PROUD OF THE PAST,

# St James's Priory

built in 1825.

Clearance and restoration in the 1930s bought the ruins to their present appearance.





The imaginative reconstruction of the Priory in the 1530s, just before it was closed by Henry VIII, is based on the surviving ruins, which are made up of several periods of building, representing the patronage of successive Lords of Dudley.

### **Dormitory**

DUDLEY:

The monks communal sleeping accommodation, from here the spiral "night stair", whose base can still be seen, gave access to the church

Reredorter The monks latrine at the end of the dormitory, probably flushed at the base by water from the Priory Ponds.

#### Day Room The monks common

room, conversation was allowed only at certain times of the day.

## The Church

The original Norman building was given a new nave and east end by the De Somery family in the 13th century. Several Lords of Dudley were buried here.

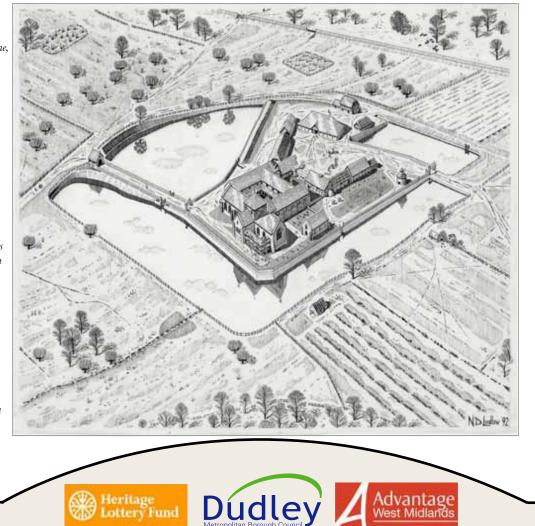
The Priory housed a small community of Cluniac monks, an order originating at Cluny in Burgundy which was farmed for its opulent observance of church ritual. Cluniac monks were often aristocrats and most manual labour was carried out by lay brothers. The monks day centered around eight

The Priory was founded in the mid 12th century by Gervase Paganel

Lord of Dudley "for the good of his fathers soul chiefly" but also his

own and his families. As well as an act of piety this was an expression

of lordly power complemented by the refortification of Dudley Castle and the laying out of Dudley as a planned town.



Cloister

GUAN

A central courtyard surrounded by a covered but open sided corridor used for study.

with kitchen below.

Refectory

## dining room, perhaps for night services.

**Chapter House** 

unruly monks.

The monks met here each day to

Benedict, for the transaction

of business and to discipline

read a chapter from the Rule of St

#### Western Range The upper floor may have

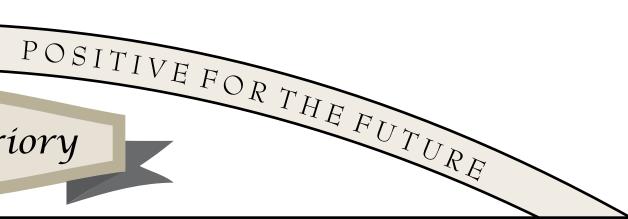
contained the Priors lodgings and guest rooms, with cellarage below.

## Chapel

Built after the death of Isabella De Sutton in 1397, altered after 1487 to accommodate the tomb of John De Sutton, Lord Dudley.



The monks first floor



The later history of the Priory is reflected in these 18th century engravings. After closure the monastic buildings became ruinous, although part of the church was patched up as a tanners dwelling, whilst the rest of the site was used for industrial purposes. The pools were drained when Priory Hall was





