

## GREY FRIARS OF AYLESBURY

By A. G. LITTLE, D. Litt., Litt. D., F.B.A.

*[The Society is indebted to Dr. A. G. Little for the following paper which presents the Pakington papers in a most able manner. Their existence has long been known, but they lay outside the reach of our members, and now that the information contained in them is available, we can see that they form an important addition to our knowledge of Aylesbury in the 14th century.]*

*It is to be regretted that no large-scale map of Aylesbury, before Great Western Street was made, exists: the Bear Brook formed one boundary of the property bequeathed by the Earl of Ormonde, and it is clear that it did not extend east of Walton Street, or the Bell corner, whilst the northern limit was on Rickford's Hill, so that we can judge the limits of the Friars' property fairly well.—Editor].*

## I.

## INTRODUCTION.

The following article is based on a series of family documents belonging to Lord Hampton, who has courteously given permission for it to be published. The Aylesbury documents here used are now deposited on permanent loan in the Public Library of Birmingham. Some years ago they were for a time at the Public Record Office, where I was privileged to examine them. This article is based on notes then made, and the numbers assigned to the documents are those provisionally given to them at P.R.O. These will not correspond with the numbers in the calendar, which, Mr. Cashmore tells me, is being prepared at Birmingham, but there should be no difficulty in identifying the documents. The documents have been in the possession of the Pakington family since 1545, when, on the death of Sir John Baldwin, C.J., his Buckinghamshire property passed to his daughter Agnes (or Katherine), the widow of Robert Pakington.

From the beginning of the fourteenth century the Butlers of Ormond were lords of the manor and town of Aylesbury: hence the important part which they played in the foundation and history of the friary.

The earliest of our documents (no. 32) puts the foundation of the friary some years before the accepted date. It is a letter dated at Clonmell 4 August, 1383, from James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond, to a very dear and trusty but unnamed friend, who was evidently looking after the earl's interests in England. From this it appears that the writer's father, James Butler 2nd Earl of Ormond, who died 18 Oct., 1382, had granted 10 acres in Aylesbury to the Friars Minor of England to found a friary, that the necessary arrangements had been begun but not completed, that Fr. Robert Twyford, guardian of the friary, had come over to Ireland to secure the good will of the new earl and was going back with full authority for the execution of the late earl's wishes. The mention of the guardian proves that the friary was already in existence.<sup>1</sup>

The second document (No. 1), dated 9 November, 1386, proves that the friars had not only an area but also a church before the royal licence for alienation in mortmain was issued on 4 April, 1387. This records the gift by the thrice widowed Alice Giffard of 100 marks "to enlarge our area towards the west" in addition to generous gifts she had made "for the adornment of our church and principal altar." The church was probably a temporary or adapted building and not consecrated. The document is interesting for Franciscan history because it gives in greater detail than usual both the spiritual benefits promised by the friars and the penalties incurred by the guardian if he failed to carry out these obligations.

<sup>1</sup> A close parallel is afforded by another Ormond foundation, the Franciscan house of Carrickbeg (between Waterford and Clonmell). Royal licence for alienation in mortmain was granted in 1348: the friars actually entered into possession in 1336. This fact is only known because the first guardian was the historian, John Clyn, and he tells the story in his *Annals: Franciscan Province of Ireland*, by Fitzmaurice & Little, 1920, pp. 137, 140.

The Earl of Ormond's charter to the friars (no. 5) is dated 12 June, 1391: the 10 acres are described as lying between the highway to Walton on the east, the fields and water on the S. and W., the tenements of John Prophete and the Earl of Warwick on the north, and thence in a line to the beginning of the said highway. About the same time the friars acquired several tenements in Froxfield (nos. 2, 3, 6): some of these came from Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and so were presumably situated to the north of the Ormond 10 acres.

The area was now complete (there are only two unimportant additions later), but little progress had been made with the buildings, as appears from the petition of the friars to Richard II (no. 31). The petition is undated, but is certainly after the death of Queen Ann, 7 June, 1394, and probably before Richard's second marriage (November, 1396). The friars declare that they have no church or houses to live in, as the buildings have only been begun; they are entirely dependent on alms, and they pray the King to give them alms to build their church and houses for the honour of God and the souls of the King's mother and wife. The Aylesbury friars regarded Richard II as a great benefactor. The most graphic episode in their history is the gallant championship of Richard II by a friar of Aylesbury in an interview with Henry IV.<sup>2</sup> Yet no evidence of any grant by Richard to the friary has been discovered.

