

## Cecil Goodden (1879-1969)

Character in the Sherborne Pageant:  
Wulfsy Episode 4

### Fourth Episode A.D 998.

In this episode Benedictine Rule is introduced at Sherborne. The Monks are seen carousing and mocking their one earnest member (at end of table). Bishop Wulfsy upbraids them and reduces them to repentance.

A B Gourlay tells that at *'one performance his words were accompanied by loud thunder – a colossal storm at Milborne Port, which missed Sherborne'*. It is very likely this would have added to the drama of the scene.



Cecil Goodden was born in 1845, the second son of John Goodden of Compton House. He was educated firstly at Harrow School and then at Kings College, Cambridge where he studied the Classics and received a B.A. degree in 1902. He became a barrister at law. He was a keen cricketer and at Harrow he was in the cricket X1 in 1899 (pictured right) and later went on to play for Dorsetshire C.C. In 1911 he married Miss Hylda Woulfe in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge. The Western Gazette tells of a large wedding *'which aroused considerable interest centred particularly in county circles in Dorset'*. The newspaper reveals a long list of guests together with their gifts, ranging from a silver mustard pot to a grand piano.



Cecil, 26 at the time of the Pageant, appears to be an energetic and enthusiastic member of the cast and was prominent amongst those who organised the tribute to Louis Parker which was presented at the banquet given in his honour to celebrate the successful conclusion of such a ground breaking event. The two presentation albums, together with their special stand, were later returned to Sherborne school, for safekeeping and reside in the school archive. He was author of *The Story of the Sherborne Pageant* in which he addressed the following to Mr Parker:

*We the 900 dwellers in Sherborne and the neighbourhood, who were privileged to bear a part in the wonderful Pageant, conceived by your genius, and carried to a triumphant issue by your skill and patience, desire to approach you with the expression of our warmest gratitude for the happiness that you have given us one and all by associating us with yourself in the delightful celebration, and for the lustre you have shed upon the ancient town for which all of us cherish so heartfelt an affection. Your work has shown that even a little town, if it be but of one mind in any matter, may achieve results of the most remarkable order. You have taught us young and old, the glories of our home in lessons we shall not forget. You have given us the joy of daily co-operation in a work where it was all good harmony, all good fellowship. You have lifted us for awhile from the smallness of daily life into the larger atmosphere of self-forgetting art; you have filled us for a season with your own grand enthusiasm.*

*As a dramatist and musician we admire you; as a stage manager we wonder at you; as a friend and as a man we love you.*

