

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary

Crosier/Crozier

"What the scepter is to kings, the pastoral staff is to bishops, an ensign of authority, charge and correction." A. W. Pugin, 1868.

The Crosier is a symbol of episcopal authority. There is documentary mention of the crosier from the 7th century. No one knows how it originated except from a traditional walking staff. The likeness to a shepherd's crook has no documentation.

The staff of an archbishop is surmounted by a cross, that of bishops by the crook. Bishops and abbots are received at their investiture. Abbesses also receive the crosier.

Left: Archbishop's Crosier. Right Bishop or Abbot's Crosier.

