

LANGLEY BURRELL

THE MODERN civil parish of Langley Burrell Without is situated on the (Bristol) Avon immediately north of Chippenham and comprises the village of Langley Burrell located centrally and hamlets of Kellaways (formerly Tytherton Kellaways) to the east and Peckingell to the south-east.¹ To the west is Barrow farm. The parish is approximately 6.5 kilometres south of the M4. The main access to the village is provided by the B4069 that runs north from Chippenham towards Kington Langley, and is known as the Swindon road.

The area of Langley Burrell ancient parish was 1,720 a. in 1859, prior to major boundary changes during the 1880s. Kellaways, a separate parish, contained 140 a.² In 1903 the parish of Langley Burrell Without covered 1,812 a. and Kellaways 333 a.³ In 2011 the parish of Langley Burrell Without (united with Kellaways) covered 1,915 a.⁴

LANDSCAPE, SETTLEMENT AND BUILDINGS

Boundaries and Parish Origins

The ancient parish of Langley Burrell, as mapped in 1820 and 1842,⁵ bordered four others – Kington St Michael to the north, Bremhill to the east, Chippenham to the south and Hardenhuish to the west. However, the pattern of boundaries was complicated and confusing because of many detached portions of these and other parishes within Langley Burrell, and detached portions of Langley Burrell within its neighbours. The long northern boundary with Kington St Michael and its tithing (and later civil parish) Kington Langley, appears to have been established by 940, when it was described in the Langley charter.⁶ For much of its length it followed watercourses, Stein Brook and Chissell Brook, although at the north-western corner it was defined by field boundaries and a lane (Jackson's Lane). Part of the western boundary with Hardenhuish followed an ancient routeway, *Ergespath* in 940,⁷ the later Malmesbury Road. The river Avon formed the eastern boundary. The irregular southern border followed no natural features and was exceptionally irregular, extending almost to Chippenham bridge. A likely explanation for this is that a territory known as Cocklebury by the late Saxon period, which never achieved parochial status, was partitioned at an early date between Langley Burrell and Chippenham, the boundary drawn to respect then-existing field boundaries.⁸ One consequence of this irregularity was that, until the later 19th century,

¹ This account was written in 2022 and revised in 2024.

² *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1859 edn.).

³ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1903 edn.).

⁴ Langley Burrell Parish Council, *Langley Burrell Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016–2026* (2017), 9.

⁵ *Printed Maps of Wilts.* (WRS. 52), 108; WSA, T/A Langley Burrell.

⁶ *WAM* 77, 68–9.

⁷ *WAM* 77, 69.

⁸ A. Wilson, *Cocklebury: a Farming Area and its People in the Vale of Wilts.* (Chichester, 1983), 12–14.

portions of urban Chippenham north of the Avon, including most of the railway station and engineering works, actually lay in Langley Burrell parish.

The name Langley refers to a 'long clearing or area of wood pasture.' The suffix 'Burrell' distinguishes Langley Burrell from Kington Langley and derives from the family name of Borel or Burel, who owned the estate c.1086–1300.⁹ The name 'Tytherton' is shared by three adjoining settlements, Tytherton Kellaways, Tytherton Lucas (formerly in Chippenham) and East Tytherton (in Bremhill). 'Kellaways' as a manorial affix refers to the family in whose possession the small manor and advowson were held from at least 1226,¹⁰ although it is likely from earlier forms (*de Kaillewey*, etc) that the family in fact took its name from the place, which may mean 'the Calne way'.¹¹ The origin of the prefix Tytherton is ambiguous. It was formerly thought to derive from a personal name, or from the Old English *tīdre*, 'fragile, weak'.¹² More recently it has been suggested that Tytherton derives from the Old English verb *tydrian* 'to propagate' and *-tun* 'farm, village' a possible reference to the settlement's agricultural fertility.¹³

The profusion of detached parcels of land within other parishes may have originated from tithe obligations by neighbouring landowners, and was causing complications by the 17th century.¹⁴ As elsewhere, Victorian administrators strove to remove these anomalies and to take account of Chippenham's suburban expansion.¹⁵ In 1882 part of Slaughterford civil parish (comprising Barrow farm and cottages with 14 inhabitants in 1891) was transferred to Langley Burrell.¹⁶ Also in 1882 Peckingell (population 27 in 1891) was transferred from Kington Langley.¹⁷ In 1884, a portion of Chippenham civil parish (population 267 in 1891) was also reassigned to Langley Burrell, while part of Langley Burrell civil parish (population 132 in 1891) was moved into Chippenham.¹⁸ In 1884, part of Bremhill (Kellaway's farm, 4 inhabitants in 1881) was transferred to the parish of Tytherton Kellaways,¹⁹ the boundaries of which in 1895 were extended to include the adjacent settlement of Avon, to form the parish of Kellaways.²⁰

In 1894 the civil parish of Langley Burrell was abolished and divided in two. The parish of Langley Burrell Within was created in the Chippenham municipal borough, and Langley Burrell Without was formed from the rural part of the parish.²¹ The civil parish of Kellaways was created in 1895.²² In 1934, Kellaways was absorbed along with Hardenhuish

⁹ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 105; below, landownership.

¹⁰ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 115.

¹¹ L.M. Ryland-Epton and J. Chandler, 'Who was Maud Heath and what was her gift', forthcoming.

¹² *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 91–2.

¹³ R. Coates, 'Tyther- as a Place Name Element', *Jnl. of the English Place Name Society* 43 (2011), 35–42.

¹⁴ *Wilts. Quarter Session Order Book 1642–1654* (WRS. 67), 286–7.

¹⁵ Above, Chippenham, origin, growth, and development.

¹⁶ *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 351, note.

¹⁷ *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 344, note.

¹⁸ *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 344, note.

¹⁹ *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 359, note.

²⁰ *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 351, note, 340.

²¹ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 542, referring to LGB order 31682, 30 Sept. 1894;.

²² *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 351, note.

into the parish of Langley Burrell Without.²³ In 1914 part of the parish of Langley Burrell Without (population 358 in 1921) and part of Hardenhuish were transferred into Langley Burrell Within.²⁴ In 1934 the parish of Langley Burrell Within was abolished and united with Chippenham Within to form a new parish.²⁵ The boundary of Langley Burrell Without was adjusted again in 1952 to allow for the expansion of Chippenham borough.²⁶

This article describes the history of the ancient parish until the later 19th century. The recent history of the places transferred elsewhere is treated with the relevant civil parishes.

Landscape

The bedrock geology across most of Langley Burrell parish is Kellaways Sandstone, with Kellaways Clay Mudstone along its north-western and south-western edges.²⁷ Around Thornhill farm in the north-east of the parish is an area of Oxford Clay Mudstone, and embracing Jacksom's farm, at the north-western corner, the parish extends on to the Cornbrash Limestone. Superficial deposits of alluvial sands and gravels occur along the meadows fringing the Avon but not elsewhere. The Kellaways formation, which extends from Dorset to Yorkshire, takes its name from Kellaways, now within Langley Burrell.²⁸

Across most of the parish slightly acid loamy and clayey soils prevail with impeded drainage. Lime-rich loamy soils occur around Peckingell. In the northern and western parish edges the soils are slowly permeable and seasonally wet.²⁹

West of the Swindon road the terrain is 75 m. or more above Ordnance Datum, rising to around 100 m. west of Bird's Marsh.³⁰ East of the main road the land falls away, to 52 m. at Thornhill farm and 46 m. at the confluence of the Avon and Marden rivers. Streams and minor watercourses flow eastwards and south-eastwards into the Avon, draining the entire parish.

Communications

The parish is bisected by a main road running northward from Chippenham towards Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett, known at its southern end since the 1880s or earlier as Langley Road.³¹ The road is referred to in 1257,³² and in 1651 was called Tedbury (Tetbury) or Malmesbury Way, when it was part of an agreement mapped and agreed jointly by Langley Burrell, Chippenham and Hardenhuish parish officers in order to discharge their statute highway responsibilities.³³ The road was turnpiked in 1768 by the Chippenham roads trust,

²³ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 351, note.

²⁴ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 344, note.

²⁵ Youngs, *Admin.Units*, I, 542; *VCH Wilts*, IV, 344, note.

²⁶ Youngs, *Admin.Units*, I, 542; Statutory Instruments, 1984, no. 387, N. Wilts. (Parishes) Order.

²⁷ This para: <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/> (accessed 4 Aug. 2022).

²⁸ <https://webapps.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KLB> (accessed 4 Aug. 2022).

²⁹ <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> (accessed 4 Aug. 2022).

³⁰ This para: OS Map 1:25000, sheet 156 (1999 edn.).

³¹ OS Map 25", Wilts. XX.14 (1886 edn.).

³² *Reg. Malm.* II, 202.

³³ *Wilts. Quarter Session Order Book 1642–1654* (WRS. 67), 286; WSA, 118/53.

and disturnpiked a century later.³⁴ It was classified in 1922 as A420, part of the principal route between Oxford and Bristol, but downgraded to B4069 (also known as the Swindon road) after the M4 motorway was built parallel to it in 1971.³⁵

A second ancient road is followed by part of the western parish boundary. This is recorded as *Ergespath*, a landmark in the 940 Langley charter, and was included in the 1651 agreement.³⁶ It was turnpiked by the Malmesbury trust in 1756 and disturnpiked between 1873 and 1876.³⁷ It was classified as part of the A429 road between Chippenham and Warwick, and was later widened to a dual carriageway and renumbered A350 to connect Chippenham with the M4 motorway.³⁸

The B4069 and A350 are connected by Jackson's Lane which runs westwards from the B4069 slightly north of the St Peter's Church. It existed in 1773, when it was described as Checkstoms Lane, and probably much earlier.³⁹

The best known of local routes was supported from 1474 by an endowment made by a Kellaways woman, Maud Heath, to maintain a causeway across the floodplain from Bremhill to Chippenham. Her intention may have been to establish an east–west route across the Avon flood plain as an alternative to the main road through Chippenham.⁴⁰ The causeway, some of it elevated on stone arches, remained in use in 2024 and was maintained by the Maud Heath Trust. It begins at Wick Hill, Bremhill before passing westwards through East Tytherton and Kellaways and across Kellaways Bridge, under the railway line and along the Common through the main settlement at Langley Burrell. Running south from the Causeway at this point towards Peckingell is Crossing Lane, formerly called Silver Street.⁴¹ From its junction with the Chippenham road, the causeway follows the line of the B4069 south towards Chippenham.⁴²

A highway (*via regia*) passed through Kellaways in 1281,⁴³ and Kellaways bridge over the (Bristol) Avon is referred to in 1542, and in 1584 when it was out of repair.⁴⁴ The parson Walter Jeffrey (d.1532) left 13s. 4d. to repair the causeway in Langley Burrell from the parsonage to the High Cross and Kings Hall.⁴⁵ In addition he left £20 to purchase land to provide an income to maintain the causeway from the High Cross of Chippenham to the Reddhill and of *Hewstocks* (Yewstocks) Lane.

³⁴ Above, Chippenham, communications; *VCH Wilts*, IV, 257, etc.

³⁵ <https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=B4069> (accessed 4 Aug. 2022).

³⁶ *WAM* 77, 68–9; *Wilts. Quarter Session Order Book 1642–1654* (WRS. 67), 286; *WSA*, 118/53.

³⁷ Above, Chippenham, communications; *VCH Wilts*, IV, 257, etc.

³⁸ <https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=A350> (accessed 4 Aug. 2022).

³⁹ *Andrews' and Dury's Map 1773* (WRS. 8).

⁴⁰ Ryland-Epton and Chandler, forthcoming.

⁴¹ So-called on *WSA*, T/A Langley Burrell.

⁴² *WSA*, 3448/1/1; *Coms. Of Inquiry into Charities in England and Wales: Twenty-Eighth Report* (London: Parl. Papers, 1834 (606), xxii), 307–9; *Endowed Charities, 1908*, 267–9. See also K. Taylor, *Dry Shod to Chippenham: A Hist. of Maud Heath's Ancient Causeway in North Wilts.* (Bradford on Avon, 2012).

⁴³ *Collectanea*, (WRS. 12), 93 (no. 128).

⁴⁴ Leland, *Itin.* I, 135; *WAM* 21, 87–8; *Wilts. County Recs.*, ed. H.C. Johnson (WRS. 3), 97.

⁴⁵ *TNA*, PROB 11/9/260. High Cross may be Chippenham Clift, marked as the Cross on the map accompanying the 1651 agreement. Kings Hall is perhaps the Yelde Hall. Reddhill is unidentified.

The Maud Heath trustees contributed £50 of the £65 cost to restore and widen the bridge in 1794, the work carried out under the direction of the parish surveyors of Kellaways and Langley Burrell.⁴⁶ Further repairs were carried out in 1825.⁴⁷ In 1905 the trustees claimed that the county surveyor had approved these, and that from 1825 therefore the structure was a county bridge, and thus the county was liable to keep it in repair.⁴⁸

However, quarter sessions did not acknowledge it as a county bridge in 1849, when it was apparently again in a state of disrepair.⁴⁹ In January 1852 it was described as ‘in such a bad state as to be dangerous to persons passing’ and a committee of magistrates was formed to decide responsibility.⁵⁰ There followed further discussion over the liability of the county in the cost of its renovation or the creation of a new structure. The old bridge had three broad piers and was traversed by low-lying arches, a design which, according to residents, prevented the free flow of water and contributed to flooding.⁵¹ This crossing was augmented by ‘additions’ which had been constructed in four different periods and included a footway over the river.⁵² In 1853/4 a new bridge with a span of iron, designed by Henry Law, was constructed by Messrs Rigby for the Maud Heath Trustees.⁵³ The county contributed just £65 of the cost of £1,068,⁵⁴ the Maud Heath Trustees having raised £1,000 by mortgaging some of the property they held in trust.⁵⁵ Discussions over the designation of Kellaways Bridge as a county bridge continued.⁵⁶

The Maud Heath Trustees carried out repairs in 1885. The county contributed to the cost, and the work was carried out to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor. Discussions again took place over the liability of the county to bridge repairs in 1905.⁵⁷

After extensive cracking in the bridge's structure, a replacement was completed in August 1961 at a cost of £10,000 (the beams accounting for £3,000). The new bridge, which preserved the listed abutments at either end of the causeway, was the first structure in the country to use preflex steel beams; they were manufactured by Boulton & Paul Group and attracted interest from the trade press at home and abroad.⁵⁸

The Great Western Railway (linking London, Swindon and Bristol) was completed in 1841 and crosses the parish north-east to south-west. The nearest station is Chippenham to the south-west.