On the other hand, we have the record of a very remarkable gift to the friary soon afterwards—in which the King may possibly have had a hand (no. 7). By indenture dated 18 October, 1397, Stephen Haym, citizen and merchant of Winchester, gave the friars of Aylesbury 1,000 marks "for the building of their church and cloister and four houses over the cloister" receiving in return certain spiritual benefits. This is the largest single gift to any English Franciscan house on record—and shortly before it was made, the King

<sup>2</sup> *Eulogium Historiarum*, III, p. 390 and seq., quoted in *V.C.H. Bucks*, I. 391.

had demanded from the same Stephen Haym or Hayne of Winchester, a forced loan of 200 marks; there were very few private individuals from whom so large a sum was exacted.<sup>3</sup> There is no evidence that Haym had any connexion with Aylesbury, and his devotion to the Franciscan Order was not exclusive; he was a benefactor of the London Dominicans.<sup>4</sup> What were his relations to the King? Had the friars' petition to the King any connexion with Haym's magnificent gift?<sup>5</sup>

The mention of the four houses over the cloister suggests that the arrangement was the same as at Walsingham<sup>6</sup> and elsewhere; the refectory would be built over the south side of the cloister, and the dormitory on the east side, communicating with the church, which would be to the North. What the other 'houses' would be is uncertain: perhaps the guardian's lodging on one side. The guest house would probably not be situated over the cloister.

The latest addition to the area occurred in 1425 (no. 8). Then there is a blank till 1490, when the long and continuous series of leases begins. Before the Dissolution in 1538, almost the whole of the area had been let to tenants. Only the conventual buildings and the ground on which they stood, remained in the occupation of the friars. The house and site were valued in 1538 at 10s. a year. The annual value of the leases was £5 12s. 4d. The property amounted to 19 acres, one cottage, and 12 gardens, besides the fishpond or mote. Only two of the acres were arable, and these were situated one in Spitalfield, the other in Windmill field in the lordship of Aylesbury (no. 27)—presumably in the common fields, not in the friary area. Most of the land was meadow; there is also mention of fruit trees and timber.

<sup>3</sup> *Cal. Pat. Rolls, Ric. II, 1396-1399*, p. 179.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Close Rolls, Henry IV*, vol. I, p. 192.

<sup>5</sup> Canon Goodman kindly informs me that Stephen Haym was Alderman of Winchester in 1354, Mayor in 1356-7 and 1362-3, M.P. in 1371 and 1378-9. He owned property in Jewry Street and the Drapery, Winchester, and was probably connected by marriage with the Carews of Beddington.

<sup>6</sup> A. R. Martin: *Franciscan Architecture in England*, 1937, p. 129 et seq.

It is noticeable that none of the plots of ground of which the situation is given is north of the church. The inference is that the church occupied the north side of the area, perhaps in "Froxfield." The site should be ascertainable because there was a gate from the east end of the church leading into Walton Street (no. 22 (cf. 10): Roll 19). The great close with fishponds lay to the S.W. of the church (no. 15), and here also was the brewhouse situated on the common river or brook (no. 14, 15). A baking house is also mentioned (no. 18). Other topographical indications to be found in our documents are the cemetery (no. 10), le freyre lane (no. 9, 17), le freyre wall (no. 9), Bell Corner (no. 14), and the highway against the Bell (no. 20), and le cartwey gate (no. 12, Roll 19).

A little light is thrown on the life of the friary. Aylesbury was included in the group of friaries which formed the custody of Oxford (no. 7, 23). The only evidence of intellectual life is the fact that when Edward Ryley, B.D. of Oxford, was guardian (1534), there were two lectors when the whole convent seems to have numbered only ten. A weekly chapter was held (nos. 1, 7). At certain times in the year the number of friars in residence was exceptionally large (no. 1); this implied that in the ordinary course some of them would be away on preaching tours. Strict provision was made for the commemoration of benefactors, and a *Datarium*, or book of gifts, was kept. In 1526, the guardian, William Butler, reserved, in a close let on lease, certain garden plots newly made by him, and all apples and other fruit growing there (no. 15).

The account of the spending of a legacy from Thomas Butler, seventh Earl of Ormond (died 1515), contains some interesting details (no. 13). The distribution of the money was spread over a number of years and was entrusted to laymen, John Baldwin (who acquired the Grey Friars after the Dissolution), and John Colyngborne. The largest single item was £15 8s. 6d. for the cross and staff, presumably for

processions. £5 was spent on lead (it may be recalled that the visitor at the Dissolution noted that the roof of the church had recently been repaired and was well covered with lead). A clock and silver salt and a dozen spoons may be regarded as luxuries. Much of the money was devoted to repairs, especially palings. The guardian is given 40/- to buy stuff at Stourbridge fair, and another friar has 26/8 to buy fish. The sums paid from time to time to the warden were probably for ordinary household expenses.

