



Kelly's Directory Extract 1895

Bishopstone



Bishopstone (near Shrivenham) is a village and parish $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles south-west from Shrivenham station on the Great Western railway, and 7 east from Swindon, in the Northern division of the county, on the Berkshire border, hundred of Ramsbury, petty sessional division and county court district of Swindon, union of Highworth and Swindon, rural deanery of Cricklade, archdeaconry of Bristol and diocese of Gloucester and Bristol. The church of St. Mary is a stone structure of early foundation, but was to a great extent reconstructed in the 14th and 15th centuries: the portions of the early building at present existing are the Norman doorway of the chancel, which dates from the latter part of the 12th century, and the north porch and adjoining part of the nave wall, erected early in the 13th century: it consists of chancel, nave of five bays and aisles, with square embattled western tower containing a fine peal of 8 bells and clock: the chancel has been restored by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, when an old piscina was discovered: on the tomb of Christopher Willoughby, in the chancel, is an epitaph, setting forth that he was most happy with his first wife, but unhappy in his second nuptials: in 1882 and 1883 the church was excellently restored, at a cost of £1,600, under the direction of the late Ewan Christian esq. architect: on Good Friday evening, 1891, a disastrous fire broke out in the tower, consuming the belfry; the roof of the tower and clock were destroyed, and the bells were melted; they have since been replaced, also a new clock, the whole of the restoration costing upwards of £2,600: there are 250 sittings. The register dates from the year 1573. The living is a vicarage, gross yearly value £240, net £235, including 132 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and held since 1886 by the Rev. Herbert Ault. The rectorial tithes and advowson were formerly attached to the prebend of Bishopstone in Salisbury cathedral; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners now own the lands allotted by the award of 1814 to the prebend in lieu of tithes. A Primitive Methodist chapel was built in 1886 with class room adjoining; it is of brick with freestone facings and has sittings for 100 persons.

There are several charities belonging to the parish, viz:- interest of money in Consols, £50, left by Mt. T. Goddard for the education of the poor children of both sexes; also £65 yearly, left by Christopher Willoughby esq. in 1680, for keeping in repair the tower of the church and bells, for paving walks about the churchyard, remainder being distributed as follows:- £16 to the parish of Aylburton, Gloucestershire; £7 in equal proportions to 2 poor persons; £2 10s. to the vicar, for preaching; £1 for the ringing of the Curfew bell; remainder to be divided between 4 poor persons: also £16 yearly, left by Gilbert Keate esq. to be divided amongst 4 poor persons; a field at Purton and £300 for the school, left by the Rev. Thomas Coker, prebendary and vicar; and £180 for a poor person, left by Stephen Goddard; interest on £100 Consols left by Christopher Edmunds esq. for the Sunday School; interest on £206 15s. 8d. from sale of material at Bourton quarry, distributed in coal; rent of 40 gardens (under the Common Closure Act) distributed in fuel and clothing: there is also a piece of ground in the centre of the village, purchased by the late Rev. A. J. Pile and left in trust for a future parochial institute. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England are the lords of the manor, and owners of the Salisbury Bishopric estates, and of the estate formerly attached to the prebend of Bishopstone. The soil is chalk; subsoil, clay. The chief crops are grass, wheat and turnips for sheep. The area is 3.519 acres; rateable value, £2.892; the population in 1891 was 503.

Sexton, Elijah Bowsher.

Post, M. O. & T. O., S. B., Express Delivery & Annuity & Insurance Office. - William Washington Saunders, postmaster. Letters arrive through Shrivenham R.S.O. (Berks.) by messenger, at 8.15 a.m.; dispatched at 6 p.m.

School, with house, erected in 1849, & enlarged in 1871, at a cost of £540, for 140 children; average attendance, 85; John Masters, master; Mrs. Emma Masters, mistress.

Carriers.- Robert Maisey & George Hunt, to Swindon from this parish, every mon. & fri.

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Ault	Herbert	Rev.		Vicarage
Chivers	John			Court cottage
Dore	John			West end
Edmonds		Mrs.		The Cottage, High St.
Lawrence		Miss		Fairview Villa
Peck	Charles			Russley park (postal address, Baydon R.S.O.)
Povey	Joseph			High Street

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Arrowsmith	Thomas		Haulier	
Bond	Alfred Saml.		Market gardener	
Edwin	Cue		Farmer	
Dore	Arthur		Farmer	Manor farm
Hibbard	Charles		Farmer	Forrest ho
Hickman	Thos.		Farmer	Townsend farm
Hunt	George		Carrier	High street
Johnson	Wm.		Steam plough proprietor	
King	Charles		Saddler	
Maisey	Robert		Carrier	
Maisey	William		Turf corosondent	Rose cottage
Povey	John		Tailor, breeches, livery & habit maker, seedsman & patent medicine vendor, & assistant ovcersr	
Povey	Rchd.		Sec. Oddfelloews' Society	
Saunders	Wm. Washington		Grocer, draper & post office	
Stevens	William		Miller (water)	
Stone	Edwin		Beer retailer	
Stratford	Joseph		Farmer	Forty
Tasker	Mary	Mrs.	Blacksmith	
Titchener	David		Greyhound trainer	Finch's Hill villa
Wentworth	Stephen		Watercress growr	Church Hill villa
Weston	William		Bailiff to Henry Chaloner Smith esq.	Russley Park (postal address, Baydon R.S.O.)
Willis	George			True Heart P.H.