⁴⁶ WSA, 3448/2/1. 23 June 1794.

⁴⁷ WSA, 3448/2/4. 5 Aug. 1825.

⁴⁸ WSA, 3448/4/1, letter 12 Apr. 1905.

⁴⁹ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 5 July 1849.

⁵⁰ *Wilts. Independent*, 8 Jan. 1852.

⁵¹ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 21 Oct. 1852; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 10 Apr. 1852.

⁵² *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 10 Apr. 1852; J.E. Jackson, *Maud Heath's Causey* (Devizes, 1854), 14.

⁵³ The opening of the bridge was announced in Dec. 1853 but later reported complete in Oct. 1854: Jackson, *Maud Heath's Causey*, 14; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 10 Feb. 1853, 19 Oct. 1854; *Bath Chronicle*, 15 Dec. 1853.

⁵⁴ WSA, F2/250/20.

⁵⁵ WSA, 3448/1/3.

⁵⁶ e.g. *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 3 July 1869; WSA, F2/250/20.

⁵⁷ WSA, F2/250/20. *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 22 Oct. 1885.

⁵⁸ WSA, F4/150/65; F4/180HC/52.

Population

There were 20 peasant households recorded in Langley Burrell in 1086 and 9 in Tytherton Kellaways, with two and four enslaved people respectively.⁵⁹ Using a multiplier of 4.5 for households but regarding slaves as individuals gives an approximate population of 137 for the parish. In Langley Burrell 12 taxpayers were recorded in 1332, who paid between 2s. and 5s., and four taxpayers in Cocklebury who paid between 12d. and 5s. Taxpayers for the hamlet of Tytherton Kellaways were probably noted in the return for Tytherton (*Tudryntone*) along with the adjoining settlements of East Tytherton (in Bremhill) and Tytherton Lucas (formerly in Chippenham).⁶⁰ The 1377 poll tax recorded 79 adult taxpayers for Langley Burrell and an additional 10 for Cocklebury. There were 43 for *Tyteryngton Cayleweye*, and this must refer to Tytherton Kellaways, as Tytherton Lucas was listed separately.⁶¹ There were four taxpayers for Langley Burrell in 1545 and 10 in 1576, of which four were from the Wasterfelde family of yeomen.⁶² Kellaways was not separately listed in returns for 1545 but in 1576 *Keyleweyes* was listed along with Tytherton Lucas;⁶³ Cocklebury was not listed separately in 1576.⁶⁴ In 1676 a total of 157 adult conformists and nonconformists was reported for Langley Burrell and 12 for Kellaways, suggesting a combined total population of approximately 250.⁶⁵

In the first national census of 1801, the population of Langley Burrell was 333. It rose to 364 in 1821 and 626 by 1841; this included 18 people living in barns and tents.⁶⁶ It climbed to 1,100 in 1861, the sharp rise being attributable to the growth in housing in the area adjoining Chippenham.⁶⁷ Boundary changes during the 1880s contributed to a further increase in population to 1,445 in 1891.⁶⁸

The civil parishes of Langley Burrell Without and Langley Burrell Within were created in 1894. In 1901 their respective populations were 496 and 1,419, an increase ascribed to the opening of the signal works in Chippenham.⁶⁹ The population of Langley Burrell Without rose to 713 in 1911, but the transfer of part of the parish to Langley Burrell Within meant that the population fell to 361 in 1921.⁷⁰ In 1934, the populations of Hardenhuish and Kellaways were transferred to the parish, helping to raise its population to 1,158.⁷¹ However, the expansion of the Chippenham boundary northwards in 1952 reduced the number of inhabitants within the parish to 473 in 1961.⁷² In 2011, the population was 375. After its

⁵⁹ *Domesday*, 177, 189.

⁶⁰ *Wilts. Tax list of 1332* (WRS. 45), 98, 99.

⁶¹ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 307–8.

⁶² *Two Sixteenth Century Tax Lists* (WRS. 10), 28, 56.

⁶³ *Two Sixteenth Century Tax Lists* (WRS. 10), 55.

⁶⁴ *Two Sixteenth Century Tax Lists* (WRS. 10), 55.

⁶⁵ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

⁶⁶ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 319, 351.

⁶⁷ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 322, 351.

⁶⁸ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 351.

⁶⁹ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 325, 344, 351.

⁷⁰ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 351. See also FN, n.

⁷¹ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 351. See also FN, o.

⁷² [Langley Burrell Without CP through time | Population Statistics | Total Population \(visionofbritain.org.uk\)](https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/Langley-Burrell-Without-CP-through-time-Population-Statistics-Total-Population) (accessed 4 August 2022).

creation, the parish of Langley Burrell Within grew rapidly to 1,914 in 1911 and, following boundary changes, to 2,628 in 1921, before peaking at 3,086 in 1931.⁷³ In 1934, the parish of Langley Burrell Within was merged with Chippenham Within and its population was no longer recorded separately.⁷⁴

The population of Tytherton Kellaways rose from 12 in 1801 to 35 in 1841, before falling to 15 in 1851. Thereafter it grew to 26 in 1881, and after boundary changes in 1884, to 29 in 1891.⁷⁵ In 1901 the population of Kellaways parish (created in 1895) was 46, after which it fell to 37 in 1931.⁷⁶ In 1934 the parish was abolished, and its population figures were added to those of Langley Burrell Without.

Settlement

Mesolithic worked flint tools found to the west of Bird's Marsh and at Kellaways are among the earliest indication of human activity in the parish.⁷⁷ A Bronze Age barrow (now ploughed over) has been identified south of Bird's Marsh and west of Barrow farm.⁷⁸ This barrow may be the *funtan hlaew* named in the 854 charter of Hardenhuish.⁷⁹ Further evidence of the occupation of the Barrow farm area in the Roman and medieval periods is outlined below. Elsewhere in the parish there is evidence of occupation during the Iron Age east of Kellaways, in the form of a 'banjo' enclosure settlement (a feature which typically dates from 400–100 BC). It consists of three adjoining, sub-rectangular, banked enclosures, the northernmost of which may be the 'banjo' enclosure.⁸⁰

There is some evidence of Roman occupation in the parish, suggested by the discovery of a rotary quern north-east of St Peter's church (south of Stein Brook) and Romano-British pottery finds south-east of Kellaways farm.⁸¹ The strongest indication lies in the area around Bird's Marsh, where evaluation trenches, geophysical and LiDAR survey have revealed a probable native Romano-British farmstead south of the woodland, consisting of a co-axial settlement with enclosure and drainage ditches, and a possible round house. Local coarseware pottery from the site dates principally to the later 1st and 3rd centuries AD.⁸² South and adjacent, three linear ditches containing Iron Age and Romano-British pottery sherds were also recorded and Roman pottery and a whetstone was found to the west.⁸³

⁷³ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 344, and notes.

⁷⁴ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 344, notes.

⁷⁵ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 359.

⁷⁶ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 351.

⁷⁷ HER, ST97NW063; HER ST97NW050.

⁷⁸ HER, ST97NW600.

⁷⁹ BL, Cotton Ch. viii. 35; Electronic Sawyer, S308. Suggested in *Arch. Jnl.* LXXVI (1919), 170–1, and accepted by the Ordnance Survey: [OS Map 25"](#), [Wilts.](#) XX.10 (1923 edn.). See also *VCH Wilts.* I (1), 180.

⁸⁰ HER, ST97NE610.

⁸¹ HER, MWI64436, ST97NE302, ST97NW305.

⁸² HER, MWI31361.

⁸³ HER, MWI75346, ST97NW310.

Some documentary and archaeological evidence⁸⁴ suggests the possibility of an additional small medieval settlement within the parish at Barrow farm which, prior to 1882, was administratively detached from Langley Burrell as an exclave (about 90 a.) of Slaughterford.⁸⁵

Adjacent to Kilvert's Parsonage is an imperfect stone ellipse or enclosure, currently undated. Suggestions concerning the likely use of the site include a pagan shrine or a hut circle.⁸⁶

The present settlement of Langley Burrell dates from the medieval period and is centred on the linear line of 'The Common', the route towards Kellaways of Maud Heath's Causeway to the east of the B4069 Chippenham–Swindon Road. The parish church and Langley House, the former home of the Ashe family, owners of the Langley Burrell estate, are located further north of the main settlement, east of and adjacent to the B4069 road. Medieval earthworks to the south of the church and house indicate a shrunken medieval village.⁸⁷ To the north and east of the settlement, towards Kellaways, and to the south-east around Peckingell, medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow have been noted, part of a large cultivated area which extended across the historic parishes around Chippenham.⁸⁸

The hamlet of Kellaways lies to the east of the main settlement, along the route of Maud Heath's Causeway towards Bremhill, on the east bank of the Avon,. It has medieval origins and has been little developed since the construction of St Giles church in the early 1800s.⁸⁹

During the 20th and 21st centuries there has been some limited development along the line of the Common at Langley Burrell, including, on the north side, the Oakhurst cul-de-sac, the playing field and village hall together with several houses on the south side and on Crossing Way Lane. The expansion of Chippenham northwards resulted by 2024 in several large planned or on-going developments largely within the southern part of Langley Burrell

⁸⁴ See also below, landownership. Archaeological evidence includes: - a settlement of medieval date identified by a geophysical survey in 2014 north east of Barrow farm (HER, MWI74503). Further south to the east of Barrow farm (which has medieval origins HER, MWI34977, ST97NW472, MWI66169), a possible medieval and post-medieval settlement with ridge and furrow was visible as earthworks on aerial photographs taken during the 1940s and 50s (HER, ST97NW463). Slightly south of Barrow farm, possible medieval settlement features were logged similarly in 1977 (probably outside the former Slaughterford enclave, HER, ST97NW621). Finds included floor tiles and medieval and post-medieval pottery. See also HER, MWI74502 (medieval ditches N&E Barrow farm), HER, MWI74504 (undated pits, N&E Barrow farm), HER, MWI74505 (field boundaries of an unknown date N&E Barrow farm). Recent? geophysical survey and trial trenching has not revealed any surviving evidence of a structure associated with the moat, which is no longer extant. Information from Wilts. Archaeology Service [2022].

⁸⁵ Slaughterford parish lies to the west between Castle Combe and Box.

⁸⁶ WAM 23, 68–70; VCH Wilts, I (1), 266; HER, ST97SW600.

⁸⁷ HER, ST97NW458, MWI73842.

⁸⁸ HER, MWI73840, MWI73841, MWI73842, MWI73843, MWI73850.

⁸⁹ HER, ST97NW454.

parish. These included a 123-acre, 650-home residential development at Rawlings farm (Rawlings Green)⁹⁰ and a 750-home development, Bird Marsh View, south of Bird's Marsh.⁹¹

The Built Character

Vernacular buildings were typically of rubblestone under stone slate roofs, but a number have timber frames. The church of St Peter's, north of the main settlement on the B4069, is the only building of grade I listed status in the parish.⁹² A number of chest tombs within the graveyard of the church are also listed.⁹³ The 18th-century former home of the Langley Burrell estate owner is grade II* and lies to the east and adjacent to the church;⁹⁴ it may have been built before 1711,⁹⁵ although the architecture of the present structure suggests a later date, which may have been between 1766 and 1769, or c.1780.⁹⁶ Also situated on this road (but to the west) are the former village pound, Pound Cottages and a Victorian school house.⁹⁷

Several farmhouses isolated from the main settlement are listed. These include to the west of the B4069, the 17th-century and subsequently altered Jacksom's farm on Jacksom's Lane, and the timber-framed Barrow Farm, which lies slightly south-east of Bird's Marsh.⁹⁸ This may be the house noted as 'lately built' by James Hulbert at Barrow in 1626.⁹⁹

The 18th-century former farmhouse and subsequent rectory, now known as Kilvert's Parsonage (from its association with the Victorian diarist Francis Kilvert), lies to the south of the main village, east of the B4069. It is grade II*.¹⁰⁰ It was acquired by Robert Ashe in 1835 and became the parsonage in 1853.¹⁰¹ To the north of the main village and west of Langley Park is the 17th-century Manor Farm.¹⁰² Another 17th-century farm, Common Farm, stands immediately adjacent to Maud Heath's Causeway and the main settlement and is dated

⁹⁰ Planning application including N/15/12351/OUT; <https://summix.com/projects/rawlings-green/> (accessed 12 Aug. 2022); Langley Burrell Parish Council, *Langley Burrell Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016–2026* (Sep 2017).

⁹¹ Planning application including N/12/00560/OUT. Langley Burrell Parish Council, *Langley Burrell Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 – 2026* (Sep 2017); <https://www.gazetteandherald.co.uk/news/19771332.next-phase-bird-marsh-view-chippenham-begin-2022/> (Accessed 12 Aug. 2022).

⁹² NHLE, 1199423.

⁹³ NHLE, 1283311, 1022359, 1022360, 1199537.

⁹⁴ NHLE, 1199409.

⁹⁵ J. Badeni, *Past People in Wilts. and Glos.* (Norton, 1992), 73.

⁹⁶ WSA, 118/172.

⁹⁷ NHLE, 1199574, 1363839, 1022361.

