

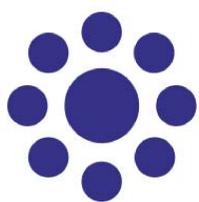
The Rule of St Benedict

'I am writing these instructions to you, so that you may know how to behave in the household of God.'

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Followed by the St Benedictine monks for over fifteen centuries the Rule of St Benedict is still practiced today. St James Priory encourages you to read and practice the St Benedict Rule yourself.

Illustration by Victoria Willmott



St James
Priory



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St James Fair

Bristol's famous St James Fair took place every summer in the Priory of St James between the 13th and 19th centuries, dating back to 1228. The illustration depicts the liveliness of the market, selling wine, dyes, oil, iron, fruit, and luxury goods. Not to mention the abundance of entertainment from puppet shows, sports, exhibitions of wild animals, theatre, magicians and musicians.

The fair was incredibly popular, stalls and people overflowed the boundaries of the churchyard, and carried the fair out of the church to the surrounding streets. By the 17th century the fair had attracted traders from across the seas and even Turkish pirates from merchant ships made their appearance. The last fair was held in 1837, September of that year.

Illustration by Victoria Willmott



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Daily life of a monk

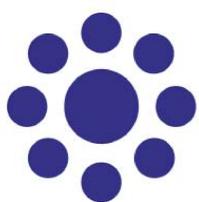


The Daily Life of a Monk

A Benedictine monk's life was centred around peace and reflection. They prayed to God, helped others and did good work in their community. A monk's day would start very early, with sunrise and work would take up the majority of the day.

The illustration depicts the chores and works that filled the lives of the monks, including gardening, cooking, providing medical care for the community along with reading the Bible and prayer.

