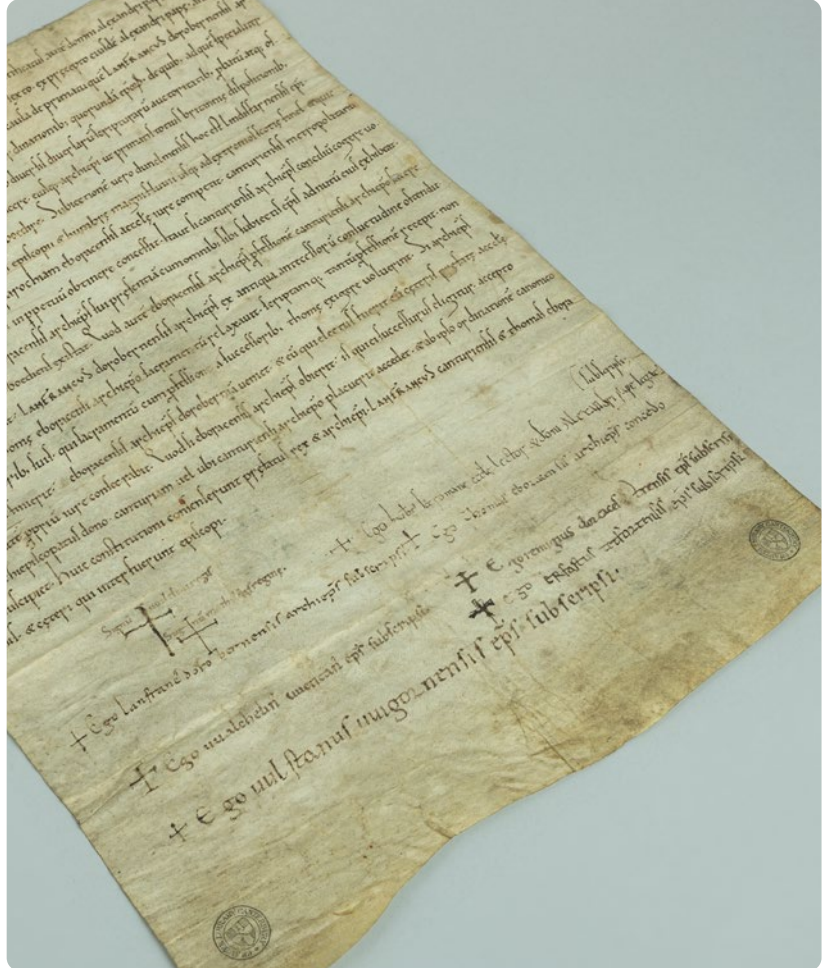


# The Accord of Winchester

The Accord (pronounced A-ccord) of Winchester is one of the most important documents in Canterbury Cathedral. It was signed in 1072 AD and settled an argument over whether the Archbishop of York or the Archbishop of Canterbury was more important in England.

The King, William the Conqueror, decided to choose the Archbishop of Canterbury to be the most important churchman in England. This may have been because Lanfranc, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had helped sort out some difficulties William had had when he wanted to marry his cousin Matilda many years beforehand (the Church didn't usually like cousins getting married). It may also be because William was angry with the people in the North of England for not doing as he told them to and York was an important city in the North.



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When you look at the document you can see that King William and Queen Matilda signed with a cross but not their names. The other people who signed put their names as well as a cross.



**Why didn't the King and Queen have to sign their full names?**

**The King and Queen's crosses are the biggest. Why might that be?**

**King William's cross is shaky. Why might that be?**

In the Middle Ages many people, but especially women, were illiterate. Queen Matilda was determined that all her children should have a good academic education and be able to read and write (unlike her husband).

**Why do you think she did this?**