⁹⁸ *For Jacksom's farm*, NHLE, 1022349, 1022350. *For Barrow farm*, NHLE, 1022348. See also HER, MWI66169.

⁹⁹ WSA, 473/224.

¹⁰⁰ NHLE, 1022357.

¹⁰¹ WSA, 568/10, 118/169. NHLE, 1022357 wrongly states that the house was purchased by the 'squire', Ashe, in 1855 to become the new rectory.

¹⁰² NHLE, 1283447, 1022344.

1626.¹⁰³ Other notable listed properties in this immediate area are the Old Brewery and Langley Green House, located along Crossing Lane.¹⁰⁴

Two structures connected with Maud Heath's Causeway at Kellaways are listed: the raised section of the Causeway lying on either side of Kellaways bridge, which is grade II*,¹⁰⁵ and the Maud Heath monument dated 1698, also situated by Kellaways bridge.¹⁰⁶ The nearby 19th-century church of St Giles, Kellaways, along with its churchyard wall, are grade II.¹⁰⁷ The listed former Kellaways Mill (now house), dating from the 17th century, and adjacent Mill House of c.1800, are positioned on the opposite side of the lane.¹⁰⁸ Within the hamlet, the 17th-century Kellaways Farm (probably a former manor house) is grade II*, the only farmhouse in the parish with this grading.

At Peckingell are Lower Peckingell Farmhouse, built in the 15th century and altered subsequently, and Upper Peckingell Farmhouse, whose origins lie in the 17th century.¹⁰⁹ Both are grade II.

LANDOWNERSHIP

Manors and Principal Estates

Langley Burrell: A charter of 940 by King Edmund to Wulfric, granting 30 hides at Langley (*Langeleg*),¹¹⁰ has been interpreted as referring to Langley Burrell, although the bounds have more recently been shown to relate to Kington St Michael and Kington Langley.¹¹¹ By the Norman conquest Langley Burrell was clearly in lay hands. The manor was granted to Edward, earl of Salisbury, but held by Borel. The land was enough for six plough teams. There were in addition 8 a. of meadow and 6 a. of woodland.

In 1242/3, Peter Burel held one fee of the earl of Salisbury at Langley and Thomas Burel two.¹¹² A 'Sir Thomas Burel' appears as a landholder and witness to several gifts and sales of land in Langley Burrell by Nicolas of Cocklebury in 1232 and 1240.¹¹³ Undated 13th-century deeds record that Thomas Burel, lord of *Langeleg* (Langley Burrell), son of Thomas Burel, granted land to the monks of *Ferleg* (Monkton Farleigh), lying between the land of

¹⁰³ NHLE, 1199298.

¹⁰⁴ NHLE, 1199310, 1363832; *Historic Building Assessment in Respect of Langley Green House, Langley Burrell*, prepared by Emma Milton Heritage and Planning Ltd (Unpublished, 2018), in possession of Mr. James Burrell (2022).

¹⁰⁵ NHLE, 1022351.

¹⁰⁶ NHLE, 1022352.

¹⁰⁷ NHLE, 1022353, 1022354.

¹⁰⁸ NHLE, 1022355, 1363835.

¹⁰⁹ NHLE, 1022356, 1283416.

¹¹⁰ Electronic Sawyer, S473.

¹¹¹ WAM 4, 38, 47–8; *Arch. Jnl.* LXXVI (1919), 253–5; WAM 77, 67–70.

¹¹² *Book of Fees*, 710, 720.

¹¹³ *Cart. Bradenstoke priory* (WRS. 35), 60–1.

Langley and Cocklebury.¹¹⁴ Reginald Burel was named as the lord of Langley Burrell manor in an agreement with Glastonbury abbey in 1281.¹¹⁵

Peckingell, referred to in the 940 charter, and so perhaps then associated with the Kingtons,¹¹⁶ was by the 13th century part of the manor of Langley Burrell. However, in 1223 the abbot of Glastonbury, who owned Langley Fitzurse (and possibly dissatisfied with the amount of his pasture), purchased 115 a. of rich pasture known as Penicroft (Peckingell) from John Burel for an annual fee of 6*d.* and attached it to his manor and the parish of Kington St Michael.¹¹⁷ In 1250 this land was given by John Burel as a grant in alms for the soul of his wife.¹¹⁸ This realignment of Langley Burrell parish boundaries remained until 1884, when Peckingell rejoined the parish.¹¹⁹ A mill existed there in 1189 belonging to nearby Stanley abbey.¹²⁰

In 1303 John of Cerne, brother of Reynold Burel, gave 16*s.* rent in Langley to the prior of Bradenstoke.¹²¹ Thereafter the connection between the manor and the Burel family appears to have ceased. In 1304 it belonged to Sir John Delamare,¹²² who built c.1320 a tower for Langley Burrell church and was subsequently buried alongside his wife against its south wall.

Around 1343 Delamare sold the manor of Langley Burrell for £2,000 to Thomas, Lord Berkeley.¹²³ Berkeley's daughter Joan married Sir Reynold de Cobham who held the manor from the earl of Salisbury, by service of two knights' fees, in joint feoffment with Joan. In 1361 Cobham died, leaving his son Reynold his heir.¹²⁴ Joan held the manor for her life (from the duke of Lancaster by knight's service), and died in 1369, when Reynold came into the inheritance.¹²⁵

Reynold Cobham, 2nd Lord Cobham of Sterborough, Kent (d.1403), thereafter held the manor of Langley Burrell from the duchy of Lancaster in the honour of Trowbridge by knight service. After his death his widow, Eleanor, possessed the manor until her death in 1405. Their successor, a son also called Reynold, was an adult at her death.¹²⁶ In 1428 Reynold, 3rd lord Cobham of Sterborough (d. after 1446), held lands in Tytherton as well as Langley.¹²⁷

The estate worth £20 was retained by Thomas Cobham, 5th lord Cobham of Sterborough at his death in 1471, and again held from the earl of Salisbury by the service of two knights' fees. He was succeeded by his daughter Anne, wife of Edward de Burgh, 2nd

¹¹⁴ *Cart. Bradenstoke priory* (WRS. 35), 61.

¹¹⁵ A. Watkin, *The Great Chartulary of Glastonbury*, III, (Frome, 1956), 665.

¹¹⁶ WAM 77, 67–70.

¹¹⁷ *Cart. Glastonbury*, III, pp. 662–3.

¹¹⁸ *Cart. Bradenstoke priory* (WRS. 35), 61.

¹¹⁹ VCH Wilts. iv, 344, note.

¹²⁰ Brown, *Stanley abbey*, 154; below, mills.

¹²¹ *Cart. Bradenstoke priory* (WRS. 35), 162.

¹²² Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 97; WSA, 2682/20.

¹²³ As outlined in *Cal Inq. p. m.*, II, 40, (no. 59); Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 97.

¹²⁴ *Cal Inq. p. m.*, II, 40 (no. 59).

¹²⁵ *Cal Inq. p. m.*, XII, 326 (no. 335).

¹²⁶ *Cal Inq. p. m.*, XVIII, nos. 763, 1115.

¹²⁷ *Feud. Aids*, V, 1316, 252.

baron Borough of Gainsborough, who presented to the living in 1489/90.¹²⁸ However, patronage was with the king in 1505 because Edward de Burgh's land was then forfeit.

Burgh's heir was his son Thomas, 3rd baron Borough (d.1552), who was succeeded by son Thomas, the 4th baron and followed by William, 5th baron.¹²⁹ William Burgh sat as a peer at the trial of Thomas, duke of Norfolk in 1572.¹³⁰

In 1569 the manor was sold by William Burgh to John Reade.¹³¹ In 1592/3 a clothier, Henry White, purchased the manor from Edward Reade of Chisbury for £2,300.¹³² White later purchased the manor of Grittleton.¹³³ In his will (proved 1605) White named his eldest son, Henry, heir of Langley; Grittleton instead passed to his younger son, Walter.¹³⁴ In 1623 Henry White of Langley Burrell was named on the list of 'Gentlemen without authoritie [*sic*] who have disclaimed at Salisbury in the County of Wiltshire'.¹³⁵ Henry White (II) died in 1642 and the Langley Burrell estate was settled on his son, also Henry.¹³⁶ After a public scandal surrounding his wife in 1651, Henry White (III) leased the estate in 1652, at first for three years and subsequently for 51, to John Wildman of the Middle Temple, London.¹³⁷

Wildman was a noted land speculator, leveller and conspirator, who had planned to assassinate Oliver Cromwell.¹³⁸ In 1653 Wildman sub-let the estate and purchased woodland in Langley Burrell from White's sister, before he agreed to buy the entire estate in 1654.¹³⁹ It then contained 30 messuages, 2 dovehouses, 30 gardens and 30 orchards, together with 1,000 a. land, 200 a. meadow, 1,000 a. pasture, 50 a. woods, and 200 a. furze and heath. There was £12 of rent and common pasture, and the purchase also included the advowson. The estate was in Langley Burrell, 'Langley Kington St Michael', Hardenhuish and Chippenham.¹⁴⁰

In 1657 the Langley Burrell estate was sold by John Wildman, Henry White and John Richmond to Samuel Ashe.¹⁴¹ Ashe was succeeded by his son Joseph (1685–1725) and thereafter the manor descended to son Joseph (1711–58) and his brother, Revd Robert Ashe (1718–74), who left the estate to his son, also Robert (d.1829).¹⁴² In 1779 the estate comprised 607 a. (including 29 a. of Birch (Bird's) Marsh and 87 a. of Common).¹⁴³ Land tax returns suggest Robert Ashe did not farm any of the estate but rather tenanted it out. The only type of

¹²⁸ *Cal Inq. p. m.*, Hen VII, III, 1111; Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 173; Burke, *Ext. & Dorm. Peerages*, 90.

¹²⁹ Burke, *Ext. & Dorm. Peerages*, 90; A. Stark, *Hist. and Antiquities of Gainsburgh* (London, 1843), 369.

¹³⁰ Stark, *Gainsburgh*, 446.

¹³¹ WSA, 118/92; 118/125a, confirms 1569 as date. Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 98 has 1565.

¹³² WSA, 118/125.

¹³³ J.E. Jackson, *Hist. of the Parish of Grittleton, in the County of Wilts.* (London, 1843), 7.

¹³⁴ TNA, PROB 11/105/145. See also G.D. Squibb (ed.) *Wilts. Visitation Pedigrees, 1623*, II, 214–15; Jackson, *Hist. of Grittleton*, 7.

¹³⁵ G.W. Marshall (ed.), *Visitation of Wilts. 1623*, I, 103.

¹³⁶ WSA, 118/125a. WSA, 1487/1, for 1642 death of Henry White. See also Squibb, *Visitation Pedigrees*, II, 214–15.

¹³⁷ WSA, 118/125, 118/95; below, Religious History.

¹³⁸ ODNB, s.v. Wildman, Sir John, Leveller and conspirator, accessed 17 Aug. 2024.

¹³⁹ WSA, 118/50/2, 118/50/3, 118/95, 118/92, 118/125b.

¹⁴⁰ WSA, 118/125b.

¹⁴¹ WSA, 118/92. See also WSA, 118/50/3.

¹⁴² TNA, PROB 11/994/323. See also *Burke's Landed Gentry*, I, 29. [which edn.]

¹⁴³ WSA, 118/59, survey with no surviving map.

commercial property indicated in the returns in 1798 were farms.¹⁴⁴ The estate subsequently passed from Revd Robert Ashe (1781–1855) to Revd Robert Martyn Ashe (1807–85), who was survived by a daughter, Thermuthis Mary Ashe (1856–1935).¹⁴⁵ The family remained the principal landowners and in 1935 owned 1,303 a., largely within the parish.¹⁴⁶ Thermuthis Ashe was unmarried and was succeeded by her nephew Maj. Charles Richard Leslie Scott (later Scott-Ashe) (1898–1978) who passed the estate to his nephew, Robert Edward Arthur Scott-Ashe (b. 1939).¹⁴⁷

Tytherton Kellaways: Tytherton Kellaways (with Tytherton Lucas) belonged to the Giffard family from the Conquest.¹⁴⁸ The Kellaways or de Kellaways family possessed the small manor and advowson from at least 1226.¹⁴⁹ In their patronage the church living was awarded by John in 1304 and 1312, William (son and heir of John) in 1336 and thereafter by Edmund Kayleway (or Caylleway) in 1376 and 1380. In 1392, Edmund and Joan Kayleway quitclaimed the manor and advowson to Robert Cherlton. However, the church later reverted to family patronage.¹⁵⁰ By 1428, the advowson was with Robert Russell, a Bristol merchant, in whose family the living was granted until 1470.¹⁵¹ After Robert's widow died c.1470 the manor was inherited by a kinsman, John Bagot, also a Bristol merchant,¹⁵² but in 1484 was granted to Edward Redmayne (or Redman), by Richard III for good service against rebels.¹⁵³ After the accession of Henry VII, the advowson of Kellaways, and likely the manor, again belonged to John Bagot.¹⁵⁴

Around 1500 the manor was purchased by Sir Thomas Long of Draycot Cerne and South Wraxall (d. c.1508) who left the estate to his second son William and his heirs; and to two younger sons, with remainder to his eldest son, Henry.¹⁵⁵ William probably died young, as the advowson belonged to his older brother, Sir Henry Long (d. 1556) in 1526.¹⁵⁶ Henry's heir was son Robert, later Sir Robert, Long (d.1581), manorial owner at his death when it was

¹⁴⁴ Need ref to 1798 LTA. The type of premises charged was indicated in 1798. In other years it was largely unspecified.

¹⁴⁵ *Burke's Landed Gentry*, I, 29.

¹⁴⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1915, edn.); information about the estate provided by Mr Richard Colthorpe (2022).

¹⁴⁷ https://landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2016/01/204-ashe-of-freshford-heytesbury_29.html (accessed 10 Jan. 2023).

¹⁴⁸ *Domesday*, 189.

