

Kelly's Directory of Dorset 1895

MILTON ABBAS is a parish and pretty Village, formerly a market town, within a deep valley sheltered on the north and south by very steep and chalky hills and surrounded by scenery of the most picturesque description, 7 miles south-west from Blandford station on the Midland and South Western Junction railway, and 11 north-east from Dorchester, in the Northern division of the county, **Whiteway** hundred, Cerne subdivision, Blandford petty sessional division, union and county court district, Whitchurch rural deanery (Milton portion), Dorset archdeaconry and Salisbury diocese. The present appellation of this place is a contraction of its ancient name of Middleton, the adjunct being given from its ancient lords the abbots : the earliest mention of it is in the reign of King Athelstan, who founded a monastery here: the whole village was removed to its present site by the first Earl of Dorchester in 1787, when Milton Abbas Grammar school was removed to Blandford; the old town of Milton lay around the Abbey church. The parish church of St. James, standing in the centre of the village, was built in 1786 at the sole expense of the first Earl of Dorchester, in the Transitional style, of stone, and consists of chancel and nave, with a western embattled tower containing a clock and 2 bells belonging to the old peal, the others having been sold: there is a fine old font of Purbeck marble removed from the Abbey, which is now placed in the centre of the tower: during the year 1889 the church was thoroughly restored: the chancel was lengthened 14 feet: there is an organ in an organ-chamber;- vestry and a heating-chamber underneath: the western gallery has been removed, new south aisle added and an archway made between the tower and nave, which forms the main entrance to the church: all the windows have been re-glazed with cathedral glass: the church floor paved with wood and the aisle fitted with pitch pine seats and re-opened for divine service 17th Oct. 1889, the total cost of the restoration being £2,000: there are sittings for 300 persons. The earliest register dates from 1650. The living is a vicarage, rent-charge £90, gross yearly value £200, net £158, with residence, in the gift of Henry Charles Thomas Hambro esq. and held since 1891 by the Rev. Edward Henry Bousfield M.A-. of New College, Oxford. The vicarage house was formerly the dairy-house of Luccombe farm, and was converted to its

present purpose in 1771. Here is a Wesleyan chapel, built in 1865. There is a reading-room open during winter months, and a lending library containing over 200 volumes. An almshouse for six widows was founded and endowed by Madam Jane Tregonwell in 1674: the inmates receive an allowance of 23. 6d. weekly and fuel in addition to two dresses, underclothing and boots at Easter, and 10s. 6d. given annually on St. Thomas' day. The late Mr. John Ham, glazier and brewer, who died in this parish in 1848, left the sum of £333 6s. 8d. in the £3 per Cent, (now £2¾), the proceeds to be given for the maintenance of a boys' Sunday school, and the purchase of bread and fuel for the poor of this parish for ever. A Benedictine monastery, dedicated to St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Sampson and St. Branwalader, was founded here in 937 or 938, by King Athelstan, the revenue of which, at the Dissolution, was about £720: it was originally a minster and a religious house occupied by secular canons ; in King Edgar's time (964) it became an abbey, with 40 monks. The present Abbey church was built in the reign of Edward II. and is a magnificent structure, in the Decorated and Later English styles: the old abbey church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground on the 2nd Sept. 1309, and not rebuilt till 1392-1417 when Walter Archer was abbot; in this building no nave was added: a parish church, dedicated to St. James, was built at the south-east angle: the first lay owner was Sir John Tregonwell, king's proctor, to whom the place was surrendered by Abbot Bradley on the 11th March, 1539; there were then 14 monks and revenues valued at £578: Sir John died in 1565 and was buried in the abbey: service is held here every Sunday evening during summer months: the church was restored in 1865 under the superintendence of the late Sir G. G. Scott R.A. and a new oak pulpit and reading desk and an organ added. A Cottage Hospital was built and endowed by the late Baron Hambro : it was opened on the 1st August, 1873, and is supported by the endowment and voluntary subscription. Here is also a brewery, carried on by Messrs. Fookes Brothers. Milton Abbey was built by the first "Earl of Dorchester about the year 1771, on the site of the old Abbey house: this splendid mansion, the style of which corresponds with- the Abbey church, is beautifully, situated in a valley, and is approached through an avenue of fine trees; the park and woods of this estate extend over an area of 5,000 acres; George III. visited here in 1804 and 1805; it is the property

of Henry Charles Thomas Hambro esq. who is lord of the manor and sole landowner, but is at present (1895) unoccupied. The soil is chalk; subsoil, chalk. The area is 4,880 acres; rateable value, £4,021 ; the population in 1891 was 728.

