

## PART III

### NORWICH: CATHEDRAL, CHURCHES, AND RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS

#### NORWICH CATHEDRAL

BY SIR ALFRED CLAPHAM

The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (pl. V) is one of the most complete of the major Romanesque churches of England, and retains its main apse and ambulatory as high as the base of the clearstorey. The East Anglian See was moved from North Elmham to Thetford in 1075 and from Thetford to Norwich in 1094. Bishop Herbert de Losinga completed the existing building as far west as the Altar of the Cross, and his successor Everard was generally credited with its termination. The church is remarkable for three things amongst others: its unusual length—it has a nave of 14 bays; the survival of the Anglo-Norman central tower; and the unusual form of the projecting chapels of the apse. Bishop Walter de Southfield (1243-58) built the Lady Chapel, which was pulled down in Elizabeth's reign. The year 1272 was marked by a great storm, a rising of the townsmen, and the burning of much of the Convent: the repaired church was dedicated in 1278. A timber spire over the central tower was built in 1291-7; and soon after, a detached belfry. A hurricane blew down the spire in 1362, and the resultant damage led to the building of the existing clearstorey of the choir in 1364-9. Bishop Alnwick, who died in 1449, left money for the insertion of the great west window. The spire was struck and another destructive fire took place in 1463; in consequence Bishop Lyhart repaired the nave and vaulted it; and Bishop Goldwell then recast the arcades of the choir, vaulted it, and probably erected the existing stone spire. Bishop Nikke (1501-36) vaulted the transepts, and built his own chapel in the nave.

The cathedral of Norwich was described to the Institute by Professor Robert Willis in 1847 and the substance of his analysis, edited by the Rev. D. J. Stewart, was ultimately printed in the *Journal*<sup>1</sup> in 1875. The discovery of the cylindrical column in the nave, damaged by the fire of 1171, is described in *Norfolk Archaeology*.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Cranage has dealt with the excavation of the east chapel of the apse,<sup>3</sup> Sir W. St. John Hope with the painted tabula<sup>4</sup> and Professor Tristram with the wall-paintings.<sup>5</sup> The tomb of the founder, Herbert Losinga (1119) presents some problems of interest. It stood, formerly, in the middle of the presbytery and was thrown down and defaced during the Civil War. It is not improbable that the original cover-stone and effigy, patched and repaired after the Restoration, is that now set in a recess on the outward face of the north transept. In 1682 the Dean and Chapter set up a new tomb in the presbytery; this again was removed in the nineteenth century except for the top slab which was laid level with the pavement. A coloured drawing<sup>6</sup> of the tomb, made by J. Talman in 1708, is now in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries.

One major feature of the cathedral may be referred to here more particularly. This is the west front, drastically restored by John Salvin architect between the years 1830-40. The appearance of the Romanesque work, as shown in earlier engravings, was then almost completely altered and the former turrets flanking the nave were replaced by the existing

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Journ.*, xxxii (1875), 16-47. Complete drawings, plan, sections and elevations of the Cathedral were made, about 1800, by J. A. Repton for the architect William Wilkins, sen., and were sold by him to the Society of Antiquaries in 1806, where they are still preserved. See *Archaeologia*, xxxii (1847), 405.

<sup>2</sup> *Norfolk Arch.*, xiv (1901), 106.

<sup>3</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, xii (1932), 117.

<sup>4</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, xvi (1895-7), 104; and *Norfolk Arch.*, xiii (1898), 293.

<sup>5</sup> *Friends of Norwich Cathedral*, V (1934), 7.

<sup>6</sup> *Soc. Antiq., Drawings*, I, 39. The volume contains drawings of other monuments in the Cathedral by the same hand.

recessed and shafted piers. Some reason for this drastic alteration would seem to be demanded and indeed the bases of the shafting would seem to be, at least in part, old. It may be that other evidence at a higher level was found behind the masonry of the later twelfth-century turrets, but of this no record, save the restoration itself, survives. As it stands the front is a singularly undistinguished façade for a great Romanesque cathedral and the restoration would seem to imply, as Mr. A. B. Whittingham has suggested to me, the original intention to erect a west tower and transept outside but against the existing front, the tower to have open arches to the north and south. This would explain the presence of the existing capitals at a level halfway up the west window and the plain strip of walling above them, where the side-arches of the supposed tower would have sprung westwards. It would seem that this grandiose scheme with the western transept must have been abandoned during the course of the work and replaced by the scheme which survived until the restoration of 1830-40.

It is well known that the pairs of axial towers which occur occasionally in Anglo-Norman buildings are a legacy from pre-Conquest tradition and a similar arrangement to that suggested at Norwich existed in the twelfth century at both Ely Cathedral and Bury St. Edmunds Abbey.