¹⁴⁹ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 115.

¹⁵⁰ *Cal. Chart.* 1392–1396, 283. Phillipps lists the Kayleweys as patrons from 1304, and records also William Cailleway as patron 1348 and Joan de Kayleway 1405: Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 5, 11, 311, 48, 60, 64, 92. Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 115, claims that the family retained the advowson until 1424.

¹⁵¹ *Feud. Aids*, vol. 5, 219; Ryland-Epton and Chandler, forthcoming; BL, Add MSS 18828 (1444); 18848 (1468); noted in W.A.M. 2, 285; Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 160.

¹⁵² Ryland-Epton and Chandler, forthcoming

¹⁵³ *Cal. Pat.* 1476–1485, 501. John Bagot awarded the living in 1474. Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 166. See also W. Greenwood, *The Redmans of Levens and Harewood: a contribution to the history of the Levens family of Redman and Redmayne in many of its branches* (Kendal, 1905), 98–9.

¹⁵⁴ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 176.

¹⁵⁵ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 116; TNA, PROB 11/16/134.

¹⁵⁶ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 194; *Hist. Parl. Commons*, 1509–1558, ii, 543–4.

left to his son, Walter (d.1610).¹⁵⁷ The Longs held major estates elsewhere and were non-resident.¹⁵⁸ The estate was subsequently indentured to Walter's sons Thomas and Robert.¹⁵⁹ The manor was sequestered during the Civil War and in 1651 John Long of Monkton petitioned for the return of Kellaways, his uncles Thomas and Robert Long having been delinquents in arms.¹⁶⁰

In 1655 Walter Long of South Wraxall (d.1669) sold a corn and two fulling mills at Kellaways with meadows adjoining, and the site of the capital messuage, or farm with a moat about, to George Knight, miller of Kellaways.¹⁶¹ In the next two years, Long sold other property, the manorial rights of Kellaways and the advowson of the parsonage to Mary Long of Locking (Som.), the widow of his brother William Long of South Wraxall.¹⁶² Sometime later Long leased other property within the parish.¹⁶³

In 1724 a deed of covenant was drawn up by Walter Long of South Wraxall (d.1731) that gave legal possession of the manor of Tytherton Kellaways to the successive use of the Revd John Long of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and his younger brother, Thomas Long of Melksham; they were both sons of Long's cousin Catherine Long of Rowden in Chippenham, widow of John Long of South Wraxall (d.1705).¹⁶⁴ These provisions were reflected in Walter Long's will of 1730 (proved 1731).¹⁶⁵ In 1741 Revd John Long of South Wraxall (late of Meysey Hampton, Glos.) (d.1748) attempted to make William Mason the tenant of the freehold of the manor.¹⁶⁶

Later, Walter Long (d.1807) entailed the manor of Kellaways for 99 years for the use of his sister Katherine Long (d.1808) with the remainder to Richard Godolphin Long (d.1835), John Long (1833), and Daniel Jones (later Daniel Jones Long) (d.1827), in whose names the living of Kellaways was awarded in 1819.¹⁶⁷ Land tax returns from 1806 and a manorial survey from 1807 suggest that, on his death, Walter Long's Kellaways estate comprised little more than rights of the manor and fishery, and fishing rights on the river Avon.¹⁶⁸ The contingent remainder was given to the use of Walter Long the elder of Rood Ashton and his firstborn son.¹⁶⁹ They subsequently acquired the freehold rights to the manor with the advowson and fishing rights, and sold them in 1844 for £400 to Revd Robert Ashe of

¹⁵⁷ TNA, PROB 11/63/502; *Hist. Parl. Commons*, 1509–1558, ii, 546.

¹⁵⁸ Inferred from their absence from the 1576 list of taxpayers: *Two Sixteenth Century Taxation Lists* (WRS. 10), 55.

¹⁵⁹ WSA, 947/1370, deed 1622.

¹⁶⁰ *Calendar Cttee. for Money*, I, 550.

¹⁶¹ WSA, 947/1620. WSA, P1/K/138, will of George Knight (pr. 1711) does not refer to the mill.

¹⁶² WSA, 947/1621; Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 115–16. Familial connection revealed in Mary's will: TNA, PROB 11/319/415. For other property sales, WSA, 1305/291.

¹⁶³ WSA, 947/1622, 1623.

¹⁶⁴ WSA, 947/927; WSA, 1305/29, abs. of title.

¹⁶⁵ WSA, 1305/29, abs. of title.

¹⁶⁶ WSA, 1305/29, abs. of title; WSA, 947/930.

¹⁶⁷ WSA, 947/930; 1711/8.

¹⁶⁸ WSA, 947/959; A1/345/238. This shows that of 21 taxpayers 16 were paying more tax than Long.

¹⁶⁹ WSA, 1305/291.

Langley Burrell.¹⁷⁰ Ashe sold the estate, minus the fishing rights, to Joseph Neeld in 1845 for £300.¹⁷¹ Sir John Neeld, brother and successor to Joseph Neeld, was not listed as lord of the manor in a directory of 1867 although he held the advowson.¹⁷²

By 1780 Kellaways mill was owned by Sir James Long and tenanted by Hugh Beames, in whose occupancy the mill remained until 1807.¹⁷³ On Long's death in 1794 the mill passed to his son who died in 1805, aged 11. It then passed to Sir James's older sister Catherine (d. 1826), who married William Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley, earl of Mornington, and she was succeeded by her son William, 5th earl of Mornington (d. 1863).¹⁷⁴ On his death his estates were left to his cousin, Henry Wellesley, earl Cowley.

Kellaways House and farm, of which c.68 a. was in Tytherton Kellaways, was owned by Sir John Eyles of Southbroom House (Devizes) in 1737.¹⁷⁵ In 1797 it was purchased by local landowner and noted agriculturalist Thomas Crook.¹⁷⁶ The farm was the most expensive property in Kellaways, assessed for the land tax in 1806 at over £10.¹⁷⁷ On Crook's death it was farmed by his widow.¹⁷⁸ In 1834 the farm (within Kellaways, Bremhill and Kington St Michael), c.125 a. of meadow, pasture and arable, 'considered to comprise some of the best land in the county', was sold to William Stancombe.¹⁷⁹

By 1839 the main landowners in Kellaways were William Stancombe (64 a.) and William Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley (55 a.).¹⁸⁰ In 1860 Tytherton (Kellaways) farm, a dairy farm of 142 a. worth annually £350, was put up for sale.¹⁸¹ It was advertised again four years later on the death of its owner, Bryan Rumboll.¹⁸²

Between 1875 and 1915 the principal landowners of Kellaways were listed in directories as the earls Cowley, successively Henry Wellesley (d. 1884) (who had succeeded William Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley), William (d. 1895) and Henry (d. 1919).¹⁸³ In 1918 Kellaways farm, 69 a. of rich pasture together with Kellaways water mill, was put up for sale.¹⁸⁴ In 1920 the Draycot Cerne estate of Henry Wellesley, earl Cowley, was also put up for sale; it included lots in Langley Burrell and Kellaways.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁰ WSA, 1305/291.

¹⁷¹ WSA, 1305/291

¹⁷² *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1867, edn.).

¹⁷³ WSA, 2062/11; A1/345/110; A1/345/238; *Burke's Commoners*, III, 218.

¹⁷⁴ WSA, A1/345/238; *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 99; *Burke's Commoners*, III, 218.

¹⁷⁵ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 116.

¹⁷⁶ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 116.

¹⁷⁷ WSA, A1/345/254.

¹⁷⁸ Land tax return indicate it was owned by Walter Crook and occupied by Mrs Crook.

¹⁷⁹ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 116; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz*, 3 July 1834; 21 Aug. 1834.

¹⁸⁰ *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 99.

¹⁸¹ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz*, 24 May 1860.

¹⁸² *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz*, 25 Feb. 1864; WSA, 137/125/93.

¹⁸³ *Complete Peerage*, iii. 480–2; ix. 240–1; *Burke, Peerage* (1959 edn.). 560–1; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1875–1915 edns.).

¹⁸⁴ *North Wilts. Herald*, 8 Feb. 1918.

¹⁸⁵ *Wilts. Times*, 6, 17 July 1920.

Other estates: Elias de Kaylewey and Godfrey Eskidemore held two knights fees in 'Kaylewent' from Elias Giffard who held them from the King.¹⁸⁶

John De la Mare held Langley [Burrell] in 1316.¹⁸⁷ In 1428 Reginald de Cobham held lands in Tytherton and Langley which had formerly been held by John de la Mare for one and a half knights' fees.¹⁸⁸

Tytherton Kellaways was apparently divided between Walter Skydemore and John Kellaway in 1316 and 1324 for one knight's fee.¹⁸⁹ In 1428 John Laghere held lands in Tytherton which had formerly been held by Walter Skydemore and John Kellaway for one knight's fee.¹⁹⁰

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Langley Burrell's farming economy was typical of the cheese country of the north Wiltshire claylands, which saw tillage in open fields converted to permanent grassland pasture during the early modern period.¹⁹¹ Apart from mostly small detached parcels of nearby parishes, the largest being Barrow farm (formerly in Slaughterford), agriculture was organised separately around the three settlements of Langley Burrell itself, Kellaways and Peckingell. Much of the south-western portion of the parish was overtaken by suburban and industrial Chippenham during the 19th and 20th centuries, and its economic history is discussed elsewhere.¹⁹²

Farming

In 1066 Langley Burrell paid tax for 7 hides and was valued at 40s. In 1086 it had land for 6 ploughs, 8 a. meadow and 6 a. of woodland and its value had increased to £4. Kellaways comprised land sufficient for 6 ploughs and 10 a. of meadow; its worth had increased from £4 to 100s.¹⁹³ In 1361 the manor of Langley Burrell comprised a capital messuage and garden, a mill valued at 40*d.* and 300 a. of (arable) land worth 3*d.* an acre, 20 a. meadow, common of pasture for 300 sheep, 20 oxen and 6 working cattle, and an unspecified acreage of woods and pasture worth 16s. There were seven free tenants.¹⁹⁴ By 1369 the manor was worth £10 per year.¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁶ *Book of fees*, II, 746.

¹⁸⁷ *Feudal Aids*, V, 208.

¹⁸⁸ *Feudal Aids*, V, 252.

¹⁸⁹ *Feudal Aids*, V, 208 and 219.

¹⁹⁰ *Feudal Aids*, V, 252.

¹⁹¹ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 43.

¹⁹² Above, Chippenham, econ. hist.

¹⁹³ *Domesday*, 177, 189.

¹⁹⁴ *Wilts. Inq. p. m. 1327-77*, 281-2.

¹⁹⁵ *Wilts. Inq. p. m. 1327-77*, 351.

In 1223 the abbot of Glastonbury purchased from John Burel 115 a. of rich pasture known as Penicroft (in Peckingell) which was added to his estate of Kington St Michael.¹⁹⁶ A terrier of Glastonbury estates in 1518 further mentions 20 acres in Peckingell mead.¹⁹⁷ Amongst the customary tenants of Glastonbury abbey in 1518 was Thomas Stockman for Peckingell, who also possessed land in Kellaways, and John Bullock for Peckingell and Penicroft, who additionally paid 6*d.* to the prior of Bradenstoke and had a bed of hay allowed him.¹⁹⁸ The terrier further mentions Langley Heath of 310 a. (in Kington Langley),¹⁹⁹ where the farmer of the lord of Langley Burrell and the rector claimed rights of common that were unknown to the prior.²⁰⁰ A Langley Burrell manor survey in 1586 makes specific reference to common in Langley Heath alongside land in Burchen Marsh (Birds' Marsh). It is thus likely that the wastes of Kington St Michael and Langley Burrell were at the time intercommoned. Langley Common, 84 a. when enclosed in 1838,²⁰¹ occupied an irregular area in the centre of the parish on either side of Maud Heath's Causeway.

In 1586 common fields in the parish included East, West, Great, Home and Little fields. Their locations are unknown, although later evidence suggests that the East field may have occupied an area east of Sutton Lane, later crossed by the railway line,²⁰² and that the West field lay east of Bird's Marsh.²⁰³ Common pasture comprised Langley Heath and Birds' Marsh. The common fields were also used for grazing when they lay fallow. The partial survey refers to an area of marsh in Great field.²⁰⁴ Four freeholders were listed. A late 16th-century glebe terrier included over 70 a. arable divided between Home field (25 a.), 'Farre' field (15 a.), North field (7 a.), East field (21 a.), and a further 2.5 a. around the parsonage. An additional 31 a. were unspecified closes of pasture or meadow, of which 4 a. were in the East field. The glebe also included common pasture for cattle and sheep. In 1608 the terrier of William Berry, rector of Langley Burrell, included enclosures in Home, East and North fields, suggesting an erosion of communal regulation. In addition, glebe also included 3 a. coppiced woodland and an orchard.²⁰⁵ At his death in 1638 Berry's probate inventory suggested that he kept cattle, sheep and hens.²⁰⁶ The wood stored was valued at £13. An apple loft contained a quantity of apples, wool and yarn. The malt loft had no malt, but items therein and in a separate cheese loft implied that cheese was being made.

In 1654 Langley Burrell manor contained what was described as 1,000 a. land, 200 a. meadow, 1000 a. pasture, 50 a. woods and 200 a. 'furze and heath' in Langley Burrell, 'Langley Kington St Michael', Hardenhuish and Chippenham.²⁰⁷ In 1779 the estate of Robert Ashe

¹⁹⁶ *Cart. Glastonbury*, III, 662–3.

¹⁹⁷ Jackson, *Kington*, 41; BL. Harl. MS No. 3961.

¹⁹⁸ Jackson, *Kington*, 41; BL. Harl. MS No. 3961.

¹⁹⁹ Above, Kington Langley, econ.hist.

²⁰⁰ Jackson, *Kington*, 41; BL. Harl. MS No. 3961.

