

Abbess Ælfgifu (circa 1025)

Next to nothing is known of Abbess Ælfgifu, other than she existed circa 1025.

Ælfgifu is an Anglo-Saxon name from “elf” and gifu or “gift”. When Emma of Normandy, the later mother of Edward the Confessor, became queen of England in 1002, she was given the native Anglo-Saxon name of Ælfgifu to be used in formal and official contexts.

Like her predecessor, Abbess Wulf(w)ynn, the evidence can be found in *Liber Vitae: Register and Martyrology of New Minster and Hyde Abbey, Winchester*, edited by Walter De Gray Birch, FSA, of the British Museum (1892). On pages 62 – 63 the following entry for the Romsey Nunnery (HRUMENSIS) is listed:



Ælfgifu, created by Romsey Abbey Choirs

NOMINA SORORUM HRUMENSIS CĒNOBII.

i.	Ʒulfynn abbatissa illius sancti coenobii .		
ii.	Ælfgifu abbatissa .	xxix.	Hildeburh .
iii.	Ælflæd .	xxx.	Osparu .
iiii.	Ælfgifu .	xxxii.	Ælfgyð .
v.	Ʒulflæd .	xxxiii.	Ʒulfþryð .
vi.	Ælfgifu .	xxxiiii.	Ælfleof .
vii.	Ælfhild .	xxxv.	Eadgyð .
viii.	Ælflæd .	xxxvi.	Ælfgifu .
ix.	Eadgyð .	xxxvii.	Æðelhild .
x.	Ælflæd .	xxxviii.	Ʒulfþryð .
xi.	Æþelflæd .	xxxix.	Ʒulfspryð .
xii.	Byrhflæd .	xl.	Æþelgyfu .
xiii.	Ælflæd .	xli.	Ʒilspyð .
xiiii.	Eadgyfu .	xlii.	Ælflæd .
xv.	Ælfgifu .	xliii.	Leofsydu .
xvi.	Eadgyfu .	xliiii.	Ælfgyð .
xvii.	Byrhtgyfu .	xliv.	Ælfgifu .
xviii.	Æþelgyfu .	xlvi.	Eadgyþ .
xix.	Ælfgifu .	xlvii.	Ʒyngifu .
xx.	Ælfhild .	xlviii.	Ʒulfrun .
xxi.	Æþelpyn .	xlix.	Godgyfu .
xxii.	Ælfgifu .	l.	Æþelgyfu .
xxiii.	Ælflæd .	li.	Ʒulflæd .
xxiiii.	Ase .	lii.	Byrhflæd .
xxv.	Eadgyfu .	liii.	Ælfrun .
xxvi.	Ʒulflæd .	liiii.	Ælfþryð .
xxvii.	Ʒulfrun .	liiii.	Eadgyfu .
xxviii.	Eadgyð .		

This list was inserted when the Register was drawn up, between 1016 and 1025, and the second on the list, ‘Ælfgifu abbatissa’, is clearly an abbess later written as Elfgifu.

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