**John Morton**

Born into a family of middling gentry then became a churchman and lawyer.

Following his arrest when Richard III came to the throne, Morton escaped to Flanders and became involved in the plans for the rebellion against Richard which involved Henry VII.

After the Tudor victory Morton returned to England, and assisted at the coronation on 30 October 1485.

Service to the Crown

Appointed a member of the king's council, and chancellor on 6 March 1487.

As Lord Chancellor, he was tasked with replenishing the King’s estate.

One of the closest of Henry’s advisors; ; he was present at nearly every council meeting of which record survives, and was responsible for the explanation of the government's intentions to parliament.

Widely blamed for the heavy taxation which was characterised in the first 12 years of Henry’s reign. He was widely hated by the commons of the land, according to the author of the London great chronicle. Despite this, according to Italian observer Polydore Vergil, it became obvious that following the deaths of Morton and Sir Reginald Bray that they had been responsible not for initiating harsh policies but for restraining them.

Served as the Archishop of Canterbury from 1486 to 1500. After, on 20th September 1493, he was elevated to cardinal-priest (leading dignitary of Roman Catholic Church, nominated by the Pope) of St Anastasia.

Worked with Bray, Fox and Oxford.