



Post Office Directory 1849

Mere



MERE is 23 miles west-by-north from Salisbury, 102 west-south-west from London, 6 miles west of Hindon, 8 miles east-by-north from Wincanton, and is supposed to derive its name as being a boundary, for it is locally situated on the borders of three counties – Wilts, Dorset and Somerset, which unite in the vicinity. The parish, which includes the tythings of Woodlands, Zeals and Chadenwick, contains 7,355 acres, and a population in 1841 of 3,139. Mere is a market town, on the high road from Salisbury to Taunton Dean, in Somerset, in the hundred of Mere, diocese of Sarum, the Mere Union and the Hindon division. The manufactory of bed ticking, cheese cloths etc., as well as flax spinning and silk throwing are carried on here, and the town has been recently lighted with gas. Mere constitutes a part of the Duchy of Cornwall; in the year 1253 permission was given to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, to build a castle on the hill, now known as Castle Hill, and afterward to fortify it. Mere Park, near the town, in a south-west direction, contains about 810 acres. The Ashfield water rises from a chalk hill in the neighbourhood, and after several mills have been turned by the stream, it passes on and joins the river Stour. There is an ancient building standing in the centre of the town, which now serves as a market house; the market is on Tuesday, and annual fairs are held on the 17 May and the 10 of October. The living is a vicarage, value £400 a year, in the gift of the Dean of Salisbury; the present incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Blundell, who also officiates at the new church recently erected at Zeals. The church dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, is a stone building in good condition, the length from east to west is 95 feet, the width from north to south, including the doorway, 60 feet; under a Gothic niche over the porch, on the north side is the figure of a saint; it appears to be of an earlier age than the church itself. The tower is at the west end of the church, which seems to be the usual mode of building in this part of Wiltshire; it is very stately and well built, square in form, turreted, 35 yards high, surmounted at the angles with four lofty pinnacles, and containing 6 bells. The Prince of Wales is the lord of the manor. Here are chapels for the Primitive Methodists and the Independents; also a National school, and a school on the plan of the British and Foreign school society.

POST OFFICE: Samuel Hayter, postmaster. Letters arrive through Wincanton at 9am and are dispatched at 20m to 5pm.

BANKERS: Wilts & Dorset Banking Company (branch of). Charles Card, manager.

INSURANCE AGENT: Norwich Union Fire & Life, Charles Card.

PUBLIC OFFICERS:

Clerk to the guardians of the Mere Union, Henry Snook
Relieving officer for the Mere Union, Elias Legg.
Registrar of marriages for the Mere District, Edmund Ford Maidment.
Registrar of births and deaths for the Mere District, Elias Legg.
Superintendent Registrar for the Mere District, Henry Snook

PUBLIC BUILDING: Union Workhouse, Henry Dunstan, master; Mrs. Mary Dunstan, matron; Miss Sarah Prince, schoolmistress.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

National, Elias Loader, master; Miss Tabitha Fry, mistress
British, Miss Hannah Tovell, mistress.

CARRIERS:

James Coward from Mere, to the New Inn, Stall Street, Bath & the White Lion, Thomas Street, Bristol, Monday & Thursday, returning Wednesday and Saturday - to the Crown, Poole, Monday returning Tuesday.

John Knighton from the 'White Horse,' Friday Street, London, via South Western Rail to Salisbury; from thence through Mere, calling at the 'White Hart,' to Wincanton, Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, returning Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday.

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Blundell	Thomas	Rev.	Vicar	
Burfitt	Mary Ann	Miss		
Burt	Mary	Mrs.		
Cousins	James	Mr.		
Cross	Robert	Mr.		
Erlebach	Richard	Rev.		
Faugoin	Ann	Miss		Woolverton
Ford	John	Mr.		
Godwin	William	Mr.		
Grove	Chafin	Esq.		Zeals House
Jupe	John, Snr.	Mr.		
Luscombe	Samuel	Rev.		
Newell	Frederick James	Rev. (M.A.)	Perpetual Curate of Bourton	
Snook	Walter	Mr.		

