OBEDIENTIARIES OF ST EDMUND'S ABBEY

by RODNEY M. THOMSON, M.A., PH.D., F.R.HIST.S.

FOUNDED BY CNUT in 1021, the great Benedictine house at Bury St Edmunds by the end of the 12th century possessed extensive estates, a large cloistral population, and was responsible for the exercise of royal government in most of western Suffolk. A necessary consequence of these developments was a highly ramified administration, at its most complex by the mid-13th century. One key to the abbey's administrative history is provided by its archival Nachlass of 178 charters, 39 cartularies and registers, and just over 1,100 manorial rolls. A descriptive catalogue of this material was recently published by the Suffolk Records Society, and it was while preparing this work that the present writer began to compile an index of the abbey's officials. Such a list has at least three uses. First of all, the dated careers of ecclesiastical officials form a basic chronological framework into which further, otherwise undateable, information can be fitted. In this respect it is a particularly valuable aid for the history of the abbey itself and of its internal life. An example that comes readily to mind is the architectural development of the enormous conventual church, in which the sacrist's played an important role from the late 11th until the 15th century. Secondly, the list reveals some of the career-patterns of prominent monks, particularly of those who became abbots of their house. Abbot Samson's gradual upward progress from novice-master to abbot is well-known from the pages of Jocelin's biography, but the fact that the great William Curteys was earlier cellarer and prior has had to be gleaned from the unprinted records. Thirdly, the broadest developments of the abbey's economic and administrative history are reflected in the changing details of its managerial structure. Between c. 1250 – 1350, when the house was both very wealthy and under considerable financial pressure, we find the greatest subdivision of offices, including for instance four priors, and also the phenomenon of two men sharing a single office, such as the cellary. By contrast, at the end of the 15th century, when Bury's monastic population had shrunk, and when it had leased out many of its estates for long terms, we find the reverse, with single individuals now holding in their hands two or more offices as considerable as those of prior, cellarer or chamberlain.

A cross-section of the abbey's bureaucracy at its point of greatest expansion is provided by the Consuetudines Burienses, drawn up between 1234 and 1256. They describe the duties of nearly thirty officials, including the four priors, and deputies for the sacrist, cellarer, chamberlain and precentor (earlier on we also find a sub-refectorer). The office of guest-master is split into three: the abbot's, interior (for the reception of monks), and exterior (responsible for laity). So also with the functions which in other houses were assigned to the chamberlain, here divided between the chamberlain, treasurer and 'vestiarius'. Even this list is incomplete, for it omits, inter alia, the chaplains who attended the abbot, prior and the Hospital of St Saviour. Out of a monastic population of around eighty, it appears that about half must have occupied obedientiary positions at any one time during the period c. 1250 – 1350, though many of these would have been quite minor.

The following list, incomplete though it is, includes some 300 individuals who held obedientiary offices in the abbey from before the Conquest until the Dissolution. The positions are listed in descending order of importance, so far as that can be ascertained. It will be noticed that the prior is followed by the sacrist, more important at Bury than the cellarer, in spite of the Benedictine Rule and the practice of other, comparable houses. Within each office the order is, naturally, chronological. The three types of guest-master are not distinguished in the records, except in one instance, and so are included under a single title. Little less haziness prevails with regard to the office of the chamberlain, and so officials called 'camerarius', 'thesaurarius' and 'vestiarius' are all listed under the title of 'chamberlain', although each individual is given the title
found in the sources, when it is other than 'camerarius'. A few very minor positions are grouped together at the end under the title of 'miscellaneous', with individuals in alphabetical sequence.

The sources upon which the list is based vary with the period and office. For the 12th and early 13th centuries there is the corpus of charters edited by Douglas (1932) and Davi (1954). Some of the datings proposed in the former work have since been modified. I accept these corrected dates without comment here, unless further modification is proposed. Between about 1180 and 1215 the charters are supplemented by two important narrative sources, Jocelin of Brakelond's Chronicle, which finishes in 1202, and the Electio Hugonis, for the years 1213–1215. The latter includes a complete list of the Bury monks and their official positions. The rest of the 13th century is covered by the Bury Chronicle, which gives a precisely-dated sequence of priors. Late in the same century was written the little chronicle known as the Gesta Sacristarum, which gives the sequence of the sacrists, without dates and not always in the correct order, from the Conquest to 1298. For the next two centuries we are dependent upon stray references in documents found in the cartularies, especially the great two-volume cellarer's cartulary made in the 1420s. The mid-14th-century Cronica Buriensis and the records associated with the revolts of 1327 and 1381 and their legal aftermaths provide some groups of names at particular dates, but the only source which gives a dateable sequence of officials is the Will Books, for which Bury is famous, and which list the sacrists from 1354 until the Dissolution.

