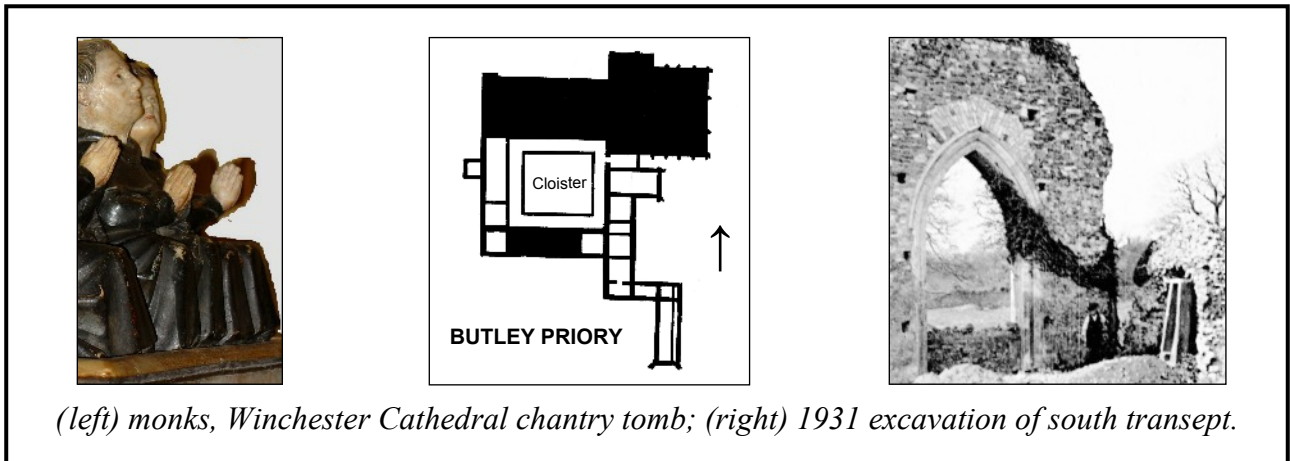
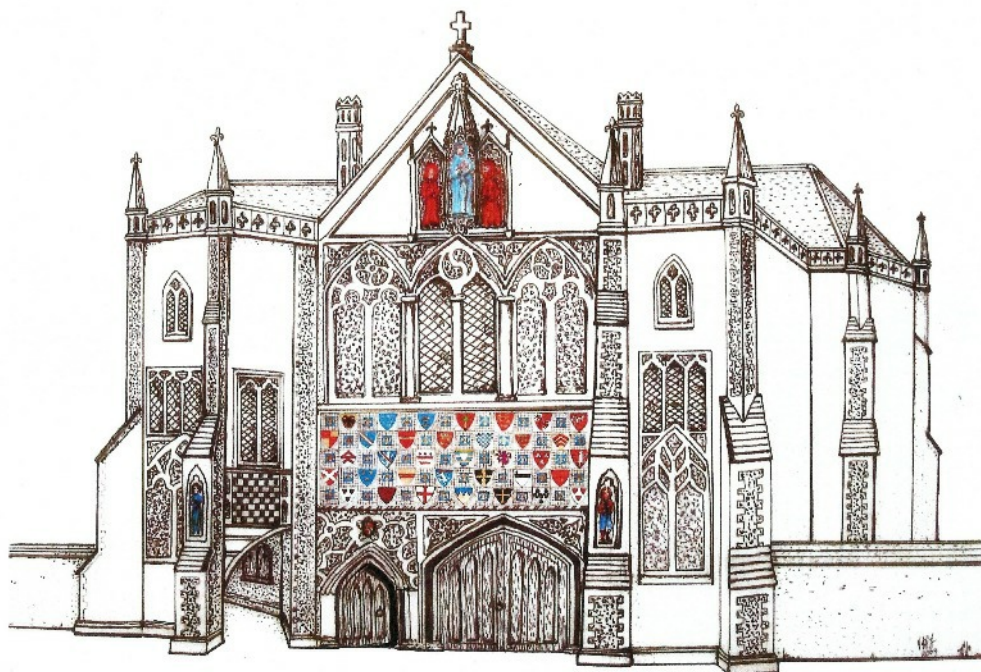


The building started life very grandly in the 13th century as the Refectory for Butley's college of ordained priests known as Augustinian canons.² As part of the traditional layout for a monastery, it occupied the south side of the Cloister. The Church on the north side was the second-largest in Suffolk, being more than 235ft in length. Unfortunately no trace of the Lady Chapel at the east end



was found by the excavators. Only a single transept arch survives today, visible from the road to Chapel. In the past size was an indicator of status as is shown by the monks' grandiose Gatehouse built in the following century .



On the facade of the Gatehouse statuary in niches and a hoarding of shields were once brightly painted, advertising all the powers who protected the monastery. My sketched reconstruction gives some idea of its original appearance. From here alms were distributed to the poor. Following the Dissolution it was used as a house, and so escaped demolition.