

# The Priory of Poghley.

By the Rev. H. Salter.

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SO few deeds about the Priory of Poghley are preserved, that the following, copied by Brian Twyne about 1624, from among the muniments of an Oxford inhabitant named Blakgrave, may be worth printing. It is a corrodij granted by Poghley on Aug. 1, 1242, to Lambert and Matilda of Farringdon. They were to have 24 loaves of bread, the best bread being called Michia or Micha or Miche, while the second quality was called bisa or bise, an obsolete French word meaning "dusky." The same two words were in use at Oseney Abbey. It is noticeable that each person was expected to drink a gallon of beer in the course of the day. For dinner, the only meal at which there was more than bread and beer, they were to receive soup and meat as "companagium" (*i.e.*, to be eaten with their bread), and 13/4 a year to buy cheese, "pittance" (? dainties) and candles; or if they had only soup, the allowance was to be 30/-, and any meat or fish they bought might be cooked in the convent kitchin. In return, Lambert and Matilda granted their tenement. If Matilda outlived Lambert and claimed the tenement as part of that third of the property, which by law she might claim as widow's portion (*dos*), the corrodij was to cease.

The free servants of the Priory mentioned in this deed were not servants in our sense of the word, but gentlemen, often in reduced circumstances, who held posts that were not very onerous for the term of their lives. Such were the squire of the prior, his marshal, his chamberlain, his cellarer; their number and their pay varied with the importance of the house.

TWYNE, MS., xxii., p. 428.

(Inter evidentias et munimenta Blakgrave de parochia S. Egidii Oxonie, pertinentia ad quandam parcellam terræ suæ.)

Haec est conventio facta ad Vincula Sancti Petri anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis xxvi inter W., priorem de Pohhel, et ejusdem loci conventum ex una parte et Lambertum filium Bernardi de Ferndune et M. uxorem suam ex altera, videlicet quod dictus Lambertus dabit et incartabit dictis priori et conventui et ecclesiæ suæ de Pohhel totum tenementum quod habuit in Ferendune cum pertinentiis et omnibus catallis suis in dicto tenemento repertis, in perpetuam elemosinam, salvo servitio dominorum feodi, et eosdem in

plena seisinam omnium predictorum die Mercurii proxima post festum Exaltacionis Sancte Crucis ejusdem anni mittet. Et dicti Prior et conventus concesserunt dictis L. et M. sustentationem subscriptam de domo et in domo sua de Pohhel omnibus diebus vitae dictorum L. et M., viz. singulis septimanis de cellario xvi panes frumenti, quos Miches vocant, debiti ponderis secundum statuta dictae domus, et viii panes, quos Biss vocant, similiter æqui ponderis, et totidem gallones cervisiae, scilicet, xvi de prima et octo de secunda, ita quod in optione dictorum L. et M. sit dictos panes et cervisiam cotidie singulatim recipere vel semel in hebdomada de tota septimana, vel per partes prout voluerint, dum tamen integre ea percipient, et sal necessarium similiter. Habebunt autem companagium de coquina conventus in pulmentis et ferculis, sicut duo canonici et unus liber serviens in eadem domo, et ad pietanciam et caseum et candelas unam marcam per annum; vel si maluerint habebunt de dicta coquina singulis diebus pulmentum olerum vel leguminum, duas scilicet scutellas, et pro companagio et pietancia et aliis xxx solidos annuatim, recipiendo predictos denarios de camera de Pohhel ad duos anni terminos, scilicet ad festum sancti Michaelis unam medietatem et ad festum sanctae Mariae in Marcio aliam medietatem; ita quod, quotiens dicta solutio a retro fuerit sine consensu eorum, habebunt companagium integre de coquina de Pohhel, sicut duo canonici in conventu, donec eis soluta fuerint plene arreragia; nec minus recipient de sua solutione predicta licet diutius usi fuerint companagio conventus ut predictum est, nisi velint gratis aliiquid relaxare. In optione quoque dictorum L. et M. erit quam formam companagii ex predictis tenere et habere voluerint. Carnes quoque vel pisces vel alia ad companagium suum perquisita poterunt, si voluerint, per manus cocorum dictae domus in coquina conventus una cum cibariis ejus coquere et cocta resumere. Ad vestimenta quoque et calciamenta recipient annuatim de eadem domo xx solidos sterlingorum ad eosdem terminos; insuper poterunt habere unam vaccam vel duas inter vaccas Prioris et conventus tam in praesepio quam in pasturis apud Pohhel, et xx oves vel xxx inter oves predictorum, salva eisdem L. et M. proprietate et usufructu tam vaccarum quam ovium. Invenient etiam dicti Prior et conventus eisdem L. et M. tres bigatas buschae et tria quarteria carbonum annuatim contra hiemem et competentem domum ad inhabitandum apud Pohhel, quam suis sumptibus sustinebunt; nec poterunt aliiquid operis eis injungere contra voluntatem eorum; licebitque dictis L. et M. habere secum famulum vel famulam in ministerium suum

