



Post Office Directory Extract 1875

Draycot Cerne



Draycot Cerne is a parish and small village forming part of the parliamentary borough of Cricklade, in the Northern division of the county, hundred of Malmesbury, Chippenham union and county court district, diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, archdeaconry of Bristol, and rural deanery of Malmesbury South, 3 miles north from Chippenham station, 6 south from Malmesbury and 97 from London.

The church of St James is an ancient structure, in the Early English style, and in good repair. It has a chancel and nave; the chancel is supposed to have been the original church, with the tomb of the founder and the armour of the old Crusaders still preserved, and a very fine brass to Sir Edward Cerne. The tower is Perpendicular, containing 1 large bell, and chronometer clock, with chimes, by Dent, presented to the parish by the Cowley family. Here are also an excellent organ, a Decorated font, many choice stained glass windows and handsome memorials to the Long family. The register dates from about 1600. The living is a rectory, yearly value £340, with residence, in the gift of Earl Cowley, and now vacant.

Charities of £14 yearly are distributed in bread and fuel.

Here is a mixed Free school, supported by an annual payment of £5, also a house and garden for the master, the gift of Sir James Tynney Long bart., and further assisted to the extent of £30 per annum by Earl Cowley, who has a mansion and park at Draycot. He is lord of the manor and principal landowner, having succeeded to the property in 1863, by gift of the Earl of Mornington, whose mother was a Long.

The soil is a rich loam; subsoil, gravel. The chief crops are barley with pasture land.

The parish contains 962 acres of land; gross estimated rental, £2,361 19s; rateable value, £1,902 13s; the population in 1871 was 187.

PARISH CLERK Henry Hull

LETTERS through Chippenham, which is the nearest money order office.

PILLAR BOX against Drayton Park, cleared at 7.454 pm.

FREE SCHOOL (mixed) At present vacant.

Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Cowley		Earl, K.G., G.C.B., P.C.		
Dangan		Viscount		Draycot House

Commercial

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Bailey	John		Farmer	
Bond	John		Farmer	Nabal's farm
Hillier	John		Farmer	Lake farm
Tanner	Augusta	Mrs	Farmer	
Tippell	William		Farm bailiff to Earl Cowley	