

William Cecil. Lord Burghley fl 520-15981

English, School of Marcus Gheeraerts, c.1585



Oil on Panel

William Cecil served under Henry VIII and Edward VI, but refused employment offered to him by Mary Tudor. He later became Secretary to Elizabeth I, a Privy Councillor and one of her closest advisors. He is shown here in rich velvet Garter Robes, wearing his chain of office. His family arms appear in the top left-hand corner. Cecil was created a peer, 1st Baron Burghley, in 1571, and appointed Lord Treasurer in 1572. He held this office until a few days before he died.

Several versions of this three-quarter length portrait exist — others can be seen in the National Portrait Gallery in London, Burghley House and Hatfield House.