

Kelly's Directory 1923

SEMLEY is a parish, running nearly east and west, and lying in a beautiful valley with a station 1¼ miles from the church on the Salisbury and Yeovil branch of the Southern railway, 20 miles south west from Salisbury, 6 south east from Mere, 3 north from Shaftesbury and 101 from London, in the Salisbury 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 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, Vere Fane Bennet-Stanford Esq., to John Edward Benett of Pyt House, to seven officers killed at the Gate Pa in New Zealand 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 £400 with residence, in the gift of Christ Church Oxford and held since 1914 by the Rev. Richard Morgan Rees M.A. of that college.

There 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.

Lady Arundell of Wardour is lady of the manor. The principal landowners are Lt-Col J.M. Fane-Bennet-Stanford and Walter Richard Shaw-Stewart M.B.E., D.L., J.P.

The soil is clay, subsoil gravel. The land is principally pasturage but wheat, oats and barley are grown. The area is 2,981 acres of land and 5 of water. Rateable value £7,963. The population in 1911 was 628.

Parish Clerk - William Hull

Post Office - Felix Alford, Sub-postmaster.

Letters through Shaftesbury 3 miles distant, which is the nearest money order office

Semley railway station, 1 mile distant, is the nearest telegraph office and telephone call office

Elementary School (mixed) for 150 children

Miss Margaret Fulker, Mistress

A house adjoining the schools is provided for the mistress

Railway Station - Richard James Risdon, Station Master

Gentry/Private Residents/Traders

Marked * Farm 150 acres or over

Surname	Given Names	Industry/Occupation
Heavens, Rev	George	Baptist Minister, The Manse
Jay, Misses		Church Green
Lambe, Air Commodore	Sir Chas Laverock CB CMB DSO	Grove House & Musters Farm
Rees, Rev	Richard Morgan	Rector, The Rectory
Wightwick	Edward	Broad Oak
Alford	Felix	Bootmaker & Sub Postmaster
Baker	Harry	Cowkeeper
*Baker, Mrs	Emily	Farmer, Westwood
Bartlett	Percy Edward	Farmer, Oysters Farm
Batten, Mrs	Edith	Grocer, Gutch Common
Coles	Frederick	Farmer, Glebe Farm
Creed	Charles Edmund	Wheelwright
*Doggrell	William	Farmer, Hatts Farm

Edmunds	Herbert	Grocer
Foot	Edwin	Cowkeeper, the Common
Foot	Herbert Philip	Farmer, Bowmarsh Farm
Ford	William	Farmer, Hook Farm
Fulker, Miss	Margaret	Schoolmistress
Grocott, Mrs	Mary	Grocer
*Gurd	Francis G	Farmer, Conduit & Malthouse Farms
Harris	Ernest	Dairy Farmer, Kirton Farm
Harris	Frank	Farmer, East End Farm
Herrington	Edwin	Farmer, Church Farm
Hiscock	Randolph	Farmer, Seniors Farm
James	Tom	Farmer, Leggots Farm
Lander	Leonard	Farmer, Amberleaze Farm
Mallett	William	Railway Hotel, Semley Station
Marchant	Henry Thomas	Wheelwright
Nutbeem	Sidney	Farmer, Knipe's Farm
Parham	John	Chimney Sweep, Gutch Common
*Pike	Walter S	Farmer, Whitebridge Farm
Pitman	Brothers	Poultry Dealers
Randolph	Fred	Benett Arms Inn
Risdon	Richard James	Station Master
Semley Reading Room	Ernest Coward	
Southern Counties	Agric Trading Society Ltd	
Sully	William	Blacksmith
United Dairies	(Wholesale) Ltd	
Westcott	J & Son	Coal & Manure Merchants
Young	Ernest G	Farmer, Harthill Farm