²⁰¹ WSA, EA 151, 118/26, 118/61, 568/9; WRS. 25, 92.

²⁰² WSA, T/A Langley Burrell, 118–22, 130.

²⁰³ WSA, T/A Langley Burrell, 347a, 347b.

²⁰⁴ WSA, 118/50/1.

²⁰⁵ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 242.

²⁰⁶ WSA, P1/B/278.

²⁰⁷ WSA, 118/50/1.

comprised 607 a. It included 116 a. waste, of which 29 a. was Birds' Marsh, and 87 a. common. The reference additionally recorded 1 a. of withy and less than 1 a. orchard. Only 4 a. were explicitly noted as arable. However, field names such as the 11 a. Barley Ground suggests that the total acreage under cultivation was larger.²⁰⁸ Some substantial areas of pasture were still subdivided, including Blick Mead, Allington Mead and Black Pool.²⁰⁹ Birds' Marsh and the common were enclosed in 1838.²¹⁰

Although within the bounds of Langley Burrell, Barrow farm lay in Slaughterford parish. In 1626 Barrow, comprising a single close of pasture of c.60 a., was leased to James Hulbert, who subsequently purchased the farm. An indenture for Barrow in 1647 recorded that it had previously encompassed one close of land but had been lately divided.²¹¹ In 1729 the farm was leased to Charles Aland, by which time it contained land or pasture divided into several closes: Common Mead (11 a.), Pryor's Close (3 a. purchased by Hulbert from the chantry of St John's Chippenham in 1649), Moat Mead (4 a.), Moat Ground (7 a.), Rudgy Barrow (7 a.), Pond Leaze (7 a.), Church Mead (6 a.), Moore Mead (4 a.), Cole Pit Ground (14 a.), Great Barrow (19 a.), Barn Ground (4 a.) and Furzy Mead (6 a.) described as arable or pasture lands.²¹² The farm was tenanted by the Matthews family from 1773 until the death of John Matthews in 1844, when it was principally a dairy farm. The subsequent sale included butter- and cheese-making utensils along with a cider mill, press and 200 gallons of capital cider.²¹³ Barrow farm was sold to Robert Ashe, owner of Langley Burrell manor, in 1845, one of a number of properties purchased as he expanded the estate during the 19th century.²¹⁴ Barrow farm features in the writings of the 19th-century diarist Francis Kilvert.

Local farming was generally mixed. In 1817 the Manor farm (sometimes called Home farm) was tenanted by Thomas Knight. Of the farm's 281 a., 47 a. were arable. At Jacksom's farm, tenanted by Mrs Angel from John Lea, of the 100 a., 38 a. were arable.²¹⁵ When offered for sale in 1824 Jacksom's farm had a dairy herd and possessed all the utensils necessary to produce butter and cheese; there was so much cheese that it was divided into several small lots. Probate inventories from the 17th and 18th centuries refer to local farms having dairy houses or white houses, utensils for cheese production, and cheese stored in cheese lofts and cocklofts.²¹⁶ At Jacksom's, pigs were bred, fattened and seemingly slaughtered on the farm for ham and bacon. The Southdown sheep flock probably supplied wool for the local cloth trade, as well as mutton noted for being well-flavoured. Livestock also included turkeys, geese,

²⁰⁸ WSA, 118/59.

²⁰⁹ WSA, 118/59.

²¹⁰ *Wilts. Inclosure Awards* (WRS. 25), 92. WSA, 118/26, 118/61, 568/9.

²¹¹ WSA, 473/224.

²¹² WSA, 473/224.

²¹³ WSA, 473/224, 947/960.

²¹⁴ WSA, 568/10; others were Rawlings farm, Avon (now Manor) farm, Manor farm, Home farm, Common farm and Peckingell (now Lower Peckingell) farm.

²¹⁵ WSA, 118/59. In 2022 two Langley Burrell farms were called Manor farm. This refers to Manor farm, The Common. During the 1870s, Manor farm was sometimes referred to by Francis Kilvert as Home farm. Home farm is also the name used for a separate farm on the Common.

²¹⁶ e.g., WSA, P1/C/279 (1666); P3/D/193 (1684); P3/E/173 (1704). Cheese production was not exclusive to farmers; in 1688 broad weaver Thomas Hiscock had a whitehouse, cheese press etc.: WSA, P3/H/655.

peafowl and 'Corsican fowl', a miniature type of chicken that produced fine eggs. The 18th-century listed barn possessed four tiers of dove holes for pigeons.²¹⁷

Local dairy production generally accompanied arable on local farms. Jacksom's farm, typically, possessed horses, three ploughs, 'drags and harrows' and other items necessary for cultivation. The barn has a hipped vehicle entry on one side, and the farm sale included seven carts and waggons.²¹⁸ By 1840 only c.20% of Jacksom's farm land was arable.²¹⁹ During 1940 and 1941 more than 15 a. of the then 82 a. farm were ploughed up for crop production, and the part-time tenant farmer, Albert Hicks, also ran a retail milk business.²²⁰

In 1840 Langley Burrell's farmland comprised 151 a. arable, 1,384 a. meadow and 59 a. woodland (including Birds' Marsh, 30 a. of common land). In 1866 27 a. of wheat were cultivated, 14 a. barley, 10 a. beans, 4 a. peas, 15 a. turnips or swedes and small acreages of potatoes and mangolds. A further 974 a. were permanent pasture.²²¹ Livestock comprised 248 milk cows and 71 other cattle, 586 sheep and 195 pigs.²²² The following year the parish was described as chiefly pasture.²²³

By 1880 the acreage of arable land had increased. The most important crops were wheat, barley and turnips. However, a further 1,229 a. was permanent pasture. Livestock comprised 323 milk cows and 172 other cattle, 213 sheep and 236 pigs.²²⁴ By 1920 grains were sown on 120 a.,

In 1935 the Langley Burrell estate owned by Thermuthis Ashe comprised 1,303 a. including Manor farm (336 a.), Grove farm (72 a.), Rawlings farm (110 a.), Barrow farm (184 a.), Common farm (118 a.), Marsh farm (52 a.) and Greenway Lane farm (135 a.).²²⁶

During the 1930s virtually all agricultural land in the parish was classified as meadowland and permanent grass.²²⁷ Exceptions were small areas of arable adjoining Greenway Lane, west of Langley House, and on either side of Sutton Lane close to the railway line. Apart from Birds' Marsh, woodland was restricted to small compartments in the north-east of the parish. During the Second World War the National Farm Survey 1941–3 assessed the quality of pasture and arable land on farms in Langley Burrell and Kellaways as fair or good. Although primarily pasture for cattle, arable production on local farms increased, with Manor farm, for example, expanding production by 39.5 a. in 1940 and 1941. Crops on local

²¹⁷ NHLE, 1022350.

²¹⁸ NHLE, 1022349, 1022350.

²¹⁹ WSA, T/A Langley Burrell.

²²⁰ TNA, MAF 32/39/37.

²²¹ TNA, MAF 68/74.

²²² TNA, MAF 68/73.

²²³ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1867, edn.).

²²⁴ TNA, MAF 68/721.

²²⁶ Full breakdown of the estate of Thermuthis Ashe in 1935 provided by Mr Richard Colthorpe (2022).

²²⁷ Land Utilisation Survey map, Bristol and Bath sheet, 1931–5.

farms noted by the survey included cereals (wheat, barley and oats) and vegetables (potatoes, kale, mangold and turnips). Livestock included chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese.²²⁸

In 2022, notable farming businesses included Manor farm, a dairy farm run by the Spencer family with approximately 1000 head of cattle, and an intensive poultry farm operated by Devonshire Poultry Limited.²²⁹

Kellaways, like Langley Burrell, was predominantly pasture. The estate of George Knight, baker (d. 1711), who occupied Kellaways mill and farmed adjacent land in Langley Burrell, Hardenhuish and Chippenham, was primarily meadow and pasture but also included 2 a. wheat and 1 a. oats.²³⁰ When surveyed in 1796, land lying within Kellaways was laid to grass but also included 1 a. of withy bed adjacent to the river Avon.²³¹

The tithe award in 1840 recorded all 130 a. of Kellaways parish as meadow, of which Kellaways Mill farm and Kellaways farm together comprised 119 a. Directories between 1889 and 1939 noted that wheat and beans were cultivated in Kellaways, but it was chiefly pasture.²³² Arable cultivation is likely to have increased during the Second World War. In 1941 the 120 a. Kellaways Mill farm comprised 4 a. wheat, 6.5 a. oats, 0.3 potatoes, 1.5 turnips, and 0.5 mangolds, with the rest laid to pasture. Livestock included 200 chickens, 45 ducks and 43 cattle.²³³

Forestry

The name Langley, 'long clearing or wood', suggests that the parish takes its name from an area that was once woodland or wood pasture.²³⁴ However, only 6 a. of woodland was noted in the Domesday survey.

In 1281 Langley Burrell and Kington Langley made an agreement to enclose the Langley Burrell woods against the Kington Langley pastures; an agreement that was still in place in the 16th century.²³⁵

Woodland does not feature in the partial manor survey of 1586, although the glebe included 3 a. of coppice in the 16th century.²³⁶ When sold in 1654, Langley Burrell manor estate contained 50 a. of woodland, though not necessarily all in the parish.²³⁷ In 1817 the estate directly managed c.36 a. woodland, comprising Butt Hayes and Beale Tree Ground of 27 a., 6 a. of Laines coppice, and 0.2 a. of ash plantation. This excluded Birds' Marsh, an unenclosed area of waste utilised for shooting game by the Ashe family, who probably

²²⁸ TNA, MAF 32/39/37.

²²⁹ *Western Morning News*, 29 Jan. 2003; *Wilts. Gaz. & Herald*, 14 Oct. 2003, 31 Oct. 2013, 1 May 2014; information from Ms Rosemary Waterkeyn, 2022. For Devonshire Poultry Ltd see <https://transparentfarms.org.uk/facilities/cp3907st-langley-burrell-farm> (accessed 31 Dec. 2022).

²³⁰ WSA, P1/K/138, WSA, P1/5Reg/82.

²³¹ WSA, T/A Kellaways; *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 99.

²³² *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1889, 1903, 1939 edns.).

²³³ TNA, MAF 32/39/37.

²³⁴ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 105.

²³⁵ Watkin, *Great Chartulary of Glastonbury*, III, 665; above, Kington Langley, econ. hist..

²³⁶ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 242.

²³⁷ WSA, 118/125b.

encouraged the development of tree cover.²³⁸ Birds' Marsh and Langley Burrell Common were enclosed in 1838, and this gave the Ashe family full control of the Marsh.²³⁹ They acquired Barrow farm in 1845 and enlarged the woodland area of Birds' Marsh by 6 a. into an adjacent pasture called the Grove.²⁴⁰

The parish had 75 a. of woodland, coppice and plantation, according to agricultural returns in 1880.²⁴¹ The most extensive area, Birds' Marsh, retains some hazel and other native species, but was largely planted during the 19th century with non-native shrubs and allowed to grow rampant with poor management.²⁴² In 1987 a campaign was begun to retain the woodland as a public amenity.²⁴³

Quarries

Field names such as 'great quarry ground', suggest some quarrying activity on the Langley Burrell estate in the 18th century.²⁴⁴ A quarry south of Birds' Marsh was noted in 1840 but no longer recorded by the 1880s.²⁴⁵

Mills

No mill was listed for Langley Burrell in the Domesday survey. However, in 1361 a water mill worth 40*d.* was part of the estate.²⁴⁶ No mill was listed in a manor survey of 1586,²⁴⁷ nor in subsequent conveyances, parish or manor surveys during the 16th to 19th centuries.²⁴⁸ Grain was presumably taken to neighbouring parishes, such as Kellaways and Bremhill, or to the mill at Peckingell which was within the boundaries of Langley Burrell but then a detached part of Kington St Michael.

Among gifts to Stanley abbey listed in 1189 was a moiety of a mill at *Pechinhilla* (Peckingell).²⁴⁹ In 1234–6, presumably after it acquired the other moiety, Stanley abbey leased the mill to Thomas Burel for 8*s.* and a stick of eels (or 6*d.*) a year.²⁵⁰ In 1655 a mill at

²³⁸ WSA, 118/59. A cottage was built for their gamekeeper in Birds' Marsh by 1817. Birds' Marsh was not, in 2022, identified as ancient woodland.

²³⁹ *Wilts. Inclosure Awards* (WRS. 25), 92. WSA, 118/26, 118/61, 568/9.

²⁴⁰ The Grove pasture was leased by John Matthews of Barrow farm in 1816 (WSA, 118/26). It appeared on the tithe award in 1840 as an area of pasture owned and occupied by John Matthews (plot 362 WSA, T/A Langley Burrell) and in the first edition OS Map. However, it appeared as woodland by the date of the second edition OS Map. The Ashe estate purchased Barrow farm in 1845 (WSA, 568/10).

²⁴¹ TNA, MAF 68/721.

²⁴² S.E. Hunt, *Birds' Marsh, Chippenham: an Unfinished Story* (Chippenham Studies I, 2010), 58-9.

²⁴³ Hunt, *Birds' Marsh*, 61-72.

²⁴⁴ WSA, 118/59.

²⁴⁵ WSA, T/A Langley Burrell.

²⁴⁶ *Wilts. Inq. p. m.* 1327–77, 282.

²⁴⁷ WSA, 118/50/1; *Wilts. Farming in 17th cent.* (WRS. 57), 278.

²⁴⁸ e.g., WSA, 118/50/1; 118/125b; 118/59.

²⁴⁹ WAM, 15, 282, transcribing BL, Harl. MS. 84, f.273v – MS. 85, f. 248.

²⁵⁰ *VCH Wilts*, III, 269. In 1223 John Burel gave a close of land in Langley Burrell to Glastonbury abbey that lay between the crofts owned by John de la Yate and John the Miller. This latter John may have had the other moiety of the mill owned by Stanley abbey.

