

Who Built St Leonard's Church?

The lord of the Manor – the Landowner

Good day. Do take a look around.

Everything you can see is mine. My father, Ralph de Tony, was given the manor of Flamstead for his courage in battle. I've inherited his land and want to raise my position on earth and in heaven by supporting the church. So, I decided a stone church would be built, right here, on my land in Flamstead, in place of that old wattle and daub building. A



beautiful stone church. A place to worship God as well as prove to everyone, that I am indeed, an important and godly man.

Now, I am far too busy serving my King and looking after my other interests to be involved in the daily construction of this new church – I have much more important other business to attend to, taking me away from these fields of Flamstead.

Luckily, I have a trusted team – the best money can buy.

The Bailiff

I won't stop long,
there's too much
to do.

It's a busy life
being a Bailiff. But
it is not a job that
just anyone can
do. You have to be
able to read and
write for a start.

What do I do?
Well, the question
should be, what
don't I do?



I manage just about everything to do with my lord's land. I collect money and taxes from everyone living and working here. I report back to my lord, letting him know exactly what is happening when he's not here.

You could say I'm my lord's right-hand man, his eyes and ears. The man in charge. Well ... when he's not in Flamstead ... of course. I've a reputation for getting every job done on time. And that's why I've been employed to make sure this church is built to the very finest standard.

It's a wonderful way to give glory to God and show just how rich and great my master is. The very best people are employed to raise up this new church, no expense spared. It truly is a magnificent sight.

The Architect

See that light flooding the sky from the east? Glorious. The rising sun in the morning reminds us of the resurrection of Jesus. That light is going to be a central part of my design for this new church in Flamstead.

It's an architect's job to ensure this is indeed the finest church. And that's me, the architect. This church is going to be much better than those other churches nearby. I'm going to build a church as impressive as the Abbey itself, over in St Albans.

The sunlight, yes, I was saying that was important wasn't I? Over there, in the east there will be a huge window, to catch that morning sun and illuminate the church altar – that's the most important part of any church.

At the west end the Bailiff has asked for a place for business, for rents to be collected and for law to be enforced. That's all well and good, but I'd much rather be at the eastern end of this wonderful building, basking and worshipping in the Glory of God.



The Master Mason

Greetings.

I'm delighted you can join us to see all the hard work that we're doing here.

I'm the Master Mason.

Carving stone has been my life's work and now I have the great honour to lead a team of skilled artisans in creating this marvellous church in Flamstead.

I live over there, just on the edge of church grounds so I can always be on hand to sort out any problems and advise on all parts of the building work.



The Stone Mason

Hello, I'm the chief Stone
Mason for this new church.

I've been working with stone
since I was a young apprentice.

See those boys splitting rocks
from the quarry into smaller
blocks – they're the apprentices
now.

It'll take seven years before
they can call themselves Stone
Masons. It's a tough job and the
hours are long, but there is no
better way to learn your trade.

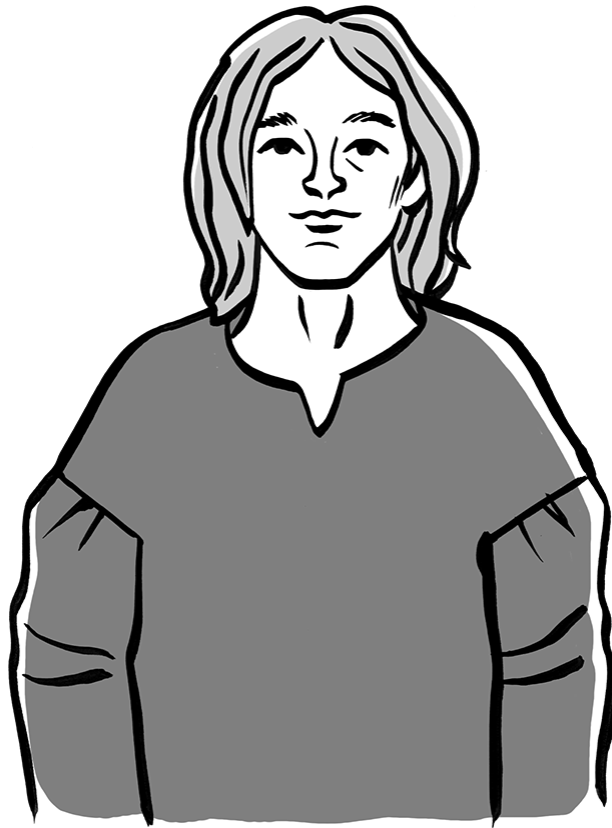
First, the rough blocks are smoothed with mallets and chisels or
dressed by one of our younger masons. Then the stones are passed
to us more experienced masons, who cut the stones to the
architect's plans.

It is such an honour to work on a fine building like this. To turn a
rough lump of stone into a beautiful, intricate design with your own
bare hands. Such an honour ... some of us leave our marks or
special designs on the stones we have worked on for everyone to
see. Mine's a boat. Remember me, if you spot it.



The Carpenter

Stone is all very well,
but wood is what I work
with. I love the feel and
smell of it. Without
wood, there could be
no church. From the
huge beams holding
the roof up to the tiny
little pegs fastened
between every piece.
All wood. Look up
there, can you see
them?



I'm the chief carpenter and I make frames for the windows and create the arches the architect has drawn, as well as ensure all the carts and pulleys are working well to keep the building site going smoothly.

My apprentices split the logs from the tree trunks sent to site. They take off the bark using very sharp and special tools and then make them into rough beams for others – more experienced craftsmen, like me - to turn and carve into the beautiful wood you can see all around the church.

The Blacksmith

Me and my wife run the forge here in Flamstead.

We're right at the edge of the church grounds and keep the furnace well stocked with fuel so it reaches the blistering temperatures we need to work the metal. It is as hot as anything in here. It's a tricky job, keeping the furnace at the right temperature so it can be used to melt and bend the metal for everything we need.



We're a real team, me and my good wife. She helps me make small items and is brilliant at reshaping and sharpening tools – those stone masons get through so many chisels! We make all the hinges and latches and handles needed in the new church. We make some nails, but the Carpenter fits most of the wood together with dowels –



tiny pieces of wood that are much like the nails you might recognise. He makes them out of spare wood because it's cheaper than using iron. But not to worry, there's always something to make or mend. There's never a quiet moment at the forge.

The Priest

Good day, I am a monk from the Abbey of St Alban the Martyr.

I have come to Flamstead to bring the word and good news of God to this growing community of Flamstead, and to offer prayer and praise in this new church.

My bishop – a friend of the Lord of the Manor – is delighted that this stone church is being built here. It's a wonderful and generous gift to the local area and to God. No doubt it will serve my master well, when he eventually comes to enter the Eternal Kingdom.