## THE MONASTIC BUILDINGS OF NORWICH CATHEDRAL

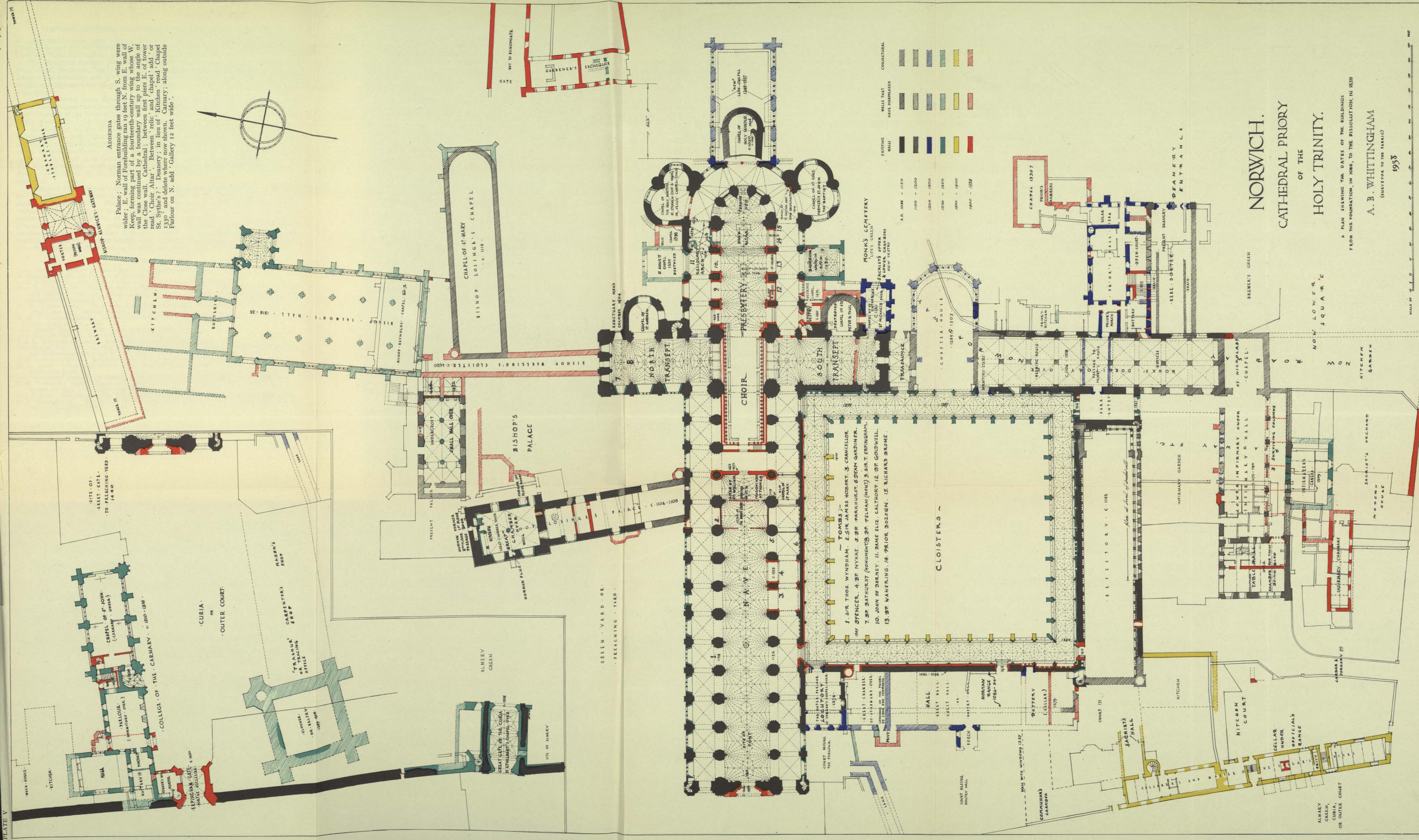
BY A. B. WHITTINGHAM

Though the main monastic buildings of Norwich Cathedral were unroofed by 1600, the east range of the Cloister was not finally cleared for the present roadway till the Norman vaulted Tresaunce leading to the Cemetery was pulled down for Salvin's re-fronting of the South Transept in 1833. The Palace was not hacked off from the Cathedral till 1858, and only in 1942 were the Infirmary and Cellar damaged by bombs. Enough remains, however, for their history to be made out, with the help of mason's marks, monastic Rolls, and Chapter leases.

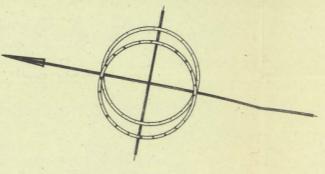
After the completion of the E. Triforium of the Cathedral in 1101, the E. Claustral range and the Palace were built by Losinga. His successor built the Refectory (with the inside of its N. windows now exposed), raised the early W. range with intersecting arcading, and completed the whole Cloister. (Coupled caps of the Apostles etc., are in the Ambulatory.) The Reredorter retains a cleaning-door (below row of thirteenth-century blocked windows in S. wall of Deanery) and angle-buttresses (at entrance). The Infirmary, with one aisle (3 shafts standing), chapel (of St. Nicholas?—a little yard in 1576), and on the W. its first floor Table Hall, carried by massive timbers on a row of piers, was built by John of Oxford c. 1175.

After the riot of 1272, when the monastery was burnt out, much reconstruction took place. Rebuilding the Cloister with an upper storey began in 1297 in front of the Chapter House, continued first southward to the Dark Entry, and then north to the church. The S. walk was completed by 1330; but the window walls on the W. and N. are some decades earlier than the vaults, which with the two S.W. doors and a few N. traceries were constructed 1411-30. The Lavatory arches were reconstructed in 1443.

The Tresaunce door and Chapter House Vestibule are contemporary with the Dark Entry door, 1313. The Warming House door is destroyed, but the Dormitory door is rather earlier. There may have been a wooden nightstairs in the Clock Chamber which occupied the S. bay of the Transept. The key to this part of the plan is the Dark Entry (with Library over?). It controlled access to (1) the Prior's House, 1284, with geometrical windows and stairs of 1515: chapel destroyed; (2) the Novices' Room, under S. end of Dormitory (Norman vault marks on E. wall); (3) the Infirmary, given



ADDENDA  
 Palace: Norman entrance gates through S. wing were wider; E. wall of Forebuilding ran 19 feet N. from E. wall of Keep, forming part of a fourteenth-century wing whose W. wall was continued by a boundary wall up to the angle of the Close wall. Cathedral; between first piers E. of tower read "Choir Altar". Between "relic" and "chapel" read "or St. Sythe's". Deamery; in lieu of "Kitchen" read "Chapel 1330" and delete where now shown. Carmary; along outside Parlour on N. add "Gallery 12 feet wide".



EXISTING WALLS	WALLS THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED	CONJECTURAL
(Red)	(Blue)	(Green)
(Orange)	(Purple)	(Yellow)
(Pink)	(Grey)	(White)
(Light Blue)	(Dark Blue)	(Light Green)
(Light Orange)	(Dark Purple)	(Light Yellow)
(Light Pink)	(Dark Grey)	(Light White)
(Light Light Blue)	(Dark Dark Blue)	(Light Light Green)
(Light Light Orange)	(Dark Dark Purple)	(Light Light Yellow)
(Light Light Pink)	(Dark Dark Grey)	(Light Light White)
(Light Light Light Blue)	(Dark Dark Dark Blue)	(Light Light Light Green)
(Light Light Light Orange)	(Dark Dark Dark Purple)	(Light Light Light Yellow)
(Light Light Light Pink)	(Dark Dark Dark Grey)	(Light Light Light White)

NORWICH.  
 CATHEDRAL PRIORY  
 OF THE  
 HOLY TRINITY.