Illustration by Victoria Willmott

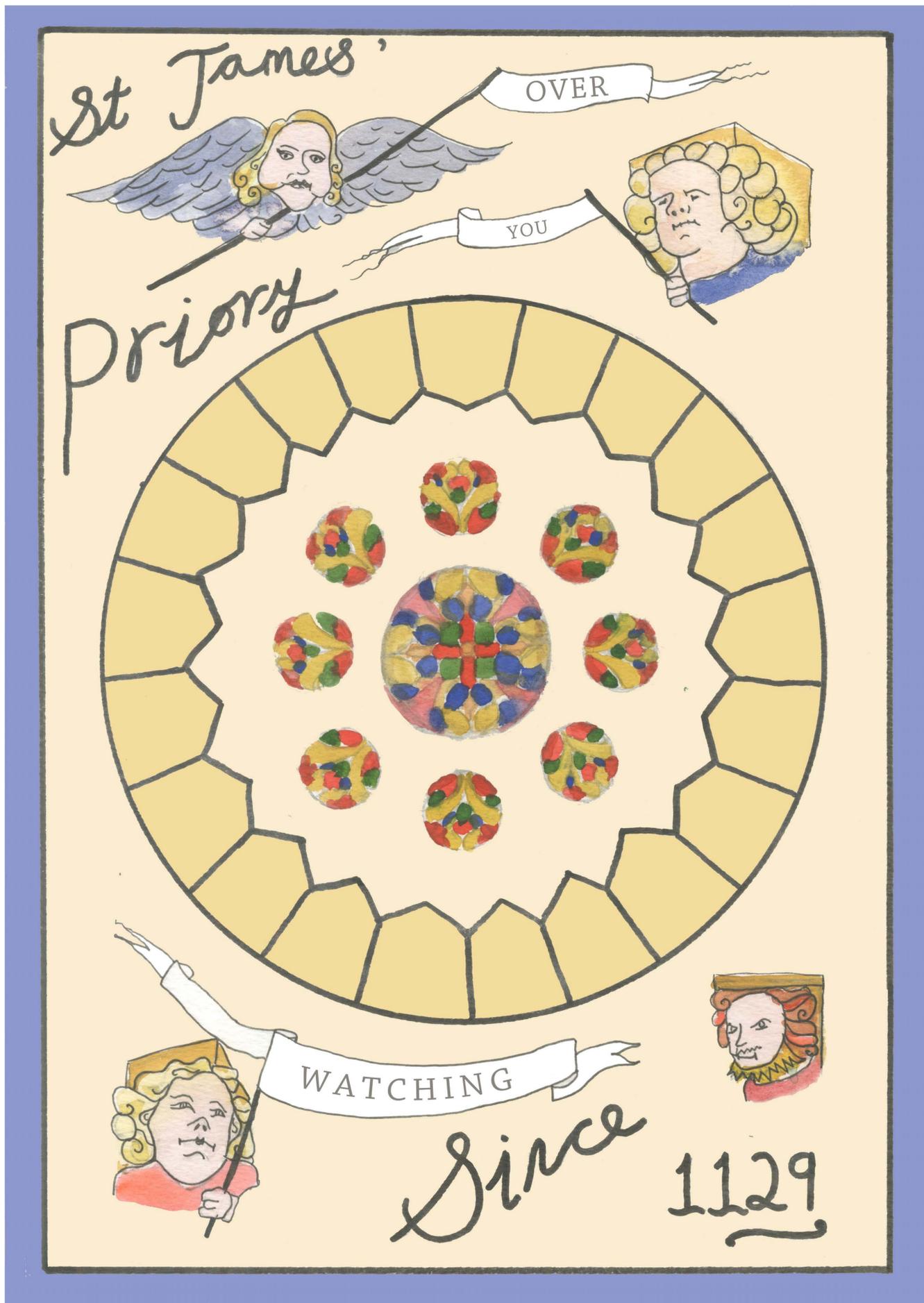


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Eyes of the Building

The Oculus window is possibly one of the earliest of its type still existing in brilliant condition. A rare and beautiful feature of the Priory, hidden high up, it is the eye of the building.

Along with the Oculus, the colourful Corbels guard over all that enter the space, from 1129 to this present day. Can you find them?

Illustration by Abigail White

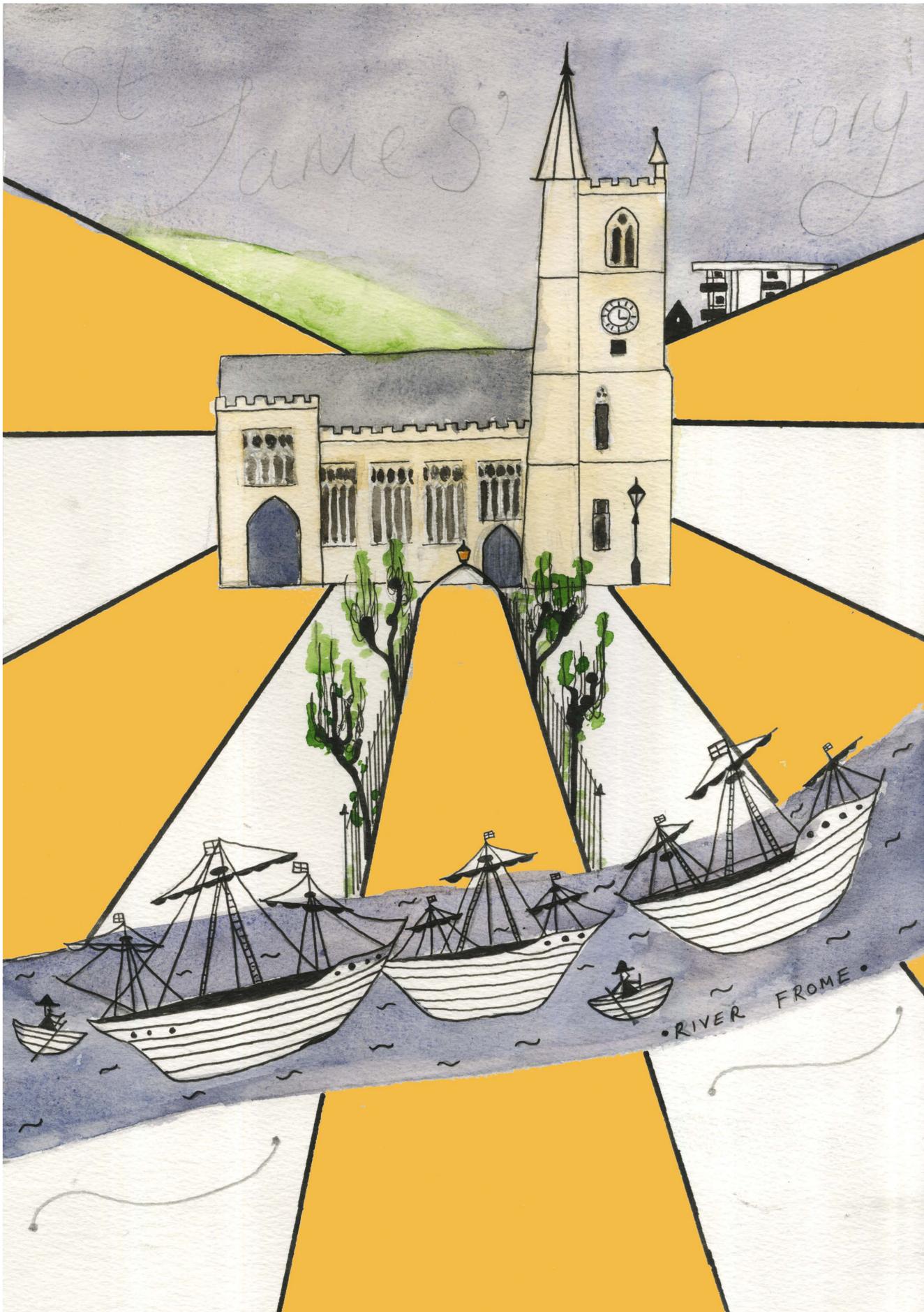


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At the Heart of our City

St James Priory has always stood at the centre of Bristol's rich history. The merchant vendors sail by with goods destined for the Priory, that were then distributed by the Benedictine monks who resided there. It was a focal point in the trade that flowed through the city.

