

Reconstruction Illustrations captions

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A reconstruction drawing of the Priory from the east as it would have looked in 1538. You can see the religious buildings of the monastery including the Great Church and the cloister and the domestic buildings including the dormitory, the infirmary and the toilet block.

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The Priory herb garden. The herb garden is found close to the infirmary and would have grown herbs used in medicine. Many herbs were used. Lavender was used to repel head-lice and to treat insect bites and sunburn, and comfrey was used as a dressing for broken bones.

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The picture shows a scene inside the infirmary. The infirmary had its own kitchen and toilet and was one of the few places in the Priory to be allowed a fire for warmth.

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The first church built at the Priory by William de Warenne and his wife Gundrada between 1078 and 1082. It was decorated with fine paintings. While this church was being used the monks began building work on the massive Great Church which took the next 200 years to complete.

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The Priory of St Pancras, Lewes, as it would have looked just before it was destroyed in 1538 on the orders of Henry VIII. The view shows the town of Lewes and the castle. The castle was built by William de Warenne who founded the Priory with his wife Gundrada between 1078 and 1082.

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The monks' toilet built in the 11th century (earliest at the Priory). The toilets were built over a sewer. There were 10 cubicles but no doors.

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The inside of the refectory. Monks ate in silence and communicated using hand signs. One monk read aloud to them from religious books.

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The dormitory on the first floor with an undercroft beneath. The monks slept fully clothed to preserve their modesty and so that they could get to night services quickly, but changed their shoes for night shoes lined with fur.

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The monks' toilets built in the 12th century. There were more monks living at the Priory later in the 12th century and so a bigger toilet block was needed. There were at least 59 cubicles because the monks all needed to get to the toilet quickly in the short breaks they had between church services. The toilets are on the first floor over the sewer.

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The picture shows monks processing from the cloister into the Great Church as it would have been at the beginning of the 1500s. Cluniac monks wore black robes and spent a great deal of their time attending church services.

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This picture shows Henry III, at the Priory, surrendering his sword to the barons after his defeat at the Battle of Lewes in 1264. Henry and his soldiers had stayed at the Priory before the battle and retreated here to surrender.

12 of 12

A reconstruction drawing of the Priory from the west, as it would have looked in 1538. The picture shows the religious buildings as well as those needed for the day to life of the Priory. You can see the barns, orchard and fish-ponds.