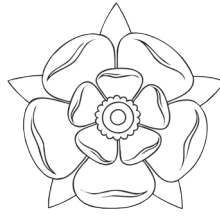


Edward Seymour

Duke of Somerset



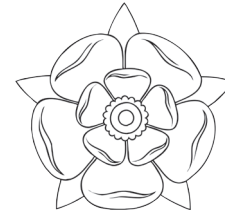
Somerset was Edward's uncle; his mother's brother. He came to power by taking control of the council that was set up to advise the young king and naming himself Edward's Protector.

His rise to power was swift and efficient, but his ruling of the country was not so slick. Somerset managed to get stuck in some expensive wars with Scotland and France and almost bankrupted the country.

Somerset was a good military leader, winning battles in Scotland and France, but he was not so good at strategic thinking in the long term. He was a good fighter and knew how to use a sword.

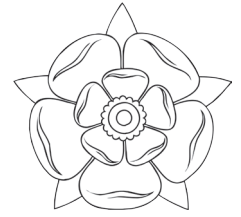
When confronted by an ambitious younger brother called Thomas Seymour, Somerset avoided his grab for power by having him arrested and beheaded in the Tower of London.

Reforms of the Church, and prayer books in particular, led to open rebellions in parts of England. In Devon and Norfolk, peasants rose up against their landlords and leaders because they were unhappy. Somerset failed to deal with these rebellions, and some say that he even encouraged them. This failure led to Somerset being deposed by Northumberland.



John Dudley

Duke of Northumberland



Northumberland took over the role of leading England in Edward VI's stead in 1550. He took control of Edward's council and had Somerset arrested and executed for treason.

Northumberland reversed some of the policies of Somerset; he stopped wars with Scotland and France which saved the economy of England. He did not change any of Somerset's religious policies however, but made even more. By the end of Edward VI's reign, Protestantism was the State Religion and there were laws put in place to penalise Catholics.

Northumberland made Archbishop Cranmer's new prayer books and religious methods compulsory. One big change was the abolition of Catholic Mass - the ritual of drinking wine and eating bread which, Catholics believe, becomes the blood and body of Christ once consumed.

Northumberland was afraid of Mary Tudor taking the throne after the death of Edward VI, and instead arranged for his daughter-in-law Lady Jane Grey to take the crown. When Jane Grey was forced out of office nine days into her reign by a popularly-supported Mary Tudor, Northumberland was arrested and executed.