ibidem ; et dicti Prior et conventus vel aliquis ex parte eorum nullum ab eo vel ea poterunt expetere famulatum. Altero preterea dictorum decedente, subtrahetur superstite tertia pars omnium predictorum, salvo ei toto residuo de omnibus predictis. Si autem dicta M. supervixerit dictum L., virum suum, et dotem petierit de predicto tenemento, carebit penitus omni articulo hujus conventionis, quia haec conventio incontinenti cessabit ex toto. Utrisque vero decendentibus, cessabit penitus haec conventio in articulis omnibus erga quemlibet, quietique remanebunt dicti Prior et conventus de hac conventione in perpetuum. Cum vero unus vel uterque eorum obierit, dicti Prior et conventus et successores eorum facient pro ipsis per omnia sicut pro canonicis dictae domus professis in perpetuum, excepta prebenda. Ad omnia predicta fideliter observanda partes affidaverunt sub pena x marcaram et huic scripto chirographato sua signa hinc inde apposuerunt, his testibus, Roberto de Chadelwrth, Roberto de Kyngeston, Reginaldo vicario de Chadelwrth, Roberto de Pohhel, Elia de Bagenor, Radulfo Gunel, Turstano de Etona, Nicholao capellano de Farendune, Iohanne et Adam diaconibus [*sic*], Waltero clero et aliis.

*In dorso ejusdem syngraphae*

Notum sit omnibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit quod ego Willelmus, Prior de Pohhel, et ejusdem loci conventus, caritate divina ducti, de consilio venerabilis Magistri W. de Meritun, quondam archidiaconi Berk', et ad petitionem Lamberti de Farendune et Matillidis uxorius ejus concessimus Willelmo filio eorum habitum nostrae religionis in domo nostra suspicere quandocunque voluerit. Insuper quia predicti pater and mater ipsius jam mundo et mundanis, spiritu divino tacti, renuntiarunt, ne dictus W. eorum auxilio inops per mundum evagetur, eadem caritate moti, concessimus eidem W. perendinari cotidie nobiscum in domo de Pohhel, dum castæ et quiete fuerit conversationis, et uti nobiscum cotidie mensa nostra in refectorio conventus, vel mensa liberorum servientum nostrorum extra refectorium, prout maluerit (ita tamen quod nobis decenter obediatur) et dimidiam marcam annuatim de camera nostra ad Vincula beati Petri, si ex toto nobiscum per annum perendinari voluerit, percipiend [o] et utend [o] predictis, donec placuerit ei habitum religionis suspicere et regulariter nobiscum vivere. Si autem incontinentis aut inquietus vel rebellis indecenter extiterit, carebit tam perendinatione quam dimidia marca. In hujus rei testimonium hoc scriptum eis dedimus sigillis nostris signatum, consimile retinentes sigillo dicti Lamberti roboratum. Hiis testibus.