Nos. 16 and 28 give the names of the members of the convent in 1534 and 1536 respectively. Such information on the eve of the Dissolution, is unique in the history of the English Franciscans. One extraordinary fact emerges from a comparison of the names in 1534, 1536 and the Dissolution in 1538—namely, the complete or almost complete change of personnel within four and a half years. Of the ten friars who formed the convent in 1534, none was among the nine friars at Aylesbury in 1538<sup>7</sup> unless William Mane in 1534 is the same as William Mey in 1538; and only two of the eight friars in 1536 appear in the Dissolution list of 1538.—Where did the old friars of 1534-6 go to? Only one can be traced in the Dissolution documents of other friaries: Robert Hawkes (1534) was at Doncaster at the Dissolution. We know that one other, Edward Ryley (guardian in 1534), held several livings in the reign of Queen Mary, from which it may be inferred that he remained loyal to the old religion (though he took the oath of succession in 1534). Perhaps he and others took refuge abroad. Where did the new friars of 1538 come from? To this question I can suggest no answer.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Bucks*, I, 391, and *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xiii, ii, 501, both make mistakes about this list. Here are the names: Henry Martyn warden, W. Mey vice-warden, John Popill, T. Alred, T. Broke, Ric. Crakelle, T. Dobson, Bryun Loe, H. Wylson (see *D.K. Rep.* 8, Appx III, 8).

## LIST OF GUARDIANS

Robert Twyford 1383.

John, 1386.

Henry Blouston 1425.

William Leicestre 1490-1.

John Wylllyng 1516-7.

William Butler 1519, 1526?

Robert Hampton 1523, 1528-32.

Edward Ryley 1533-36.

Henry Martin 1536-38.

SEALS of the Grey Friars, Aylesbury: reproduced in *Franciscan History and Legend in English Mediaeval Art* (Brit. Soc. of Franciscan Studies, vol. xix, 1937), and described by H. S. Kingsford.



1



2

## 1. The Convent.

Pointed oval,  $1\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{8}''$ .

St. Francis preaching to the birds. In the centre a tall tree with two birds in the branches; on the right St. Francis standing in his habit and holding a long cross in his left hand; on the left a friar kneeling in adoration.

Legend in black letter: S. conventus: fr̄m̄ minorum: aylsburie.

(Deed no. 7, dated 1397).

## 2. The Guardian.

Pointed oval,  $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ .

The Assumption of our Lady. Our Lady crowned standing in prayer in an aureole upheld by three angels, one on top, and one, with very outspread wings on either side; in base a cloud.

Legend in black letter: Sigillu: guardiani: fr̄m̄ minorum: de aylsbury.

(Deeds nos. 7, 11, 13. All the impressions are damaged, but enough of the legend remains on each to restore it completely).

## II.

## LETTERS AND DEEDS QUOTED

[*Letter of James 3rd Earl of Ormonde, 4 Aug. 1383*].

No. 32. Tres cher et tres ffiabile amy, pourcio qe nous auons entenduz qe notre tres honore pier, qe dieu assoille, dona et graunte as freres Menours de la prouince dengleterre ditz acres de terre en Aylesbury pour founder et enhabiter illoques vne mesone a chaunter diuine seruicez pour les alm̄ez de luy sez auncestres et sez heirs pour touz iours, les queux graunte et doñ, en taunt qe en nous est, auons ratifie et conferme par notre charte quell nous enuoions a vous par le Gardeyne de la dite mesoñ, vous enpriauntz qe vous despendetz del notre a parfournier (?) la volunte notre dite pier si auaunt dez pourchacez ent faitez come a fairez et ceo par endentures a faire par entre vous et frere Robert Twyhford Gardeyne de la dite mesoñ, les queux despens' nous voillons a vous pleynement allower, eiauntz cestez noz



lettres deuers vous pour votre garraunt.  
 Don' desouth' notre seall' a Clomell' le iiiij  
 iour de August lan du regne notre seigneur  
 le Roi Richard, qe dieu gard,<sup>1</sup> puis la  
 conquest dengleterre septisme.

[Seal on tongue gone—only root remains; and tie.  
 Endorsed: Carta Comitum Hurmundie].

