



Kelly's Directory Extract 1915

Urchfont



URCHFONT (or Erchfont) is a parish and village, 5 miles south-east from Devizes, 4½ south-west from Woodborough station and 4 west from Patney station on the Great Western railway, in the Eastern division of the county, Swanborough hundred, Devizes union, county court district and petty sessional division, Potterne rural deanery (Enford portion), archdeaconry of Wilts and diocese of Salisbury. The church of St Michael is an ancient edifice of grey stone, in the Decorated style, consisting of chancel, clerestoried nave of three bays, aisles, transepts, south porch and an embattled western tower with turret and pinnacles, and containing a clock and 8 bells, rehung in 1900: the chancel has a groined stone roof and retains a piscina, and there is another in the south transept: the east window, erected in 1889, and seven others are stained: in the chancel is a fine Purbeck marble monument with two busts in the centre, and on either side a life-sized figure of a child, erected to Robert Tothill, ob. 1753, senior clerk of the Privy Seal to George III and JP for Wilts, Middlesex and Kent: the church was restored in 1840, at a cost of £1,000, and in 1864 was entirely re-seated and repaired at a cost of about £800: in 1879 the chancel was repaired, and in 1899 and 1900 the church was again entirely restored, and the bells rehung, at a total cost of about £1,780, the work being carried out under the direction of Mr CE Ponting, architect: there are about 400 sittings. The register dates from the year 1538. The living is vicarage, with the chapelry of Stert annexed, joint net yearly value £193, with residence, in the gift of the Dean and Canons of Windsor, and held since 1896 by the Rev James Hamlyn Hill DD of St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and rural dean of Potterne (Enford portion); the rectorial tithes, commuted at £1,428 yearly, are in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who grant £120 a year towards a curate. Since 1861 the vicarage house and grounds have been much enlarged and improved, at a cost of upwards of £550, and in 1902 the vicar added ten perches to the grounds. There is a Wesleyan Methodist chapel at Wedhampton, and a Baptist chapel at the Green. A cemetery of one acre with lych gate was formed in 1884, at a cost of about £650; it is under the control of the Parish Council acting as a Burial Board, and was consecrated, April 26, 1902, by the Bishop of Salisbury. In 1880 a legacy of £1,000 Consols was left by Miss Eliza Campton for the benefit of the poor of the parish, and there are 150 acres of land let out to the poor in allotments, producing £2 13s 4d per acre after all outgoings. In the parish is a spring, which, when other springs are at their lowest ebb, flows with greater rapidity. The ancient name of the place, "Archefount", and in Domesday "Jerchesfont", seems due to this spring. In a pasture field at Wickham Green are three graves, said to be the burial places of persons who died during the great plague. George SA Watson-Taylor esq. DL JP who is lord of the manor, Lady Dunsany, the trustees of the Heytesbury Hospital, and the War Office (who in 1903 purchased 1,500 acres here) are the principal landowners. The chief crops are corn, with some pasture and down land; the area is 6,285 acres; rateable value £7,156 including Government property; the population in 1911 was 790 in the civil and 858 in the ecclesiastical parish.

Wedhampton is a tithing 1½ miles east; **Eastcott**, a tithing, in the ecclesiastical district of Easterton, see; **Stert**, a chapelry, is described separately; **Crookwood**, 1½ miles north-west.

Parish Clerk: Archibald Romain

Post, MO, T & Telephonic Express Delivery Office: (to places within a limited distance) (letters should be addressed Urchfont, Wilts) James Newman Glass, postmaster. Letters arrive at 6.15am & 4pm; dispatched at 8.50am & 7.10pm; Sundays, letters arrive at 6.40am & are dispatched at 9.10am

Letter Box at Wedhampton: cleared at 6.45pm; Sundays, 11.15am

Elementary School: (the property of George Watson-Taylor esq. & leased to the vicar & churchwardens) has accommodation for 180 children; Percival Bridgewater, master & 4 assistants; the school is controlled by a body of 6 managers, the vicar being chairman & secretary

Carriers to Devizes: T Snook, thurs & sat; Charles Stone, thurs; Henry Samuel Oram, for coal & goods, nearly every day

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Edwards	James			Stanley House
Glass	James			
Haynes	John Alfred Vernon	Reverend BA	Curate	
Hill	James Hamlyn	Reverend DD	Vicar & Rural Dean	Vicarage
Roscoe		Mrs		Wedhampton
Scott	Henry Dudley	JP		Urchfont Manor
Sims		Mrs		Fleece Cottage
Springbett	CE			Fairview
Stone	Robert Dudley Algeo			
Wilson	George Prangley			Wedhampton Cottage

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Alexander	George		Assistant Overseer	
Alexander	William			Bell PH
Allen	Richard		Farmer	Crookwood
Bollen	Charles		Market Gardener	
Cook	Frederick		Coal Dealer	
Cook	Henry E		Beer Retailer	
Crook	Robert		Gardener to HD Scott esq	
Drew	Tom Giddings			Uphill Farm
Edwards	Robert		Blacksmith	
Edwards	Robert William		Farmer	
Edwards	Thomas W		Wheelwright	
Ellis	James		Blacksmith	Wedhampton
Eves	Edward Albert		Coach Builder	
Ferris	Charles		Thrashing Machine Owner	
Fielding	Ann	Mrs	Farmer	
Fuller	Harry		Saddler	
Giddings	Robert		Farmer & Grocer	
Giddings	Thomas		Thatcher	
Glass	J Newman		Cash Stores & Post Office	
Golding	Charles		Plumber	
Goodman	Edwin		Carpenter	
Gregory	William		Farmer	
Haines	William		Butcher	
Harding	John		Carpenter	
Harris	Felix		Shopkeeper	
Hibberd	Sidney Richard		Farmer	Wedhampton
Hues	William Herbert		Farmer	Lydeaway
Huntley	Charles		Farmer	Wedhampton
Joyce	David		Farmer	
Lancaster	Henry John		Castrator	Marsh Farm
Macey	John		Farmer	
Merritt	Annie	Miss	Draper	
Merritt	Henry		Blacksmith	
Oram	Henry Samuel		Carrier	
Palmer	William		Farmer	
Plank	Giles		Farmer	
Price	Arthur		Butcher	
Sainsbury	Edgar Vernon		Farmer	Wedhampton
Saunders	Henry		Shopkeeper	
		Snook Bros	Farmers	
Snook	John		Farmer	
Snook	Samuel		Farmer	
Snook	Tom		Carrier	
Stone	Robert Dudley Algeo	LRCP SI	Surgeon & Medical Officer & Public Vaccinator No 4 District, Devizes Union	Mulberry House
Stone	Sarah	Mrs	Baker	

Sutton	Frank			Nag's Head PH
Trimnel	George William		Farmer	Frankland
Willis	Jebu		Shopkeeper	
Wootton	Henry		Market Gardener	
Young	Alfred		Farmer	