

## **SIR WILLIAM PORTMAN 1498-1557**

Sir William Portman entered the Middle Temple (like his father). He became an associate of Cromwell and was well known to Henry VIII (1508-1547). In 1546 he became a judge on the Kings Bench. He was knighted in 1547 and became Lord Chief Justice in 1555.

Sir William kept his own counsel during the religious struggles in the short reigns of Edward VI and Queen Mary supporting the protestant and then catholic cause. He profited from the dissolution of the monasteries by acquiring land including the freehold of 293 acres of fields in Marylebone, London. During the late 19th century the rentals from this land alone meant that the Portmans were one of the most wealthy families in England.