

Account of Purley on Thames

Kelly's Directory

R200396 5/7/2017

1891

PURLEY is a village in a pleasant position on the banks of the Thames, 4 miles west north west from Reading and 2 east from Pangbourne Railway Station, in the Southern Division of the County, hundred of Theale, Bradfield union, petty sessional division and county court district of Reading, rural deanery of Bradfield, archdeaconry of Berks and diocese of Oxford.

The church of St Mary, beautifully situated on the banks of the Thames, half a mile from the village, is a building of flint and stone, in the Early English style, consisting of chancel, nave, north aisle, south porch and a small embattled western tower of brick with pinnacles, and containing six bells: the church with the exception of the tower was rebuilt in 1870: there is a good Norman arch, originally forming the entrance to the chancel, but now between the chancel and the organ chamber, built in 1877; there is a good Norman font: the arms of the Bolingbroke family, who formerly had property in this parish, are affixed to the south front of the tower: there is a lych gate of oak at the entrance to the churchyard: and there are 170 sittings, 63 of which being free. The register dates from the year 1660. The living is a rectory, tithe rent charge £280, net yearly value £329 including 17 acres of glebe with residence in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, and held since 1881 by the Rev Matthew Powley MA of Queens College Oxford.

Purley Hall, a handsome mansion of brick in the Elizabethan style, pleasantly situated in some fine park-like grounds, is the seat of Frederick Wilder esq JP.

Major Anthony Morris Storer JP who resides at Purley Park, a large building of Portland stone in the Italian style, situated on the banks of the river Thames, within an enclosed park, is lord of the manor.

The principal landowners are Major Anthony Morris Storer JP, Frederick Wilder esq JP and Philip Lybbe Powys Lybbe esq MA JP of 47 Tregunter road Kensington, London. The soil is loam and gravel, subsoil gravel. The chief crops are oats barley and beans. The area is 874 acres, rateable value £6807; the population in 1881 was 188.

Sexton: Job Burgess

POST OFFICE - William Pocock, subpostmaster, Letters through Reading arrive at 6am dispatched at 7.30 pm. Pangbourne is the nearest money order and Telegraph Office.

SCHOOL - built in 1873 by the Rev Richard Palmer, late rector & supported by voluntary contributions for 55 children average attendance 27. Mrs Francis Daw mistress.

RESIDENTS

STORER - Major Anthony Morris JP Purley Park

POWLEY - Rev Mathew MA Rectory

WILDER - Frederick JP Purley Hall

COX - John Blacksmith

OADES - George, Farmer Westbury farm

POCOCK - Thomas, Shopkeeper

STONE - John Farmer, Purley farm

WEST - Charles, farmer, Belle-Isle farm

