

Kelly's Directory 1915

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 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 & Mere petty sessional division, rural deanery of Chalke (Tisbury portion), archdeaconry of Sarum, 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.

The old church of St. Leonard, an ancient cruciform structure, was pulled down in January 1874 and the present building erected 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, the late Vere Fane Benett-Stanford Esq., to John Edward Benett of Pyt House, to 7 officers killed at the Gate Pa Fort in New Zealand 30th April 1864, and to Mrs Pike of Musters. In the nave are two tablets to 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 98 acres of glebe with residence in the gift of Christ Church Oxford and held since 1914 by the Rev Richard Morgan Rees M.A. of Magdalen College Oxford.

Here a Baptist Chapel was 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 Dina Bracher for the poor of the parish.

Dowager Lady Arundell of Wardour is lady of the manor. The principal landowners are Capt J M Benett-Stanford and Lady Octavia Shaw-Stewart.

The soil is clay, subsoil gravel. The land is principally pasturage, all the arable growing wheat, oats and barley. The area is 2,981 acres of land and 5 of water, rateable value £7,409. The population in 1911 was 628.

Parish Clerk - Fred Knight.

Post Office - Mrs Sarah Jane Rogers, Sub-Postmistress.
Letters arrive from Shaftesbury at 8.20 am and 6.30 pm on weekdays and 8.5 am Sundays; dispatched 12.15, 4.45 & 7 pm on weekdays and 10.30am on Sundays.

Shaftesbury, 3 miles distant, is the nearest money order office and Semley railway station, 1 mile distant, is the nearest telegraph office.

Railway Station - George H. Holter, Station Master

Elementary School (mixed) for 80 children - Miss Edith Jane Read, Mistress
Infants School for 70 children - Miss Emma Gertrude Green, Mistress
A house adjoining the school is provided for the mistresses

Gentry/Private Residents/Traders

Surname	Given Names	Industry/Occupation
Armstrong, Mrs		Broad Oak
Culley, Mrs		Grove House
Heavens, Rev	George	Baptist Minister, The Manse
Rees, Rev	Richard Morgan	Rector, The Rectory
Antell	Herbert Henry	Dairy Farmer, Kirton Farm
Baker	Harry	Cowkeeper
Baker	Robert	Farmer, Westwood
Bartlett	Percy Edward	Farmer, Oysters Farm
Bignal	James E	Railway Commerical Hotel & Posting House

Burden	John	Grocer, Gutch Common
Burrows	Percy	Farmer
Burrows	Theodore	Farmer
Churchill	Mark	Salisbury, Semley & Gillingham Diaries Ltd
Creed	Charles Edmund	Wheelwright
Doggrell	Tom	Farmer, East End Farm
Foot	Edwin	Cowkeeper, The Common
Ford	William	Farmer, Hook Farm (post address Donhead St Andrew)
Fowler, Mrs	Elizabeth	Grocer
Green, Miss	Emma Gertrude	Schoolmistress
Herrington	Bros	Farmers, Church Farm
Holloway	John A	Farmer
Holter	George H	Station Master, Semley Station
James	Tom	Dairy Farmer, Leggats Farm
King, Mrs	Emily Louisa	Benett Arms Inn
King	Henry John	Farmer, Conduit & Malthouse Farm
Knight	Fred	Parish Clerk
Maidment	Henry	Farmer, Glebe Farm
Marchant	Henry Thomas	Wheelwright
Pike	Frederick	Farmer, Musters
Pike	Walter S	Whitebridge Farm
Pitman	Brothers	Poultry Dealers
Read, Miss	Edith Jane	Schoolmistress
Rogers, Mrs	William & Son	Grocers, Bakers, Drapers & Sub Postmistress
Sully	William	Blacksmith
Toogood	William	Chimney Sweep, Gutch Common
Westcott	J & Son	Coal & Manure Merchants
White	Robert	Billhay & Amberleaze Farms
Worthy	James (exors of)	Farmer, Bowmarsh Farm
Young	Ernest G	Farmer, Harthill Farm