Bishop of Durham and imprisoned in the Tower of London.



Mary I (1516 – 1558)

Mary saved Cuthbert from the Tower of London and gave him back his position as Bishop of Durham. Cuthbert didn't agree with Mary's harsh treatment of Protestants and avoided taking part in trials whenever he could.



Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603)

Elizabeth's reign was a dangerous time for Catholics, but she still hoped to gain Cuthbert's support and benefit from his influence in the north and reputation in Europe. Cuthbert wanted Elizabeth to take a religious approach similar to her father Henry VIII. The two couldn't find a compromise and Cuthbert was placed under house arrest until his death in 1559.

Friends



Thomas More (1478 – 1535)

An English politician and writer who became a symbol of the Catholic resistance after his execution. Cuthbert once gave More a gift of a fly preserved in amber, to symbolise a friendship that could never take flight or perish.



Polydore Vergil (1470 – 1555)

An Italian scholar who lived and worked in England for most of his adult life. Vergil is the author of the *Anglica Historia*, the first book of English history. Cuthbert was one of his close friends and loaned him books and manuscripts to help him with his work.



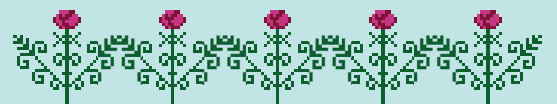
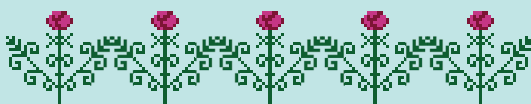
Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466 – 1536)

One of the leading philosophers and scholars in Europe, some of his writing was funded by Cuthbert. In their many letters, the mutual admiration between these two friends is clear. In his will, Erasmus left some of his books to Cuthbert.



Bernard Gilpin (1517 – 1583)

Cuthbert's great-nephew and a leading Church of England theologian, known as the Apostle of the North for his work in northern England. Although they had very different religious views, Cuthbert funded his travel and education and protected him from prosecution.



Frenemies



Catherine of Aragon (1485 – 1536)

Patron to artists and writers and known as the first wife of Henry VIII. Cuthbert initially defended Catherine when the King asked for a divorce, but then changed his mind and supported Henry. Some speculate that Cuthbert was offered the position of Bishop of Durham in return for changing his mind.



Edward Seymour (1500 – 1552)

Known as Lord Protector of England, Seymour was one of Edward VI's main advisors when he first came to the throne. Although he and Cuthbert had different religious views, they were able to work together in the early years of Edward's reign.



Matthew Parker (1504 – 1575)

A close advisor to Elizabeth I who served as Archbishop of Canterbury during her reign. Cuthbert died in 1559 while under house arrest at Parker's home, Lambeth Palace. Although technically a prisoner, Cuthbert was treated with respect and kept in comfortable conditions.

Enemies



Thomas Cromwell (1485 – 1540)

Henry VIII's chief minister from 1534 – 1540, Cromwell helped the King to establish the Church of England. Cromwell investigated Cuthbert several times, including searching his homes throughout Durham for suspicious material.



William Tyndale (1494 – 1536)

A Protestant author known for translating the Bible into English. Tyndale hoped that Cuthbert would help to fund his translation. Cuthbert responded by burning every copy he could track down, leading to Tyndale calling him a "ducking hypocrite".



Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)

A radical theologian and key figure in the Protestant Reformation of Europe. Cuthbert was worried about his growing influence, describing him as a "hydra-headed monster". Cuthbert encouraged his friends Erasmus and Thomas More to write works challenging Luther.



John Dudley (1504 – 1553)

One of Edward VI's chief advisors, Dudley wanted to limit Cuthbert's power and influence in the north, so accused him of plotting against the King. This accusation led to Cuthbert's imprisonment in the Tower of London.



Cuthbert's
Connections

