

William de Wederow

William de Wederow was admitted as a canon at Dunstable on 6th January 1271 and nominated as prior on 8th November 1280. He is depicted in the kings' window in the west wall of the priory. It was during his tenure that Eleanor, Queen of Edward I, died at Harby in Lincolnshire. She was known to be ill and it is probable that she and the king were on their way to Lincoln to pray for a cure at the shrine of St. Hugh. On its way to burial in Westminster Abbey, her body lay in state for one night in Dunstable priory. William and the king held vigil on the night of 11th December 1290, before the cortege moved off next morning on its way to St. Albans. The two of them are shown in the window, kneeling on either side of the coffin, which bears Eleanor's coat of arms. The letters E and E are shown tied together by a love-knot, because theirs was a happy and fruitful marriage.

In the following year, William would have witnessed the erection of an Eleanor Cross at the crossroads. Edward gave money for the erection of these crosses in all the locations where his wife's body had rested on its way to Westminster.

William resigned his post in 1302. We do not know when he was born, or when he died.