From these sources can be extracted reasonably, though not totally, complete lists of the priors, sacrists, cellarens and chamberlains of the abbey, but below the level of these most important offices the information is very fragmentary. Is there any reason to hope for improvement? Leaving to one side inevitable oversights and omissions, there remain two sources not mined by the writer. One of these is the texts of the Bury wills. To read them all would be a very onerous task, but the selection printed by Tymms shows that they would yield the names and dates of a few more office-holders. The other source is the thousand-odd manorial rolls. Those in the British Library, which I have examined personally, sometimes bear the name of the obedientiary to whose department the particular manor belonged. A search through the other, widely-scattered, rolls, again a very large task, scarcely worth undertaking for this purpose alone, would certainly result in some new names, although its main contribution would be to provide more accurate dating for officials already known.

The following system has been used to express the dates of these officials. 'Date × date' means that the person is named in a document dateable within these limits. 'Date — date' means that the official was in office for precisely this period. 'Date/single numeral' represents a regnal year given by the source. To facilitate cross-referencing I have listed under each entry all other offices held by the person concerned. The following abbreviations have also been employed: occ.: occurs; bef.: before; prev.: previously.

PRIOR

Brihtric: occ. 1044 × 1065 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f.1).
Eadric: occ. 1065 × 1087 (Arnold 1890—96, i, 69).
Benedict Saxo: from some years after 1066 until his death in 1094 (Arnold 1890—96, i, 351).
William: occ. 1095; died in this or the next year (Arnold 1890—96, i, 170).
Aelfer: occ. 1102 × 1105 (Douglas 1932, no. 20), 1102 × 1107 (Douglas 1932, no. 171); still in office after 1108, when his successor was promoted by Ralph as bishop of Rochester.

Talbot: c. 1125 — c. 1136, although still alive after leaving office (Thomson 1971, 214—7; Thomson 1975, 54 and n. 14).
Ordin of Stow: bef. 1138 (Stubbs 1876, i, 250). According to the same authority he was made abbot in that year, but was demoted soon after, when Anselm again became abbot of Bury after his disputed election.

William: occ. 1138 (B. L. Cott. Ch. xxi. 6, which is witnessed by Ording as abbot, but refers to the former prior Talbot as still alive; it must therefore belong to Ording's brief first period as abbot in 1138).

Sihtric: occ. 1148 x 1153 (Douglas 1932, no. 135), 1156 x 1160 (Douglas 1932, nos. 144 - 145).


Hugh: deposed in 1173 (Butler 1949, 1). Prey, probably subprior.

Robert: 1173—1200 (Butler 1949, 1, 124—15).


Gregory of St Albans: 1234 — 23 Apr. 1242 (Gransden 1964, 8, 12). Prey, succentor, precentor and sacrist.


Richard Denham: occ. 1318 (C.U.L. Mm. 4. 19, f. 238v).


William of Stow: occ. 1333/4 (Dugdale, iii, 119), 1341 (B.I. Add. 31970, f. 29). Prev., and apparently simultaneously, sacrist; also chaplain.

Edmund Brundish: occ. 1342/3 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 940). Out of office by 1348 (see below), but still alive after 1349, and as subprior, prev. chamberlain.


Robert Icklingham: occ. 18 Feb. 1406 (B.L. Cott. Tib. B. ix, f. 35), and after 1425 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 124). Prev., and for about a year simultaneously, sacrist.


Richard Ringstead: occ. as prior and cellarer 1461 x 1464 (Bodl. Suff. Roll 1).

Robert Ixworth: prior and sacrist from late 1468 until after 20 Sept. 1469 (Redstone 1906, book ia, ff. 120—126). Abbot from 1469.


Thomas: occ. 1492 (Tynms 1850, 81).

Robert Mildenhall: occ. 1504 (Tynms 1850, 105), and as prior and chamberlain 1506/7 (P.R.O. SC6/Hen. 7/1693).

John Brentford: occ. as prior and cellarer 1514 (S.R.O. B. Acc. 1585 (N.S.R.)/1).

