

# St Leonard's Church

A Colourful Past, part 2

Key Stage 3



# Learning Objectives



To explore and understand two further wall paintings in St Leonard's, Flamstead

- 'St Christopher'
- 'The Three Living and the Three Dead'

# The Story of St Christopher

The story of St Christopher became popular in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. No church was complete without some representation of him.

It was believed that to look at his image gave protection from sudden death during the day.

St Christopher. Wall painting in SSt Peter & St Paul's Church, Pickering, Yorkshire  
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# St Christopher in St Leonard's Church

The painting is tempera on plaster and is one of the later ones to be painted, appearing to date from the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

The church walls were raised in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, affecting some earlier paintings. St Christopher was spared because he was painted after the walls had been raised.



# St Christopher

St Christopher, bearded, wears a red hat, a tunic and has bare legs.

He holds a tapering staff, the size of a small tree trunk, in his right hand.

He is looking into the face of the Christ Child carried on his left shoulder.

The hair and nimbus (halo) of the Christ Child are faintly visible.

Around both heads are fragments of a five-point red floral motif.

At their feet are traces of chevrons and fish.



# The Three Living and the Three Dead



These are life-size figures of three living princes on the left.

Three dead figures are shown on the right in increasingly decomposing states.

# The First Living Figure



The first figure is a young man elegantly clad in a short-skirted 15<sup>th</sup> century jacket and a crown.

His left hand is on his belt; he holds a hawk on his right hand.

# The Second Living Figure



The second figure also carries a hawk on his right wrist.

He wears a crown of a different design.



# The Living and the Dead



The third figure is older. He stands with his left hand on his belt, wearing a crown of a third design.

This figure is looking at the fourth figure on his left who is skeletal, but still with hair and flesh on his bones.

***"As ye are, so were we, as we are, so shall ye be"***



The fifth figure has lost his hair and appears more cadaverous. The very faint sixth figure is skeletal.

They raise their right arms towards the three living figures, mocking them: *"As ye are, so were we, as we are, so shall ye be"*