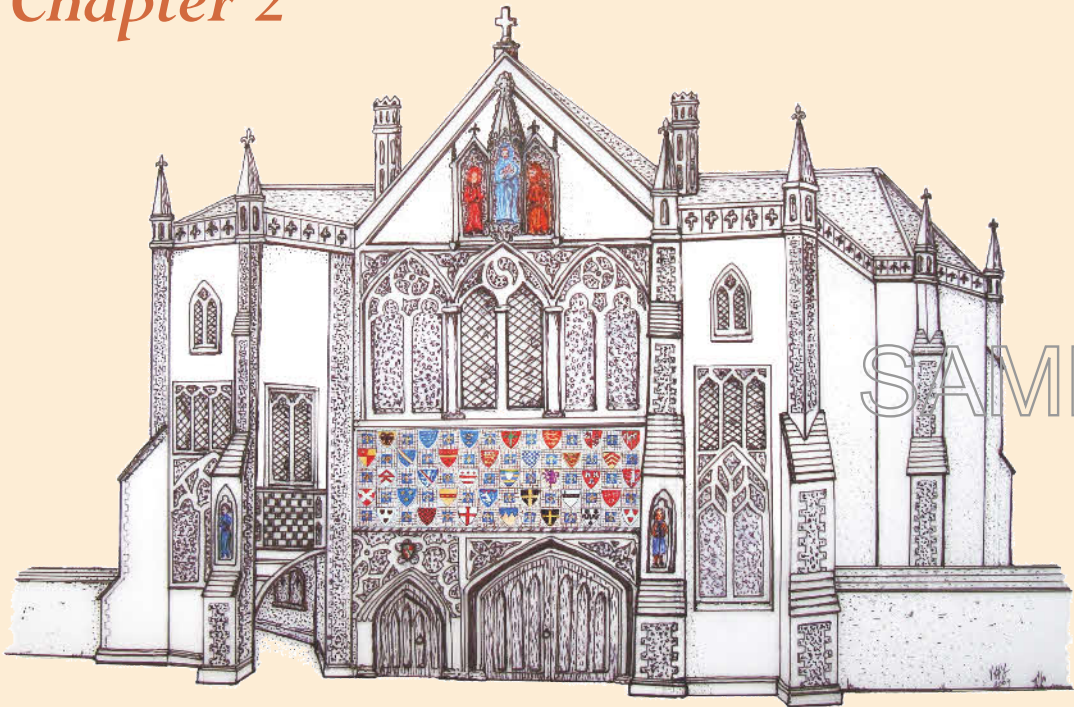


Continuity and Change: the last Priors and their Servants

Chapter 2



The most enduring legacy of Butley Priory is its Gatehouse which has survived as a dwelling for 625 years. At the height of its prosperity, some 25 years before the Black Death, a great gatehouse was built at Butley Priory.

In an age before hotels it lodged travellers and visiting dignitaries, a blaze of brightly-coloured shields advertised royal, ecclesiastical and noble benefactors, while the Virgin Mary and other saints occupying its niches conferred a heavenly protection. The paint and pinnacles have long gone and the original parapet can only be conjectured.