



Kellys Directory Extract 1915

Kington St Michael



KINGTON ST MICHAEL is a parish 3 miles north-north-west from Chippenham station, on the Swindon and Bath section of Great Western railway, comprising the tithings of Kington St Michael, Kington Langley and Easton Piercy, in the North Western of the county, Damerham North hundred, Chippenham union, petty sessional division and county court district, and in Chippenham rural deanery, North Wilts archdeaconry, and Bristol diocese. The church of St Michael is an ancient structure, consisting of chancel, nave of three bays, aisles, south porch, and a lofty western tower of debased character, containing 6 bells: the chancel arch is a fine example of Norman work: there is a memorial window to John Aubrey and John Britton, the antiquaries, besides other stained windows: the church, including the chancel, was restored in 1857/8 and has 250 sittings. The register dates from October 6th 1563. In 1582, the following memoranda appear: "Here the plague began, 4th May" and "Here the plague ended, 6th August". The living is a vicarage, net yearly value £277, including 8 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of the Bishop of Bristol, and held since 1914 by the Rev. Maurice Ingram Holme MA of Jesus College, Cambridge. Earl Cowley is the lay rector. Here is a Congregational chapel. Newman's charity of £6 a year, Taylor's of £1, and Woodroffe's of £1 10s are distributed on St Thomas' Day (Dec 21st): Bowerman's of £5 is payable from Christ's Hospital to the school here, and to that at Kington Langley: six almshouses of two rooms each were built and endowed by Alderman Lyte in 1675, for poor men; Thomas White's gift of £200 is also applied to the further maintenance of this charity. In 1662, William Woodroffe of Chippenham left 30s a year "in remembrance" as he recites in his will, "of God's mercy in preserving me in a wonderful manner from drowning at Peckingell Bridge": for this sum, a sermon is to be preached yearly, in which the minister shall excite the people to be mindful of mercies received, and thankful for the same, and 10s is to be paid for the sermon, and 20s given to the poor. Half of the charities now belong to Kington Langley. John Britton, the eminent antiquary and topographer, was born here 7th July 1771. On the Priory estate stand the remains of a house of Benedictine nuns, dedicated to St Mary, and now occupied as a farmhouse: in the terraced garden, stone coffins have been found and in the old hedges grow a number of barberry trees, "which tis likely" says Aubrey, "the nuns used for confections". The cross stood at the end of the village "where" according to the same writer "there was a little market for fish, eggs, butter and such small gear". The manor belonged to the Abbot of Glastonbury, and the manorial rights are now held in thirds by the descendants of Sir Charles Snell, kt whose ancestor became possessed of church lands at the Reformation. Lt Col Sir Audley Dallas Neeld bart, CB, MVO, Earl Cowley and Major Walter Thomlinson Coleman JP are the chief landowners. The soil is corn brash, sub-soil, forest marble. The land is arable and pasture; a wood called Heywood extends over the south of the parish. The parish contains 2436 acres; rateable value £2502: population in 1911 473.

EASTON PIERCY is a tithing half a mile north-west with a population of 20 in 1891: it contains four small farms, and once had a chapel with graveyard and cross: the fine old manor house has been converted into a farmhouse: at Lower Easton, John Aubrey, the distinguished antiquary was born, 3rd November, 1626.

Kington Langley, or Langley Fitzurse, a tithing and hamlet of this parish, has been formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish.

Parish Clerk: Tom Woodman

Post Office: Albert Sealy, sub-postmaster. Letters through Chippenham arrive at 7.20am & 3.20pm, Sundays, 6.45am; dispatched at 11.30am & 7.25pm; Sundays, 9.20am. Yatton Keynall, 2 miles distant, is the nearest money order and telegraph office.

Wall Letter Box: cleared at 11.30am & 7.25pm, Sundays, 9.25am

Elementary School (mixed) with master's house, built chiefly at the cost of Herbert Prodgers esq JP in 1866 for 100 children. Walter Henry Bream, master.

Police Station: Frederick Eli Shorto, constable in charge.

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Oster	Robert			Bulidge House
Holme	Maurice Ingram	Reverend MA	Vicar	The Vicarage
Prodgers	Herbert	JP		Kington House

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Allfrey		Hon Mrs, Supt	Wiltshire Cottage Home for Epileptic Girls	
Batten	Jesse		Farmer	Easton
Bavis		Mrs, Matron	Wiltshire Cottage Home for Epileptic Girls	
Bishop	Vincent		Farmer	
Buckland	Ernest		Farmer	New Priory Farm
Cole	Job		Farmer	Lower Easton
Dyer	William		Carpenter	
Jones	Frederick		Farmer	
Keynes	William C		Baker & Grocer	
Martin	Henry			White Hart PH
Organ	Walter		Farmer	Cromhalls
Pike	Charles		Farmer	The Priory
Sage	Frank		Farmer	Easton Piercy
Sage	Frederick		Farmer	Moorshall
Sage	Harry		Farmer	Heywood
Sage	James		Farmer	Swinley
Sage	William Henry		Farmer	
Sealy	Albert		Blacksmiths	
Sealy	Alfred		Blacksmiths	
Sealy	Michael John		Tailor	
Sparrow	Thomas Guy		Farmers	Down Farm
Sparrow	William		Farmers	Down Farm
Swain	Elizabeth	Mrs & Son	Shopkeepers	
Wheeler	William		Farmer	Lodge Farm