



Post Office Directory Extract 1875

Broughton Gifford



Broughton Gifford is a parish in the Northern division of the county, Bradford hundred and union, Melksham county court district, diocese of Salisbury, archdeaconry of Wilts, and rural deanery of Potterne, 3½ miles north-east from Bradford, 5 south from Corsham, 2 west from Melksham station, and 102 from London.

The church of St Mary, which has been restored, is an ancient structure, having a chancel, nave, and aisles. The tower at the west end is square, having immense buttresses, a turret, and an embattled parapet, and contains 2 bells. The aisles are separated from the nave by pointed arches, the pillars of which are different—those on the south side being octagonal, those on the north, cylindrical, with an ovolo moulding. These, with other parts of the church, show that an ancient structure of Norman times once existed here, and that the present building was erected probably in Henry VII's reign, some of the old materials having been worked in. There is a curious old brass to the memory of Robert Long, esq. The register dates from 1665. The living is a rectory, yearly value £500, with 32 acres of glebe land and residence, in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, and held by the Rev John Wilkinson, M.A., of Merton College, Oxford, Prebendary of Salisbury.

Here is a National school, also Wesleyan and Particular Baptist chapels.

Here is a charity of Ann Harding and Betsy Paradise, who left, on July 11, 1786, £20 yearly to educate 20 poor boys or girls (this is connected to the National school), and £7 yearly to be distributed at Christmas between ten poor persons who have not been on the parish books. Mrs. Purbeck left by will £5 yearly, to be distributed at Christmas, in sums of 5s each to the most deserving and necessitous families.

A very full and complete history of the parish of Broughton Gifford has been written by the Rev Prebendary Wilkinson, and published in 1850, in the "Wiltshire Archeological and National History Magazine." There was a Roman station near some ground called Bradleys, where many coins of the later empire were found. There are three houses of some architectural pretensions in the village—Monkton, the old house at the Cross, and another on the common. The first is said to have been erected by the Earl of Hertford, son of the Lord Protector Somerset, to whom the manor of Monkton came on the suppression of the Priory of Monkton Farleigh. The second was built by Sir John Horton, lord of the manor, in the year 1629; and the third by William Harding about the year 1700.

Sir Charles Parry Hobhouse, bart., is lord of the manor and principal landowner.

The soil is fine mould, lying on gravel, which rests on clay, with a subsoil of a heavier clay. Agricultural industry in this parish consists principally of dairy farming, and it is said that some of the best land in the county for grazing purposes is the pasture at Monkton, by the river Avon.

The parish contains 1,677 acres, of which 260 are arable and the remainder pasture; gross estimated rental, £4,864; rateable value, £4,383; the population in 1861 was 621 and in 1871 was 588, and in this, as in many other agricultural parishes, is steadily decreasing.

LETTERS through Melksham. The nearest money order offices are at Melksham and Holt.

WALL BOX cleared at 5.45 pm.

NATIONAL SCHOOL, Alfred Noyce, master, Mrs. Sarah Noyce, mistress.

Private Residents

| Surname | Given Names | Title | Industry/Occupation | Place/Parish |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Buckland | Henry | | | |
| Burbidge | Robert | | | |
| Cogswell | Benjamin | | | Hollybrook House |
| Webb | Samuel | | | Hawthorn Villa |
| Wilkinson | John | Rev. M.A.,J.P. | Rector & prebendary | Rectory |

Commercial

| Surname | Given Names | Title | Industry/Occupation | Place/Parish |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | | Keevil & Blake | Farmers | Leechpool |
| | | Gore & Mortimer | Grocers &c. | |
| Alexander | John | | Farmer | |
| Beavan | Edith | Mrs | Farmer | Mill farm |
| Beavan | Lydia | Mrs | Farmer | Gifford Halt |
| Blake | Alfred | | Farmer | Monkton |
| Collett | Simeon | | Shoe maker | |
| Eyers | Edward | | Grocer | |
| Gay | Ephraim | | Shoe maker | |
| Gerrish | Stephen | | Farmer | |
| Gore | Jacob | | Dealer & baker | |
| Green | Simeon | | Tailor | |
| Harding | George | | Carpenter | |
| Harding | William | | Carpenter | |
| Hiscocks | Alfred | | Millers | Chalymead |
| Hiscocks | William | | Millers | Chalymead |
| Mortimer | Abel | | Grocer &c. | |
| Pocock | Henry John | | Farmer | |
| Snelgrove | David | | Brewer | Bell Inn |
| Spackman | Richard Jacob | | Farmer | Church farm |
| Spackman | Thomas Pinniger | | Farmer | Common |
| White | Skreen | | Beer retailer | |
| Wickham | Henry | | Contractor | |