

## **Bernard**

Bernard, and his older brother, Norman, were born in Kent. Norman was initially a canon at St. Botolph's in Colchester, which, at the time, did not adhere to any one ecclesiastical Rule. Norman and Bernard were sent from St. Botolph's to France to learn the Rule of St. Augustine, as novices at Chartres and Beauvais. When they returned to St Botolph's, they were both instrumental in introducing the Rule of St. Augustine into England. Norman was elected prior of Holy Trinity, Aldgate, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1108. Bernard joined him there, as a canon. Holy Trinity was founded by Matilda, wife of Henry I and Norman was her Confessor. In the 1120s Holy Trinity established daughter houses at Dunstable, Launceston, Plympton, St Frideswide in Oxford and St. Osyth. It is likely that Norman conducted the services of Consecration before any building could begin and before any masses could be sung. Bernard was prior of Dunstable by 1125 and is depicted in the right hand window of the West wall, the priors' window. It is not certain when he left or when he died. Norman died on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1147.