

MILTON ABBAS

1920

(or Abbey Milton) 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 sub-division, Blandford petty sessional division, union and county court district, Milton rural deanery, archdeaconry of Dorset and diocese of Salisbury. 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 of Milton Abbey: the earliest mention of it is in the reign of King Athelstan, who in 938 founded here a monastery of secular canons: the village originally lay around the Abbey church, but was rebuilt on its present site by Joseph (Darner), 1st Earl of Dorchester, in 1787, when Milton Abbas Grammar school was removed to Blandford. 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, and is an edifice of stone in the Transitional style, consisting of chancel, nave, south aisle, vestry and an embattled western tower containing a clock and one bell, dating from the 14th century and formerly belonging to the abbey church: the octagonal font, of Purbeck marble, and a work of the 13th century, also came from the Abbey: during the year 1889 the church was thoroughly restored and the chancel lengthened 14 feet, at a total cost of £2,000: the communion plate dates from 1637 to 1675: there are sittings for 350 persons. The earliest register dates from 1651. The living is a vicarage, net yearly value £200, with residence, in the gift of Sir Everard Alexander Hambro K.C.V.O. and held since 1918 by the Rev. Frederick William Aldous. The vicarage house was built by Sir William Chambers in 1771. Here is a Wesleyan chapel built in 1895. The reading room is open during the winter months, and there is a lending library containing over 300 volumes. An almshouse for six poor widows was founded and endowed by John Tregonwell esq. as appears by his will, bearing date 1674; the inmates now receive an allowance of as. 6d, weekly and fuel, in addition to two dresses, underclothing and boots at Easter, and 10s. 6d. annually on St. Thomas' Day: the almshouse, originally in Newport street, was removed in 1779 to its present site opposite St. James's church. 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 Cents, (now £2 1/2), 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. The Cottage Hospital, built and endowed by the late Baron Hambro, was opened on the 1st August, 1873, and is supported by Sir Everard Alexander Hambro K.C.V.O. and by the endowment, which yields about £140 yearly. Here is also a brewery, carried on by Mr. Henry Fookes. The abbey of St. Mary and St. Michael, St. Sampson and St. Branwalader, was founded here in 937 or 938 by King Athelstan; it was originally a minster and a religious- house occupied by secular canons, but in

King Edgar's time (964) it was constituted an abbey, with 40 monks of the Benedictine-Order: the original church, struck by lightning and; burned to the ground on the 2nd Sept. 1309, was partially rebuilt during the period- 1392-1417, Walter Archer being then abbot, and its rebuilding was continued up to within a few years of the Dissolution in 1539: 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, but the church was reserved for the use of the parish; there were then 14 monks, and revenues valued at £578 : Sir John died in 1565 and was buried in the abbey: the church, chiefly in the Decorated style, was restored in 1865 under the superintendence of the late Sir G. G. Scott R.A. and consists of choir, with aisles, and north and south transepts; in the choir is a portion of a rich and lofty altar screen, beautified in 1492, and a marble slab of the 14th century marking the grave of Abbot Walter: the-wood loft is adorned with two oil paintings of the 15th century, both having reference to King Athelstan: the-east end of the north aisle forms the chapel of St. John the Baptist, and here are two brasses, one to John Artur, a monk of the 15th century, and the other on the altar tomb of Sir John Tregonwell, 1565: near by-is a monument to Charles J. Baron Hambro (d. 1877): on the wall of the south aisle is the carved and coloured rebus of Abbot Middleton, dated 1514: in the south transept is preserved a 15th century tabernacle and an oak case containing a 14th century burial chalice, 3 paten and fragments of an abbot's staff and sandals here also are the remains of Abbot Middleton's chantry, and the font, which consists of two marble figures with a shell at their feet: in the north transept is a monument by Carlini to Joseph, 1st Earl of Dorchester, d. 12 Feb. 1798, and Lady Caroline (Sackville), his Countess, d. 24 March, 1775, and an incised grave slab to an unknown abbot: John Tregonwell, in 1680, bequeathed to the church a chained library of theological books, as appears from an inscribed tablet in the-vestry: divine service is conducted here by the vicar every Sunday morning throughout the winter, and every Sunday evening during the summer months. In the year 1867, the late Baron Hambro drew up a trust deed constituting the Abbey Church a " Peculiar" of the Church of England, until such time as it be reconstituted the parish church. St. Catherine's chapel, standing in the woods at the top of the hill, and originally built by Athelstan, consists of chancel and nave, divided by an arch of the Transition Norman period, and the-windows and doorways are Norman and Perpendicular: on a jamb of the west doorway is an inscription relating to an indulgence, and the chancel floor retains some heraldic tiles: the chapel has been restored by Sir E. A. Hambro K.C.V.O. and is used for divine service. Milton Abbey, built by the first Earl of Dorchester about 1771, on the site of the old Abbey house, and visited by King George III. in 1804 and 1805, is beautifully situated in a valley, and approached through an avenue of fine trees; the park and woods of this estate extend over an area of 5,060 acres; it is the property and residence of Sir Everard A. Hambro K.C.V.O., D.I., J.P. who is lord of the manor and sole landowner. The soil is chalk; subsoil, chalk. The area is 4,872 acres of land and 8 of water; rateable value, £3,719; the population in 1911 was 639 in the civil, and 688- in the ecclesiastical parish.