[*Indenture between the friars and Alice Giffard*  
 1386]

No. 1. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis frater  
 Johannes, fratrum minorum Aylesburie  
 gardianus, et conventus . . . . que omnia  
 generosa domina ac nobilis domina Alicia,  
 strenui ac pie memorie militis domini  
 Johannis Giffard relicta, suspiriis altis  
 altius considerans ut ex collacione presentium  
 munerum firma sit expectatio futurorum,  
 nobis Christi pauperibus, quos dei credit  
 domesticos et amicos, preter alia sua largitatis  
 munera quibus ecclesiam nostram et princi-  
 pale altare nostrum eminenter ornavit,  
 centum marcas bone monete pro nostre aree  
 versus occidentem ampliacione mero sancti  
 spiritus instinctu concesserat. [*In return*]  
 de licentia reverendi patris nostri ministri  
 provincialis, spiritualem, quantum nostri  
 interest, viciscitudinem rependentes, prefa-  
 tam dominam Aliciam tante aree fundatricem  
 in vita pariter et in morte ac nobilium et  
 strenuorum militum dominorum Johannis  
 Giffard et Thome de Langele ac Willelmi  
 Thymylby mercatoris, quondam ipsius  
 domine Alicie virorum, animas ad universa  
 et singula nostre congregacionis suffragia  
 pro nunc et imperpetuum admittimus per  
 presentes, plenam participacionem eisdem  
 conferentes omnium missarum predicacionum  
 vigiliarum ieiuniorum oracionum abstinen-  
 ciarum ceterorumque bonorum operum que

<sup>1</sup> "Second" omitted.

per fratres nostri conventus operari voluerit clementia Conditoris. [*After death*] singulis annis omni die specialis habeatur oracio in prima missa vel secunda cum oracione "Inclina domine aurem tuam," cum decesserit et oracione "Deus qui caritatis dona" dum superstes fuerit, que quidem missa ter in ebdomada celebretur de beata Maria Christi matre et virgine benedicta Eodem tenore [*Obit of Alice & others afore-said*] in festo sancte Agnetis secundo. Omni insuper ebdomada semel in nostro locali capitulo fiat sui et suorum recommendacio specialis.

[*Further once every year*] quando maiorem multitudinem fratrum verisimiliter crediderit habere presentem, teneatur gardianus . . . . . hanc indenture seriem in locali capitulo integre distincte et publice facere recitari. [*If guardian is negligent*] per ministrum provincialem seu visitatorem provincie a suo officio celeriter absoluatur et pro eorum arbitrio aliunde acriter puniatur nec ad huiusmodi officium sine ministri et diffinitorum provincialis capituli iudicio nullatenus assumatur.

[*To one part of this indenture*] penes prefatam Aliciam et dominum Thomam (*sic*) Giffard et heredes suos remanenti sigilla provincialis ministri nostri gardiani et communitatis conventus sui Aylesbyrie sunt apposita. [*the other part, seal of Alice, penes nos*] Dat' in nostro locali Capitulo Aylesbyrie nono die mensis Novembr' Anno Domini MCCC. lxxxvj<sup>to</sup> et anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum nono. [Tag for one seal. Endorsed, Gyfford].

- No. 2. Grant by Christina widow of William Ferroure of Aylesbury to the Friars Minor of Aylesbury of all her rights in a tenement in

Froxfield lying between the tenements of W. Paskeden and J. Stone, and in a corner tenement recently sold by her late husband to the friars, lying between the highway leading to Walton and a tenement of John Moton: both these tenements had been given to Wm. and Chr. Ferrour for life by Thomas de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick. Dat. Aylesbury 20 Jan. 10 Ric. II [1387].

[Seal on tongue—Virgin & Child.

Endorsed: Relaxacio Christine fferrou in ffroxfield fratribus pertinen', etc. A° 10 R. 2].

- No. 3. Grant by Thomas de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick and lord of Gower to the newly founded friary of Aylesbury of two tenements "which have come into our hands from the purchase (*de perquisitione*) of one John atte Watur our serf," one lying between the highway to Walton and the tenement of Nic. Hatfeld, the other in Froxfeld between the tenements of John Stone & W. Paskden: and release of two rents of 2s. 10d. and 2s. from adjacent tenements. Dat. Warwick 4 March 10 Ric. II [1387].

[Seal on tag: injured.

Endorsed: Carta Dni Thome de Bello Campo comitis Warwyci concessa fratribus in Aylesbery. 10 Ric II].

- No. 4. Grant by Matilda, widow of John Moton of Aylesbury, to the friars minor of Aylesbury, of all her rights in a messuage and curtilage etc. lying between messuages formerly of Thomas atte Hale & Richard Fowgler. Her son, John Moton, is to act for her. Dat. Aylesbury 1 Sept. 14 Ric. II [1390].  
[Seal on tongue].

