

Flamstead Heritage Project: *Activity Plan*

As well as the major repairs, which closed the church for over a year, St Leonard's has recently been equipped for the modern age with essential facilities such as running water, a small kitchen a WC, step free access, Wi-Fi, an improved sound system, and a hearing loop.

It re-opened on 19th December 2021. Since then, the Flamstead Heritage Project has run its first major event in the church, and other organisations have started to benefit from its role as a venue for community events.



Puppets made & operated by children of Flamstead Village School: an Activity Plan event



A sell-out community event: Revd. Richard Coles at "Books in the Belfry"

Our activities are for everyone: children of all ages, schools & colleges, those interested in heritage & conservation, and the wider community.

We are working closely with individual volunteers & existing village groups.

Contact or follow us to find out more about:

- how the roof was repaired
- what heritage events, activities, and resources are planned
- how St Leonard's will serve the community in the long-term
- what part you could play - as a volunteer or supporter.

 www.flamsteadheritage.org
 contact@flamsteadheritage.org
 [@flamheritage](https://twitter.com/flamheritage)
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Flamstead Heritage Project

living histories, lasting journeys



Early 19th century engraving of St Leonard's, Flamstead by Barak Longmate

St Leonard's, our ancient village centre church has many treasures to share:

- 900 years of history
- rare mediaeval wall paintings
- interesting monuments, graffiti & stained glass
- intriguing characters with stories to be told
- fascinating archive of photos & documents.

Much of St Leonard's was badly constructed in mediaeval times. Then, as a "poor agricultural parish" in early modern times, it was somewhat neglected. In the 20th century, heroic efforts were made to raise funds for long overdue repairs, but the burden was too great to overcome fully.

In 2016, surveys showed the church was too damp, harming the wall paintings, and that death watch beetle and rot had so damaged the nave roof, it was in danger of collapse. It was facing closure, possibly for ever.

But by 2017, the Flamstead Heritage Project had been created: to save the Grade 1 listed church, to help equip it for the future, and to share its precious heritage with the wider community.

Working with church and other village groups, the Project submitted a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, raised the necessary £1m, managed the building works, and is now fully engaged in delivering the heritage programme.






St Leonard's has been saved – *but there is still much to do.*



St Leonards Church Flamstead, *Living Histories, Lasting Journeys* heritage project has been made possible with the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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Flamstead Heritage Project: *achievements, progress & goals*

<p>2017 to 2019</p>	<p>We have submitted bids to the National Lottery Heritage Fund on behalf of the PCC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costed repair specifications; • project plans; • heritage engagement; • Activity Plan; • locally raised matched funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bid successful; • matched funds raised 
<p>2020 to 2021</p>	<p>We have managed the (capital) building works to restore, renew or repair the nave roof, south clerestory windows, and some walls.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nave roof timbers, ridge beams & wall plates; • copper roof; • external flint work; • masonry for window heads, • four new clerestory windows & glazing; • rainwater goods & drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • works completed; • church reopened on 19th December 2021 
<p>2022 to 2024</p>	<p>We are delivering the Activity Plan to produce materials and run events that will engage diverse audiences with our fascinating heritage.</p> <p>We will produce a formal assessment report at the end of the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • printed & online information; • signage; • online materials & activity sessions for schools; • puppet theatre & drama events; • arts & crafts competitions; • expert lectures; • discovery & publication of archives, photographs & memories; • village events e.g. Scarecrow Festival; • ecological churchyard plan; • mediaeval graffiti survey; • community meals, talks, clubs & inter-cultural links. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well under way • working as a team with volunteers, professionals, & local partner organisations  
<p>2022 & beyond</p>	<p>We are enabling the PCC to secure the long-term future of the building as both a Christian church and a venue for heritage & community events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic maintenance programme; • regular preventative maintenance; • self-funding revenue to pay for heating, lighting, insurance, cleaning, and maintenance; • installation of 21st Century facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ongoing planning • liaising with PCC & FoSL (Parochial Church Council, Friends of St Leonard's) 



Scaffolding on the North side and over the nave roof during the building works - St Leonard's, September 2021



The nave roof timbers; no attempt was made to colour the new wood to match the old; December 2021



Tie beam, ridge beam & rafter repairs seen during a "Hard Hat Tour"; look closely for an inscribed record of past works in 1791