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Alles	James			Angel Inn
Alles	John		Farmer	Bush Hayes
Alford	Edward		Blacksmith	
Baverstock	James		Tailors	
Baverstock	Michael		Tailors	
Baverstock	Edwin		Tailor	
		Butt & Jupe	Silk Throwsters	
Card	Charles		Draper, Grocer, Druggist, Manager Wilts & Dorset Banking Co. & Agent to Norwich Union Fire & Life Insurance	
Charlton	Martin		Farmer	Zeals
Coleman	Thomas, Snr.		Butcher	
Coleman	Thomas		Butcher	
Coward	Charles			White Hart
Coward	James		Carpenter & Carrier	
Coward	John		Shopkeeper	
Coward	William		Parish Clerk	
Cross	Hugh		Farmer	
Curtis	Caleb		Baker	
Curtis	John		Draper & Grocer	
Dean	Edward		Shoemaker	
Doddington	Edmund		Mason	
Dowding	Hester			Old George Commercial Inn & Boarding House
Down	James		Shopkeeper	
Down	Thomas		Shopkeeper	
Down	William, Snr.			Swan Inn
Down	William		Shoemaker	
Dunstan	Henry		Master of Union Workhouse	

Dunstan	Mary	Mrs.	Matron of Union Workhouse	
Foot	Fredrick		Baker	
Foot	John		Cooper	
Fry	Tabitha	Miss	Mistress of National School	
Glover	Alfred		Tailor	
Godwin	George		Excise Officer	
Gough	Thomas		Butcher	
Goulden	John		Shoemaker	
Gray	John		Baker	
Green	John		Builder	Zeals
Harding	John		Dairyman	
Harrington	Thomas		Farmer	Barrow Street
Hart	Henry		Shopkeeper	Zeals
Hartgill	John			Bell & Crown, Zeals
Hayter	Samuel		Postmaster	Post Office
Jupe	Giles		Farmers	Mere Down Farm
Jupe	Thomas		Farmers	Mere Down Farm
Keates	William		Shopkeeper	
Knighton	John		Carrier	
Lander	Charles		Brewer	
Larkham	Elizabeth A.	Mrs.	Spirit Merchant	
Lawrence	Charles		Butcher	
Lawrence	John		Butcher	
Legg	Elias		Registrar of births and deaths for the Mere District	
Legg	Elias		Relieving Officer for the Mere Union	
Loader	Elias		Master of National School	
Maggs	George		Wheelwright	Zeals
Maidment	Edmund Ford		Registrar of Marriages for the Mere District, Baker & Grocer	
Maidment	Peter		Blacksmith	
Maidment	Thomas		Farmer	Swines Ford Farm
Markey	Phillip		Mason	Zeals
Melhuish	William		Saddler	
Mitchell	Edward		Farmer	Manor House Farm
Mitchell	Richard		Farmer	Barrow Street
Moger	Uriah		Painter	
Moore	Ann		Baker	
Newman	Matthias		Surgeon	
Parfitt	William		Farmer	
Phillips	Charles		Cheesefactor	
Phillips	John		Farmer	Chadenwick
Pike	William		Farmer	Woodland Farm
Prince	Sarah	Miss	School Mistress of Union Workhouse	
Read	Charles		Farmer	Zeals
Read	Joseph		Farmer	Zeals
Roles	James		Currier	
Rose	Christopher		Farmer	
Rumsey	Charles		Surgeon	
Sheppard	James		Shoemaker	
Smith	William		Farmer	Zeals
Snook	Henry		Clerk to guardians of Mere Union and superintendent registrar of births, marriages	

			and deaths for the Mere district	
Standerwick	Thomas		Saddler	
Standerwick	William Thomas		Currier	
Street	Thomas		Carrier	
Thompson	Edwin		Shoemaker	
Toogood	John			Ship Hotel
Tovell	Hannah	Miss	Mistress of British School	
Toy	John		Brick and Tile Maker	
Wadlow	Harry		Builders	
Wadlow	John		Builders	
Webb	James		Baker	
Wescott	Elizabeth	Mrs.	Straw Bonnet Maker	
Westcott	Benjamin		Hatter	
White	John		Cheesefactor	
White	Robert		Farmer	Zeals Farm
White	William		Manager of Gas Works	
Wickham	William		Farmer	
Willmott	Joel		Carpenter	

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