

Kelly's Directory 1939

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, Mere and Tisbury rural district, Shaftesbury county court district, Tisbury and Mere petty sessional division, rural deanery of Chalke (Tisbury portion), archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury.

There is 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.

Electricity is available. Water is supplied by the Semley Water Company.

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 Benett-Stanford Esq, to John Edward Benett of Pythouse, 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.

In the churchyard is a bronze equestrian monument to Lt. Armstrong and also a memorial cross of Cornish granite to the men of the parish who fell in the Great War 1914-1918.

The living is a rectory, net yearly value £550, with residence, in the gift of Christ Church Oxford and held since 1932 by the Rev. Desmond Fitz-Maurice M.A. of that college.

There is a Baptist chapel which was built in 1817 to seat 250 persons.

£3 3s yearly was 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 the lord of the manor. The principal landowners are Lt. Col. J.M. Fane-Bennett-Stanford J.P. and Mrs. Walter Shaw-Stewart OBE.

The soil is clay, subsoil gravel. The land is principally pasturage but wheat, oats and barley are grown. The area is 2,984 acres of land and inland water. The population in 1931 was 465.

Post & T Office.

Letters through Shaftesbury (Dorset), nearest M.O. office

Railway Station

A motor conveyance meets certain trains and conveys passengers to Shaftesbury

Gentry/Private Residents/Traders

Marked * farm 150 acres or over. EK = East Knoyle (Telephone No)

Surname	Given Names	Industry/Occupation
Bapty	George Fredk W	Gutch Common
Brudenell-Bruce, Lady	Rosemary	Upper Marshes
Fitz-Maurice, Rev	Desmond	Rector, The Rectory
Gore, Rev	William Cecil	Baptist Minister, The Manse
Lambe, A V. Marshall	Sir Chas Laverock	Grove House
Whitehead	Thomas Bovill	Hook Manor
Wightwick	Edward Arthur	Broad Oak
Young	Samuel John	Bowmarsh
*Abbott	Ernest George	Farmer, Hatt's Farm
Alford	Felix	Bootmaker
*Bartlett	Percy Edward	Farmer, Church Farm. EK 57
Benett Arms		(Sydney Langford) EK 21
Benjafield	John Milton	Dairy Farmer
Board	Shadrack	Farmer, Marshes Farm

Coombes	George	Farmer, Amberleaze Farm
Coward	William	Smallholder
Edmunds	Herbert	Grocer, Barker's Hill
*Garrett	Tom	Farmer
Grocott	Thomas Allen	Grocer, Baker, Hardware etc., The Stores
Hankey	Donald	Farmer, Senior's Farm
*Hiscock	Leonard Allan	Farmer, Chaldicott's Farm. EK 86
Hiscock	Sidney Albert	Farmer, Glebe Farm
Kingsettle Hotel		Reginald Bernard Dunford. Shaftesbury 259
Langford	Sidney	Grocer, Draper, Elec Motor Cycle Agents. EK 21
Nutbeem	Sidney	Farmer, Knipe's Farm
Parham	John	Chimney Sweep, Gutch Common
Paulley	Jas Wm	Farmer, East End Farm
Pickford	George Ashby	Farmer, Hook Farm, Donhead 54
*Pike	Donald W	Farmer, Whitebridge Farm, EK 53
Pitman	John & William	Poultry Dealers
Rogers	Gerald Percival Vivian	Farmer, Kirton Farm
Semley Reading Room		Richard Jay, Hon Secretary
Stainer's Motor Garage		
Stokes	Frank	Farmer, Westwood Farm
Sully	William	Blacksmith
United Dairies	(Wholesale) Ltd	Shaftesbury 36
Wescott	J & Son	Coal Merchants
Worton Kennels	Canine Specialists	(Mrs Williamson) Donhead 75
*Young	Henry George	Farmer, Harthill Farm
*Young	Samuel John	Bowmarsh Farm, Shaftesbury 33