Norwich Cathedral Priory in 1150 & the Present Day

This 1150 picture is a computer generated one. Based on historical records and drawings, it is what we think it looked like. You can see the Cathedral and the Priory buildings joined on to it, (also known as a monastery, where the Benedictine monks lived, worked, ate and cared for visitors).

Look at the two pictures & compare.
How is the layout of the Cathedral and monastery (priory) complex similar in both pictures and how is it different?
How has Cathedral itself changed?

Look at this picture of Norwich in 1343.
How has the Cathedral changed since 1150?

Look at the castle, city wall and the surrounding area. Look up a map of the city centre now and compare how it has changed since then!
PRIORY FACTS
Inside information from the ancient roll books of Norwich Cathedral Priory

• In the year 1326 the monks ate on average 10,122 eggs per week! They did not eat eggs during Lent.

• In 1369 the larder book lists the following ‘bought in’ foods: bullocks, pigs, rabbits, geese, herring, salt fish, eels, oatmeal, saffron, pepper, almonds, spices, olive oil, rice, salt, wine, honey.

• The Priory employed lots of staff from the city: bakers, cooks, rent collector, master of the pigs, a saucerer, carters, a washerwoman, boatmen, a herring curer, carpenters, brewery workers a miller.

• In the year 1275, fourteen dozen calf skins were bought, curried and bound to make a book. A man called an illuminator was paid money to make this book.

• In the infirmary record book a lot of ginger was bought. It was used to make medicine for rheumatism because many of the monks had painful bones!

• Many monks and others were ‘bled’ regularly in the infirmary. This means that leeches were put on their skins to suck out bad blood. The book says that they got ‘treats’ to eat after they had been bled!

• The monks paid minstrels to come in and entertain them, and their guests, with music, singing and jokes.

• £30.00 per year was spent on wax to make candles and in 1312 1800 feet of rush matting was bought.