Thomas Ringstead: occ. as prior and cellarer 1517 x 1522 and 1533 x 1535 (S.R.O. B. Acc. 1585 (N.S.R.)/1), and as prior and chamberlain, 1590/1 (P.R.O. SC6/Hen. 8/3395).

**SUBPRIOR**

Sparhavoche(?): occ. 1095, dying in this or the following year (Arnold 1890—96, i, 170).

Baldwin: bef. 1114, by which date he was prior.

Eudo: occ. 1125 x 1138 (Douglas 1932, no. 116).

Hugh: occ. 1148 x 1156 (Douglas 1932, no. 142), 1160 (Douglas 1932, no. 145). Later prior?

Samson: occ. as subprior and precentor 1173 x 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 152; also witnessed by Prior Robert, who came into office in 1173). Apparently vacated the first position while continuing as precentor.

Benedict: prob. from 1181; until 1186 (Davis 1954, no. 126; Butler 1949, 125). Prev. and later(? cellarer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>M. Hermer</strong></td>
<td>1186 — after 1200 (Butler 1949, 125).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Albinus</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1213 — 1215 (Thomson 1974, 184); apparently succeeded by 1220.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adam</strong></td>
<td>1217 × 1220 (B.L. Add. 40063, f. 328v). Prev. infirmarer, chaplain,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>guardian of cellary manors.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alan</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1220 × 1222 (C.U.L. Add. 6006, f. 51), 1222 × 1229 (B.L. Landst.</td>
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<td>416, f. 80).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Robert</strong></td>
<td>after 1234 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. A. 1, 35). Prev. perhaps third prior,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chamberlain and precentor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stephen Ixworth</strong></td>
<td>bef. early 1280, by which time he was prior.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thomas Tottington</strong></td>
<td>bef. his election as abbot in 1502, and prob. from 1280 (Arnold 1890 —</td>
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<td></td>
<td>96, ii, 37). Also cellarer's sossius.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roger of Tostock</strong></td>
<td>occ. Feb. 1325 (Arnold 1890 — 96, iii, 89).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adam of Hempnall</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1217 — 1220 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. A. 1, 35).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>William Bernham</strong></td>
<td>bef. his election as abbot in 1335 (Arnold 1890 — 96, iii, 99).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>John Timworth</strong></td>
<td>bef. his election as abbot in 1379 (Arnold 1890 — 96, iii, 114).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>William Bray</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1409 (C.U.L. Ff. 2. 29, f. 59).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Sanfield</strong></td>
<td>late 15th century (B. L. Cott. Claud. A. xii, f. 198v). Also baroner</td>
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<td>and guestmaster.</td>
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**THIRD PRIOR**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samson</strong></td>
<td>bef. 14 Nov. 1180 (Butler 1949, 7). Also novice-master, third prior,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sub-sacrist, guest-master, pittancer and, from 1182. abbot.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hugh</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1182 (Butler 1949, 16, 21), 1186 × 1200 (Davis 1954, no. 25).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>John</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1200 (Butler 1949, 126).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M. Thomas of Beccles</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1213 — 1215; succeeded by 1220 (Thomson 1974, 188).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Robert</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1217 × 1220 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. A. 1, 48). Perhaps prev. precentor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and chamberlain. later subprior.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roger</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1220 × 1222 (C.U.L. Add. 6006, f. 51).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hugh</strong></td>
<td>Jan. 1257 (Arnold 1890 — 96, iii, 253).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Richard Draughton</strong></td>
<td>bef. his election as abbot in 1312 (Arnold 1890 — 96, iii, 38).</td>
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**FOURTH PRIOR**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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**SACRIST**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurstan</strong></td>
<td>during the abbacy of Baldwin (1065 — 1097/8), but out of office by 1095 (Arnold 1890 — 96, ii, 289).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tolinus</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1095, dying the following year (Arnold 1890 — 96, i, 170).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geoffrey (Godfrey)</strong></td>
<td>during the abbacy of Robert (1102 — 1107) (Arnold 1890 — 96, ii, 289).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hervey</strong></td>
<td>from after 1121 until c. 1136 (Thomson 1971, 218 — 223, Thomson 1975, 54).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ralph</strong></td>
<td>c. 1136 until bef. 1148 (Thomson 1975, 54; Arnold 1890 — 96, ii, 289).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elias</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1148 × 1153 (Douglas 1932, no. 156), 1150 × 1154 (Thomson 1977, 816, no. 24).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Frodo</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1156 × 1160 (Douglas 1932, no. 144).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>William Schuch</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1156 × 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 146; Arnold 1890 — 96, ii, 291).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>William Wiardel</strong></td>
<td>bef. 1176 (Butler 1949, 3 — 4); deposed between 24 Mar. and 5 Apr. 1182 (Butler 1949, 30).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samson</strong></td>
<td>from shortly bef. 5 Apr. 1182 (Butler 1949, 31) until bef. 1188 (see below). Prev. precentor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hugh</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1186 × 1188 (Davis 1954, no. 56); died in 1200 or soon after (Butler 1949, 127). During some of this time also chamberlain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Walter of Banham</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1200 × 1211 (Davis 1954, nos. 150 etc.), and 1206 × 1209 (Davis 1954, no. 26). Prev. physician and almoner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gregory of St Albans</strong></td>
<td>for a short period ending in 1234 (Thomson 1974, 184 and 185 n. 13). Prev. succentor and precentor, later prior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nicholas of Warwich</strong></td>
<td>occ. 1242 × 1244 (B.L. Add. 34689 ff. 19 — 19v). Perhaps prev. chaplain (Thomson 1974, 187 n. 3; Arnold 1890 — 96, ii, 294).</td>
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OBEDIENTIARIES OF ST EDMUNDS


