

# From the Register of Bishop John de Drokenesford

June 1315

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From the Bishop: To **Nicholas Poynz**, Rector of Curry Malet and to **William de Modford**, Rector of Tyntenhull:-

“Though testamentary freedom is a human right and the **Lady H de Ploknet** in the exercise thereof willed her body to be buried in Sherborne Minster, her son, **Sir Alan**, in despite of duty ... buried her in a more humble place. We therefore ... employed A., Rector of Dowlish Wake and Rural Dean of Crewkerne to carry our letter monitory to **Sir Alan** at Haselbury to the intent that he should bury the body in the chosen spot; but the said Knight in his rage seized him by the throat ... then, after his escape, re-took him and made him eat and swallow the letter with the wax. Upon which notorious facts the sentence of major excommunication issued.

You, therefore, are to cite him to appear before us in Wells Cathedral the first Law-day after the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

Copy hereof to be served in the Manor – house of Haselbury or on the Altar of the Parish Church.

Banwell, Kalends June 1315.”

Sequel to the above:

“On Saturday after the Feast of St Dunstan 1315: **Sir Alan Ploknet** appeared before the Bishop and his Assessors, **Dean Godelee**, the Official, **Canon Bradney**, **Canon Ford** and others in the Chapel of Blackford Manor. Being charged with forcing the Rural Dean to swallow the Deed of Citation, **Sir Alan** denied it, stating that, not believing the Dean to be the Bishop’s messenger, he caused him to be severely beaten, but with no other ill-treatment; and that he saw the Dean swallow the Deed uncompelled, terrified, he supposed, by his threats.

His conscience was much grieved for his violence and for his disobedience; he now asks pardon and absolution ..., implying penance proportioned to the fault. He had suffered much in grief for his mother’s death and by the burning of his buildings.

The Bishop, considering his contrition, pronounced absolution.”

