



The Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead (FoSL) is a secular charity (for all faiths and none) that raises funds for the restoration and repair of the fabric of our historic church.

Our fund-raising comes from membership, one-off donations, legacies and events: including the annual Flamstead Scarecrow Festival, the Village Supper and the Book Festival.

By becoming a member of FoSL, you will help ensure the church remains open - for your family weddings, funerals & Christmases – and for its wider role within our community.

We will be able to maintain an unbroken tradition of 900 years – passing it on to the generations yet to come.



An 18th Century engraving by Longmate. St Leonard's has been at the centre of the village for 900 years.



FoSL stand at the Scarecrow Festival

“church maintenance is the responsibility of the parish; no-one from outside will ever step in”

Building works at St Leonard's: *FoSL's contribution*



FoSL has made major contributions to the LEADER project & the organ fund

LEADER Project

EU funding has transformed the church with running water, a kitchen, WC, step-free access, and other essential facilities.

Other improvement projects include a fine, modern organ.



FoSL has given a major commitment towards matched funding for the nave roof project

Nave Roof Repair

After heroic efforts, the bid to the National Lottery led by the Flamstead Heritage Group has been successful.

Thanks also to wonderful local donors, this has enabled repairs to begin in 2020 on the roof and related works such as on the south clerestory windows: securing St Leonard's future both as a church and a venue for heritage and community activities.



Following the Roof Repair

Other key works are necessary: in particular to conserve the best mediaeval wall paintings in a Hertfordshire parish church.

Long Term Maintenance

Proactive regular maintenance carried out in time is the only way to prevent expensive future repairs.

FoSL is working hard to secure the £40,000 that this will cost each year.

**these
need
your
help
now**

How to become a FoSL member

To ensure our church building both survives and thrives, do consider becoming a member of the Friends of St Leonard's.

You pay a monthly or yearly subscription. In return you do get some modest benefits, but more importantly you are taking responsibility for securing our heritage - by providing the regular long-term funding it needs.



Stringfever playing at a sold-out Village Supper

Membership Benefits

- invitations to occasional friends-only events
- priority booking or reservations at our fund-raising events
- occasional email updates
- participation at the AGM
- welcome pack - with goodies

Monthly membership costs less than everyday spending

- ✓ Bronze – just £2.50 – one cup of coffee
- ✓ Silver £5 – one drink in a pub
- ✓ Gold £10 – one typical take-away meal
- ✓ Gold Plus is £15 plus – to make even more of a difference

To join, just complete the application form

If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid, which gives us an extra 25p for each £1.

To apply online, make a one-off donation, or simply to find out more about FoSL, contact us ...

Friends of St Leonard's, Flamstead
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1222	St Leonard's is built, perhaps paid for by the de Todenen family, lords of the manor
middle ages	building & maintenance funded by wealthy patrons & tithes
1791	nave roof partially renewed but, as a " poor agricultural parish ", the building is largely neglected for centuries
20th century	major works in 1906-8 and some repairs in 1960s-80s, but world wars & a consumer society mean these are under-funded
1995	FoSL is founded and starts to raise funds for long-overdue major repairs
2017	A crisis: the nave roof must be repaired at a cost of up to £1m or the church will close
2019	EU funding provides essential modern facilities: mains water, kitchen, WC,
2020	Work starts on roof after successful bid to National Lottery ; with matched funding to be raised locally
2021-2024	Follow-on projects e.g. to restore the highly regarded mediaeval wall paintings
2025 onwards	Sustained routine maintenance needed for the long term ; to prevent future crises

Who funds St Leonard's building maintenance? *a timeline*

amazing achievements

but these now need your help

we all have a part to play

- FoSL membership,
- one-off donation,
- bequest,
- volunteer, join in, ...

since ...

we all benefit

regular services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, Christmas, community events, personal crises, celebrations, heritage venue, churchyard as the village green, ...