By a Local Government Board Order, dated March 25, 1882, a detached part of this parish, known as Lyscombe, was amalgamated with Chesilborne, and at the same

date another detached part, known as Holworth, was added to Owermoigne in the Weymouth union, and by the Divided Parishes Act, another detached part known as "Milton End" was added to Winterborne Whitchurch, in each case for civil purposes only.

Parish Clerk, Henry Eookes.

Sexton, James Churchill.

Post, M. O., T. & Telephone Call & Express Delivery Office.—Miss Lauretta Vacher, sub – postmistress. Letters received .through Blandford

Elementary school (mixed), with residence attached, built in 1840, for 150 children;

Miss A.M.Marshall,mist

County Police Station, Thos. Albt. Hansford, constable

Carriers.—Robert Lovell & Albert Bolt, with motor omnibus, to Blandford, mon. thurs. & sat.; to Dorchester, tues. & fri

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

(Marked thus * receive their letters via Milborne St. Andrew.)

Aldous Rev. Frederick Wm. Vicarage

Fookes Henry, The Brewery

Gordon Capt. Cosmore, Chescombe (letters through Winterborne Whitchurch)

Hambro Sir Everard Alex. K.C.V.O., D.L., J.P. Milton abbey

Hambro Angus V., M.P., J.P. Hill house; & Carlton & Travellers' drubs S W i, London

Hawkes Ewart Stanley M.B., Ch.B. Edin. Eose cottage

COMMERCIAL

Marked thus ° farm 150 acres or over.

Ancient Order of Foresters (Albert Penny, sec)

Best Charles, organist at the Abbey & parish church

Bolt Albert, carrier

Bussell Hector, dairyman

°Coleman Herbert William, farmer, Bagber farm

Cottage Hospital (Ewart Stanley Hawkes M.B., Ch.B.Edin. medical officer; Rev.

Frederick Wm.Aldous, chaplain; A. V. Hambro M.P. hon. sec.& treas.; Sister Mary

Ann Ford, matron)

°Davis Wyndham Clement, farmer, Long close

Duffett Samuel, estate office, Milton Abbey

Evans Walter Holtiff, shoeing smith

Fookes Henry, brewer

°Foster Jsph. farmer, East Luccombe

°Green Christopher, farm bailiff to Mr. T. B. Spiller, Chescombe- farm

Guy Ernest & Son, rake makers

Guy William, estate clerk, assistant overseer & elk. to the Parish Council

Hawkes Ewart Stanley M.B., Ch.B. Edin. physician & surgeon, & medical officer & public vaccinator 3rd district, Blandford union & 3rd district, Cerne union

Joy Henry Willoughby, woodman to Sir E. A. Hambro K.C.V.O

Kent Frank, farmer

Lovell Robert, carrier

Marlow Elizh. (Mrs.), grocer & drapr
Milton Abbey Estate Office (Samuel Duffett, estate agent)
Parsons Isaac Walt.Hambro Arms htl
Parsons Walter, baker
Perkins Charles, head gardener to Sir E. A. Hambro
°Reader George, farm bailiff, Long Ash & Milton Park farms
Reading Room & Library (Fred Hall,, hon. sec)
Rogers William Evelyn, dairyman, Dale cottage
°Spiller Thomas Robert, miller, agricultural implement dealer, motor spirit store &
motor accessories, Milton Abbas mills & farmer, Luccombe farm
Stayner Chas. Adolphus, Milton Abbas
Vatcher Laurretta (Miss), grcr.Post off
Waight Walter, head gamekeeper to Sir E. A. Hambro
*°Warren Frederick, farmer, Hewish
°White John, farm bailiff to Sir E. A. Hambro.
(For other names in this parish, see Winterborne Whitechurch