A PLAN SHOWING THE DATES OF THE BUILDINGS FROM THE FOUNDATION, IN 1066, TO THE DISSOLUTION, IN 1538  
 A. B. WHITTINGHAM  
 (SURVEYOR TO THE FABRIC)  
 1933

SCALE OF 1/4" = 10'

- TOMBS:-  
 1. SIR THOS WYNDHAM. 2. SIR JAMES HOBART. 3. CHANCELLOR  
 4. ST. SPENCER. 5. ST. PARKHURST. 6. DEAN GARDINER.  
 7. ST. BATHURST (MONUMENTS). 8. FELHAM (MON). 9. SIR T. EPINGHAM.  
 10. JOHN DE BEENEY. 11. JAMES ELIZ. CALTHROP. 12. ST. GOUDWELL.  
 13. ST. WAKERING. 14. PRIOR BOZOUIN. 15. ALICIA DE BROME.

an upper floor before 1379, with (4) the Lower Infirmary (see Customary) serving as Misericorde and for the meals of those being *bled*, whose Chamber (5) was apparently below the Table Hall and has a fourteenth-century fireplace.

The destroyed Kitchen, SW. of the Refectory, was located to serve all these also the Prior's Hall, the Guest Hall (for 200) W. of the Cloister, and the Sacrist's Hall (for 10) between the Refectory and the Cellar. The latter forms a long block against the upper square, and contained the offices of the Obedientiaries or officials in charge of the monastic departments.

In the widened Guest House was the chapel of St. Edmund, 1274, over the Norman Outer Parlour (now the Choir School). The adjoining Chamber of St. Edmund over the lower Chamber of the Prior of Yarmouth, and that of the Prior of Aldeby over the Buttery at the lower end of the Hall, have gone, leaving only the Hall porch.

The Granary on the N. of the Lower Green, raised on a thirteenth-century arcade, survives mostly, with fifteenth-century roof. Parts of the Brewery, Bakery, and Horse-mill remain on the E. between two former gates. On the S. lay Stables and the church of St. Mary-in-the-Marsh. In the upper square there remain the Ethelbert Gateway, 1316, and the Erpingham Gateway, 1420; but the clocher and the Almonry have gone. The fifteenth-century water-gate, Pull's Ferry, stands over a former watercourse for conveying materials to the Cathedral Priory. Northwards, the Close Wall has been destroyed.

Losinga's Palace consists of a vaulted wing projecting from the north of the Nave and terminating in a miniature Norman Keep. Part of the Forebuilding on the N. is shown on a plan of 1858. His Chapel stood on the lawn N. of the presbytery. Bishop Salmon's State Hall (1279-1325) has disappeared apart from the porch. His vaulted kitchen in the Keep survives, as well as the crypt, occupying the site of a late Norman ground-floor hall (doorway remaining), supporting his Domestic Hall. His fine Chapel windows are re-used in Bishop Reynold's Chapel. Bishop Alnwick's Gatehouse, 1430 (with court-room over, porter's lodge, and vaulted prison), makes a stately approach in the row of the Granary, etc., which formerly extended to include stables and brew-house.

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## THE CARNARY COLLEGE (KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL)

BY ANDREW STEPHENSON

*Head Master of the School*

The chantry chapel of St. John the Evangelist was built by Bishop Salmon in 1316 and committed to the special custody of the Prior and Convent of our Church of Norwich . . . 'and in this chapel we ordain that there shall be for ever four priests, and we decree that they shall celebrate for our souls and for the souls of our father and mother, Solomon and Amice, and for the souls of our predecessors and successors the Bishops of Norwich. . . The said priests, however, in the buildings built by us next the Chapel for their use, shall dwell and remain eating and drinking together and living in common.'

The Chapel and the College for the priests were originally separate buildings. Later they were joined together and the porch added by Walter Lyhart (Bishop, 1446-72). Presumably the great west window which corresponded to the east window was blocked up at this time and the newel staircase leading to a belfry and cusped archway high up on the west wall was also added.

In the centre of the tie-beam running across the middle of the chapel a gap in the carving can be seen. This is probably where the plate holding the hanging rood was fixed to the beam. Below would have been a screen with a side-altar. A piscina still exists in the south wall at this point.

On 1st July, 1548, the Chantry and its contents were sold. Three years later the buildings were bought by the Corporation of Norwich who transferred the old medieval grammar school, re-founded in 1547 as the First Foundation of King Edward VI, from the Blackfriars building here to its present home. Presumably the gallery was then erected. Towards the end of the eighteenth century the windows were in such a state of repair that one of them, the easternmost on the south side, was blown in during school hours. The Corporation made the windows secure by bricking in large portions of them and replacing the stone tracery with wooden frames of the fashionable Churchwarden Gothic type. It was then that the magnificent east window was lost and the present one inserted. At a still later date even this was boarded over. In the sixties of the last century Dr. Jessopp restored the windows of the south side. At some time the fine raftered roof had been hidden by a plastered ceiling and an extension added to the gallery. All this was cleared away when the erection of the New Buildings in 1907 enabled the Chapel to be used as a chapel. The present appearance is the result of a restoration carried out in 1937-40 by Mr. Swindells in the headmastership of Mr. Acland.