Peckingell was part of the Kington St Michael demesne.²⁵¹ The estate was partitioned in 1656 between sisters Barbara Stokes, Penelope Newman and Mary Gastrell, and Peckingell 'mills' were granted to Barbara's son, Thomas.²⁵² The 1667 will of Thomas Stokes of the mansion house, Kington St Michael, listed Peckingell Mead among his property but did not refer to Peckingell mills.²⁵³ No mill at Peckingell was recorded in 1842,²⁵⁴ and in 2024 no mill building survived, although a leat remained.²⁵⁵

A mill probably existed at Kellaways in 1249, when a dog was taken from the mill of Elias de Calewey (whose family owned the manor).²⁵⁶ In 1654, George Knight, miller of Kellaways, acquired Kellaways mills, comprising one corn and two fulling mills, from Walter Long.²⁵⁷ George Knight of Kellaways (d. 1695) was described as a miller,²⁵⁸ and the Knight family retained the mills after 1695. However, their occupation in 1711 and 1741 was given as bakers, so the mills were probably no longer used for fulling cloth.²⁵⁹ In 1760 George Knight leased to Henry Singer, ironmonger of Chippenham, two grist or corn mills at Kellaways.²⁶⁰ By 1780, the mill was owned by Sir James Long (Tylney-Long) and leased to Hugh Beames.²⁶¹ The Bethell family occupied it between 1811 and 1867.²⁶² In 1870 the mill (with dwelling house and closes of land) was let to John Curtis by Earl Cowley and the trustees of William, 5th earl of Mornington, for £250 per annum.²⁶³ Steam, in addition to water, power may have been in use in 1885.²⁶⁴ The lease was renewed and the family occupied Kellaways Mill farm until 1939, but by the early 20th century a miller was listed separately.²⁶⁵ In 1939 Walter Curtis of 'Mill farm' was described as a dairy farmer,²⁶⁶ and in 1975 the mill building was converted to residential use.²⁶⁷

Textiles

Stanley abbey possessed a fulling mill at Peckingell from at least 1189, one of the earliest recorded in England.²⁶⁸ In 1656 Thomas Stokes was permitted to set up fulling racks on the

²⁵¹ WSA, 873/140.

²⁵² WSA, 473/196.

²⁵³ TNA, PROB 11/324/157.

²⁵⁴ WSA, T/A Kington St. Michael.

²⁵⁵ WBR file no: B6096.

²⁵⁶ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 260.

²⁵⁷ WSA, 947/1620.

²⁵⁸ WSA, P3/K/126.

²⁵⁹ WSA, P1/5/Reg/82; P1/K/138; P3/K/195. WSA, P3/A/405 lists George Knight of Tytherton Kellaways as a miller in 1757.

²⁶⁰ WSA, 2504/7.

²⁶¹ WSA, 2062/11; 1001/3; 2062.11; A1/345/238.

²⁶² WSA, A1/345/238; . TNA, PROB 11/1641/320; WSA, P31/1/4/229; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1848, 1855, 1859, 1867 edns.).

²⁶³ WSA, 969/5.

²⁶⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1885, edn.).

²⁶⁵ WSA, 969/5; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1885, 1889, 1920, 1927, 1939 edns.).

²⁶⁶ 1939 England & Wales Register. RD. Calne & Chippenham. ED. WSEG. RD & S/D 243/2.

²⁶⁷ *Country Life*, 17 July 1975; WBR file B6329.

²⁶⁸ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 119; Brown, *Stanley abbey*, 64, 153–4.

lower half of the 10 a. close, Peckingell Meads, next to Peckingell mills.²⁶⁹ The fulling stocks had been dismantled by 1840, but Rack Close (named by 1681), to the north of Peckingell and south of the river Avon, likely marked the location of the tentering racks.²⁷⁰ Kellaways mill was fulling cloth in 1654 but had ceased by the early 18th century.²⁷¹

Richard Billet of Langley Burrell, who died intestate in 1664, leased an unnamed tucking (fulling) mill.²⁷² There is some evidence within probate inventories of cloth manufacture during the 16th and 17th centuries.²⁷³ Woad (10 a.) was cultivated on the Langley Burrell estate by William Eyrris in 1585.²⁷⁴ Only 338 a. of woad, a new crop cultivated to meet the needs of dyers, were being grown in the county at the time. Identified as exhausting the soil, it was only cultivated for short periods of 2–3 years in any one place.²⁷⁵

In 1773 the freehold of a weaver's shop in Langley Burrell was advertised in the London press.²⁷⁶

Inns and Brewing

In 1249 Ralph, the carter of Godfrey de Escudemor, was accused of murdering William de Caudel in a dispute that arose at the 'tavern' of Langley.²⁷⁷

Langley brewery was established by 1817, when it was run by John Shepherd, whose premises included a small hop ground.²⁷⁸ After Shepherd died, George Frederick Giller ran the business until his retirement in 1862,²⁷⁹ and it was then advertised for sale, including a residence, brewing plant, stock (which included 14,000 gallons of strong beer and 7,000 of ale and harvest beer), and the George and Dragon and White Hart public houses in Chippenham.²⁸⁰ The catalogue for a second sale in 1865 listed an 8-quarter brewing plant worked by horse-power with an attached 'tap with good retail beer trade'.²⁸¹ The brewery was purchased by Henry Collett for £2,090.²⁸² In 1877 Collett bought a third share in the Rose and Crown inn in Chippenham market place.²⁸³ He died in 1896 and Langley brewery was sold to Ralph Pearce of Ampthill brewery (Beds.).²⁸⁴ The brewery was closed in the early 20th century but the Langley Tap public house remained open in 2024.

²⁶⁹ WSA, 473/196.

²⁷⁰ WSA, T/A Kington St Michael; WSA, 542/37.

²⁷¹ WSA, 947/1620.

²⁷² WSA, P3/B/492.

²⁷³ WSA, P1/1Reg/52C (1569); WSA, P3/C/133 (1624); WSA, P3/B/660 (1676); WSA, P3/H/655 (1688).

²⁷⁴ *Wilts. Farming in 17th cent.* (WRS. 57), 278.

²⁷⁵ *Wilts. Farming in 17th cent.* (WRS. 57), xxviii.

²⁷⁶ *Lloyds Evening Post*, 6–8 Dec. 1773.

²⁷⁷ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 260.

²⁷⁸ WSA, 118/59. WSA, 568/33 suggests an 18th-century origin.

²⁷⁹ *Bristol Mercury*, 17 May 1862.

²⁸⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 17 May 1862.

²⁸¹ *Wilts. & Glos. Standard*, 7 Oct. 1865.

²⁸² WSA, 884/1.

²⁸³ WSA, 884/1.

²⁸⁴ WSA, 884/1.

A parish survey of 1817 listed 'Black Horse Public House, offices stable and garden' occupied by Edward Belcher. The premises were built across the boundary of Langley Burrell and Chippenham at the foot of Monkton Hill, with the kitchen chimney dividing the two parishes.²⁸⁵ In 1840 it was occupied by Thomas Knight.²⁸⁶ The Little George inn and Great Western inn (demolished, on Marshfield Road) also stood within Langley Burrell parish until Chippenham boundary extensions in the later 19th century.²⁸⁷

SOCIAL HISTORY

Social Character

By 1332 Langley Burrell had 12 taxpayers, none paying more than 6s. 8d., making it a poorer settlement than the adjacent parishes of Bremhill, Kington St Michael and Tytherton. Tytherton is likely to have included Kellaways, since its taxpayers included John Calewei, presumably John Cayllewey who held the manor of Kellaways and paid 4s.²⁸⁸ The 1545 list of taxpayers contained four names from Langley Burrell including the rector.²⁸⁹ In 1576 ten people including two women paid tax; the largest contributor, John Reade, owned the manor of Langley Burrell and paid 13s. 4d. Reade was not designated a gentleman or esquire. Four other payers bore the surname Wastefeld(e), and a family of that name had also been listed in 1545. The income of all except one 1576 taxpayer was based on the ownership of land.²⁹⁰ Two households were exempt from paying hearth tax on the grounds of poverty in 1671.²⁹¹ In 1736 only two names were listed as qualified to serve on a jury, fewer than the numbers recorded for the surrounding parishes including Kellaways.²⁹²

The parish occupied an area of 1,704 a. in 1842 and its population was centred on the village of Langley Burrell.²⁹³ Until the 20th century there was one principal, largely resident, landowning family, which often took an active interest in supporting the community. Successive generations of the Ashe family supported the school. Members of the Ashe family often served as parish rector during the 18th and 19th centuries which, in view of their interest in parochial government and their economic importance, meant that they dominated most aspects of village life. Francis Kilvert's diary contains numerous anecdotes that reflect this pre-eminence. In one entry he recorded that when one of the children was asked 'Who

²⁸⁵ WSA, 118/59.

²⁸⁶ WSA, D/1/25/T/A/Langley Burrell.

²⁸⁷ Above, Chippenham, econ. hist. (Hospitality); below, Social hist., communal life.

²⁸⁸ Wilts. Tax List of 1332 (WRS. 45), 98, 99. Cocklebury is listed separately, of which the highest taxpayer contributed 5s.

²⁸⁹ Two Sixteenth Century Taxation Lists (WRS. 10), 28.

²⁹⁰ Two Sixteenth Century Taxation Lists (WRS. 10), 55.

²⁹¹ TNA, E 179/199/434.

²⁹² *Wilts. Quarter Sessions and Assizes* (WRS. 11), 135.

²⁹³ WSA, T/A Langley Burrell.

made the world?' they replied, 'Mr. Ashe'.²⁹⁴ Unlike Langley Burrell, the principal landowners of Kellaways were largely non-resident.

There is little evidence of Swing rioting during 1830 or anti-corn law agitation during the early 1840s as in neighbouring parishes. Kilvert records that the estate owner organised nightly patrols to watch and guard against machine-breakers in 1830,²⁹⁵ and these efforts may have helped stop riotous behaviour, despite local deprivation at this period.²⁹⁶ Kilvert's record of older people's reminiscences illustrates some strategies employed by and for the poor. These included farmers allowing the shepherd or carter to plant potatoes after crops had been threshed or stored, and the need to plant produce on 'every foot of the garden ground so precious that people could not spare room for flowerbeds'.²⁹⁷ The worst effects of unemployment and under-employment may have been offset, however, by the expansion of Chippenham nearby.

Although there was no rioting for economic or political reasons during the 19th century, local men were involved in a 'barbarous and blood-thirsty conflict' in 1822, when a fight broke out between the men of 'Langley' [Kington Langley and Langley Burrell] and the men of Chippenham.²⁹⁸ The affray occurred several weeks after the Kington Langley revel, at which Langley men reportedly took offence at the conduct of individuals from Chippenham. During the evening of 7 September, between 20 and 40 Langley men entered Chippenham 'armed with bludgeons and other weapons, when they assaulted and most dreadfully beat all persons they met without distinction.' Two men died and 31 were injured in the affray. Twenty assailants, including two identified as ringleaders, were taken into custody. Those arrested were all men 'of Langley'.

Kilvert reported the incident five decades later, based on local testimony and blaming it on the habitual ill-treatment of local people on market days by inhabitants of Chippenham. His detailed account, while regretting the bloodshed, was broadly sympathetic to the Langley men and attached blame to Chippenham. He noted that scarcely anyone from Chippenham was arrested and thus 'most of the blackguards got off scot-free'.²⁹⁹ Whether the animosity between Langley Burrell and Chippenham was isolated or long-lived is unknown.

Communal Life

Langley Tap, attached to the brewery, is recorded in 1865.³⁰⁰ The Little George inn stood at the end of Maud Heath's Causeway on the site occupied in 2023 by La Passione restaurant, Chippenham. Established by 1784, John Britton remembered it as 'a house famed for its

²⁹⁴ Kilvert, *Diary*, II, 239.

²⁹⁵ Kilvert, *Diary*, III, 96.

²⁹⁶ Kilvert, *Diary*, II, 419; , III, 144.

²⁹⁷ Kilvert, *Diary*, III, 144.

²⁹⁸ This para: *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 12 Sept. 1822; *Morning Post* 13 Sept. 1822; *Taunton Courier*, 18 Sept. 1822, etc.

²⁹⁹ Kilvert, *Diary*, II, 317–30.

³⁰⁰ *Wilts. & Glos. Standard*, 7 Oct. 1865; for the brewery, above, econ. hist.

strong and fine beer.³⁰¹ It burned down with the loss of one life in 1903 and was rebuilt.³⁰² With the development of the railway further public houses were established in the St Paul's area of the parish, including the Great Western inn by 1859.³⁰³

A village cricket team, recorded from 1867,³⁰⁴ played on a pitch rented from Jacob Knight of Langley Common farm.³⁰⁵ During the 1870s Francis Kilvert played, scored, collected subscriptions and paid the rent of the pitch for the village team.³⁰⁶ But he recorded that a former rector, Samuel Ashe (d. 1807), tried to stop football and other ball games being played on the common on a Sunday by puncturing the ball.³⁰⁷ Cricket, which had not been played in the village since 1996, resumed in 2022.³⁰⁸

The duke of Beaufort's foxhounds met and regularly hunted through the parish in the 19th and 20th centuries.³⁰⁹ The Avon was also renowned for coarse fishing, although few anglers fished its waters in Langley Burrell in 1938.³¹⁰

Village fetes were held regularly in the grounds of Langley House from the 1900s until the mid 1950s,³¹¹ and in the village hall in 1956.³¹² The hall was opened in 1954 on a site, including a recreation ground, given by Major Scott-Ashe. This followed ten years of fundraising which began with 'the one penny profit on meat pies' distributed in the villages during the Second World War. Further fundraising raised the sum to £1,500, although more money was required for furnishing and equipping the hall on its opening.³¹³ Great emphasis was placed on it being a communal effort, and it was hoped, by accommodating whist drives and dances, that villagers would not need to travel into Chippenham for entertainment.³¹⁴

Little is recorded of the social life of Kellaways which, within so small a settlement, was probably focused on the church, its sole communal building. Since it was close to larger settlements, much of the social and cultural life enjoyed by residents is likely to have taken place outside its confines.

