

Toddington Hospital

The Hospital of St John Baptist, founded by Sir John Broughton in 1443 for a chaplain, or warden and three poor men, to pray for the King and for Thomas Peyvre and Mary his wife, was no doubt, as elsewhere pointed out, in fulfilment of a condition of the will of Thomas Peyvre, who died in 1429.

The site of the hospital has always been traditionally assigned to the meadow now occupied by farm buildings in Griffin Farm, at the rear of Conger House and the Griffin. It is additional evidence that a lane leading to the meadow at the top of Duck Lane (now Conger Lane) was for a long time known as Spital Lane.

Such hospitals founded in the Middle Ages had a somewhat different scope of usefulness than the name would imply today. They were used for not only casual shelter and sickness, but for pilgrimages, and often had a certain ecclesiastical purpose.

The Hospital lasted little more than a hundred years, being suppressed with others in the reign of Henry VIII

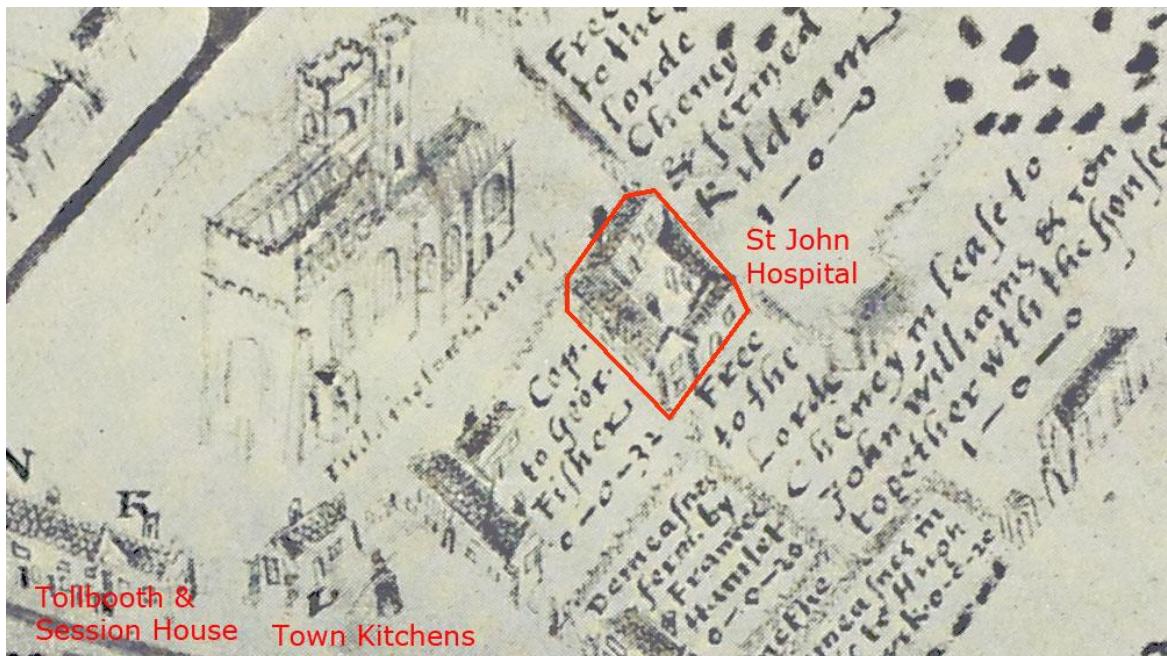
But the foundations and base wall of parts of this hospital remain, hidden behind the Wilkinson Hall



These two photos of the remains of the Hospital wall clearly show the medieval aged wall base Ironstone with clunch repairs and tile slips



The hospital appeared on the Agas 1581 survey thus:



And a reconstruction of how it could have looked is here:



This wall is Grade 2 listed

The listing:

TL 0028 TODDINGTON CHURCH SQUARE (south-east side) 20/10024 Boundary Wall to Churchyard of St George's Parish Church - II Boundary Wall, almost certainly one surviving side of a C15 or C16 building associated with the Hospital of St John the Baptist. Ironstone with clunch repairs and tile slips. Chamfered ironstone plinth near ground level on the churchyard side. The medieval section of wall is about 6.5 metres long and 0.8 metres high, and has been incorporated into a C19 red brick boundary wall which rises to about 1.8 metres. The two ends of the medieval wall are the corners of the original building. At the NE end there is a trace of a return on the plinth, and at the SW end there is evidence of the return wall on the SE (Griffin Farm) side. Listing NGR: TL0098428905

Compiled by Alan Higgs 2014