

**ALVELEY** is a considerable parish in the Chelmarsh division of the Stottesden hundred, which comprises the townships of Alveley, Nordley Regis, and Romsley Liberty. Population in 1801, 791; 1831, 949; 1841, 1,062; 1851, 1,041. The parish is bounded on the western side by the river Severn, on the south and east by the county of Stafford, and on the north by the parishes of Quatt and Claverley. The soil in this parish is variable; in some part a red sand and loamy earth prevails, and in other parts it is light and sandy. The farms are generally large, and particular attention has been paid to draining and the improvement of the lands; the farm houses are mostly of brick, and have been greatly improved of late years. The village of Alveley is well built and pleasantly situated, six miles and a half south from Bridgnorth, and eight miles north from Bewdley. The township in 1841 contained 187 houses and 914 inhabitants; and has 5,147a. 2r. 37p. of land, 122a. 3r. 15p. of which are in woods and plantations. Rateable value, £5,601. Among the landowners are Miss Green; Mrs. Brittle; Mr. John Crowther; Mary Hayward; Rev. William Wakeley; Trustees of Claverley school; Mr. Edward Hughes; Christ Church College, Oxford; Mr. Richard Veal; Mr. Homer; Messrs. Tunnicliff; Mr. John Hall; Mr. William Wyer; Mr. John Stockall; Rev. Dr. Jenkins, dean and chapter of Bath and Wells; Thomas Beach, Esq.; William Beach, Esq.; Lord Standford; John Bacon, Esq.; the poor of Alveley; John M. Wingfield, Esq.; William Trow, Esq.; Mr. William Corser; Mrs. Hand; Mr. Thomas Feriday; Mr. William Bowen; and others.

THE CHURCH is an ancient structure, dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a square tower, in which are six musical bells. The nave is divided from the side aisles by four semi-circular arches, and there are two side chapels belonging to the owner of the Coton estate. The tower was taken down and rebuilt in 1666, part of the chancel was rebuilt in 1585, and the south part was repaired in 1698. There are several neat tablets. The church will accommodate 416 hearers. At the east end of the church is a large stone coffin. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of Edward G. Gatacre, Esq.; incumbent, Rev. Robert Augustus Wellesley Considine, M.A. THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, and residence for the teacher, are situated in the churchyard. It is endowed with certain lands, as will be seen on reference to the charities, from which the teacher receives £25 per annum, in consideration of which he teaches a limited number of scholars free; the rest pay a small weekly stipend; about fifty scholars attend. The feast is held on the first Sunday after the 15th of August. A court leet and baron is held for the manor every three years. Stone quarries near the village are worked to a considerable extent; immense blocks are raised and worked into grinding stones for gunsmiths and others.

**NORDLEY REGIS** is a township with a few scattered houses in the parish of Alveley, pleasantly situated two miles north-east from the church. **COTON** is a small hamlet in Nordley Regis. **COTON HALL** and estate have recently been sold by E. L. Gatacre to the Rev. Mr. Wakeley. The house is a stuccoed mansion pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, commanding some fine views of the adjacent country. The park comprises about eighty acres, and is pleasingly diversified with graceful undulations.

**ROMSLEY** is a township and village situated about two miles east from Alveley, which at the census of 1841 contained 27 houses and 110 inhabitants; and has 1,900 acres of land, the rateable value of which is £1,334. 5s. 6d. Abraham Stephen Cresswell, Esq., is lord of the manor and the principal landowner. Dr. Jenkins is also a considerable owner; and John M. Wingfield, Esq., the Misses Cresswell, Mr. Richard Palmer, and Mr. Stephen Cresswell, are also freeholders.

**CHARITIES**:—*John Grove*, by will, dated 10th of December, 1616, bequeathed a yearly stipend of £10 to the schoolmaster of Alveley, and a like yearly payment of £10, to have continuance for ever, to be distributed among five poor aged and impotent men. For the

establishing of these yearly stipends, the executors purchased a messuage, with the appurtenances, called Longhurst, situated in Ledbury and Eastnor, in Herefordshire, which contained 74A. 2R. 4P. of land, and which was exchanged with Charles Lord Somers in the year 1793 for certain lands in Alveley parish, containing 111A. 0R. 27P. of land, which was held at the time the Charity Commissioners published their report at a rent of £73 per annum. The schoolmaster's stipend was increased in 1800 to £20, and has since been augmented to £25, with a house rent free, and an allowance of two loads of coal; and five poor men of Alveley receive from this charity a yearly stipend of £6 each.

*Thomas Grove*, in 1743, left certain lands, comprising 31A. 3R. 0P., upon trust, that the annual rents and profits should be divided among the poor of the parish of Alveley. The land is let to several tenants, at a rent of £42 per annum.

This parish participates in the charity of *Mr. William Seabright*, who, by his will, dated 1620, gave certain premises, the rents thereof to be employed towards the relief of the poor of several parishes in Worcester, Stafford, and Salop, of which Alveley is one. The parish receives from the charity money wherewith to distribute fourteen pennyworth of bread every Sunday, which is given among the poor.

*James Boxes*, by will, dated 1st April, 1715, gave to the poor of Alveley the sum of £6, to be put forth at interest by the churchwardens, and the proceeds to be applied to the purchase of good books, to be distributed to the poor families of the parish. About thirty years ago this charity was lost, in consequence of the bankruptcy of the person in whose hands it was placed.

*George Garbett*, by will, dated 19th June, 1758, bequeathed £100, to be put out at interest, which was to be disposed of on the 1st of January every year to such poor persons of the parish of Alveley as should not receive parochial relief.

*Humphrey Dovey*, in 1700, left £20, the interest thereof to be distributed among the poor of the parish in bread. In respect of which forty-three penny loaves are distributed on Good Friday, and forty on St. Thomas's day.