By a Local Government Board Order, dated March 25, 1882, a detached part of this parish, known as Lypscombe, was amalgamated with Chesilborne, and at the same date another detached part, known as Holworth, was added to Overmoigne in the Weymouth union, and by the Divided Parishes Act a detached part of Winterborne Whitchurch was added to Milton Abbas.

Parish Clerk, Henry Fookes.

Deputy, Fred. Turner; Sexton, James Guy.

Post, M. O. & T. O., S. B., Express Delivery & Annuity & Insurance Office.--

Absalom Vatcher, sub-postmaster. Letters are received through Blandford at 6.45 a.m. & 2.45 p.m. ; & are dispatched at 1.45 & 6.30 p.m.; Sundays, 11.30 a.m

Parish School (mixed), with master's residence attached, built in 1840, for 150 children; average attendance, 83; Alfred C. Clark, master; Mrs. Annie Clark, mist

Carriers to:

Blandford -Thomas Fiander, mon. & thurs. & George Guy, wed. & sat

Dorchester 'Thomas Fiander, wed. & sat. ; & George Guy. tues. & fri

PRIVATE RESIDENTS

Bousfield Rev. Edward Henry M. A. Vicarage

Fielding Thomas M.D.

Fookes Henry

Fookes, William, Bagber farm

Hambro Henry Charles Thomas

Hambro Mrs. Hill house & 21 Eaton square, London SW

COMMERCIAL

Alner Joseph, farmer, Long Ash farm

Ancient, Order of Foresters (W. Guy secretary)

Atkins William, dairyman, Delcombe

Bussell Wiliam, shoe maker

Clark Alfred C schoolmasler

Cottage Hospital (Thos. Fielding M.D. medical officer ; Geo. Player, Sec, Miss Horton. matron)

Davies Percival, Farmer Barnes Hill

Fiander Thomas, carrier

Fielding Thos.M.D., surgeon,& medical officer & public vaccinator, 3rd district,Bandford union & ;3rd district, Cerne union

Fookes Bros. brewers, maltsters & wine &, spirit merchants

Foot Jane (Mrs.), shopkeeper

Foster Jsph. farmer, East, Luccombe

Guy Albert, blacksmith

Guy George, carrier

Hendris Hugh, head forester to Hy. Chas. Thos. Hambro esq. Park House

Jeans Thomas, Milton Arms P. H.

Jeffery Joseph, baker

Keynes Thos. farmer, Chescombe farm

Long James G. farmer, Delcombe

Lovell Frank, carpenter

Marlow Elizabeth(Mrs.),grocer & draper

Milton Abbas Cricket club (William Fookes, hon. Sec., & captain

M i l t o n Abbas Football Club (Rev. E. H. Bousfield M.A. sec)

Mitchell Louise (Mrs), blacksmith

Parsons Henry, grocer & baker

Player George res. Agent to Henry Charles Thomas Hambro esq

Reading Room library (Rev. E. H. Bousfield M.A. sec)

Rogers William John, shoe maker & dairyman, Dale, cottage

Roper William F. farmer long close

Satchell Hermine (?) (Mrs.), Hambro Arms inn & posting house

Spiller Elizabeth (Mrs). Farmer Luccombe farm

Standfield Herbert, farmer, Huish & Bagber farms

Tett Richard S. miller, Milton mill

Vatcher Absalom, shopkpr. Post office

White Stephen, shopkeeper

Willis Henry Fookes, farm bailiff to Henry C. T Hamhro esq.