- No. 5. Grant by James Earl of Ormond (referring to letters patent of 4 Apr. 10 Ric. II), to the

Friars Minor in our town of Aylesbury of 10 acres lying between the highway to Walton on the east and the fields of water (*campos seu aquam*) commonly called "antiqua"<sup>2</sup> on the south and west, and the tenements of John Prophet and the Earl of Warwick on the north, and so in a direct line to the beginning of the foresaid highway.<sup>3</sup>

Dated London 12 June 14 Ric. II (1391).

Endorsed: Jacobus Comes Urmundie imperpetuum.

[Round seal on tag, an eagle close bearing the Butler shield, a chief indented.

Legend: S. Jacobi comitis . . . mond . . .].

- No. 6. Release by John Stone of Aylesbury to the guardian and friars minor of Aylesbury of all his rights in a tenement in Froxfeld lying between the tenement formerly of Will. Paskeden & that of Adam Baile, for 10l. sterling paid to him by Thomas Forde clerk in the presence of John MerSSH chaplain (and others). Dat. Aylesbury on Monday after the nativity of the B.V.M., 16 Ric. II [9 Sept. 1392].

*Petition of the Friars Minor to Rich. II, after,  
7 June 1394.*

- No. 31. A nostre tres excellent and tres redoutes seignur, nostre seignur le Roy, suppliens tres humblement voz pouerez et deuotez oratours lez ffrers Mynours de Aylysbury, lez queles ffrers nount null' esglise ne maisons illoeques a demourer encour mes que sont en comensement a edifier qar ladite esglise et maisons sount de nouel foundez et rienz nont dont lour comensement de edificacion a complier mes d'alsoigne, qe please a votre tres noble et tres

<sup>2</sup> This is the modern Bear Brook.

<sup>3</sup> The land included in the bounds, as still existing, is almost exactly 10 statute acres.

gracious seignurie grauntier as ditz voz poueres oratours votre gracious almoigne en aide de edification de lour dite ecglise et maisons al honour de dieu et en oeure de charite, et pour les almes de la tres noble dame votre mier, et la tres gracious dame notre dame Anne nadgairs Reigne d'engleterre, queux dieu assoil, come ils seront deuoutes oraturz et lour successours pour vous et lalmes susditz a touz iours.

- No. 7. Indenture made on feast of St. Luke Evangelist [18 Oct.] 1397 between the venerable man and devoted friend of the order of friars minor, Stephen Haym, merchant and citizen of Winchster, and the guardian and convent of the Friars Minor of Aylesbury, whereby Stephen Haym gives 1000 marks for the building of their church and cloister and 4 houses (*domorum*) over the cloister, and in return the friars of Aylesbury with the licence and assent of Nicholas Fakenham, provincial minister, grant spiritual benefits, and order that his name and surname shall be inscribed in the book of benefactors (*datario*) and that every week in the local chapter and once a year in the provincial chapter he be publicly recommended for the aforesaid benefits, and his commendation is to be made in all sermons preached in the friars' church at Aylesbury. The provincial minister further grants to him participation in all spiritual benefits "que per omnes et singulos fratres minores provincie Anglicane operari dignabitur clementia Salvatoris." Dated in the chapter house of the convent. Seals of the provincial minister, Stephen Haym, the community of the convent of Aylesbury, the custodian of Oxford & the guardian of Aylesbury have been appended to these presents.

[3 seals attached by silken cords: (1) Provincial Minister: Martyrdom of S. Thomas; (2) Convent of Aylesbury: St. Francis preaching to the birds; (3) guardian of Aylesbury; Assumption of our Lady].

- No. 8. Quit claim by Johanna Suthcote of Aylesbury to Henry Blouston guardian of the Friars minor there of all rights in those lands tenements rents and gardens which should come to her on the death of her mother Agnes. Witnesses John Bosenho esq., Thomas Durem, William de Bosenho, Thomas Dewes, John Abraham and others (not named). Dated at Aylesbury on Sunday in the octave of Epiphany 3 Hen. VI [14 January 1425]. [Seal of Johanna on tag].
- No. 9. Lease by William Leycestre, guardian, and the convent with licence of William Goddard, provincial minister, to John Roos of Aylesbury, Barbour, and Alice his wife of one parcel of land lying "iuxta le freyre lane," containing "iuxta le freyre wall" 90 ft. in width and "iuxta clausuram" 66 ft. together with a pathway (*semita*) for 60 years at an annual rent of 20d. Seals of provincial minister and "officii gardianatus" and "sigillum commune et conventus, ex assensu omnium fratrum eiusdem conventus." Dated 10 February 5 Hen. VII [1490]. [3 tags for seals: 2 fragments remain (one has St. Francis preaching to the birds)].
- No. 10. Lease by Wm. Leycestre, guardian, and the convent to William Chaulfont and Lucy his wife and Alice Playter widow, of one garden lying next the cemetery of the church between the path which leads from the door of the church to the gate which leads into the town on the one side, and the garden now held by

John Bygnell on the other, measuring 89 by 87 feet, for 100 years at 8d. a year. Tenants may build on the garden at their pleasure. 6 November 6 Hen. VII [1490].