³⁰¹ WSA, G19/1/53L; Chamberlain, Chippenham, 130; J. Britton, *Autobiography*, (London: 1851), 58.

³⁰² *Bath Chronicle*, 31 Dec. 1903.

³⁰³ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1859 edn.).

³⁰⁴ e.g. *Wilts. & Glos. Standard*, 28 Sept. 1867; *Wilts. Independent*, 19 Sept. 1867; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 23 July 1868, 4 Aug. 1870.

³⁰⁵ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 71.

³⁰⁶ e.g. *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 59, 71.

³⁰⁷ *Kilvert, Diary*, II, 320; III, 96.

³⁰⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2047460835533526/> (accessed 3 Jan. 2023).

³⁰⁹ *The Times*, 15 Nov. 1841, 1 Jan. 1924, 4 Apr. 1925, 29 Nov. 1927, 25 Nov. 1932.

³¹⁰ *The Times*, 3 Oct. 1938; *VCH Wilts*, IV, 363.

³¹¹ e.g. *Warminster & Westbury Jnl.*, 30 June 1900; *Wilts. Times*, 12 June 1926, 4 Aug. 1945, 29 May 1954, 9 July 1955.

³¹² *Wilts. Times*, 14 July 1956.

³¹³ *Wilts. Times*, 20 Nov. 1954.

³¹⁴ *Wilts. Times*, 20 Nov. 1954; 18 Dec. 1954.

Education

No public school was reported in the parish of Langley Burrell in 1783.³¹⁵ Kilvert recorded that his mother (b. 1805) had attended a school in Langley Burrell at the ages of 3 and 4.³¹⁶ He remarked that the teacher 'was one of those really old-fashioned dames severe and respectable with rod and glasses.'³¹⁷

The rector in 1818 reported that there were two unendowed day schools that accommodated 25 poor children 'chiefly paid by their more opulent neighbours'. He also noted: 'The poor are very desirous of educating their children.' A room for a Sunday school was then under construction, but Kellaways had no educational provision for local children.³¹⁸ By 1835 a day school in Langley Burrell was attended by 10 boys and 20 girls, supported partly by charity and partly by subscriptions by the children's parents. A Sunday school with 20 boys and 25 girls was paid for by voluntary contributions.³¹⁹

A school was built in 1844 at the instigation of Robert Ashe and was supported by successive generations of the family. It displays their arms and a date of 1844 above the entrance gable. Because of family support, which continued into the 20th century, there was probably no need to seek state funding for several decades. Substantially built, the single-storey T-plan building included a teacher's house.³²⁰ Children were taught in one room 40 ft. × 13 ft. 9 ins., divided into two classes. In the 20th century the classes were separated by a freestanding screen. School grounds were organised into one playground and gardens tended by the children, to the front and rear of the building.³²¹ In 1957 the grounds were extended by leasing adjacent land for use as a playing field from Major Scott-Ashe.³²²

Fifteen years after its creation the school accommodated 30–40 boys and girls. According to an early school inspection the teacher was 'capable of teaching the Bible, catechism and reading and writing and needlework.' Aspiration for the pupils is likely to have been low, given the observation by the inspector that the school manager 'disapproves of more advanced study.' Although there was still no school in Kellaways, children from the village were in easy reach of the schools at Foxham, Christian Malford, Bremhill and Langley

³¹⁵ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 137.

³¹⁶ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 146.

³¹⁷ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 146.

³¹⁸ *Educ. of the Poor Digest*, 1031, 1055.

³¹⁹ *Educ. in England Abstract*, 1835, 1041.

³²⁰ NHLE, 1363839.; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1915 edn.); WSA, F8/500/165/1/1. By 1896/7, despite support by the Ashe family, an annual government grant of £31 was being paid. *Return of Parishes of England and Wales, Starting Area, Population, Gross Estimated Rental, Rate to Relief of Poor and Accommodation and Attendance of Schools aided by Parliamentary Grants* (Parl. Papers, 1867 (201, Iv), 420–1; *Statement of Schools in Receipt of Parliamentary Grants, Grants Paid to School Boards under Section 97, Elementary Education Act, School Board Accounts and Lists of Loans, 1896–97* (Parl. Papers 1897 (C. 8546), lxix), 608.

³²¹ WSA, F8/320/137; WSA, F8/600/165/1/6/1; WSA, F8/500/165/1/1.

³²² WSA, F2/600/120/1.

Burrell.³²³ It was reported in 1889 and 1903 that Kellaways children attended the elementary school in East Tytherton (in Bremhill).³²⁴

Langley Burrell school was not listed as 'efficient' in 1872, although it could be made good for 49 pupils if provided with a wooden floor and 'separate approaches to offices.'³²⁵ In 1886 the capacity of the school accommodation was recorded as 43 pupils and the average attendance as 41.³²⁶

Kilvert visited the school regularly when he was in Langley Burrell during the 1870s, and in 1874 accompanied 21 schoolchildren into Chippenham to see a panorama of the African travels of Dr Livingstone.³²⁷ His entertaining anecdotes imply that attainment was basic.³²⁸ They suggest that the Ashe family provided not only financial support but also direction in the administration of the school, Robert Martyn Ashe describing it as 'my school' in 1874.³²⁹ Kilvert branded as cruel Ashe's insistence that school windows and door were to remain open in winter.³³⁰ In 1970 the school and several pupils were used in a television adaptation of Kilvert's diaries.³³¹

The school logbook survives from 1919–74 and records largely positive inspections, such as in 1932: 'This is a happy and well conducted little school. The children are bright and industrious and self-reliant.' However, occasional breaches of discipline occurred, as in 1922 when nine pupils were caned, the teacher claiming to have used corporal punishment as a last resort. Children received regular religious instruction from the local clergy and occasionally attended religious services, including Ascension Day. They also cultivated the garden to the front and rear of the school and were regularly taken on nature walks.³³²

The school was enlarged in 1902 and increased its capacity from 50 to 70 pupils. In 1903 average attendance was recorded as 55.³³³ However, in 1920 43 pupils between the ages of 4 and 14 were on the school roll.³³⁴ During the Second World War school attendance was boosted by c.50 evacuees, largely from the London area (especially Enfield) and Bristol. Although many children stayed several years, some attended for only a few weeks.³³⁵ In 1965 there were 36 children on the school roll.³³⁶

³²³ *Account of Wilts. Schools*, 1859, 28, 30.

³²⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1889, 1903 edns.).

³²⁵ TNA, ED 21/18458.

³²⁶ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales); with appendix. 1885–86* (Parl. Papers, 1886 (C. 4849–I), xxiv), 608.

³²⁷ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 121.

³²⁸ e.g. *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 139.

³²⁹ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 111.

³³⁰ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 111.

³³¹ WSA, F8/500/165/1/1, 247, 5–6 May 1970.

³³² WSA, F8/600/165/1/6/1; WSA, F8/600/165/1/6/1.

³³³ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1889, 1903 edns.); TNA, ED 21/18458. The capacity of the school accommodation was given as 43 in 1900. *Statement of Schools in receipt of Parliamentary Grants, Grants Paid to School Boards Under Section 97, Elementary Education Act, School Board Accounts and Lists of Loans, 1899–1900* (Parl. Papers, 1900 (Cd.332), lxiv), 258.

³³⁴ WSA, F8/500/165/1/1. 5, 6.

³³⁵ WSA, F8/600/165/1/6/1.

³³⁶ WSA, F8/500/165/1/1, 229. Jan. 5 1965.

The school was officially closed on 27 August 1974. However, pending the extension and remodelling of the school in East Tytherton, the pupils of both schools were temporarily accommodated at Langley Burrell school, which was extended by a mobile classroom. It was finally vacated on 17 October 1975 when all pupils were transferred to Maud Heath County Primary in East Tytherton.³³⁷

The former school building is grade II listed and has been converted for residential use.³³⁸

Social Welfare

Parochial welfare provision was in place in Langley Burrell by at least 1666.³³⁹ In 1776 payments to cover rents of the poor made up one-quarter of money spent on relief, the highest proportion of any parish in the Chippenham hundred except Slaughterford (which spent the least amount overall).³⁴⁰

Charities and Friendly Societies: The Maud Heath trustees, established under the 1474 endowment, were traditionally drawn from the principal landowners and clergy of Langley Burrell and Bremhill,³⁴¹ including generations of the Ashe family.³⁴² The route was still maintained by the trustees in 2024.

The only other endowed charity recorded in the parish returns was the church piece or church lands, c.2.5 a., which by c.1750 and possibly earlier was allotted for the repair of Langley Burrell church.³⁴³

In 1803 one friendly society with 28 members was noted in poor law returns.³⁴⁴ In the 1818 return no friendly societies were recorded, and no charities were noted under the management of parochial officers in Langley Burrell or Kellaways.³⁴⁵ However, a benefits society (reportedly unregistered) was based at the Little George inn by 1832, when the publican and his wife were accused of stealing funds.³⁴⁶

³³⁷ WSA, F2/600/120/1; F8/600/165/1/6/1; F8/500/165/1/1.

³³⁸ NHLE, 1363839.

³³⁹ WSA, 118/149/1.

³⁴⁰ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1777, 484.

³⁴¹ WSA, 3448/1/1; *Coms. Of Inquiry into Charities in England and Wales: Twenty-Eighth Report* (London: Parl. Papers, 1834 (606), xxii), 307–9; *Endowed Charities*, 1908, 267–9. Assertion concerning trustees given in Bowles, *Bremhill*, 159; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1889 edn.). Causeway: K. Taylor, *Dry Shod to Chippenham* (Bradford on Avon, 2012).

³⁴² *Coms. Of Inquiry into Charities in England and Wales: Twenty-Eighth Report* (London: Parl. Papers, 1834 (606), xxii), 308.

³⁴³ WSA, D1/24/127/5; 1487/7; *Endowed Charities*, 1908, 607; below, religious hist., advowson and church endowment.

³⁴⁴ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1804, 561.

³⁴⁵ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1818, 494–5.

³⁴⁶ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 2 Aug. 1832; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 4 Mar. 1833; *St James's Chronicle*, 9 Mar. 1833; *Morning Post*, 9 Mar. 1833; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 14 Mar. 1833.

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Church Origins and Parochial Organization

No church at Langley Burrell is recorded in Domesday Book but St Peter's church retains architecture earlier than c.1200.³⁴⁷ It was perhaps a proprietary church founded by the Borel family, 11th-12th century manorial owners, who are commemorated in the parish name. The manor was acquired by John Delamare c.1304 after which the names of rectors are recorded.

Until 1450 the original church of Kellaways was described in the diocesan register as the chantry chapel of *Keylways*.³⁴⁸ It was built by 1304 and probably endowed by the Keylways family, owners of the estate from 1269.³⁴⁹ The dedication to St Giles is recorded from 1336.³⁵⁰

By 1650, St Giles church had fallen into decay, with no minister for four years or longer.³⁵¹ According to the 1649–50 church survey, Kellaways inhabitants desired to be united with the parish church at Tytherton Lucas,³⁵² but this ambition was not realised. After 1680, when the rector Jonathan Giare was incumbent also of Langley Burrell and Chippenham,³⁵³ the living of Kellaways continued to be held in plurality,³⁵⁴ and services were probably irregularly held. In 1783 the absentee rector, who lived at Kemble (now Glos.) and was ill, neglected to return the bishop's visitation queries.³⁵⁵ The original church, described in 1803 as 'in its present state is more like a hovel than anything else', was demolished and replaced in 1805.³⁵⁶

Langley Burrell was in Malmesbury deanery until 1887 when it was transferred to Chippenham, although Kellaways remained in Malmesbury.³⁵⁷ A new ecclesiastical parish of St Paul's Langley Burrell was created in 1855 from areas of Langley Burrell contiguous with Chippenham, together with portions of Chippenham near the newly constructed railway, and parts of Hardenhuish and Kington St Michael.³⁵⁸ In 1965 St Peter's at Langley Burrell was united with St Paul's to form the ecclesiastical parish of St Paul's Chippenham with Langley Burrell. The incumbent resided at St Paul's rectory.³⁵⁹ In 1979 a united benefice was created

³⁴⁷ *Domesday*, 177; below, Church architecture.

³⁴⁸ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 116.

³⁴⁹ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 115; Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 5. The first rector was listed in 1304.

³⁵⁰ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 31.

³⁵¹ WAM, 19, 205. No minister for Kellaways is recorded after Christopher French (d. 1621).

³⁵² WAM, 41, 1.

³⁵³ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 118212.

³⁵⁴ e.g., *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 51005, 91396: Richard Humphreys (1681–98), also possessed Kington St Michael and Draycot Cerne. Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 37: Thomas Thompson (1698–1742), also had Sutton Bengier and was curate of Highway.

³⁵⁵ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 131 note; below, Religious life.

³⁵⁶ WSA, D/1/61/4/47; D/1/60/1/9; D/1/61/4/47.

³⁵⁷ Youngs, *Admin Units*, I, 542, 551, 529.

³⁵⁸ Youngs, *Admin Units*, I, 534.

