Actual Priory skeleton with healed fracture

Canons on the loo!

We have a nice reredorter with a number of latrines - although you can't spend ages on the loo because it's **always** time for church!

long drop

stone-lined drain

My cloister garden is full of nice clean air for my patients to recover in. It also supplies my medicine chest.

(It also helps Brother Alan's health. He has arthritis from eating too much meat - so he needs to move!)

sometimes medicines come from further afield. Brother Michael needed to sleep, so I gave him special poppy syrup* from the Arabian shores.

* Opium

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 syphilis! 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 penance, but so far this has not worked. Perhaps we are all too sinful.

1349

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.