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## THE 'GREAT HOSPITAL', NORWICH

BY WALTER H. GODFREY

The Hospital of St. Giles, commonly known as the Great Hospital (fig. 1), was founded by Walter de Suffield, bishop of Norwich in 1249. He pulled down the parish church of St. Helen on the south side of Holme Street (now Bishopsgate Street) and provided accommodation for the parishioners in his new buildings on the north side of the street. The Hospital establishment consisted of a Master, four chaplains, a deacon, sub-deacon and four sisters (over fifty years old) to minister to the inmates, and four

lay brothers. Its function was to maintain poor and decrepit chaplains of the diocese of Norwich, and also to provide thirteen poor people and seven poor scholars with a meal a day. In 1310 the chaplains were increased to eight and were to wear the habit of secular canons. The Hospital was dissolved by Henry VIII, but at the petition of Norwich citizens it was restored to the city by Edward VI. It is now administered by Trustees, and with its additional buildings it houses nearly 200 old people of both sexes.

The buildings are of great interest and represent in the main a rebuilding of the Hospital in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It is probable that Suffield's parish

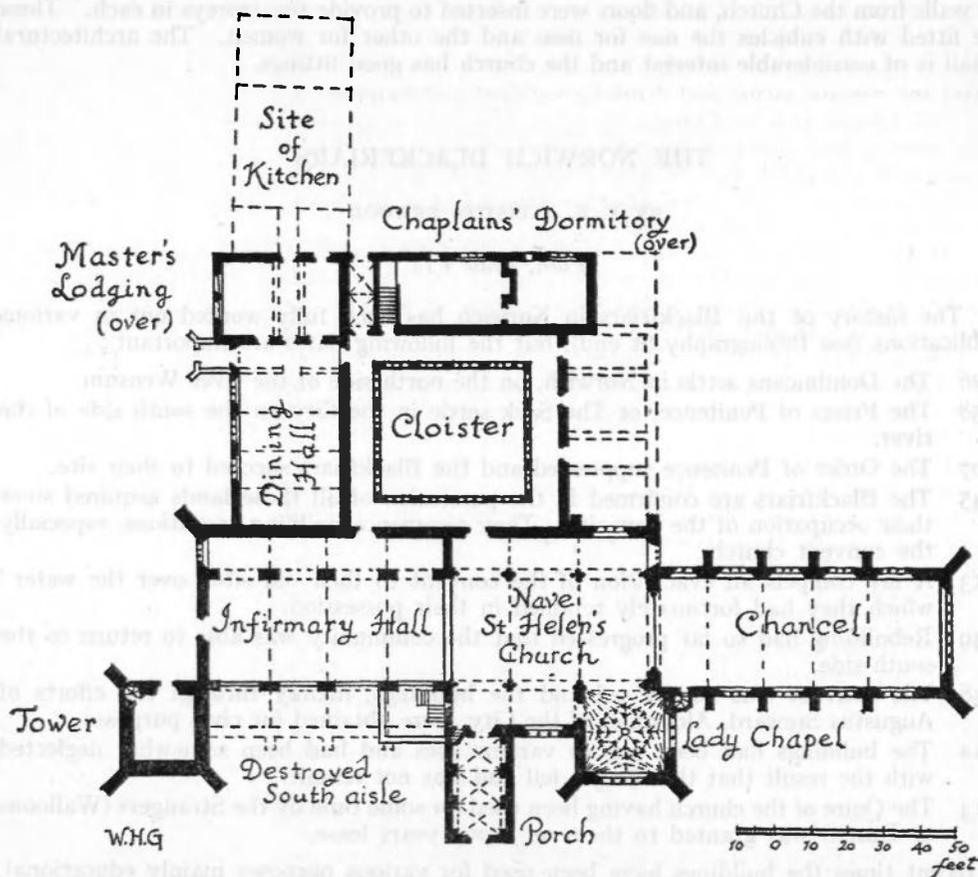


FIG. I. NORWICH: THE GREAT HOSPITAL. PLAN BY W. H. GODFREY

church was south of and parallel to the Hospital chapel, both being east of the infirmary hall. The present arrangement (somewhat obscured by sixteenth-century alterations) shows an aisled church of three bays, intervening between the infirmary hall and the large chancel, the latter being of unusual size to accommodate the chaplains who were functioning as chantry priests. The aisle arcades bear the arms of Prior Molet (1453-71), Bishop Goldwell (1472-99) and Sir James Hobart, one of Bishop Goldwell's executors (d. 1507), and also the sun in splendour, the badge of Edward IV. The chancel had been built previously by Bishop Spencer (1370-1406) and was completed in 1385, the year that Richard II and his queen Anne of Bohemia visited Norwich. Its richly-panelled roof, with 253 painted eagles, is supposed to commemorate the queen. The long vaulted porch is probably part of an earlier structure and the elaborately vaulted Lady Chapel

appears always to have contained the parochial altar. The infirmary hall is an extension of four bays west of the church, built in plainer style, and at its south-west corner is a large tower, adjoining the destroyed south aisle. The cost of the tower was defrayed by a bequest of John de Derlington, Chancellor, who was Master of the Hospital, 1372-5. To the north is a cloister, with a dining hall on the west, where the daily meals provided by the founder were no doubt served, and lodgings for the master and the chaplains on the north. The apartments to the east, one of which is said to have been the chapter house, have disappeared, but the doorways remain. When the hospital was reconstituted under Edward VI, both the Infirmary and the Chancel were separated by walls from the Church, and floors were inserted to provide two storeys in each. These are fitted with cubicles the one for men and the other for women. The architectural detail is of considerable interest and the church has good fittings.

