



Post Office Directory Extract 1875



Biddestone

Biddestone is a village, divided into two parishes, viz., St. Peter's and St. Nicholas, in the Northern division of the county, hundred, county court district and union of Chippenham, diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, archdeaconry of Bristol, and rural deanery of Malmesbury south, 3 miles north from Corsham station, 4 west from Chippenham and 98 from London, situated on a brook called the Wavering.

The church of St. Nicholas is an ancient and plain structure, and consists of a nave and two chancels, with very curious old belfry in the Norman style containing 1 bell; the church was repaired about 1850. The register dates from the latter part of the sixteenth century. The living comprises the rectory of St. Peter and vicarage of St. Nicholas, with the vicarage of Slaughterford annexed, yearly value £200, in the gift of Winchester College, and held by the Rev. John Einre, M.A., of Baliol College, Oxford. St. Peter's church has been taken down.

Here is a National school for boys and girls; also a Baptist chapel.

There are charities of £19 annual value, left by Lady James, to be distributed in clothes and coals at Christmas; also £6 per annum to the deserving poor at Christmas, left by W Little.

Lord Methuen, who is lord of the manor, and W H Poynder, Esq., are the principal landowners.

The soil is brash; subsoil, gravel. The chief crops are wheat, barley, and pasture lands.

The parish contains about 1,600 acres; gross estimated rental, £3,403 3s.; rateable value, £3,099 4s.; and the population in 1871 was 381 in St. Nicholas, and 27 in St. Peter's.

PARISH CLERK, Edward Arman.

LETTERS through Chippenham arrive at 7 a.m.; dispatched at 7.20 p.m. The nearest money order office is at Corsham.

NATIONAL SCHOOL, Miss Elizabeth Rickwood, mistress.

Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Bence	Henry			
Bence	John			
Blake	Ralph			
Einre	John	Rev. M.A.	Vicar	
Little		Misses		
Little		Mrs.		

Commercial

Attwood	Samuel		Machinist, agricultural implement manufacturer & agent	
Bence	John		Shopkeeper	
Bence	Joseph			White Hart

Blake	Abraham		Farmer & maltster	
Bushell	Thomas		Blacksmith	
Coates	Alfred		Farmer	
Elliott	John		Farmer & maltster	
Gale	William		Farmer & corn merchant	
Gregory	Nicholas		Farmer	Manor farm Biddestone St. Peter
Little	Arthur Henry		Farmer	
Little	James M		Maltster	
Selman	Clara	Miss	Shopkeeper	
Tanner	John		Farmer	Honeybrook farm
Watson	Thomas			White Hart
Whitbread	Thomas		Saddler & harness maker	
Wicks	James	& Son	Carpenters	