



Potterne Topographical Dictionary Volume 3 1845

POTTERNE (St. Mary) a parish in the union of Devizes, hundred of POTTERNE and CANNINGS, DEVIZES and N. division of Wilts, 2 miles (S. by W.) from Devizes; containing, with the tythings of Marston and Worton, 1762 inhabitants. This parish, which comprises by measurement 4946 acres, is pleasantly situated, and the surrounding scenery is agreeable diversified; the road from Devizes to Salisbury, by Lavington, intersects the parish, and the Kennet and Avon canal is distant 2 miles. On the right of the Salisbury road is East-well, a highly interesting mansion, which for some centuries has been the property and residence of the family of Grubbe; the walls are of extraordinary thickness, and the apartments are wainscotted with oak; the pleasure gardens are remarkable for the number of terraces sloping in succession beneath each other to the south, and the grounds are richly ornamented with elms of venerable growth. The living is a vicarage valued in the king's books at £20 6. 8.; patron and appropriator, Bishop of Salisbury, as prebendary of Potterne. The great tithes have been commuted for £879, and the vicarial for £726; there are about 23 acres of glebe.

The church is a venerable cruciform structure. Built about the eleventh or twelfth century; the pulpit and reading desk are beautifully carved in oak of corresponding design, and the church has been newly pewed and embellished, towards defraying the expense of which the Rev. George Edmonstone, the late incumbent, largely contributed. A chapel of ease has been erected for the hamlets of Worton and Marston. There are places of worship for Ranters and Wesleyans; and near the church are schoolrooms, erected at the expense of Mr. Edmonstone.