## THE NORWICH BLACKFRIARS

BY F. C. ELLISTON ERWOOD

(*Plan, Plate VI*)

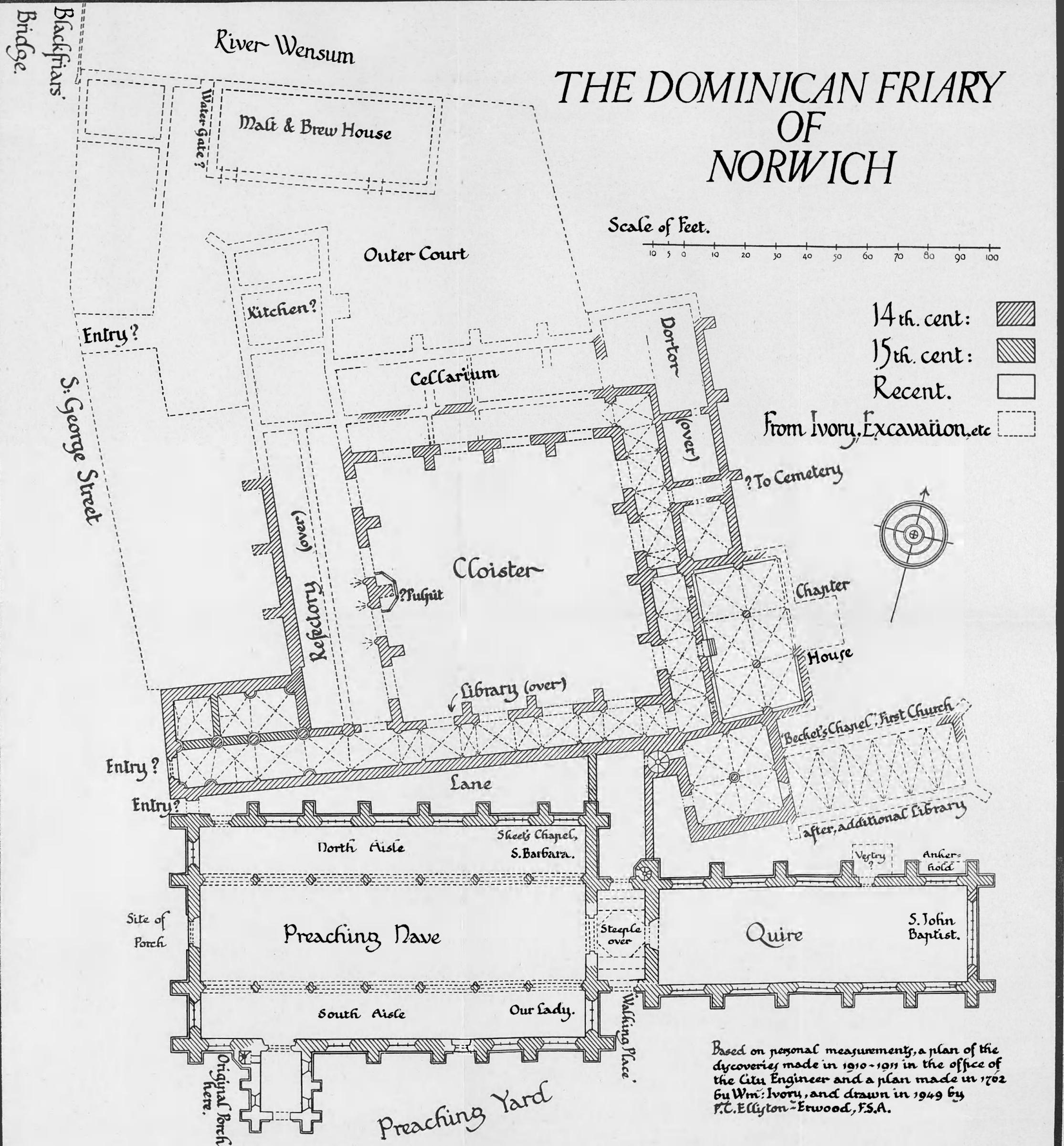
1. The history of the Blackfriars in Norwich has been fully worked out in various publications (see Bibliography at end), but the following dates are important :

- 1226 The Dominicans settle in Norwich, on the north side of the river Wensum.
- 1258 The Friars of Penitence, or The Sack settle in the City on the south side of the river.
- 1307 The Order of Penitence suppressed and the Blackfriars succeed to their site.
- 1345 The Blackfriars are confirmed in the possession of all those lands acquired since their occupation of the new site. They commence building operations, especially the convent church.
- 1413 A fire compels an evacuation of the convent to their old site 'over the water' which they had fortunately retained in their possession.
- 1449 Rebuilding had so far progressed that the community was able to return to the south side.
- 1538 The convent was suppressed and the buildings, mainly through the efforts of Augustus Steward, Alderman of the City, were obtained for civic purposes.
- 1712 The buildings had been put to various uses and had been somewhat neglected with the result that the Steeple fell and was not rebuilt.
- 1713 The Quire of the church having been used for some time by the Strangers (Walloons or Dutch) was granted to them on a 200 years lease.

In recent times the buildings have been used for various purposes mainly educational, and the conventual Church was for many years the home of the Norwich Triennial Musical Festival. This has resulted in many structural changes that somewhat obscure the architectural story. The Quire has once more reverted to the Corporation on the expiration of the lease above mentioned, and in 1910-1911 various excavations were made in the cloister area to which reference is made later.

### 2. THE PRECINCT

The precinct plan (fig. 1) gives the result of the writer's researches up to date, but a full explanation of the details must await the opportunity of fuller publication. One fact however emerges from a study of this plan, i.e., the differing axes of the monastic church and the conventual buildings. Read in conjunction with the published historical matter it is possible to state that broadly speaking the whole of the Cloister block is of the fourteenth century, while the Church is to be assigned to the fifteenth.



Based on personal measurements, a plan of the discoveries made in 1910-1911 in the office of the City Engineer and a plan made in 1702 by Wm. Ivory, and drawn in 1949 by P.C. Elliston-Erwood, F.S.A.



### 3. THE CHURCH

It may now be confidently affirmed that the original church of the Blackfriars on this site was the building known as Becket's Chapel, wilfully destroyed in 1876. There are pictures in Harrod, and his small plan can be accepted as correct in the few details it gives. A fragment of the north east interior angle is still visible north of the present Quire. With this building must be associated the square vaulted apartment between the Chapter House and the present Church. The problem of levels is a difficult one and in the absence of further excavation it can only be suggested that this room, approached from the cloister level, formed an ante-chapel or vestibule to Becket's Chapel which appears to have been at a higher level with a crypt below. There must have been, therefore, a flight of stairs to the chapel proper, of which there is now no trace.