[2 Seals that of the Guardian, in fair condition; that of the convent, fragmentary].

No. 11 is the counterpart of no. 10; 3 seals, two of which remain.

No. 12. Lease by the same to John Botte of Aylesbury and Alice his wife of one garden lying between the road leading from the gate to the convent called le Cartweygate on the east, and the garden held by John Roos on the west, measuring 89 feet in length and 57 feet at the north end opposite the messuage of Thomas Bolle and 33 feet at the south end, for 80 years at 2s. a year. 10 March 6 Hen. VII [1491]. [Seal gone].

No. 13. Indenture (in English) 26 February 7 Hen. VIII [1516] between John Willyng, warden of the Graye ffreris, and John Colyngborn witnesseth that the seid warden and John Boldwyn of Aylesbury have delyvered to the seid John Colyngborn lxxv<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> which the seid John Colyngborn hath taken upon him the keypyng therof as sauely to kepe the same as he wold do his own And in none other maner If casualty fall and to the use and Intent that the seid John Colyngborn shall delyver yerly to the seid warden and his successours iiij markes sterlyng yerly at iiij tymes in the yere by eyn porcons toward the lyuyng of the warden and couent and ther successores according to the will of Thomas late Erle of Ormond and the residue of the money to the use and the reparacion of the house of the seid ffrers And to be delyuered at all tymes nedefull accordyng to the will of the seid Erle

and by the assent of the seid John Baldewyn and John Hall or one of them In witness wherof the seid parties have sett ther seall' the day and yer abovesaid

(on fold): per me fr. Johannem Wylyng  
gardian' Aylesbury.

(Seal of the guardian remains).

On the dorse:

Mem. pd. for makyng of a pale, furst payment  
to John Clerk of Chesham iiiij <sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.  
pd. at the second payment for the crosse and  
staff and feote . . . . (?) xv <sup>li</sup> viij<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>.  
pd. at the thyrd payment to Will Butler xl<sup>s</sup>.  
pd. at the iiiij payment to the warden and M.  
Buttler x<sup>li</sup>.  
pd. att the V payment for leade v<sup>li</sup>.  
pd. at the VI payment to Clerk of Chesham  
for the last payment of the pale vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.  
pd. at the viij payment iiiij<sup>li</sup>.  
All thes payments aboue pd was pd. to John  
Wylyng beyng warden for the tyme beyng.  
Pd to freer butteler to the hands of Clerk of  
Chesham be my wyff the xv day of Aprell  
in a<sup>o</sup> H. viij xth [1519] for borde  
xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiiij<sup>d</sup>.  
pd. to the warden butteler for a silver salt  
and a dosen sponys iiiij <sup>li</sup> xvj<sup>s</sup>.  
pd. for bokeram and cambric for abis  
[habits] xij<sup>s</sup>.  
pd. to freer butteler warden for the vales and  
tymbr' xl<sup>s</sup>.  
pd. ffreer Hampton warden to bye stuff at  
Ster'brygge feyer [Stourbridge Fair] xl<sup>s</sup>.  
pd. for the makyng of the klok liij<sup>s</sup> iiiij<sup>d</sup>.  
Summa recept. liij<sup>li</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>.

[Continued in another hand:—]

I John Baldwyn have recevyd of Richard  
Colyngbur' xi <sup>li</sup> to the use off the freers Resy-  
dew off the money whiche ys to pay wheroff y  
John B. have paid to the freers xx<sup>s</sup> (sic)  
Hadley paid to Buttler xx<sup>s</sup>.



paid to the newe warden the morne next after  
 Seynt mychell A°. xx H. viii— xls.  
 delivered to Johnes the fryer to bye fische—  
 xx<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>.

