



large churchyard, much valued as a green space in the centre of the village

The Story of St Leonard's Flamstead ten centuries of history

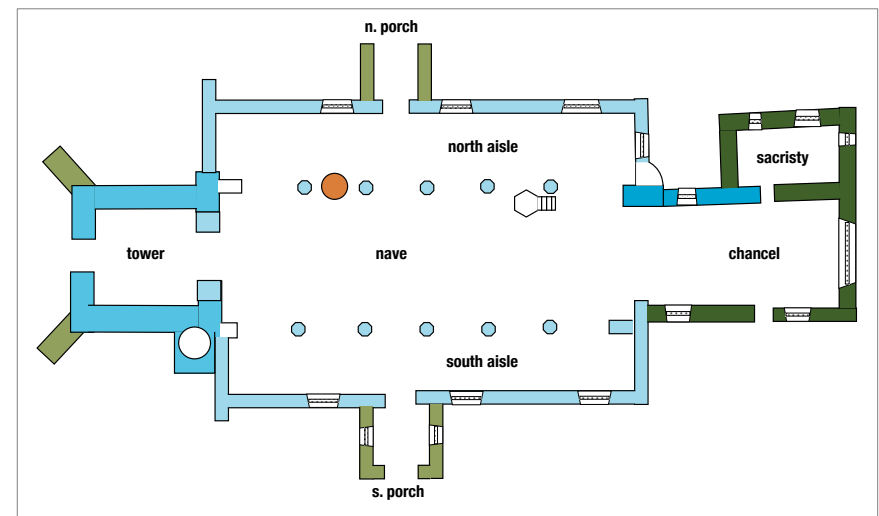
Visitors often ask: "how old is St Leonard's?" There is not a simple answer. It was first built by the Normans in the 12th century, quite likely on the site of a Saxon chapel, then added to and modified over the centuries.

Such modifications were not always made in a structurally sound way, creating problems that persist to the present day. Revd. Vincent Bullard put it like this in 1902:



"... men of one age built and men of another recklessly enlarged the church with so little regard for good construction that their successors have had a continual struggle to maintain it in a serviceable condition."

Simplified Plan: colour coded by century of construction



The Story of St Leonard's: responsibilities & contact information

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

- **is** legally responsible for the building, its running & upkeep
- **is** developing use of the building, extending its role as a venue for the whole community.

<https://churchfm.org>

01582 842525

Flamstead Heritage Project

- **has** successfully bid for roof repair funding & managed the capital works
- **is** managing our heritage engagement activities –with volunteers & local groups.

<https://flamsteadheritage.org>

@flamheritage

Friends of St Leonard's (FoSL)

- **has** contributed significant matched funding to all the projects
- **is** continuing to fund projects & maintenance to sustain the building for the long term.

<http://friendsofstleonards.org>

foslflamstead@gmail.com

the Flamstead Community

- **has** generously supported the capital works with time, expertise, and funding
- **will be** asked to continue doing so, for the sake of "people of a future age".

All are welcome to visit
open every day c. 10:00 to dusk





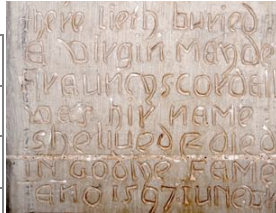




These Walls can Talk



Living Histories,
Lasting Journeys

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The Story of St Leonard's: *timeline, with examples from the many treasures*

the past: <i>our heritage</i>	11 th	c. 1096	Christina of Markyate, born on St Leonard's Day, Nov 6 th ; the church's dedication is a tribute to her.	 <p>mediaeval wall painting</p>  <p>C15th tomb: now identified</p>  <p>Elizabethan graffiti</p>  <p>C20th stained glass: St Leonard & King Alfred</p>
	12 th	c. 1120	Norman low tower, nave & chancel are built, said to be on site of existing 9 th /10 th century Saxon chapel.	
	13 th	c. 1220	Gothic side aisles & pillars are added, replacing existing nave walls - causing major structural issues	
	14 th	c. 1350	Two storey sacristy with priest's chamber added; chancel extended & made square, losing the apse.	
	15 th	c. 1450	Nave walls heightened; bell stage added to tower; north & south porches added.	
	16 th	1530s	Wall paintings dating from 1275-1450 are whitewashed over during the Reformation.	
	17 th	1664	Five post-Restoration bells are cast on site. The sixth was cast in 1729. Together they weigh c. 2.5 tons	
	18 th	1791	Nave roof repaired, " <i>extensively and clumsily</i> "; significant alterations made in the late 18 th century.	
	19 th	c. 1860	Extensive restoration to the chancel by University College, Oxford, the patrons.	
	20 th	1905-8	Major restoration works carried out to tower, both aisles & N. porch by Revd. Vincent Bullard.	
	1928	First of the wall paintings are rediscovered: " <i>most important in Hertfordshire after St Albans Abbey</i> ".		
the present: <i>crisis overcome</i>	2010s	Passage of time, crumbling stonework, & poor restoration let in damp, damaging the wall paintings.		
	2016	Survey finds rot & death watch beetle in nave roof needing emergency repairs, with threat of closure.		
	2019	Mains water, WC, kitchen, ringing floor & step-free access installed – supported by EU LEADER.		
	2020-1	Full restoration of nave roof, S. clerestory windows & other capital works – funded by National Lottery.		
	2021	21 st century essentials installed: Wi-Fi, PA system, hearing loop, video streaming   		
	2022	Church open, structurally sound, slowly drying out & welcoming everybody.		
the future: <i>our responsibility</i>	2020s and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of the mediaeval wall paintings • Repairs to stonework • Renovation of the bells • Installation of new heating system • Proactive, regular & strategic maintenance 	<p>St Leonard's has been saved but there is much more to do and it's our generation's responsibility</p>	