

Abbot William

You are in charge of the abbey.

You come from a rich, powerful family but being Abbot has made you even more powerful because the abbey is extremely rich. You are one of the King's councillors and attend every meeting of parliament.



Prior Richard

You are second in command of the abbey.

When Abbot William dies or steps down, you expect to become Abbot. That will give you the chance to attend Parliament and advise the King. Being Abbot will suit your grand ambitions and you will live in an even richer style.



Brother Peter

You joined the abbey when you were 10. You are now 35. You are lame and can only walk slowly and painfully and it's been like that since you were born. However you are a brilliant artist and you worship God by painting beautiful pictures in the books written in the abbey's writing room, the scriptorium.



Brother Simon

You have been in the abbey since you were 8, 60 years ago. You are now often ill but you get food, warmth and medicines in the abbey and you still attend services in the church when you can. It's the only world you know.



Brother Hugh

You lead the abbey's choir.

You have a fine singing voice and love music. Singing is the best way to worship God.

You have been doing this for the last 20 years and do not want to do anything else. What else could you do? The abbey took you in as an orphan.



Brother Robert

You are well over 50 years of age.

You did not become a monk until you were 30, when your wife and two children died of the plague. Since then, you have only been interested in prayer and working for God.



Brother Cadfael

You look after the old and sick in the abbey's infirmary. You know a great deal about how to use herbs as medicines and people from the local town regularly come to see you for cures. You believe that healing people is doing God's work and the abbey garden grows the best medicines in the area.



John

You work in the herb garden with Brother Cadfael. You know all the plants and have a gift for gardening. However you are not very clever and when you lived in town other children used to pick on you and make fun of you. Now Brother Cadfael protects you from all that and you have never been happier.



Stephen

You are the abbot's servant, keeping his rooms and the abbey's guest rooms clean. The job gives you a lot of status and a good income and you enjoy meeting the wealthy visitors to the abbey. Your father did the same job and you hope your son will take over from you one day.



David

Your father is a tailor in the town. He sent you to the abbey school where you have done very well. The Abbot has promised to pay for you to go to the university at Oxford, which could lead to well-paid work in the king's government.



Edward

You are not a monk but you work in the abbey's kitchens. It's good regular work with no danger of losing your job if times are hard. The abbey is rich enough to manage, even in years of bad harvests. You also take the leftovers home for your family. Working in the abbey has kept your family well-fed for years.



Martin

You are not a monk but you work in the abbey's laundry. There's plenty of work and there's no danger of losing your job. You take special care of the Abbot's fine clothes. You are hoping that your son can find work in the abbey soon because there's not much work around in the town.



Blind Tom

You have been a beggar since you lost your sight fighting in the King's wars in France. You get a little money by begging but not enough to keep you alive when times are hard – which they usually are. The monks make sure you have enough food and even give you shelter.



Old Meg

You live in a hovel in the town. You are over 60 (although you are not sure exactly how old you are) and have no family. The monks give you food and a little money and make sure you stay warm in winter. Brother Cadfael also gives you medicines.



Matthew the Goldsmith

You are a wealthy craftsman in the town. You make a lot of money out of business with the abbey. The Abbot orders crosses, jewelled plates and other treasures from your workshop. The abbey is very rich and you are able to charge the abbot a good price.



Sir John Cheney

You are the local lord of the manor. Your family has lived here for many years and your ancestors are buried in the abbey's church. You have given money to the abbey so that the monks say prayers for the dead and this helps them reach heaven more quickly. The Abbot is also helping to solve the problems of your youngest son and daughter.



Henry Cheney

You are the third son of Sir John and Lady Cheney. When your father dies, all the family lands will go to your eldest brother and you will not have enough to live on. You could be a soldier, like your other brother, but you are not a good fighter so Abbot William says you can join the abbey. You are clever enough to become Prior after Prior Richard.



Margaret Cheney

You are the third daughter of Sir John and Lady Cheney. You are 16 years old. Your two elder sisters are married but your father is struggling to find you a husband. It may have something to do with your squint and he can't afford to pay a high price to get you a husband. Abbot William has arranged for you to become a nun in a nearby nunnery. It will save you a lot of heartache – and stop the beatings at home.