- No. 14. Lease by John Wyllyng warden (etc) to John Thistilthwayte and William Fyllippes of 'close and poundes' on S. side of the church "between the king's highway that ledyth from the Bell corner to Walton on that oon parte and the fote-path that ledyth directly from the freers unto the howse sometime called the brewehowse there and the comyn Ryver on that other parte," for 20 years at 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> a year. Dated in the Chapter house 23 January 8 Hen. VIII [1517]. Sealed with the "comyn seale" of the warden and convent.  
 [2 poor seals on tags].
- No. 15. Lease dated 7 January 17 Hen. VIII ([1526] by Wm. Butler warden (etc) & John Basset and William fyllippes of close and grounde in Aylesbury lying on S.W. of the church lately in tenure of John Lee, "and it lyth betwene the comyn Ryver that roneth from a howse of the seid freers called the Brewehowse to the end of a lane called the freer lane . . . and also a litill close or grounde called Paradise being within the same close with all the mote, stewes, poundes and fyszhyngplaces beyng within the said close," reserving to the warden and convent certain garden plots newly made by the warden, and all apples and other fruit growing there, for 16 years at 26/8 a year "and a quarter of good swete and well made malt of the best or the next best." Dated in Chapter house. 'Comyn seale' of warden and convent (ie. St. Francis preaching to birds).

- No. 16. Lease (in English) dated 4 March 25 Hen. VIII [1534] by Edward Ryley warden (etc) to John Dane [or Dave, Davy] of a close lying on S.E. side of Church for 30 years at 5 marks [66s. 8d.]<sup>4</sup>.

On the turned up flap of the deed are the following autograph signatures:

Edwardus Ryley gardyanus.	Fr. Johannes Millow (?).
Pater ac fr. Willelmus Butillar lector.	Fr. Johannes Gymbur.
Frater Pall Lector.	Fr. Ricardus Coventre.
Fr. Johannes Danyell.	Fr. Thomas Hulcott.
Fr. Johannes Barton (or Burton).	Fr. Willelmus Mane.

[No. 21 is a copy of this deed.

Tags for 2 seals].

- No. 17. Lease (in English) dated 16 March 20 Hen. VIII [1529] by Robert Hampton warden (etc) to Richard Frer of Aylesbury of four gardens abutting onto frer lane between the garden now in occupation of John Pole on the east and the close & pond now in tenure of J. Bassett and W. Felippes on the south, for 20 years at 8s. a year.

[1 damaged seal remaining].

- No. 18. Lease (in English) dated 18 June 15 Hen. VIII [1523] between Robert Hampton warden (etc) and William Chandlere of Stoke of a close "beyownd the bakyng howse" abutting on Tranesse close on one side & Bassetts on the other, for 20 years at 13<sup>s</sup>. 4<sup>d</sup>. [No. 19 is version of No. 18, dated 18 June 20 Hen. VIII [1528], with seals of warden & convent, imperfect].

- No. 20. Lease (in English) dated 1 Feb. 23 Hen. VIII [1532] by Rob. Hampton warden (etc) to John Bray of Aylesbury and his wife of a garden 60 feet square "abutting on the hey wey agenst the bell" on one side and the

<sup>4</sup> There is some mistake here; in other documents the rent is given as 20s.

ground of John Tranesse on the other, for 20 years at 2<sup>s</sup>. 8<sup>d</sup>. a year.

(A seal, probably of J. Bray, is attached on a tag of parchment which bears the words: sinceram carita [tem] || que per fratres mee ordinis suffragia || ali vt cum obitus . . . . .)

These words must come from a letter of fraternity, which, when it had served its immediate purpose, was cut up and applied to other uses).

No. 22. Lease (in English) 16 July 25 Hen. VIII [1533] by E. Ryley warden [etc] to Wm. Atkyns of a garden etc. "lying next the church gate of the said friars that goeth out into Walton Street on the east part" for 21 years (for 2<sup>s</sup>. a year?).

No. 23. Lease (in English) 6 Feb. 27 Hen. VIII [1536] by Edward Ryley guardian (etc) to Alexander Walerond of Aylesbury gentleman (apparently of the same ground let in 1526 (no. 15) to Basset and Phyllype). The seal of the Custodian of Oxford—the only example known—is attached to this deed.

Nos. 24, 25, 26 (leases) add nothing to our knowledge of the site.

No. 27. Lease (in English) 20 Feb. 27 Hen. VIII [1536] by E. Ryley warden (etc) to Edward Eglynton of Aylesbury of 2 acres of arable land, one in Spetill felde, the other in Wyndmyll felde, for 20 years at 16<sup>d</sup>. a year.

No. 28. Lease (in English) 20 Aug. 28 Hen. VIII [1536] by fryar Hary Martyn<sup>5</sup> warden [etc] to John Briket of a garden to the east end of the church, for 20 years at 2<sup>s</sup>. a year.  
On the turned up flap of the parchment are signatures:—

<sup>5</sup> This name is written in another hand over an erasure.

fr. Henricus Martyn gauardianus (*sic*)  
 fr. Necolaus Manchyn (?)  
 fr. Will. Mey fr. Joh. Gynber.  
 fr. Thomas Hollas fr. Joh. Mylner  
 fr. Joh. Daniell fr. Rob. Hawkes.