This chapel served as a temporary building while the newer church, commenced after the friars had been confirmed in their property, was in course of construction. This new church, from the date of its erection, must have been in the decorated style, and the question now arises whether the range of windows of this period, together with the seven light window in the east end of the Quire, likewise of the same date, that are utilized in the existing church, are *in situ* or are salvage from the fire of 1413. If the former is the case it implies that the plan of the present church belongs to the earlier lay out and that the final church was rebuilt on earlier foundations. Some variations in the positions of the buttresses on this side may be taken as evidence that this is the true solution.

The building that remains today, with the exception of the aforementioned windows, is clearly of the perpendicular period and it is known that works were in progress in the middle of the fifteenth century. Space forbids a detailed examination of the fabric but its importance as the only church belonging to the Mendicant orders which is at all complete, and, since the destruction of London Austin Friars, the possessor of the largest nave, makes it a valuable example of that type of planning and construction that is associated with the preaching orders in particular. Its spacious floor area, its fine arcade of light graceful arches that do not impede the view, its large windows, particularly those of the clerestory with the arms of Erpingham between each, all combine to give an admirable example of the manner in which the friars solved the problem of covering the greatest area with the minimum of obstruction at the least possible expense. One feature, which would make the picture complete, is unfortunately missing; the Steeple. In most English Friaries the preaching Nave was separated from the monastic Quire by a narrow passage called the 'Walking Place' which generally formed the entry to the cloister, and which was surmounted by a graceful polygonal tower. But this, as already noted, fell in 1712 with the result that the only surviving representatives of its kind are the Grey Friars at Coventry and Lynn, and the Austin Friars at Atherstone. There is some considerable difference of opinion as to the form of the Norwich steeple. That at Lynn is hexagonal and Norwich has equal numbers of partisans in favour of six or eight sides. I think, however, that the architectural evidence is in favour of an octagonal turret which would appear to be confirmed by the various drawings and engravings that depict this feature. According to Mr. Kent's paper in *Norfolk Archaeology* the tear-away of the lateral arches that supported two sides of this tower can still be seen above the organ. The inclined sides would, of course, have been carried on squinches.

### 4. THE CLOISTER

The cloister remains remarkably complete with the exception of the north range, and some details of this have been recovered by excavation. It is separated from the Church by a Lane as at the London Grey and White Friars and elsewhere. The same feature is found at Salisbury Cathedral. It may be doubted whether, at Norwich, this was intentional or merely brought about by the desire to make the most of the available ground. The cloister itself is roughly square, of four bays to each side and like all friaries the cloister walk is contrived within the ground floor of each block. The external faces are arched in red brick in receding orders and were probably plastered, and the walk itself

is vaulted in a rather massive and at times clumsy and heavy fashion, to support the rooms above. As already stated the usual entry to the Cloister was by the 'Walking Place' though this entry seems certainly in its later stage to have been blocked, and the later entry seems to have been at the west end of the south cloister walk. Wm. Ivory's plan indicates other entrances, especially to the outer court, which extended to the river edge.

#### 5. THE EASTERN RANGE

(a) *The Chapter House.* This building adjoins the large square vaulted compartment already mentioned and occupies the usual position for a Chapter House. It is now semi-ruinous and its fall must have been one of the first of the disasters that overtook the Friary. Soon after the dissolution the Dorter and Chapter House were reported in decay, and in Kirkpatrick's time the site was occupied by tenements. These have now also gone and the parts that still remain are covered with a corrugated iron roof, and the whole till lately, served to warehouse the mass of timber necessary to convert the nave into a Concert Hall. The excavations of 1911 revealed several details of the original arrangements and now that the building is more or less clear, some at least of these can be examined. No Chapter House belonging to the mendicant orders survives complete in this country or even preserves as much original work as this of Norwich, so the remains are of some importance and should be better cared for. As usual it was approached from the Cloister, the walk of which at this point forms a vestibule. Beyond was another doorway, flanked by two windows, one of which survives in part. This led to the Chapter House proper which projected one bay east of the rest of the range. It was vaulted and responds were found north and south on the line of the east wall of the range, while another, on the fragmentary remains of the east wall of the Chapter House confirmed the plan of the building and the scheme of its vaulting, it being quite obvious that it was of unusual type, longer north to south than east to west, and was vaulted with two free piers into six severies. The late Sir Alfred Clapham suggested that there may have been a further projection to the east in the centre of the east wall, for which there are continental parallels. This is indicated on the plan but there is no clear evidence for such an addition.

(b) *The Dorter.* The Dormitory undoubtedly stood on the upper floor of this range—its usual position, though there is very little evidence remaining, save an original tie beam of the roof and a solitary blocked cinquefoiled single-light window, one of a range that extended along the west wall overlooking the cloister. There can be no doubt about the position, for in the original entry concerning the collapse of the Chapter House the 'dortour' is also mentioned. There must have been a walk or passage over the Chapter House vestibule, if indeed the Dormitory did not extend over the whole of it, and the large circular stairway shown on the plan, inserted on the authority of Ivory's plan, must have been the Night Stair to the Church.

(c) *The Ground Floor.* This was certainly occupied by the usual apartments of a monastic house but no details survive. Excavation revealed a few dividing walls and some of them may be interpreted as a passage way through the block to an open space (?cemetery) beyond.

#### 6. THE NORTH RANGE

This has entirely disappeared and the details shown on the plan are derived from the evidence of excavation. This would normally be the Refectory which would, of course, have been on the upper floor but reasons are given below for supposing this to have been elsewhere.

#### 7. THE WEST RANGE

This section of the claustral buildings is complete and now used for educational purposes but all internal details have gone. The two stairways one in the south-west corner and the semicircular one at the opposite angle are modern, and the old means of access are not evident. But from Ivory's plan some further information can be derived.

First he shows the range extending some distance beyond the north range northwards, with medieval buttresses and a massive addition that suggests a large fireplace or oven, which may be the Kitchen. Further he indicates in the second bay from the south a peculiar semi-octagonal projection like an oriel that certainly suggests a refectory pulpit. But excavation on this spot showed the foundations of the medieval buttress which should have been here. If then, this feature is medieval (there is no trace of it now) it may have been something like those oriels at Castle Acre corbelled out and supported by a buttress below and opening onto an upper floor. There is authority for putting the refectory in this place and in any case the friars did not always rigidly adhere to the monastic planning.

