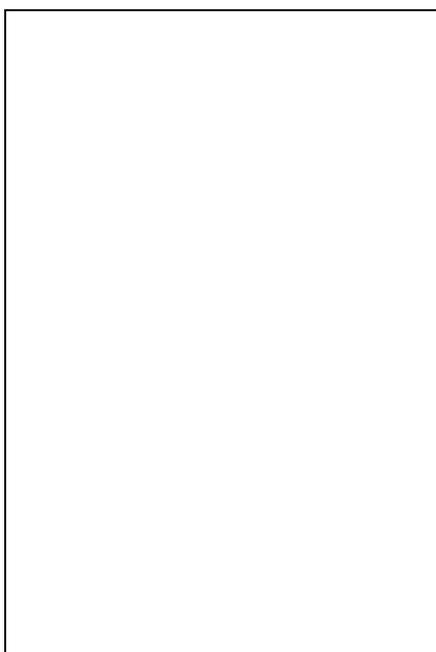


The Binham Priest's Tale – Discovery Sheet

The priory church was shared by the monks and the people of the parish of Binham. The prior hired a priest to look after the religious needs of the parish, and to hold the services in the public part of the church. He was a very important member of the community. His role was much the same as that of a vicar today, he would marry couples, christen their babies and hold a funeral service for people when they died. You are standing in the peoples' part of the church where he would have served. The monk's part of the church is now in ruins. Village people have been coming here to pray for over 900 years.



Things to look for and do in the church



1. Look for the picture of the priest above that is made of brass, and make a rubbing of it.

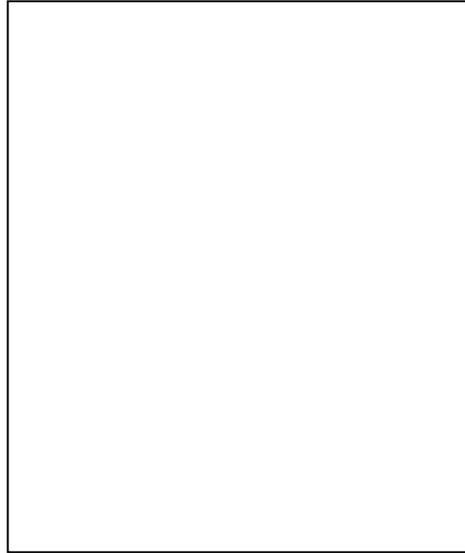
The cloak he has on is called a 'cope'. It would have been brightly coloured and decorated with embroidery.

2. Draw a picture of the carved stone font, where the priest would have christened the Binham babies with holy water.



3. Can you find the wooden carving of the priest standing in his pulpit?

Feel how smooth the wood has been worn by hundreds of years of use, and thousands of hands.



4. Look at the other carvings on the ends of the seats, and draw a picture of your favourite one.

5. The church that our medieval priest would have known was a lot more colourful than it is today. There would have been stained glass in the windows, wall paintings and statues of saints all around you. Find the painting on the wall that shows what it once looked like.



6. Look carefully at the wooden panels painted with black lettering. What can you see showing through the words? Draw a picture of one of them.

Binham Priory, Access & Conservation Project