No. 29. Counterpart of no. 28, seal of Bryket, without signatures.

No. 30. Bill made 29 March 32 Hen. VIII [1541] witnesseth that I Edward Northe Esq. treasurer of the Court of Augmentacions [etc] have received of John Baldwyn knt., C.J. of the common pleas, the sum of £729-2-4 due to the King for the house & site of the late Grey Freers of Aylisbury . . . & for all lands tenements gardens medowes pastures [etc] in the several tenures of John Bassett gent., John Dayny, Robert Brykett, William Chaundeler, Richard Fryer [& others named] lately belonging to the late Grey Freers [& other properties late belonging to the monasteries of Missenden & Osney].

Rolls numbered 17 and 18, are rentals of the Friars of Aylesbury at the time of the Dissolution; except for some variations they are identical with

Roll 19<sup>6</sup>. A particular of the scite of the Graye ffriars in Ailesbury [& manors of Abbots Broughton and Upton].

Firma scitus dicti nuper prioratus existent' in possessione prioris et conventus tempore dissolucionis eiusdem per annum } X<sup>s</sup>

<sup>6</sup> A duplicate of this document is in P.R.O. and is briefly summarized in *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vol. xiii, pt. ii, no. 501. The only important differences, Mr. F. G. Gurney points out, are that the first paragraph runs "firma scitus dicti nuper prioratus cum omnibus edificiis eidem scitui pertin' sive spect', neñon ortis gardinis pomar' et omnibus aliis in tenura et occupacione nuper prioris et conuentus dicti nuper Prieratus tempore dissolucionis eiusdem Xs.

Secondly, there is this addition: "Md. ye woods growyng in and upon the seyd Fryars is estemed to be worthe viii xiijs iiijd."

Firma unius clausi ibidem continentis per estimacionem sex acrarum terre . . . . . cum uno magno stagno vocato le Moete dimissi Johanni Bassett generoso per indenturam } xxx<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Firma unius cotagii et unius gardini dimiss' eidem Johanni per indenturam per annum } iii<sup>s</sup>

Firma unius clausi ex parte orientalis ecclesie ibidem continentis per estimacionem iiiij acr. et di. cum uno stagno . . dimiss . . . Johanni Dayue } xx<sup>s</sup>

Firma unius prati iacentis ex australi parte cuiusdam Riuoli ibidem vocati le Brook cont. per estim. ij acras et di. terre dimiss. . . . Roberto Brykett per an. } xij<sup>s</sup>

Firma clausi siue prati iacentis ex parte australi dicti Riuoli cont. per est. duas acras dimissi Willelmo Chaundeler. } viij<sup>s</sup> iiiij<sup>d</sup>

Firma duarum acrarum prati iacentium in communi prato ibidem ex parte australi dicti Riuoli et iuxta eundem Riuolum in tenura Ricardi Frier ad voluntatem per an. } viij<sup>s</sup>

Firma unius gardini iac. ex parte australi porte que stat inter Ecclesiam ibidem et strat' voc. Walton Strete dimiss. Johanni Hunt per indent. per annum } ij<sup>s</sup>

Firma j gardini iacentis inter viam ducentem a porta ibidem vsque Carterweygate dimiss. Johanni Botte per ident. per an.	} ij <sup>s</sup>
Firma gardini iacentis iuxta gardinum Will. Atkyns dimiss. Johanni Poyle [etc]	} ij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
Firma gardini continentis lx. pedes . . . . Joh. Brayne	} ij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Firma ulterius gardini iacentis versus australem partem claustrum . . . . Johanni Danyell	} xx <sup>d</sup>
Firma iiij <sup>or</sup> gardinorum abbutt' venelle voc. ffres Lane dimiss. per indent. Ric. ffrier per an.	} viij <sup>s</sup>
Firma ulterius gardini iacentis ad finem oriental' ecclesie ibidem dimiss' per indent. Joh. Brikyt. per an.	} ii <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Firma ulterius gardini iacentis prope portam exeuntem ad Walton strete dimiss. Willelmo Atkyn per indent. per an.	} ii <sup>s</sup>
Firma duarum acrarum terre iacentium in Campo ibidem dimiss. per indent. Edwardo Charsley per an.	} xvj <sup>d</sup>
Firma ulterius gardini modo in tenura Willelmi Balard ad voluntatem per an.	} viij <sup>d</sup>