

Richard Charnock

Richard Charnock was elected as prior of Dunstable on 31st October 1482 and resigned his post in 1500. He was a man of considerable intellect and culture, becoming prior of St. Mary's College, Oxford, and tutor to the Augustinian novices there. Erasmus visited England for the first time in the summer of 1499 and spent two weeks at St. Mary's. Charnock advanced him money and encouraged Erasmus to work and study – especially collecting proverbs. Erasmus described Richard Charnock as being 'compounded of humane learning, kindness and integrity, a non-pareil, the ornament and glory of English religion.' This is high praise from someone who was not noted for his friendliness towards the religious orders. Charnock was also a friend of John Colet.