William of Hoo: 1280—after 1294 (Gransden 1964, 71; Arnold 1890—96, ii, 296, where he is called 'of Luton). Prey. chamberlain.

John Snailwell: occ. 1295 (S.R.O.B. A. 4/1), 1299 (S.R.O.B. A. 6/1/1). Jointly with the following?

Richard de Brunne: occ. 1296/7 (C.U.L. Ee. 3. 60, f. 218), 17 May 1298 (B.L. Harl. 3977, f. 76v). Jointly with Snailwell? Also subcellarer.

Reginald of Denham: occ. October 1312 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 194).


William of Stow: occ. 1318, also holding the office of Warden of the Mint (Dugdale, iii, 101 n.). 1327 (Arnold 1890—96, iii, 39), 1337 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 173). Also prior from at least 1333/4, and chaplain. Hugh of Saxham: occ. 1334/5 (B.L. Add. roll 63514).


Hugh de Bois (de Bosco): undateable; named in B.L. Add. 14850, f. 7v, written soon after 1436.

SUBSACRIST


Herbert: for one month in 1200 (Butler 1949, 125). Prev. chaplain; later prior.

Robert (of Graveley?): occ. 1200 (Davis 1954, no. 65). If this was Robert of Graveley, then he was to be sacrist, then abbot of Thorney.


Ralph de Peinteneye: occ. Feb. 1325 (Arnold 1890—96, iii, 89).
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CELLARER

Ordric: during Edward the Confessor’s reign (1046–1065; Robertson 1939, no. cxix).

Ordning of Stow: occ. 1098 × 1102 or 1107 × 1114, prob. the latter (Douglas 1932, no. 106), 1121 × 1136 (Douglas 1932, no. 115). Later prior and abbot.

William: occ. c. 1158 × 1148 (Douglas 1932, no. 129).

Godric: occ. 1148 × 1153 (Douglas 1932, no. 136).

John: occ. 1148 × 1156 (Douglas 1932, no. 142), as chamberlain as well.

Albinus: occ. 1148 × 1156 (Douglas 1932, no. 142), 1156 × 1160 (Douglas 1932, no. 144), 1160 (Douglas 1932, no. 145). Also chaplain?

Roger: occ. 1156 × 1180, but presumably after 1160 (Douglas 1932, no. 156).

Gilbert of Elveden: bef. 14 Nov. 1180 (Butler 1949, 102). Prev. chamberlain and chaplain?

Denis: occ. bef. 14 Nov. 1180 (C.U.L. Ee. 3. 60, f. 161), 1196 × 1200 (Davis 1954, no. 1), but he seems to have gone out of office before 1182, when he appears as chamberlain and Roger as cellarer, and to have returned between 1189 and 1197. Also chaplain?

Roger of Ingham: occ. bef. 14 Nov. 1180 (C.U.L. Ee. 3. 60, f. 161), and may therefore be identical with the Roger listed above. Occ. 1182 (Davis 1954, no. 15), 1186 × 1200 (Davis 1954, no. 25), but out of office by 1197. Also chamberlain.

