



Kellys Directory Extract

1895

Bishop's Cannings



BISHOP'S CANNINGS is a scattered parish containing a village of the same name, near the Kennet and Avon canal, 3 miles north-east from Devizes station, and the tithings of Horton, Bourton, Easton and Coate, in the Eastern division of the county, Potterne and Cannings hundred, petty sessional division, union and county court district of Devizes, Avebury rural deanery (Cannings portion), archdeaconry of Wilts and diocese of Salisbury. The church of St Mary, built about A.D. 1190-1200, is a large and beautiful cruciform structure, in the Early English style, consisting of chancel, clerestoried nave of four bays, aisles, transepts, chantry chapel, south porch and a central tower with turret, and a spire of the 15th century, 230 feet in height and containing 8 bells: the church appears to have been many years in construction, as the nave arcade is Transition Norman, and the edifice, in its progress towards completion, assumed the distinctive features of the Early English style: the south porch has a groined stone roof, and from the ball-flower ornamentation in the arch mouldings of the outer doorway, seems to have been added in the Decorated period: within the porch are traces of a holy water stoup, and over the inner doorway is a bracket which formerly supported a small statue: the nave roof and clerestory are Perpendicular, and were probably added in the earlier half of the 15th century: the chancel is large, and has a groined stone ceiling: it contains a piscina of Early English date, and the remains of sedilia: in the south wall of the south transept is another piscina with stone shelf, probably indicating an altar here: at the north-east angle of the chancel is the ancient sacristy, having a groined stone roof and two small lancet windows, deeply splayed internally: in the outer wall of the north aisle, on the west side of the small doorway, can be seen a stoup in excellent preservation: the chapel to the east of the south transept is almost coeval with the latter, but of its founder nothing is known; it was dedicated to "Our Lady of the Bower"; in 1563 the churchwardens conveyed it by deed to John Ernle, of Bourton, "to construct seats therein for the purpose of hearing divine service in the church, and also as a place of burial for himself and family"; it contains, in the south wall, an exceedingly small piscina; against the north wall is a freestone monument to John Ernle, ob. 1571, with the arms of Ernle quartering Malwyn; and another monument to Edward Ernle, ob. 1656, of Etchilhampton, with a shield bearing the arms of Ernle quartered with Hungerford; immediately above, on the sill of the east window, is an ancient helmet surmounted with the Ernle crest: the organ, erected in 1809, at a cost of 400 guineas, has since been enlarged, and the yearly interest of £600 was bequeathed by Mr. Wm. Bayley, a native of this village, who circumnavigated the globe with Captain Cook, and died in 1809, to keep the instrument in order and pay an organist: there is a very curious paneled oak chair in the north transept, date unknown; it is square in shape, with a seat and desk; on one side of the square is a painting of a large hand with open fingers and a label on the wrist, inscribed "The Hand of Meditation"; the palm and fingers have twenty other labels with short Latin inscriptions; there are also two scrolls similarly inscribed; many theories have been advanced as to the use of this ancient relic, but they are more or less hypothetical: the east window of three lights with detached marble shafts is stained; it was erected in 1860 by the clergy and churchwardens of the archdeaconry of Wilts and other friends to the Ven. William Macdonald M.A. ; he died in 1862, having been vicar of this parish for 46 years vicar, and is further commemorated by a brass in the chancel, inserted by his widow: another brass is to William and Joseph Christopher Ewart M.P.'s for 38 and 10 years respectively; the church contains many other brasses, mural tablets and floor stones: the church was restored in 1883-4, at a cost of about £3,600, under the direction Mr. Charles E. Ponting, architect, of Marlborough, when the floors were relaid, the interior refitted and resealed with oak benches, carved by Mr. Harry Hems, of Exeter, no two being alike: there are sittings for 500 persons. The register dates from the year 1591. The living is a vicarage, tithe-rent charge £638, including 20 acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury, and held since 1873 by the Rev. Charles William Hony M.A. of Exeter College, Oxford. Here are Baptist and Wesleyan chapels. The Devizes waterworks, in this parish, and distant from that town 4½ miles, were erected in 1879, at a cost of £11,700; John Carter, manager. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, who are lords of the manor, and Mr George Skeate

