

Kelly's Directory 1889

SEMLEY is a parish with station 1¼ miles from the church, on the Salisbury and Yeovil Branch of the South Western Railway, 20 miles south west from Salisbury, 6 south east from Mere, 3 north from Shaftesbury and 101 from London, running nearly east and west and lying in a beautiful valley in the Southern division of the county, Chalke Hundred, Tisbury Union, Shaftesbury County Court district, Hindon 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 Bath, Ham Hill and local stone in the Early Decorated style and consists of chancel, nave of four bays, south aisle and south chancel aisle, there are two entrances - viz north and west, with a square lofty embattled western tower with clock and six bells.

There is a stained window in the chancel to the memory of the Rev. Henry Hall M.A. who built the chancel; one to Arthur and Lucy Fane by their son, the late Vere Fane Benett-Stanford esq, one to the memory of John Edward Benett of Pyt House and one given by Mrs Benett-Stanford. Also one by the late Vere Fane Benett-Stanford esq J.P., to the memory of seven brother officers killed at the Gate Pa Fort in New Zealand on 30th April 1864: another has lately been added to the memory of Mrs Pike of Musters; it is the gift of her children. There are sittings for about 350 persons.

The register dates from the year 1657.

The living is a rectory, gross yearly value £495, including 98 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, which was built in 1823 to seat 250 persons.

£2 2s 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 Lord of the Manor. The Principal landowners are Vere Fane Benett Stanford Esq. D.L., J.P. and Sir Michael Robert Shaw-Stewart D.L., J.P. bart.

The soil is clay, subsoil gravel. The land is principally pasturage, all the arable growing wheat, oats and barley. The area is 2945 acres; rateable value, £6312; the population in 1881 was 686.

Parish Clerk - Henry Thomas Merchant

Post Office - John Rogers, Receiver.

Letters arrive from Shaftesbury at 7.40am & 6pm on week days, 7.40am Sundays; dispatched 12.15, 4.45 & 7pm on weekdays, 10am Sundays.

Wall letter box at Station cleared at 4.30pm; Sundays at 10.30am.

National School (mixed) for 100 children, average attendance 40 - Miss Read, Mistress.

Infant School, for 75 children, average attendance 43 - Miss Eliza Ann Ranger, Mistress.

A house adjoining the schools is provided for the mistresses.

Railway Station, John Ellen, Station Master

The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Semley Station

Gentry/Private Residents/Traders

Surname	Given Names	Industry/Occupation
Bracher	Thomas Moore	Broad Oak
Hilton, Rev	Louis Kercheval	Rector, The Rectory
Scammell, Mrs		The Cottage
Stanley, Rev	John	Baptist Minister
Welch	Charles	Grove House
Baker	Robert	Farmer, Marsh Farm & Senior's Farm
Baker	Thomas	Chalcott's Farm
Brown	John	Farmer, Harthill Farm

Buckland	William Thos	Coal & Coke Merchant
Burden	George	Blacksmith
Burden	James	Farmer
Burden	Rice	Baker
Burlington	Francis J	Farmer
Burton	James	Farmer, Conduit Farm
Burton, Mrs	Rose	Farmer, Malthouse Farm
Clements	John	Benett Arms Public House
Dowers	William	Railway Hotel & Posting House, Semley Station
Ellen	John	Station Master, Semley Station
Ford	William	Farmer, Hook Farm
Fowler	Alvah	Baker & Shopkeeper
Gray	Samuel	Farmer, West Wood
Herrington, Mrs		Farmer, Church Farm
Holloway	Samuel	Farmer
James	George	Farmer, Oysters, East End & Curtain Farms
Lane	Arthur	Farmer, Hatt's Farm
Merchant	Henry Thomas	Wheelwright & Parish Clerk
Pike	Frederick	Knipe's & Glebe Farms
Pike	William	Whitebridge Farm
Ranger, Miss	Eliza Ann	National Schoolmistress
Read, Miss	Edith Jane	National Schoolmistress
Rogers	Ebenezer Wm	Grocer & Draper
Rogers	John	Receiver, Post Office
Shipman	John	Blacksmith
Taunton	S.J.	Semley & Gillingham Dairies
Westcott	Jas	Coal & Manure Merchant
White	Robert	Farmer, Amberleaze Farm
Worthy	James	Farmer, Bowmarsh Farm