

## BENEFIT OF CLERGY

in the Chester County Pleas,  
CHES 29/1–22

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### Sanctuary

A note was made on the court roll in April 1260 that master Richard de Kegworth had imprisoned a man of his called Henry, charging him for having stolen his pennies: Henry had escaped from custody and went to the church, and there he abjured the country. It had been ordered that the lay fee of the said Richard should be taken into the hands of lord Edward.

1:113: 13 April 1260

*Memorand' quod Mag'r Ric' de Kegworth' incarc'auit Henr' ho'iem suu' inponens ei quod furat<sup>s</sup> fuit den' suos. & de custodia sua euasit & adiuit ecc'am & ibi pat'am obiurauit. p<sup>r</sup>ceptu' fuit ut laicu' feod' d'ci Ric' capetur in manu d'ni Eduuardi.*

We know from a dispute in December 1301 (15:66) over the advowson that master Richard de Kegworth (dead by 1301) had been parson of Bunbury, perhaps the church where Henry found sanctuary. Equally, at the time in question Kegworth was serving as attorney for St Werburgh's abbey, which claimed liberty of jurisdiction in the county, receiving amercements from cases involving their tenants. The court or the earl evidently thought that Kegworth had overstepped his authority in this case.

1:21: 8 November 1259

*Abb's s'ce Werburg' Cestr' ponit loco suo Magr'm Ric'm de Kegworth' u'l Will'm de Thurliston' u's<sup>s</sup> d'nam Cecil' de Monte Al' de br'i de dote &c'*

1:227: 31 August 1260

*Judiciu'*

*D'na Cecilia que fuit vx' d'ni Rog' de Monte alto optulit se p br'e de dote vers<sup>s</sup> d'nm Abb'm & conuentu' s'ce Werburg'. Cestr'. Ide' Abbas co'parens p attornatu' dicit q'd r'onabile' su'monic'one' de respondend' ad hoc placitu' no' h'uit cu' su'mon' q'ndeci' dier ad tale placitu' ptinet. & ip'e su'mon' no' h'uit n<sup>i</sup> q<sup>a</sup>tuor dier tant'. Iudiciu' q'd quicu'q' tali breui respond'e debet h'ebit su'mon' q'ndeci' dier. & id'o co'sideratu' fuit q'd d'cs Abba & co'uent<sup>s</sup> r'onabile' h'eant su'mon' q'ndeci' dier. & d'na seq<sup>a</sup>t' ad aliu' comitatu'.*