Ruddle, are the principal landowners. Mrs. Erle Drax, of Bere Regis, Wareham, is the principal landowner of the hamlet of Coate. The soil is greensand and clay chalk. The chief crops are wheat, barley, beans and turnips. The parish contains 8,893 acres of land, of which 1,389 are in the tithing of Coate, and consists of partly arable, pasture and down land; rateable value £5,531; the population in 1891 was 894, exclusive of South Broom and Chittoe.

Borton (or Bourton) tithing, a Roman settlement, is half a mile north-east; Horton tithing, half a mile south-east; Coate tithing, 1½ miles south; Easton tithing, 1 mile north-east. On Pound Down are many barrows.

St James (or South Broom), formerly a chapelry attached to this parish, was in 1832 made a separate ecclesiastical parish: it is partly within the town and borough of Devizes, which see.

Chittoe ecclesiastical district is partly in this parish, but will be found under a separate heading. A part of this parish is included in the ecclesiastical parish of Derry Hill.

Sexton, Edward Moss

Post, M.O. & T Office - Cornelius Burry, sub-postmaster. Letters through Devizes, arrive at 8 a.m. & 6.15 p.m.; dispatched thereto at 9.30 a.m. & 6.45 p.m.; Sundays, 9.15 a.m. Postal orders are issued here, but not paid. The Barracks, Devizes, is the nearest money order service & telegraph office. Pillar Letter Box, Horton, cleared 6.15 p.m.; Sundays, 11.15 a.m.

SCHOOLS

National, founded in 1830, for 90 children; average attendance, 70; George Ruddle, master

National, Coate, established in 1877, for 50 children; average attendance, 46; Mrs. White, mistress

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Harding		Mrs.		
Hony	Charles William	Rev., M. A.		Vicarage
Lucas	John			

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Anstee	John		Farmer	Townsend Farm, Horton
Benger	Alfred		Shopkeeper & Baker	
Bollen	William Henry		Farmer	Coate
Burry	Cornelius		Shopkeeper & Post Office	Post Office
Burry	Eli		Farmer	
Burry	Sidney		Coal Dealer & Beer Retailer	Coate
Butcher	Frank		Farm Bailiff to Mr. Thomas Brown	
Butcher	James Moses		Farmer	Coate
Carter	John		Manager	Devizes Waterworks
Combes	Albert James		Farmer	Manor House
Corp	John		Dairyman	Horton
Dally	Louisa	Mrs.	Shopkeeper	
Harraway	Charlotte	Mrs.	Farmer	Easton
Harraway	John		Farmer	Easton
Hiscock	Abel		Miller (Steam & Water)	Horton Mill
Hiscock	James		Carpenter & Wheelwright	Horton
Hunt	Joseph	Mrs.	Brewer & Publican	Crown PH
Lane	Thomas		Blacksmith	Horton
Lucas	Thomas Sloper		Farmer	Bourton
Moss	Edward		Sexton, St Mary's Church	
Moss	Edward John		Saddler	
Nash	John		Pig Dealer	
Portch	Samuel		Cowkeeper	
Pottinger	James Harvey		Farmer	

Ruddle	George		Farmer & Schoolmaster	Westend Farm National School
Ruddle	George Skeate		Farmer & Landowner	Lyne's Farm
Sloper	Jane	Mrs.	Publican & Baker	Bridge Inn, Horton
Smith	Jane	Miss	Grocer & Baker	
Wells	Henry Edwin		Blacksmith	
White		Mrs.	Schoolmistress	National School, Coate
White	Henry		Farmer	Cross Farm, Coate
Wordley	Decimus		Haulier	
Wordley	Thomas		Shoe Maker	