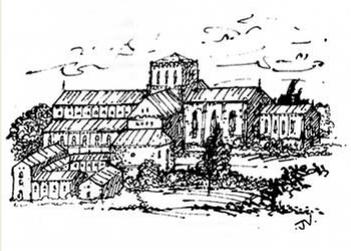


# Nones

Nones is the fifth of the seven canonical hours, or the service for it – one of the seven daily offices, or services, said until the Reformation.

It is a fixed time of prayer of the Divine Office of almost all the traditional Christian liturgies, and consists mainly of psalms. Its name comes from Latin and refers to the **ninth hour** of the day after dawn, hence Nones is said at around 3pm.

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The Canons of the Augustinian Priory at Merton in Surrey cared for more than sixty churches in mediaeval times. Our church of St Mary Magdalene in Duns Tew was one of these.

Since 1998 Nones has been said annually in many churches. Once a year, we join with other religious foundations who have a link with the priory to say Nones in memory of all the work undertaken by the Canons down the centuries.

St Thomas of Canterbury trained at Merton Augustinian Priory and wore their habit as Archbishop.



2020 is the 800th anniversary year of St Thomas a Becket's Translation, and Sunday 3rd May (on which we said Nones is the actual anniversary of the day the Canons entered Merton Priory in 1117).

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**Merton Priory** was an English Augustinian priory founded in 1114 or 1117 by Gilbert Norman, Sheriff of Surrey under King Henry I (1100-1135). It was situated within the manor of Merton in the county of Surrey, in what is today the Colliers Wood area in the London Borough of Merton.

**Merton** was first recorded in a Saxon charter of 949, as *Mertone*, meaning farmstead or estate (*tun*) by the pool (*mere*) (in context, either on or near the River Wandle). It was later recorded in the Norman "Domesday Book" of 1086 as *Meretone*; the manor as belonging to the King, William I. Later a large Augustinian priory dedicated to St Mary was founded on the east bank of the Wandle in Merton, which survived for over four hundred years until its eventual dissolution under Henry VIII.

At its height, it was one of the most wealthy and influential of all the English Augustinian houses, finding particular favour under Henry III, who was a frequent visitor.

Among those educated at the priory were Nicholas Breakspeare (1100-1159), who went on to become Pope Adrian IV, the only Englishman ever to hold that exalted office; Thomas Becket (1118-70), who went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury; and Walter de Merton (1205-77), who went on to become Chief Justice of England, and to found the college in Oxford that to this day still bears his name.