#### 8. THE SOUTH RANGE

This is in many ways the most complete portion of the monastic buildings for its vaulting is complete throughout its length, though the upper floor has been entirely modernized as a caretaker's lodging. But here I think would be the usual siting for the Friar's Library, always an important feature, and though there are references to the old chapel (Becket's Chapel) being used for this purpose after it was discontinued as the Friar's Quire, there is nothing against the idea of it being an addition to an existing library. This south range is extended beyond the cloister to the street and the ground floor is enlarged to the north by an additional vaulted alley, likewise abutting on the highway. The whole of this seems to have been an apartment, elaborately vaulted and possessing several free columns, which though now incorporated into recent walls, are clearly evident. This may have been the entry to the house after the usual one under the tower was disused and it is possible too that it may have been the vestibule to the Prior's Lodging, but this is only a guess.

#### 9. THE OUTER COURT

The Precinct extended to the River Wensum, and Ivory's plan indicates a number of buildings here, which in his time were associated with the workhouse then established on the site. But they seem to be of undoubted monastic origin and being on the river front may have been stores of some kind. In Ivory's time they were maltings. A very rough perspective sketch on the same plan seems to indicate some kind of a water gate. This would be a normal thing to expect.

#### 10. CONCLUSION

This sketch of the important Friars' House at Norwich is necessarily much condensed, and fuller details must be postponed till the complete survey can be published. Nothing can be said at present about other buildings such as the Farmery or about such important matters as Drainage, Water Supply or Sanitation.

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 The references to William Ivory's plan in the text above refer to a plan dated 1762 of which I have a photo-print given to me by the late City Engineer, Mr. A. E. Collins, M.I.C.E., in 1923. The present whereabouts of the original I am unable to ascertain.

## ST. PETER MANCROFT CHURCH

BY THE REV. A. G. G. THURLOW

*with a note by Stanley J. Wearing*

This is the largest of the medieval churches of Norwich and was rebuilt in its present form, 212 feet long, between 1430 and 1455. It shows certain typical East Anglian features of which the most obvious is the absence of a chancel arch involving an unbroken roof from end to end and the continuation of the nave arcades through the chancel. Lack of freestone in this district involves extensive use of rubble and its development into 'flushwork' of flint and freestone appears on the exterior. The roofs are very fine; the central roof, 60 feet high, is of hammer beam construction covered by a wooden lierne vaulted cornice. The great roodloft and screen have perished, giving a somewhat empty appearance, and the chancel stalls have been sadly altered. The roodloft stairs and doors remain, also the pulleys in the roof for the Lenten rood cloth. The tower, on arches with a pathway beneath, contains 13 bells, tenor 37 cwt. and several fine eighteenth-century peal boards, one recording the first peal of over 5,000 changes ever rung (2nd May, 1715). The sanctuary is also raised above a pathway. East of this the fine sacristy of two stories contains many treasures, including an exceptionally good collection of plate. The font canopy has traces of colour; near it is the medieval napery. Thirty-five of the forty-two panels of the east window are ancient.

The following note is by Mr. Stanley J. Wearing.

Monuments in St. Peter Mancroft are almost exclusively mural tablets, and these principally of eighteenth-century date. Three Norwich sculptors are represented here: Robert Page, James Barrett and George Storey. Tablets by the first two are excellently designed with good traditional mouldings and enrichments, a judicious use of marbles being exercised. The Civic sword and mace rests in this church display eighteenth- and nineteenth-century craftsmanship of a high order; in view of losses elsewhere through enemy action, Norwich probably possesses the greatest number extant.

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## ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH, CHARING CROSS

BY A. B. WHITTINGHAM

Besides having several rare possessions, St. Gregory's is one of the more interesting Norwich churches. It was reconstructed towards the close of the fourteenth century, the chancel being given by the cathedral priory and other persons in 1394. The window-tracery is authentic, though clumsily restored outside. Here is an early example of the clearstorey extending without a break through to the east end, and roofs which show the beginning of that richness which developed during the next century. The projecting bay of the chancel is raised over a procession-passageway. At the west, vaulted porches truncate the aisles and enter the tower below a later vaulted ringing-gallery. Most unexpectedly the belfry retains inside three out of a typical crown of Saxo-Norman flint round windows.

The large and well-preserved painting of St. George and the dragon at the west end of the north aisle, the brass closing-ring now on the vestry door, the Reede pall, the Westgate cope and the 1493 lectern are notable pre-Reformation survivals. Three

painted panels of the rood screen where it crossed the north aisle are now on the south. Artillery of 1668 is carved on Sir Joseph Paine's monument.

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## ST. PETER HUNGATE CHURCH

BY MISS G. V. BARNARD

This church has been noticed above, as the only church in England to be used for Museum purposes, on page 80, where a brief note is given on its collections ; these include the church's own magnificent plate.

The Church was largely rebuilt in 1460 by John and Margaret Paston, of the family made famous by the Paston letters, their Norwich house being situated in Elm Hill, the cobble-paved street at the top of which the church stands. A contemporary carving outside the North door shows a sprig of young oak-leaves, symbolizing the new church, springing from the dead trunk of the earlier church, and also gives the date 1460. The church is built of flint, of simple cruciform shape with a square tower and south porch with upper chamber, all of the fifteenth century. The east window contains panels of early sixteenth-century stained glass, and early glass may also be seen in the head of the Tower window. There are two hagioscopes from the transepts ; the roof and doors are examples of fine woodwork. There was much restoration in 1871-2 and again in 1906-7.

