

Kelly's Directory 1903

SEMLEY is a parish, running nearly east and west and lying in a beautiful valley, with station, 1¼ miles from the church on the Salisbury and Yeovil branch of the London and South Western Railway, 20 miles south west from Salisbury, 6 south east from Mere, 3 north from Shaftesbury and 101 from London, in the Southern division of the county, Chalke Hundred, Tisbury Union, Shaftesbury County Court district, Tisbury and Mere Petty Sessional Division, Rural Deanery of Chalke (Tisbury Portion), Archdeaconry of Sarum and Diocese of Salisbury.

There is a richly wooded country in the background on the north and the Dorsetshire hills are seen in the distance stretching along its front in the south.

The old church of St Leonard, an ancient cruciform structure, was pulled down in January 1874 and the present building erected in 1875 at the expense of the Dowager Marchioness of Westminster: it is of stone, in the Early Decorated style and consists of chancel with south aisle, nave of four bays, south aisle and a lofty embattled western tower with clock and 6 bells.

There is a stained window in the chancel to the Rev. Henry Hall M.A., and others to Arthur and Lucy Fane and the late Vere Fane Benett-Stanford Esq; to John Edward Benett of Pyt House; to seven officers killed at the Gate Pa Fort in New Zealand on 30th April 1864 and to Mrs. Pike of Musters. In the nave are two tablets to the Benett-Stanford and Pike families. The church affords 350 sittings.

The register dates from the year 1657.

The living is a rectory, net yearly value £397, including 93 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of Christ Church Oxford and held since 1878 by the Rev. Louis Kercheval Hilton B.A., of Jesus College Cambridge and M.A., of Magdalen College Oxford.

Here is a Baptist Chapel built in 1817 to seat 250 persons.

£2 2s yearly were left in 1779 by John Parham for clothes and the interest on £300 left by Miss Dinah Bracher for the poor of the parish.

Lord Arundell of Wardour is Lord of the Manor. The Principal landowners are Mrs. C Thomas-Stanford of Pyt House and Sir Michael Robert Shaw-Stewart bart., of Fonthill Abbey.

The soil is clay, subsoil gravel. The land is principally pasturage, all the arable growing wheat, oats and barley. The area is 2980 acres of land and five of water: rateable value £7,956. The population in 1901 was 620.

Parish Clerk - Henry Thomas Marchant

Post Office - Mrs Sarah Jane Rogers, Sub-postmistress

Letters arrive from Shaftesbury at 8.10am & 6.30pm on week days, 8.5am Sundays

Dispatched 12.15, 4.45 and 7pm on week days, 10am Sundays; Postal Orders are issued and paid here

The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Semley Station, 2 miles distant. No telegraph money order business is transacted at the telegraph office

Wall letter box at Station cleared at 10.30am, 5.15 & 7.30pm, Sundays at 10.30am

Railway Station - George H Holter, Station Master

Elementary School (mixed) for 80 children; average attendance 48 - Miss Edith Jane Read, Mistress

Infant School for 70 children, average attendance 49 - Miss Eliza Ann Ranger, Mistress

A house adjoining the schools is provided for the mistresses

Gentry/Private Residents/Traders

Surname	Given Names	Industry/Occupation
Bracher, Mrs		The Cottage
Hilton, Rev	Louis Kercheval	Rector, The Rectory
Yauldren, Rev	Thomas	Baptist Minister
Baker	Robert	Farmer, Marsh & Seniors Farms
Baker	Robert, jun	Farmer, Westwood Farm
Baker	Thomas	Farmer, Chalcott's Farm
Bignal	James E	Railway Commercial Hotel & Posting House
Bowles, Miss	Sarah	Farmer, Prior's Farm

Burden	Alfred	Shopkeeper
Burden	Rice	Shopkeeper & Carpenter
Burlington, Mrs	Francis J	Farmer
Davitt	William	Salisbury, Semley & Gillingham Dairies Ltd
Ford	William	Farmer, Hook Farm
Fowler, Mrs	Bessie	Baker & Shopkeeper
Harding	John	Coal & Coke Merchant, Semley Station
Hare	Thomas	Farmer, Hatt's Farm
Herrington	Bros	Farmers, Church Farm
Holloway	Samuel	Farmer
Holter	George H	Stationmaster, Semley Station
James	Charles	Farmer, East End Farm
James	Ernest	Farmer, Conduit & Malthouse Farms
James	Henry	Farmer, Oysters & Kirton Farms
King	James	Benett Arms Public House
Maidment	Henry	Farmer, Musters, Knipe's & Glebe Farms
Maidment	John	Shopkeeper
Marchant	Henry Thomas	Wheelwright & Parish Clerk
Pike	Frederick	Farmer, Musters
Pike	Walter S	Farmer, Whitebridge Farm
Ranger, Miss	Eliza Ann	Schoolmistress
Read, Miss	Edith Jane	Schoolmistress
Rogers, Mrs	Sarah Jane	Grocer, Draper & Post Office
Snow	John & Co	Coal & Coke Merchants
Sully	William	Blacksmith
Westcott	James & Son	Coal & Manure Merchants
White	Robert	Farmer, Billhay & Amberleaze Farms
Worthy	James	Farmer, Bowmarsh Farm
Young	Ernest G	Farmer, Harthill Farm