

1408 at Westminster, Nicholas was presented to the vicarage and church at Cheswardine, Shropshire. The canons of Stone were an Augustinian order (the same as Oseney abbey) and were also connected with the Hospitallers who held land in Swalcliffe and 'camerae' in Sibford Gower. A connection between Nicholas and Swalcliffe is tenuous but not impossible.

The Oseney cartulary (a register of the estates and liberties granted to the abbey, including the rent roll) mentions several Sodens between the years 1449 and 1479. The date of the abbey's foundation is unknown, but is generally ascribed to January 1129. It was founded by Robert d'Oilli, its patron rather than its first abbot, and in 1445 the community comprised 27 canons, about the same number as in 1377 when there were also 3 lay brothers, one at Oxford, one at Bibury and another in Ireland. The 1449 rental includes the name of John Sowdan as occupier of the house of Adam the gate-keeper in the parish of St. George within the castle at a rent of 12s. per annum.

From 1477 to 1479 brother Robert Sowdon was the abbey's rent collector. He had been a scholar of St. Mary's (Magdalen) College, Oxford, c1460, where his fees, together with those of another Oseney brother, William Goodwin, amounting to 73s.11d. had been paid by the parish of St. Thomas. This parish was served by a chaplain who received his maintenance at the abbey.