Benedict: occ. 1156 × 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 158), 1186 × 1188 (Davis 1954, no. 56). Subprior, probably from 1181, until 1186.

Robert: occ. 1189 × 1200 (Davis 1954, nos. 110 – 111), but out of office by 1197.


William Rockland: occ. c. 1280 (S. R. O. B. 449/2/237a), and in 1283/4 jointly with A. By 1284 chamberlain, then prior.


Roger of Chesterston: occ. 1294 (Gransden 1964, 153) and 1302/3 – 1305/6 (Warwick R. O. CR 1379), in 1305/6 jointly with John Everesden. Apparently also chamberlain for some of this time. Earlier chaplain.

John Everesden: occ. 1296 (B. L. Add. 14847, f. 68v), 1300 (Gransden 1964, 158), jointly with Roger of Chesterston in 1305/6, and by himself again in 1316 (B. L. Harl. 250, f. 69v). Earlier chaplain and kitchener.

John d’Aldeby (de Alkumbery or de Aldeby): occ. 1337 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 31v), 1345/6 with Thomas Lydgate (ibid., f. 60), and 1346/7 with John Ernestede (C.U.L. Add. 4220, f. 83v).

Peter of Wisbech: occ. with John d’Aldeby some time after 1327 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 1).

Thomas Lydgate: occ. Feb. 1325 (Arnold 1890–96, iii, 89), 1330 (C.U.L. Add 4220, f. 170), 1331 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4, f. 117), and in 1345/6 with John d’Aldeby.

John Ernestede: occ. 15 Nov. 1346 (Arnold 1890–96, iii, 99) with d’Aldeby figuring as a monk, but the two are recorded jointly in 1346/7 (the record has ‘Everisden’ in error). Also chaplain.


William Melford: occ. 1375/6 (B. L. Add. 36910, f. 9v), 1381/2 (B. L. Add. roll 53116).

John of Saxham: occ. 1384/5 (B. L. Add. roll 53117), 1386/9 (B. L. Add. roll 53119).


OBEDIENTIARIES OF ST EDMUND’S


W. Mildenhall: occ. 1475/6 (Bodl. Suff. Roll 1). Simultaneously prior.


John Eye: occ. 1510 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. A.2, 141). Also sacrist.

John Brentford: occ. 1514 as prior and cellarer.

Thomas Ringstead: occ. as prior and cellarer 1517 × 1522, 1533 × 1535. Still cellarer in 1559 (Redstone 1909, 948).


Thomas Knettishall (Gnatesale): occ. 1531 (S. R. O. B. Acc. 1585 (N. S. R.)/1). Earlier sacrist.

SUBCELLARER


Hugh of Northwold: bef. his election as abbot 7 Aug. 1213 (Thomson 1974, 186). Professed as a monk in 1202 (Arnold 1890—96, 11, 10).

Richard of Saxham: by 1214; deposed on 16 May of that year (Thomson 1974, 187). Also firmarius, and later Warden of St Saviour’s Hospital.

CHAMBERLAIN

Leo: occ. 1138 × 1148 (Douglas 1932, no. 128).

John: occ. 1148 × 1156, as both cellarer and chamberlain (Douglas 1932, no. 142).

Gilbert: occ. 1156 × 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 158). Also chaplain, and later cellarer(?).

Walter: occ. 1156 × 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 155).

Denis: occ. 1182; out of office by 1188 (Davis 1954, nos. 15, 56, and p. lii). Earlier and later chaplain and cellarer.


Hugh: occ. 16 May 1198 (Davis 1954, no. 60), died in or soon after 1200 (Davis 1954, no. 65 and p. liii and n. 4). Also chaplain and sacrist.

Robert: occ. 1206 × 1209 (Davis 1954, no. 26): in office until at least 4 Nov. 1215 (Thomson 1974, 121, 187 and nn. 9—13). Out of office by 1220, but perhaps returned after 1222 (see below). Earlier precentor, later perhaps third prior and subprior.

Richard: occ. 1217 × 1220 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. A. 1, 48).


Robert of London: occ. 1222 × 1229 (B. L. Lansd. 416, f. 80); occ. 1229 × 1234 (B. L. Add. 4699, f. 13). Identical with the earlier Robert?


