

## DAFYDD ap BLEDDYN (died 1346), bishop

**Name:** Dafydd ap Bleddyn  
**Date of death:** 1346  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** bishop  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** John Edward Lloyd

Bishop of St Asaph, succeeded on the death of Llywelyn ap Llywelyn in 1314. According to **lolo Goch** (ed. **C. Ashton**, 273), he was 'of the tribe of Uchtryd ' and, in accordance with this, the pedigrees make him a brother of Ithel Anwyl, and a nephew of Ithel Fychan, both important figures in Flintshire in the early part of the century (*Powys Fadog*, iii, 106, iv, 154). He may be the ' David ap Bleyney, parson de Kirlyn (Cilcen ?)' who did homage in 1301. On 18 July he and a fellow canon brought notice of the death of Llywelyn and received the royal licence to elect. It would seem from **Peniarth MS 20** that the chapter had already anticipated this and made choice of Dafydd on 23 June. On 7 September the archbishop was notified of the king's confirmation of the formal election, and on 1 November the temporalities were restored and all was in order for the consecration. This took place at Canterbury on 12 January 1315 with the usual profession of obedience to the archbishop.

Dafydd's tenure of the see was uneventful. On 27 October 1320 he had leave from the Crown to levy tolls at the ancient fair held at S. Asaph on 1 May (*Cal. Chart. Rolls*). It was about this time that the register of episcopal records known as ' Llyfr Coch Asaph ' (The Red Book of Asaph) was compiled; the manuscript itself has disappeared, but its contents are known from three late transcripts in N.L.W. The bishop seems rarely to have left his diocese; he was, however, present at the consecration of Roger of Lichfield at Halesowen in June 1322. He was engaged in litigation in December 1330 with the lord of Powys as to the churches of Meifod, Welshpool, and Guilsfield. In 1336, with the consent of the chapter, he appropriated the church of Nantglyn to improving the income of the ten vicars of the cathedral; from the act (confirmed by the king in 1341) it appears that the south transept (now the consistory court) had just been built. Legal proceedings were taken against the bishop in 1340-1 in an attempt to limit the temporal claims of the see; there was no attack upon his character ('Flintshire Ministers Accounts,' ed. D. L. Evans in *Flintshire Record Series* No. 2, xxix-xxxiii).

Earlier writers were uncertain as to the year of Dafydd's death and thought that there was no new bishop until 1352. But the papal records show that (after a false start in April 1344) the news of his death in 1346 reached Avignon, enabling Clement VI to provide **John Trevor I** on 26 June to the vacant see (*Cal. Papal Lett.*, iii, 235; *Petitions* i, 48).

### Author

**Sir John Edward Lloyd**, (1861 - 1947)

### Sources

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Browne Willis, *A Survey of the Cathedral-Church of St. Asaph* (1720), 50-2, 183-92

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*Calendar of Patent Rolls*

Stubbs, *Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum* (1897)

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Dafydd ap Bleddyn](#)

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q13127768](#)

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