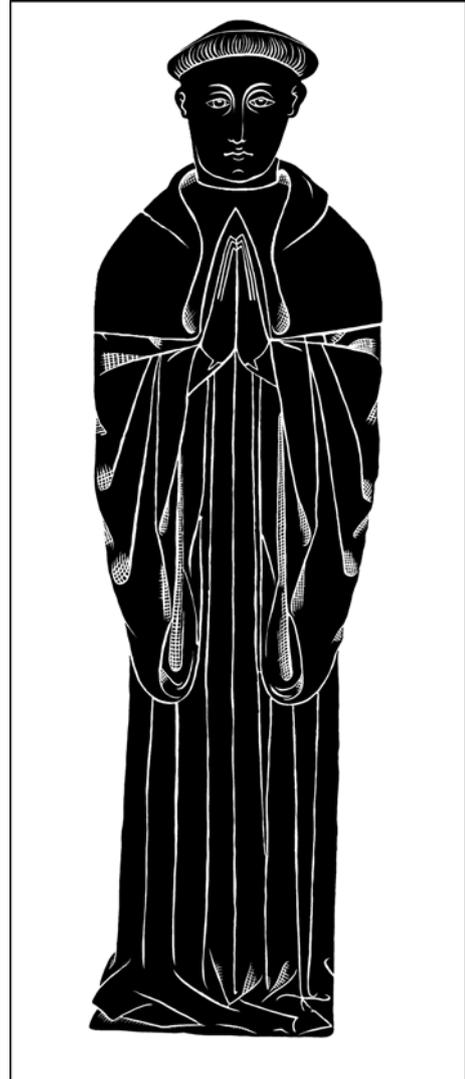


The Binham Monk's Tale – Discovery Sheet

A medieval monk returning to Binham today would be shocked to see what had happened to his fine priory. The Norman lord, who paid for the monastery to be built in the 1090s, expected the small community of monks, led by a prior, to always be here to pray for him and his family. Several Kings and Queens of England prayed here, and stayed as guests of the prior. The monks helped the poor people of Binham by giving them food.

It all came to an end when King Henry VIII made himself head of the Church of England, and closed all the monasteries and sold their land. The last monks and prior left Binham in 1539, soon after their part of the church and the other buildings were pulled down.



Things to look for and do in the church

1. Look for the brass copy of the monk's picture you can see above and make a rubbing of it.

Brass pictures like this, of people who were buried in the church, were set in the floor on top of their graves.

2. Find the painting that shows how the priory once looked, and see how many different activities you can count going on in the picture.

3. One of the rules the monks had to obey was that they should be silent. If you sit quietly in the church what can you hear? Write down what you heard.

4. The part of the church that the monks used was the other side of the wall behind the altar. How many doors once lead into the monk's church?

5. Draw a picture of one of the blocked doorways the monks would have once walked through.

6. Make a list of things in the church that would not have been here when the monks knew it.

Binham Priory, Access & Conservation Project

