

Frederick Brooke Westcott (1857-1918)

Character in the Sherborne Pageant:

Ealdhelm, episode 1.

Episode 1:

In comes a little procession of monks, preceded by the bearer of a rough cross; and lastly, a noble and saintly figure robed in pure white, comes Ealdhelm Abbot of Malmesbury. With a commanding gesture of righteous indignation he stays the huntsman's uplifted knife. "My son, what is this thing thou art about to do?" Then to his attendants, "Behold children, we come in God's time." He enquires the name of the place. "Scir Burn," he is told, "the clear stream. It is a holy place." He takes the cross and thrusts it into the ground, proclaiming, "upon this holy place, by this clear stream, and on this pleasant hill, I will build a city and a Church. From this place the knowledge of the true God shall spread throughout the Western Lands. And it shall be known throughout all ages as the place of the clear streams, and unto the end of time its children shall call it – Sherborne."



Frederick Brooke Westcott was born in Harrow 16 December 1857, the eldest son of the Rev. Professor Brooke Foss Westcott and Mary Louisa Westcott.

Attended Harrow School and Cheltenham College.

Attended Trinity College, Cambridge: matriculated Michaelmas 1877; Bell Scholar 1878; Scholar 1879; BA (Senior Classic) 1881; Members' Prize 1881; MA 1884; BD 1910; DD 1913; Fellow 1882-1888.

Ordained deacon (Durham) 1884.

Priest (Canterbury) 1885.

Assistant Master at Rugby School 1884-1892.

Headmaster of Sherborne School 1892-1908. During this time Westcott oversaw in 1900 the 350th anniversary of the re-foundation of the School when Queen Victoria sent "her good wishes for the continued prosperity of Sherborne School."

Chaplain to the Bishop of Durham 1901.

Prebendary of Salisbury 1900-1909.

Canon-Residentiary of Norwich, 1909-1918.

Chaplain-in-Ordinary to King Edward VII 1910-1918.

Archdeacon of Norwich 1910-1918.

Died 24 February 1918 in Norwich and his body was conveyed on a gun carriage to Norwich Cathedral for his funeral.

In 1922 a memorial window to Westcott was unveiled in Sherborne School Chapel. The window was designed by Clayton and Bell, with the central figure of St Aldhelm as depicted by F.B. Westcott in his role as St Aldhelm in the 1905 Sherborne Pageant. On 30 September 1940 the Westcott Memorial window was damaged by bombing, but repaired.