

### The Black Monks of Glastonbury

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This sourcebook from David Chart (Splintered Peace) demonstrates how to build a fantasy adventure out of real-world myths and legends by using Glastonbury Abbey. This tale of diabolism and epic heroism is useful for Ars Magica and d20 System players alike.

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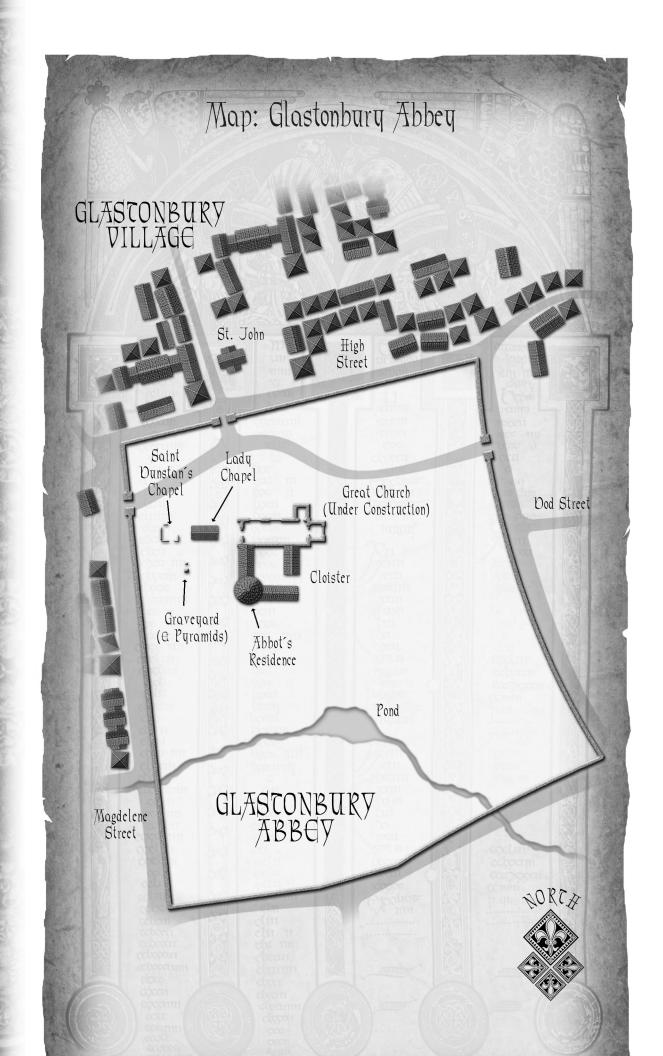
# CHAPTER THREE:

It is worthwhile to describe the antiquity of this most holy monastery of Glastonbury, where we profess the warfare of Heaven; and worthwhile, also, to command posterity to hold it in celebrated memory.

— From John of Glastonbury's Cronica sive Antiquitates Glastoniensis Ecclesie

Glastonbury Abbey is the oldest church in England. It was founded by Jesus himself when he visited England with Joseph of Arimathea, who returned thirty one years after the crucifixion with eleven followers. For many years the abbey existed as a gathering of twelve hermits around the church, until St. Patrick came to that place and taught them to live as a monastery.

From that monastery, in the tenth century, came St. Dunstan, who reformed the English Church and served as archbishop of Canterbury. From then until the Norman Conquest, Glastonbury was the greatest of the monasteries of England. After the conquest, things were harder for the English Church. The first Norman abbot, Thurstan, once even attacked the monks in the abbey church. In this time of trouble, Satan made his first attacks on the monks, and seduced a few to his service.





Normal animals are indeed struck down if they enter the graveyard or chapel. Magical ani-

mals, and people entering the chapel with an animal, are merely knocked out, losing all fatigue levels, the first time. A person so affected also feels a strong sense of divine disapproval. On the second attempt, a single body level is also lost. On the third attempt, two body levels are lost, and so on. Magic Resistance does not defend against this, nor does any other form of defense.

Any character who makes a Church or Legend Lore roll against an Ease Factor of three knows about the protection on the graveyard.

A similar sanction applies to buildings near the church. It's said that if any structure is built so as to shut out the light from the cemetery or the Lady Chapel, it falls into ruin within a few days of its completion. The abbot's residence is unusually low for this reason.

#### The Legend of Rainaldus

Rainaldus of Marksbury vowed to fight in the Crusades. He traveled east, and was captured while he was fighting the enemies of Christ.



## Glastonbury Abbey & Village

#### **NEW COMMUNITY**

Size: Village

Power Center: Magical GP Limit: 200 gp

Ready Cash: 40,000 gp (due to the

abbey's wealth)

Population: 528 adults including 48 monks and 480 townsfolk (100% human); 192 children including 10 oblates and 182 townsfolk (100% human)

Authority Figures: William of St. Vigor, Abbot of Glastonbury, 2ndlevel human aristocrat/9th-level diabolist; Eustace, Prior Glastonbury, 2nd-level human aristocrat/6th-level diabolist; Harold of Westhay, Abbot's official, 5th-level human expert

#### THE ABBEY'S STRUCTURE

Glastonbury Abbey is a monastery, not a fortress, and few people would be so shameless as to attack an ostensible house of God. Thus, it is easy to get in. The wall around the Abbey precincts is only ten feet high, and the Climb DC is 20.

None of the doors have locks, as medieval locks are very bulky and generally used on secure chests rather than doors. The internal doors are simple and wooden, while those in the outer wall are reinforced with iron. The doors to the Lady Chapel and Great Church are never locked. As all the doors are in use, they never get stuck. Inner doors have an AC of 5, Hardness of 5, 10 hp, and a break DC of 15 if locked. Outer doors have an AC of 5, Hardness of 5, 20 hp, and a break DC of 25 if locked.

Similarly, the Abbey is not riddled with traps, as people have to live there. The monks keep their private property in locked chests. These chests have an AC of 5, Hardness of 5, 30 hp, break DC of 30, and require an Open Lock check DC 15.