

## BISHOP RICHARD FOX of Ropsley, Kesteven, Lincolnshire, Bishop of Winchester

### Brief Summary

- 1447/8 born Ropsley, Lincolnshire possibly education at Boston Grammar School, Magdalen College, Oxford, and Pembroke College Cambridge Bachelor of Canon Law, ordained at some time
- 1484 In Paris studying for Doctorate in Canon Law  
Appointed Vicar of Stepney - objection by Richard III, qualified as Doctor of Canon Law
- 1485 Secretary to Henry Tudor; 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. was at Battle of Bosworth with Henry, 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug. signed first document as Henry VII's Principal Secretary of State
- 1485 Appointed Keepership of Little Park Windsor, the Exchange at Calais, Prebend of Brownswood
- 1486 Prebend of Bishopston, Feb. Prebend of South Grantham, Nov. Privy Councillor  
Jan. attended marriage of Henry to Elizabeth of York in York, visited Ropsley (new south porch on church), Sep. attended baptism of Prince Arthur
- 1487 Mar. Appointed Bishop of Exeter, resigned prebends, June appointed Keeper of Privy Seal
- 1488 Visited James III Scotland to negotiate peace treaty, negotiated marriage agreement Prince Arthur & Katherine of Aragon
- 1490 Negotiations with Charles VIII of France re Duchy of Brittany
- 1491 Richard Fox baptised the future Henry VIII at Greenwich.
- 1492 Appointed Bishop of Bath & Wells, finalised & signed Treaty of Etaples with France
- 1493 At Kenilworth Castle with King, dealing with threat from Perkin Warbeck
- 1494 Age 46 Appointed Bishop of Durham
- 1495 Installed at Durham Cathedral, negotiated and finalised Treaty with Flanders *Intercursus Magnus*
- 1495/6 Reinforced defences at Norham Castle, Northumbria
- 1497 Attack on Norham Castle - defeated, Fox negotiated 7 year truce with Scotland
- 1499 Organised improvements to Great Hall and Kitchens at Durham Castle
- 1500 Worked on forcing incumbents to remain in their benefices, negotiations with Scotland and Maximilian, Holy Roman Empire
- 1501 appointed Bishop of Winchester, the highest Bishopric in England, therefore visitor New & Magdalen Colls. Oxford & Winchester School, Oct. organised arrival journey for Katherine of Aragon before wedding Nov. to Arthur
- 1502 Apr. death of Prince Arthur
- 1502/6 Organised repair work to choir at Winchester Cathedral
- 1503 Death of Queen, finalised marriage treaty of Henry's daughter Mary to Scottish King, and arranged journey
- 1504 Organised building of Kings Almshouses in Westminster
- 1505 Organised visit of Philip of Burgundy to England, negotiations re possible 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage of Henry  
Introduced Thomas Wolsey to King
- 1506 Dealing with misdemeanours in monasteries under his control as Bishop of Winchester
- 1507 Appointed Master of Pembroke Coll. Oxford, revised statutes of Baliol College, Treaty of Windsor with Flemings, Oct. to Calais to confer with Flanders. Unsuccessful negotiations of marriage contract for Princess Mary with Charles of Castille (future Charles V)
- 1509 Issued injunctions against monasteries in his control for improved behaviour.  
Death of Henry VII. Involved in negotiations for marriage of Henry VIII & Katherine of Aragon
- 1510 Aged 62. Renewed Treaty of Etaples, and relationship with Venetians and Swiss (Wolsey became Henry VIII's almoner & Privy Councillor, encouraged by Fox)
- 1511 Appeased complaints of King of Scotland
- 1513 Invasion of France. Fox in Portsmouth May to advise and assist in outfitting ships. Accompanied Henry VIII to Calais (Battle of the Spurs)  
Work completed on Richard's Chantry Chapel in Winchester Cathedral (designed by himself)  
Approval received to found Corpus Christi College in Oxford
- 1516 Resigned Privy Seal - Wolsey is appointed to position
- 1517 Corpus Christi College opened
- 1518 Age 70 Granted licence of non-attendance on King
- 1519 Worked on windows of Kings College Cambridge as executor of Henry VII's will, resigned Mastership of Pembroke College
- 1520 Declined invitation to attend Field of the Cloth of Gold in France with Henry VIII
- 1521 Became completely blind. Corresponds with Wolsey on the condition of the monasteries
- 1523 Continued work to beautify Winchester Cathedral - Great Screen
- 1524 Founded Taunton Grammar School
- 1528 Endowed Grantham Grammar School - which he had already established - died 3 days later