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## THE OCTAGON CHAPEL, COLEGATE

BY R. H. MOTTRAM AND STANLEY J. WEARING

A short architectural description of this building, now housing the Unitarian cause in Norwich, involves a note on its history. Its congregation originated in the ejection in 1662 of the learned Dr. Collings, vicar of the parish church of St. Stephen, on account of his Presbyterian views. His flock seem to have stuck to him in the adjusted dwelling-house in which he conducted worship, and by 1750 their descendants had become sufficiently wealthy and sure of themselves to embark on the building of the present edifice, which survives practically unaltered. After a severe competition, they adopted the plan of Thomas Ivory, a local 'carpenter' as he called himself : 'builder and contractor' would be the modern term, rather than architect. The organ was added in 1802, and the seating and pulpit modified in 1890. The result expresses very well that idiosyncrasy in religious observance that few Europeans can understand, but which is familiar in the United States. The total cost was £5,000 in the first instance. The outside is plainly a 'Meeting House' with a handsome portico and steps. The interior carries out the neo-classical design of some forgotten 'pattern book' in magnificent stained oak and plaster. The treads of the stairs are solid blocks ; the roof, above the dome, is in the form of a gigantic cartwheel. Wesley found it 'the most elegant meeting house in Europe' adding 'how shall the old coarse Gospel . . . find admission here'. It is equally far, in what it expresses, from correct orthodoxy. Its original Presbyterians became Unitarian in 1812. In 1942 it refused to burn when struck by incendiary bombs, which may or may not be a portent, but has at least preserved for the antiquarian a curious fragment of the mid-eighteenth century. Its more distinguished adherents have included Dr. Taylor of the

Hebrew Concordance, Sir James E. Smith who brought over the Linnaean Collection, W. P. Smith, M.P., prominent in the Emancipation politics of his day, Harriet Martineau and her brother James.

R.H.M.

The Minute Books kept when the Octagon Chapel was started supply much interesting information. Robert Brettingham (brother of the better known Matthew) subscribed £30 towards the new building and was appointed architect in October, 1753. He was ordered to produce within a fortnight two different designs. From the Minutes it is not clear why so peremptory an order was necessary nor is it known why the Committee decided a week later not to employ Brettingham. Details of the building required were then circulated. Within four days the Committee received from Mr. Lee (carpenter) a plan and two elevations and another design submitted anonymously may be attributed to T. Ivory, whose plan and section of the roof were received three days later. Mr. Lee was ordered to produce drawings of an octangular building, which was presumably beyond his powers, for he had to get Mr. Robert Morris of London to do them. Ivory very wisely supplied a model which was accepted by the Committee. Only four months had elapsed to decide on this important commission, which in the end cost £5,254 10s. 2½d.

One other well-known name is revealed in the Minute Books, and that is William Wilkins, who did the plaster work.

S.J.W.

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## OTHER CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS OF MEDIEVAL NORWICH

BY R. R. CLARKE

Churches open to the public (some during restricted hours), marked X; Ruined churches marked R.

- X *All Saints*. Chiefly fifteenth-century; good font with 24 figures.
- X *St. Andrew*. Tower built just before 1500; most of church early sixteenth-century. Series of shields outside east end. Fine alabaster monuments to Suckling family (late sixteenth-early seventeenth centuries).
- X *St. Augustine*. Medieval with seventeenth-century brick tower.
- R *St. Bartholomew*. Disused since Reformation; walls of nave and chancel visible in later buildings.
- R *St. Benedict*. Round tower, fourteenth-century belfry.
- X *St. Clement*. Chiefly fifteenth-century, good font.
- St. Edmund*. Disused; fourteenth-sixteenth century.
- X *St. Etheldreda*. Norman S. doorway; round tower; rest mainly fifteenth-century.
- St. George Colegate*. Chiefly fifteenth-century. Early sixteenth-century terra-cotta tomb. Several good mural tablets. Burial place of artist John Crome.
- X *St. George Tombland*. Chiefly fifteenth-century. Thirteenth-century font with seventeenth-century cover.
- X *St. Giles*. Fine tower, hammerbeam roof; fourteenth-fifteenth-century.
- X *St. James*. Richly carved Perpendicular font; screen panels.
- X *St. John, Maddermarket*. Fifteenth-century: fine brasses; painting in S. aisle roof.
- X *St. John, Timberhill*. Early Perpendicular. Norman font; long-and-short work.
- X *St. John de Sepulchre*. Mainly fourteenth-fifteenth-century; eleventh-century work in transept.
- R *St. Julian*. Late Saxon round tower.

- X *St. Laurence*. In Perpendicular style. Hammerbeam roof; brasses.
- X *St. Margaret*. Fourteenth-fifteenth-century. Fourteenth-century chest.
- St. Martin-at-Oak*. Mainly late fifteenth-century.
- St. Martin-at-Palace*. Mainly fifteenth-century; some long-and-short work.
- St. Mary Coslany*. Mainly fifteenth-century. Eleventh-century round tower. Thirteenth-century Norman-French inscription. Good roof framing at nave and transept crossing.
- St. Mary the Less*. Fourteenth-fifteenth-century. Long used by the Huguenots; now leased to Catholic Apostolic congregation.
- St. Michael Coslany*. Early sixteenth-century; fine flushwork panelling.
- X *St. Michael-at-Plea*. Fifteenth-century; fine nave roof; paintings; reredos.
- R *St. Michael-at-Thorn*. Norman S. doorway.
- R *St. Paul*. Mainly fifteenth-century; round tower.
- X *St. Peter Parmentergate*. Built 1496; original roofs.
- St. Saviour*. Fourteenth-fifteenth-century. Fifteenth-century font.
- Sts. Simon and Jude*. Disused; monuments to Pettus family.
- X *St. Stephen*. Sixteenth-century hammerbeam roof; good glass, chiefly German.
- X *St. Swithin*. Chiefly fourteenth-century.

Among the surviving religious buildings not noticed elsewhere are :

*Lazar House* on edge of Mousehold Heath; twelfth-century chapel founded by Herbert de Losinga. Now used as branch public library.

*Carrow Abbey, Bracondale*. Benedictine nunnery, founded mid-twelfth-century. Plan revealed by excavations 1881. Part of sixteenth-century domestic buildings survive.

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*The Old Meeting House, Colegate*, built in 1693, is the oldest Nonconformist chapel in Norwich (the congregation dates from 1642). The most exceptional is undoubtedly the Octagon Chapel in Colegate, next to be described.