Richard of Wicham: occ. 1249 × 1256 (B. L. Add. 4699, f. 12v).
William Cratfield: bef. his election as abbot in 1390
(B.L. Add. 31970, f. 20).
William Bray: occ. 1393 (ibid., f. 31v), 1396 (Arnold
1890—96, iii, 182—3). Subprior by 1409.

J.B.: early 15th century (Oxford, Jesus College 18,
f. 12).

H. de Methewolde: occ. 1409 (‘thesaurarius’; C.U.L. Ff.
2. 29, f. 59).

John Cranewys: occ. 4 Oct. 1402 (B.L. Add. 4699, f.
19v); occ. 1424/5 (B.L. Add. 31970, f. 32v). Sacrist by
1426.

Geoffrey Walden: bef. c. 1425: perhaps 13th century
(B.L. Add. 4699, f. 9v).

John: late 15th century (B.L. Cott. Claud. A. xii,
f. 198v); also precentor and feretrar.

Robert Mildenhall: occ. 1506/7, ‘thesaurarius’ and

Edmund Bury: occ. as ‘vestiarius’ 1529 (B.L. Harl. 308,
f. 19v). Pitterner the next year.

Thomas Ringstead: occ. as ‘thesaurarius’ and prior
1530/1 (P.R.O. SC6/Hen. 8/3395). Earlier and later
prior and cellarer.

Thomas Denson: occ. 1539 (Redstone 1909, 344).

SUB - CHAMBERLAIN

1215; possibly pitterner as well (Thomson 1974, 186).

GUEST - MASTER (HOSTILLER)

Samson: bef. 14 Nov. 1180 (Butler 1949, 7). Also
novice-master, pitterner, third prior, subsacrist and
later abbot.

Jocelin of Brakelond: occ. 1200 (Butler 1949, 129). Also
cellarer and chaplain.

Roger Fitzdrew: from 24 Apr. 1215 (Thomson 1974,
188).

William of Beccles: occ. after 1245 (B.L. Harl. 1005,


John Northwold (‘interior guest-master’): before his
election as abbot on 5 May 1279 (Gransden 1964, 68).

PRECENTOR

Ordmar: c. 1125 (Gransden 1973, 98).

Samson: occ. 1156 × 1160 (Douglas 1932, no. 144), as
subprior and precentor 1173 × 1180 (Douglas 1952,
no. 152), and 24 Mar. × 5 Apr. 1182 (Butler 1949,
31). Then sacrist.

Robert: occ. 1205 (Davis 1954, no. 29), and perhaps the
man later chamberlain. Otherwise an error for
Richard?

Richard of Ely (de Lisle: de Ely or de Insula): occ.
1182 × 1186 (Davis 1954, no. 126), 1200 × 1209
(Davis 1954, no. 146), 1213—1215 (Thomson 1974,
185), apparently until sacrist (1217 × 1220). Later
prior, abbot of Burton and of Bury. Also chaplain.

Gregory of St Albans: 1217—c. 1230 (B.L. Add. 34689,
f. 18v). Sacrist for a short period before 1234, when he
became prior. Prev. succentor.

Guy: after 1234 (B.L. Add. 34689, f. 19v).


Henry de Stabulo: occ. Oct. 1312 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4,
f. 194).

Martin Rudham: occ. Feb. 1325 (Arnold 1890—96, iii,
89).


Henry de Stabulo: occ. Oct. 1312 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4,
f. 194).

Martin Rudham: occ. Feb. 1325 (Arnold 1890—96, iii,
89).


Henry de Stabulo: occ. Oct. 1312 (C.U.L. Gg. 4. 4,
f. 194).

Martin Rudham: occ. Feb. 1325 (Arnold 1890—96, iii,
89).

John: late 15th century (B.L. Cott. Claud. A. xii,
f. 198v); also feretrar and chamberlain.

SUCCECTOR

Gregory of St Albans: occ. between 28 Jun. 1214 (Thom-
son 1974, 85) and 10 Mar. 1215 (Thomson 1974, 159),
although he is not given the title of succentor except on
the first date. Precentor from 1217; later prior.
OBEDIENTIARIES OF ST EDMUND'S

INFIRMARER

Vincent: occ. 1173 × 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 152), 1186 × 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 25).

Henry: occ. 1186 × 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 25).

Brian: occ. 1189 × 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 107).


