

Poncegraf Church

The Church of St Lionel (previously St Stefan, but forcibly changed by the current lord to reflect his own name) is a grey brick building, with an upper floor for the choir and organist. The small cemetery is mainly for the lord and his family and retinue – serfs are mainly put in a common pit-grave in the woods.

The priest is a mouse of a man – Father Harold Limpet – completely incapable of standing up to Sir Lionel's autocratic and tyrannical demands. He is aware of the sexual depravity of Sir Lionel, and is confided in by Sir Lionel's wife, but is completely lacking in any backbone when it comes to even a mild admonishment when yet another wench is pregnant.

He does run a small school in the church itself, three days a week, teaching reading, writing and theology for a small payment in kind from the serfs, and silver from the Lord's retinue. Sir Lionel's children are taught by a private tutor, of course (and strangely always female, and many, even more strangely, having to leave because of pregnancy). He also is known to give some of his own goods to help those in great need. He is loved by the downtrodden serfs, and despised by Sir Lionel, and used by Lady Poncegraf.

He lives in fear of being dismissed by Sir Lionel (no hope of that, though – Sir Lionel loves having such a cowed man as the village priest that allows him to get away with everything and anything). He HAD been dismissed from his last parish, because he was such a mouse of a man, and has no desire to experience the months of homelessness he suffered after that dismissal.

And to top it off, his wife is not only plain, but is a very controlling woman with a loud shrieking voice. Though. To be fair, she does also look out for the villagers, and has occasionally ticked Sir Lionel off about his 'affairs', much to the chagrin, and even fear of her husband.