





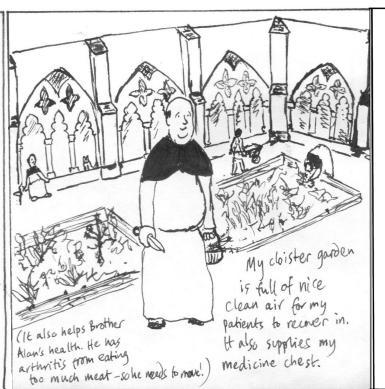






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The canons of Merton Priory were fairly healthy. Skeletons show some tooth decay and some well-healed fractures.

One skeleton had bone cancer.

4 had suphilis! Lots had diffuse idiopathic skeletal hypertosis (DISH) - an arthritic condition probably caused by eating too much meat!

I've heard about this terrible

new plague that is spreading

from the South coast. The

Bishop says we must all do

Perance, but So far this

has not worked. Perhaps

we are all too sinful.

Merton Priory managed to avoid being hit by the Black Death in 1348-9, but in later outbreaks in the 1360s, it killed two of Merton's priors, and probably other Priory inhabitants. Plague hit again 8 times before Merton Priory was dissolved in 1537.

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