Stephen de Castris: occ. 1240 (B.L. Add. 31970, f. 75); died 1257 (B.L. Lansd. 416, f. 4).


Roger Huntingdon(?): occ. 1377, without any title, as commissioner of Bodl. MS Bodl. 240. Recorded as possessor of an 'infirrarer's register' in B.L. Add. 31970, f. 73. Occ. again, with no title, in 1386 (Bodl. Gough Camb. 22, f. 10).

Thomas Ickworth: occ. 1425 (B. L. Lansd. 416, f. 4).

PITTANCER

Samson: bef. 14 Nov. 1180 (Butler 1949, 7). Prey. novice-master, then guest-master, third prior and sub-sacrist; finally abbot.

William of Stanhope: from at least May 1214 until the next year, and also (?) subchamberlain (Thomson 1974, 186).

Simon of Walsingham: occ. 1215 × 1229 (B.L. Harl. 27, f. 76v).

John Gedney: occ. 1417/18 (Oxford, Jesus College 18, f. 119v), 1418/19 (ibid., f. 10v).

Walter Beyton (Beketone): occ. 1465 (B.L. Harl. 27, f. 160).

John Barking: occ. 1506 (Tymms 1850, 108).

Edmund Bury: occ. 1530 (B.L. Harl. 308, f. 1*). Chamberlain the previous year. Still pittancer in 1539 (Redstone 1909, 324).

ALMONER

Ralph: bef. 14 Nov. 1180, and before holding office as sub-sacrist (Arnold 1890—96, ii, 291).

Roald: occ. 1182 × 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 23).

Walter of Banham: occ. 1198 (Butler 1949, 96). Also physician. Later sacrist.


John Gosford: at his election as prior in 1382 (Arnold 1890—96, iii, 141).

FERETRAR


William of Inghain: occ. 1344 (Arnold 1890—96, iii, 324).

John: late 15th century (B.L. Cott. Claud. A. xii, f. 198v); also chamberlain and precentor.


REFECTORER


Godfrey Orme: occ. 1375/6 (B.L. Add. 36910, f. 9v).
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SUB-REFECTORER


KITCHENER


Andrew Astone: occ. 1424/5 (Douai, Bibl. de la Ville 553, f. 27v). Guest-master in 1426.

FIRMARIUS


Richard of Saxham: bef. 16 May 1214 (Thomson 1974, 187). Also subcellarer. Later Warden of St Saviour's Hospital.

MASTER OR WARDEN OF ST SAVIOUR'S HOSPITAL

Walter: occ. 1198 x 1206 (B.L. Harl. 1005, f. 257v).


BARONER (KEEPER OF THE BARONY)

John Lakenheath: at his death in 1381 (Arnold 1890—96, ii, 391); also subprior and guest-master.

A. Sanfield: late 15th century (B.L. Cott. Claud. A. xi, f. 198v); also subprior and guest-master.

William Carey: occ. 1504 (Tymms 1850, 105—6).

MASTER OF THE LADY CHAPEL


CHAPLAIN (ABBOT'S UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

Geoffrey: occ. 1148 x 1153 (Douglas 1932, no. 156).

Albinus: occ. 1148 x 1153 (Douglas 1932, no. 156), 1156 x 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 153); cellarer by 1156.

Gilbert: occ. 1148 x 1156 (Douglas 1932, no. 142), 1156 x 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 153). Also probably chamberlain, and if Gilbert Elveden, cellarer bef. 14 Nov. 1180.

Hugh: occ. 1173 x 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 152), 1182 (Davis 1954, no. 15).

Denis: occ. 1173 x 1180 (Douglas 1932, no. 152), 1186-8 (Davis 1954, no. 56), 1189-1197 (Davis 1954, no. 107 etc.). Also chamberlain and cellarer.

Jocelin of Brakelond: prior's chaplain Mar. 1182, abbot's by July and for the next six years (Butler 1949, 26, 56).

William: at least two men of this name were chaplains during the reign of Abbot Samson (1182—1211); they appear together on a charter of 1186 x 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 25); one of them occurs 1186 x 1190 (Davis 1954, no. 57); in 1200 appears William of St Stephen (Davis 1954, no. 65), and William of Diss occurs 1206 x 1211 (Davis 1954, no. 124). But in 1198 neither of the two abbot's chaplains was called William. For the very complicated situation see Davis 1954, pp. lii—liii.

