

St Nicholas Priory

The Tudor Bed Chamber

Ordinary Tudors would have slept on the floor, in lightly padded wooden frames. Often, they did not even have a separate room to sleep in! The bed chamber at the Priory belonged to the wealthy Hurst family. This room was not just for sleeping, they also would have hosted friends and conducted business here.



A key feature of the chamber is the four-poster bed. This would have been a very valuable and expensive item.

It is made of oak, a very sturdy wood. Because of its durability, lots of house beams and ships used to be made of oak. This is why the bed has survived in such good condition for so long.

Even the brightly coloured bedsheets are a sign of their wealth, as bright dyes were expensive. Notice that the walls are also covered in dyed cloth - this shows just how rich they were!

The large windows would have also been a luxury, as many ordinary Tudors would not have been able to afford all of that glass! The poor would have used shutters to keep out the cold.





Can you find the Tudor Rose decoration in the plaster?

The Tudor rose was a symbol of the crown. By using it in their decoration, the Hurst family showed that they were loyal to the crown.

Why do you think it was important for the Hurst family to show that they were loyal to the king or queen?

Activities

The small bed in the room is called a Truckle bed. Who do you think might have slept here?

Can you list all of the objects and features of the room that show off how wealthy the Hurst family were.

The bed chamber, parlour and great chamber are much more highly decorated than the kitchen. Why do you think that is the case?