Today it still stands at the centre, as visitors rush past, dipping into the Priory for refreshments or just a moment of peace and calm in the busy city.

Illustration by Abigail White

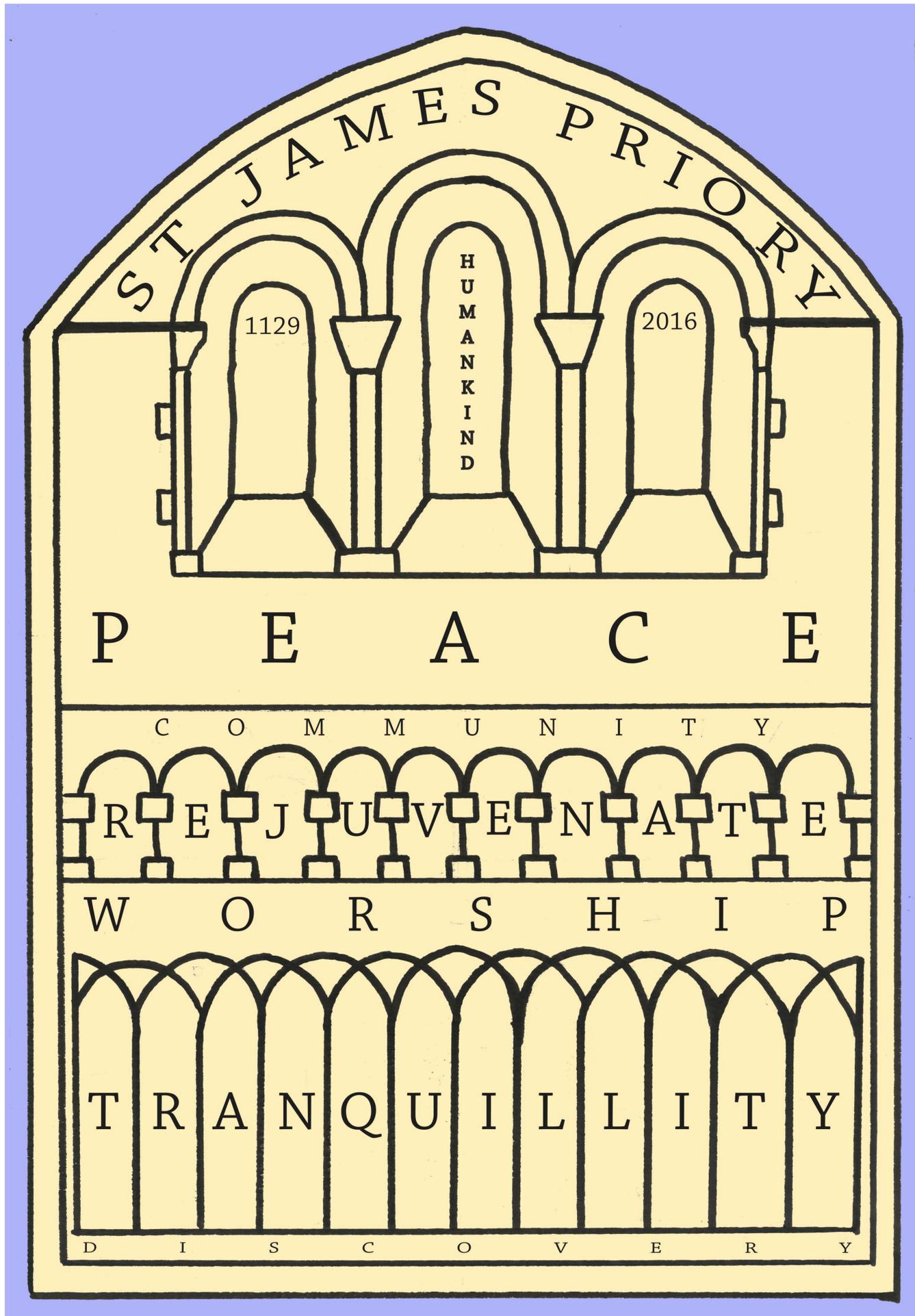


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A Place for All

A drawing of the main façade inside St James Priory, the focal point as you enter and walk down the aisle towards the altar.

Here words that visitors experiences of the Priory are playing with the beautiful rhythm and symmetry of the architecture.

Illustration by Abigail White



St James
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