Hugh: occ. 1186 x 1190 (Davis 1954, no. 57). Prob. the sacrist.

Henry: occ. 1186 x 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 85).

Ralph: occ. 1196 x 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 1). Adam: idem; perhaps later infirmarer, guardian of cellary manors and subprior.

Maurice: occ. 16 May 1198 (Davis 1954, no. 60), 1200 (Butler 1949, 127).

Herbert: between 1196 (when he professed) and 1200, when he became prior (Butler 1949, 124—5). Also subsacrist.

Benedict: occ. 1196 x 1197 (Davis 1954, no. 1).

Richard of Ely (de Lisle; de Ely or de Insula): occ. 1200 (Davis 1954, no. 65), 1206 x 1211 (Davis 1954, no. 124 etc.). Then and later precentor; later sacrist, prior, abbot of Burton and of Bury.

Hugh: occ. 1206 x 1211 (Davis 1954, no. 122). Apparently not the sacrist.

John: occ. 1206 x 1211 (ut supra).

W. or Robert (but these may be separate people): as chaplain of St Saviour's Hospital occ. (as W.) 28 Jun. 1214 (Thomson 1974, 84—5) and 12 Feb. 1215 (Thomson 1974, 149), but as Robert on 24 Apr. (Thomson 1974, 167).

Osbert or Osbern: prior's chaplain by Dec. 1214 (Thomson 1974, 185).

M. Henry de Wodard and Daniel: occ. 1215 × 1229 (C.U.L. Add. 6847, f. 11). The latter later prior?

Joseph: occ. 1217 × 1220 (Bodl. Suff. Ch. A. 1, 48).


Robert and Nicholas: occ. 1222 × 1229 (B.L. Lansd. 416, f. 80).

Peter and Simon: occ. 1242 × 1244 (B.L. Add. 34689, ff. 19—19v).

Henry Broccham and Roger of Chevington: Henry occ. alone in 1282 (B.L. Add. 36910, f. 6v), and with Roger, undated (C.U.L. Add. 6847, f. 9). Chevington was later chamberlain and cellarer.

John Shottisham and John Eversden: Shottisham occ. alone in 1282 (B.L. Add. 36910, f. 6v), and with Eversden, undated (C.U.L. Add. 6847, f. 9v). Eversden was also cellarer and kitchener, Shottisham chamberlain.


Elias, Nicholas Wortham and William of Stow: occ. as chaplains of St Saviour's Hospital 1327 (Arnold 1890—96, in, 346). Nicholas later sacrist, William also sacrist and later prior.

H. de Lakingham: occ. 1335 × 1361 (B.L. Harl. 1095, f. 67v).

Henry Kirkstead: occ. 1335 × 1361 (ibid.). Also novice-master and armarius; later prior.

G. Holywell (Haliswell): occ. 1335 × 1361 (ibid.).

John Ernstede: bef. 1361 (ibid.). Also cellarer.

Robert: occ. 1374/5 (B.L. Add. 36910, ff. 10—10v).


NOTES

1. Thomson 1980. To the material listed there should now be added B.L. Add. 4699, a recently discovered fragment of the early 15th-century chamberlain's register (cf. my no. 1304), a late 12th-century charter (Cambridge, Corpus Christi College muniments, charter 6. xxxi 3(b); see Hall 1981, 11—25), and over one hundred court and account rolls from the manor of Worlingworth (S.R.O.1., S1/2). An imminent re-issue of Thomson 1980 will include these addenda.

2. For instance, the valuable work of A. B. Whittingham (Whittingham 1952 and 1971) is vitiated by imprecise or erroneous dating of abbey officials.

3. I do not include abbots in my list. Those to 1216 are accurately dated in Knowles, Brooke and London 1972, 31—33, the remainder in V. C. H., Suffolk, ii, 72.


5. See below, pp 95, 96.


7. See below, pp 93, 96.


10. Regula Benedicti, c. 51. At Norwich the cellary department was regarded as the most important, although it was administered, from the 13th century, by a master of the cellar ('by far the most important of the Obedientiars of the Norwich Priory') as well as a cellarer (Saunders 1950, 76, 92).
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OBEDEIENTIARIES OF ST EDMUND'S

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Abbreviations for MSS
B.L. British Library.
C.U.L. Cambridge University Library.
P.R.O. Public Record Office.
S.R.O.B. Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds branch.
S.R.O.I. Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich branch.