*Arthur Arden* left a piece of land, containing two acres and a half, the profits of which were to be expended in bell ropes (when required) for the use of the parish church. At the time the Charity Commissioners published their report the land was let at a rent of £6 per annum. It is said the land was given to the parish clerk on condition that he should find bell ropes, but the original conveyance, which had been kept in the church chest, was lost about fifty years ago; and it appears that for more than 100 years the rents of the land have been received by the parish clerk for his own use, and he has provided the bell ropes as they were wanted.

*Thomas Russell*, in 1842, gave the sum of £40, and directed the interest to be appropriated for the benefit of poor parishioners.

POST OFFICE—*At William Evans's*. Letters from Bridgnorth at 9.45 A.M., and are despatched at 3.30 P.M.

ALVELEY DIRECTORY.		
Ameys Edmund, farmer	Clarke Stephen, butcher and farmer	Evans Thomas, farmer, Moor House
Ameys Thomas, farmer, Dunbolds	Considine Rev. Rbt. Augustus Wellesley, M.A.	Evans William, postmaster
Bache William, farmer, Leckhouse	Craig John, farmer	Fellows Michael, farmer, Pool Hall
Bacon Jno, farmer, Hall Close	Crow Wm., farmer, Turley Green	Fereday Thomas, farmer
Brewer William, Gorton's Flour Mills	Davies Henry, farmer	Fox John, farmer
Bridge James, farmer	Doolittle Samuel, maltster	Foxall Mary, farmer, Dod's Green
Clarke John, butcher and shoemaker	Evans George, stone mason and farmer	Giles Thomas, vict., Bell Inn
	Evans John, farmer	Griffiths William, tailor and shopkeeper

Haines Joseph, blacksmith	Warder John, farmer, Hay farm	Marston George, farmer, Barretts
Harris Rehd., farmer	Webb Benjamin, carpenter	Massey William, shopkeeper
Hayward John, farmer, The Butts	Wilks Jos., farmer, Turley Green	Nicholls John, farmer
Hayward Mary, Little London farm	Williams Thos. quarry-mstr.	Page William, farmer
Head John, beer-retailer, Kitlands	Wood James, stone mason	Webb Benjamin, shopkeeper, Bird's Green
Hick Thos., farmer, Hadleys	Wood James, quarry-owner	Wootton John, beer-retailer
Higgs John, butcher	Wyer Wm., farmer, Cooks-croft	<b>BOMSLEY DIRECTORY.</b>
Hobbs William, victualler, Squirrel Inn	Yates William, wheelwright	Cox Thomas, miller and farmer, Alam Bridge
Hobbis Mary, vict., Three Horse Shoes	<b>NORDLEY REGIS DIRECTORY.</b>	Cresswell Abraham Stephen, Esq.
Jenning William, shoemaker	Bache Thomas, Esq., Green-field House	Cresswell Ezekiel, farmer, Pool House
Jones James, Hollies farm	Berkin Geo., farmer, Astley	Cresswell Nancy, gentlewoman, The Hall
Lane John, quarry-master and farmer	Bowen Thomas, farmer	Cresswell Sarah, farmer, The Hall
Lane Thomas, quarry-master and mason	Bowen William, farmer	Cresswell Stephen, farmer
Lowe Thomas, farmer	Cox Thomas, miller, Alan Bridge	Doolittle Wm., beer-retailer
Millward John, beerhouse-keeper and wheelwright	Crowther John, farmer, Bolt-hole	Edmonds John, farmer, Bowels farm
Powell Francis, shoemaker	Edmonds William, farmer, High Barns	Foxall John, blacksmith
Richards Thomas, farmer	Edwards Martha, farmer, Hubbolds	Foxall William, blacksmith
Stockall John, farmer, Cooks-croft	Fereday Thomas, farmer, Tuck Hill	Gritton Jos., farmer, Harts Green farm
Taylor Job, farmer	Hobbs Wm., farmer, Bird's Green	Hincks Wm, farmer, Ulet Hall
Vcal Rd., farmer, Langford	Lowe Thomas, farmer, Perry House	Leigh George, wheelwright
Walker Charles, butcher and farmer		Winnell John, farmer, New House

**ASTLEY ABBOTTS**, a parish and village in the Chelmarsh division of the Stottesden Hundred, two miles and a half north from Bridgnorth, contains 3,137 acres of land, intersected by the Broseley turnpike road and the Tasley and Linley streams, and is bounded on the eastern side by the river Severn. 193 acres are in woods, plantations, and water. The soil in some parts is a mixture of earth and sand, and in other places a strong loam. Rateable value £4,023. 1s. 2d. At the census in 1801 there were 740 inhabitants; 1831, 666; and in 1841, 657. At the latter period there were 139 inhabited houses. The situation of Astley Abbots is pleasant and highly salubrious, and there are several handsome residences. The farms are mostly of considerable extent, and by a judicious outlay of capital in draining and other improvements have been brought to a state of great productiveness. The principal landowners are Thos. Charlton Whitmore, Esq.; Lady Tyrwhitt Jones; John Stephens, Esq.; Mr. John Ward; Miss Pilkington; Mr. John Bowen; Rev. C. Whitmore; Lord Forester; Mr. John Lee; Sir John Acton, Bart.; Mr. Thomas Yapp; and George Pritchard, Esq. The former is lord of the manor. There are also several smaller proprietors. **THE CHURCH**, an ancient fabric neatly pewed with oak sittings, has a groined roof, resting on hammer head projections, upon which are carved figures of the apostles. A neat tablet remembers Sir Tyrwhitt Jones, Bart., F.R.S. and M.P., who died in 1811. The same tablet also records the deaths of several other members of the family. An elegant tablet commemorative of