³⁵⁹ *Crockford*, (1967 edn.), 1281, 1528; Youngs, *Admin Units*, I, 542.

from the parishes of Hardenhuish and St Paul's Chippenham with Langley Burrell; it was held in plurality with the benefice of Kington St Michael.³⁶⁰

By 1967 Kellaways was joined with All Saints Sutton Benger and All Saints Christian Malford. The incumbent lived in Christian Malford.³⁶¹ In 2022 it formed part of the benefice of Draycot, along with Christian Malford, Kington Langley and Draycot Cerne, Seagry and Sutton Benger.³⁶²

Advowson and Church Endowment

Langley Burrell: The living was in the gift of the manorial lords. Sir Reginald Cobham acquired the advowson with the estate in 1343 and his widow Joan held it in 1361.³⁶³ The king presented in 1391 during the minority of Reginald Cobham, who was later burned at the stake as a heretic.³⁶⁴ His son, also Reginald, presented in 1429, 1440 and 1446.³⁶⁵ Patronage was again with the monarch in 1505 owing to the forfeiture of Edward de Burgh's land.³⁶⁶ In 1637 the manor and advowson of Langley Burrell were under the patronage of Henry White.³⁶⁷ After sequestration in 1647 the advowson was acquired, with the manor, by Samuel Ashe in 1657, and it remained in the Ashe family for 300 years.

In 1341 the parsonage of Langley Burrell was worth £4 10s., comprising a messuage and carucate of land worth £1 6s. 8d., pasture for cows and oxen 14s., meadow 2s., tithe of hay 10s., tithe of the mill 5s., rents 13s. 4d., and offerings, heriots and small tithes £1.³⁶⁸

In 1649–50 the living was valued at £100, although the church survey recorded that the incumbent, Thomas Webbe, only 'doth or maybe receiving' its profits, probably because he refused to collect the tithe.³⁶⁹ In 1711 the tithe valuation was recorded as £12 7s. 3½d.,³⁷⁰ and the living was valued at £160 between 1742 and 1788.³⁷¹

The glebe in 1608 totalled c.112 a.³⁷² In 1723 the rector, Thomas Read, exchanged two parcels of arable, doubtless to consolidate his glebe.³⁷³ In 1783 the tithes were worth £90. Two moduses were covered by annual payment of £10 on lands of Robert Ashe (probably the

³⁶⁰ Lond. Gaz. 47987, 25 Oct. 1979.

³⁶¹ *Crockford*, (1967 edn.), 1529.

³⁶² *Crockford*, (2022–23 edn.), 996.

³⁶³ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 54.

³⁶⁴ *Cal Pat.* 1388–1392, Reg. Waltham, no 608.

³⁶⁵ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 119, 131, 137.

³⁶⁶ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 183.

³⁶⁷ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 19.

³⁶⁸ *Non. Inq.* 164.

³⁶⁹ WAM 41, 2; ODNB, s.v. Webbe, Thomas, Ranter, accessed 17 Aug. 2024; E. Stokes, *The Wilts. Rant . . . evil speakings of Thomas Webb, late pretended minister of Langley Burrell* (London, 1652), 3.

³⁷⁰ J. Ecton, *Liber Valorum and Decimarum* (London, 1711), 315.

³⁷¹ J. Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticorum* (1742 edn.), 524; (1754 edn.), 403; J. Ecton and J. Lloyd, *Thesaurus Ecclesiasticus: an Improved Edition* (London, 1788), 313.

³⁷² WSA, D1/24/127/2.

³⁷³ *Gleanings from Wilts. Regs.* (WRS. 63), 140; WSA, 118/92, which also contains details of a possible exchange in 1711.

former demesne of Stanley abbey, 398 a.) and 3s. 4d. on lands of John Fast.³⁷⁴ In 1840 tithes were commuted to a rent-charge of £285 to the rector (Robert Ashe) and £35 for tithes on the 110 a. glebe. Those covered by the real composition were substituted by an allotment of 4 a. to the rector.³⁷⁵ In 1856 the living with its new rectory was worth £386 net.³⁷⁶ In 1915 it was worth £300 net, including 111 a. glebe.³⁷⁷

By c.1750, and possibly earlier, c.2.5 a. of glebe land was allotted for the repair of the church at Langley Burrell.³⁷⁸ During the 19th and early 20th century income from the rental of this land was combined with church rates (later 'voluntary contributions' after their abolition) in churchwardens' accounts to provide a fund from which general disbursements, including salaries for the clerk and sexton, were also drawn.³⁷⁹ This may have helped to offset partially the need for church rates, which were often in deficit, although in 1862 the collector of the rates was instructed to bring legal action against those who had not paid.³⁸⁰ In 1874 timber, bark and faggots from trees felled on church land were sold to provide additional funds. In 1887 money raised from a similar sale was used specifically to offset expenses associated with the gift of a parcel of land for a new church yard.³⁸¹

Kellaways: The Keylways family remained patrons of the church until 1405.³⁸² The living then remained in the gift of estate owners, including generations of the Long family, under whose patronage it was awarded between 1526 and 1819, although the Crown presented in 1785.³⁸³

In 1711, the value of the benefice of Kellaways was £7.³⁸⁴ As it was worth under £50 it was discharged from first fruits and tenths and received three payments of £200 (in 1740, 1767, 1788) from Queen Anne's Bounty.³⁸⁵ Around this time the population of the parish was c.12.³⁸⁶ Its incumbents were non-resident and generally held the living in plurality with others. The church was also listed as destroyed, although more likely in a dilapidated state, by 1754.³⁸⁷ Despite the initial augmentations, the living was still worth £7 in 1786.³⁸⁸ Land tax

³⁷⁴ WSA, D1/24/127/5. The moduses were in place when the tithes were apportioned. Also see *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 69

³⁷⁵ *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 69.

³⁷⁶ *Crockford*, (1856 edn.), 120.

³⁷⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1915 edn.).

³⁷⁸ WSA, D1/24/127/5; 1487/7; *Endowed Charities*, 1908, 607.

³⁷⁹ WSA, 1487/7.

³⁸⁰ WSA, 1487/7.

³⁸¹ WSA, 1487/7.

³⁸² Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 5, 11, 311, 48, 60, 64, 86, 92: the Kayleweys presented 1304–1405.

³⁸³ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 194, 198, 224, 228; II, 9, 37, 93; *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 10178, 9560, 95348; *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 131; WSA, D/1/2/31, f. 47v.

³⁸⁴ J. Ecton, *Liber Valorum*, 315.

³⁸⁵ W.R. Le Fanu, *Queen Anne's Bounty* (1921), 12. Living shown as discharged by J. Ecton, *Liber Valorum*, 315 and J. Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum* (1742 edn.), 525.

³⁸⁶ Population from 1801 census.

³⁸⁷ J. Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum* (1754 edn.), 404.

³⁸⁸ J. Ecton and J. Bacon, *Liber Regis* (1786), 887.

returns for Tytherton Kellaways show that the vicars of neighbouring Bremhill as well as the parish rector, were collecting tithes from property within the parish.³⁸⁹

By 1788 and 1796 the value of the living at Kellaways had risen to £30,³⁹⁰ and in 1835 to £82, gross and net. Four years later under tithe commutation it was agreed that the rector of Kellaways, Walter Long, would receive the whole of the tithe rent-charge of £46 for great and small tithes.³⁹¹ In 1851 the church was endowed with £50 from glebe land and £46 by tithe. There were no pew rents.³⁹² The glebe lands comprised c.22a in Melksham.³⁹³ In 1915 the living (with only 21 residents within the ecclesiastical parish) was worth £70 net.³⁹⁴

Clergy Houses: There was a tenement or cottage on the Langley Burrell glebe in 1608 and earlier, but no parsonage house was listed until a 1704 terrier, when a garden and orchard adjoined it.³⁹⁵ It was taken down 1776–8, and a new clergy house built adjacent to the church.³⁹⁶ This had 12 rooms, garrets and cellars, built of stone and tile, and was described in detail in a 1783 terrier.³⁹⁷ Although this states that the house was constructed at the expense of the incumbent, Samuel Ashe, accounts suggest that much of the cost was borne by his father, John Ashe, and overseen by the patron, Robert Ashe.

In 1853 Robert Ashe arranged through the Tithe Commissioners, with the cognisance of the bishop, to exchange the parsonage and certain glebe lands for another house and lands in his ownership. He reasoned that the new building in the area of Langley Common, a half mile from the church, would be a more central location.³⁹⁸ The old parsonage was subsequently demolished.³⁹⁹ Its replacement, in 2024 known as Kilvert's Parsonage House, was built c.1739 for Adam Tuck, probably on an older core. The grade II* listed structure was enlarged c.1840 before its use as a rectory.⁴⁰⁰ It was sold in 1964 and reported neglected and overgrown by ivy in 1986,⁴⁰¹ but was subsequently restored.

Incumbents generally held the living of Kellaways in plurality with others and resided outside the parish. Henry Brindley, who encouraged the creation of the new church in 1805, lived in Lacock.⁴⁰² No parsonage house is mentioned in a 1704 terrier.⁴⁰³ Although a glebe

³⁸⁹ WSA, A1/345/238.

³⁹⁰ Ecton and Lloyd, *Thesaurus Ecclesiasticus: an Improved Edition* (London, 1788), 314; also 1796 edn., 314.

³⁹¹ *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 99.

³⁹² TNA, HO 129/253.

³⁹³ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1915 edn.).

³⁹⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1915 edn.).

³⁹⁵ WSA, D1/24/127/1–2; D1/24/127/4; Hobbs (ed.), *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 242–3.

³⁹⁶ WSA, 118/152.

³⁹⁷ WSA, D1/24/127/5; 118/152; *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 244.

³⁹⁸ WSA, 118/169.

³⁹⁹ J. Badeni, *Wilts. Forefathers* (Malmesbury: 1960), 98.

⁴⁰⁰ NHLE, 1022357; Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts*, 395.

⁴⁰¹ NHLE, 1022357.

⁴⁰² *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 12 Apr. 1819; TNA, PROB 11/616/364.

⁴⁰³ WSA, D1/24/11.

house was recorded in 1835, it was noted as being unfit for a residence.⁴⁰⁴ Instead Walter Long, incumbent from 1819–57, lived in Tytherton.⁴⁰⁵ John Rich, who held the living from 1884 until 1913, lived in Chippenham.⁴⁰⁶

Religious Life

In 1332 Sir John Delamare and his wife Alice obtained a licence for a private chapel at their manor of ‘Langley and Lye’.⁴⁰⁷ The estate was acquired by Sir Reginald Cobham in 1343 during whose tenure a chapel of St Peter at Langley Burrell was reportedly converted to a dwelling house.⁴⁰⁸ Cobham’s widow Joan directed that on her death two priests should be provided to do divine service at the church of Langley Burrell to pray for the souls of John Delamare, Reginald Cobham and Thomas, Lord Berkley (her father), all previous patrons of the living.⁴⁰⁹

In 1637 the manorial lord Henry White presented Henry Norborne to the living,⁴¹⁰ but it was sequestered in 1647.⁴¹¹ Local tradition holds that a subsequent incumbent, Thomas Webbe, defaced the tablet in the chancel that commemorated the death of Norborne’s first wife Rebekah in 1641, by erasing the word ‘Reverend’ and altering ‘Bat. in divinite’ to ‘Bad in divinite’. Norborne allegedly broke into the church to baptise his child Margaret in 1647.⁴¹²

After Norborne’s ejection, in 1647 the living was given by the Committee for Plundered Ministers to a Mr Martyn, but he was denied access by parishioners and by Thomas Webbe, who had established himself as the new minister.⁴¹³ Webbe’s career as minister of Langley Burrell was notorious. According to *The Wiltshire Rant*, a pamphlet published in 1652 by his former friend Edward Stokes, Webbe ‘came as an Angel of Light, into those parts, with a great form of godliness, in sheeps clothing’, through which he secured the living, cementing his affections with parishioners by further refusing to collect tithes.⁴¹⁴ The church survey of 1649–50 described Webbe as a minister ‘whome wee cannot find free from scandal’.⁴¹⁵ He rejected the trappings of organised religion and emphasised the primacy of personal spiritual experience. His affair with Mary White, his patron’s wife,

⁴⁰⁴ *Royal Com. to Inquire into Ecclesiastical Revenues and Patronage of the Established Church of England and Wales. Report.* (Parl. Papers, 1835 (cd. 67), xxii), 826.

⁴⁰⁵ TNA, HO 129/253; *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 95348.

⁴⁰⁶ *N. Wilts. Herald*, 21 Mar. 1913.

⁴⁰⁷ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 97; *Wilts. N&Q*, III, 411.

⁴⁰⁸ WSA, 3623/1, 42; WAM 4, 47–9.

⁴⁰⁹ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 97; Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 19; A.B. Mynors and H. Brakspear, *Notes on Hist. of St Peter’s Langley Burrell* (Frome, 1907).

⁴¹⁰ Phillipps, *Institutions*, I, 19.

⁴¹¹ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 86520.

⁴¹² Mynors and Brakspear, *Notes on Hist. of St Peter’s*; WSA, 2682/20; *Memorial Inscriptions of Wilts.* (WRS. 53), 9.

⁴¹³ BL, Add. MS 15671, ff. 58, 79; Stokes, *The Wilts. Rant*, 51–2.

⁴¹⁴ Stokes, *The Wilts. Rant*, 3.

⁴¹⁵ WAM 41, 3; VCH Wilts, IV, 102.

brought him to the attention of Parliament and the courts,⁴¹⁶ and, although acquitted of the capital offence of adultery, he was ejected from the living in 1651.⁴¹⁷

The first rector to be presented after Samuel Ashe acquired the advowson was Jonathan Giare, in 1660, who was also vicar of Chippenham with Tytherton Lucas, prebendary of Winterbourne Earls in Salisbury Cathedral (1660–75), and from 1680 rector of Kellaways. He died in 1681.⁴¹⁸

Giare was replaced by Aylmer Lynch, grandson of John Ailmer, bishop of London. Lynch was already over 80 when appointed.⁴¹⁹ Formerly prebendary of Welton Westhall (Lincoln diocese) and vicar of Preshute, his Wiltshire living had been sequestered in 1647.⁴²⁰ At the restoration Lynch was prebendary of Stratford, which he held until his death (will pr. 1692).⁴²¹ Lynch is memorialised by a plaque in the church. He left £5 in his will to the poor of the parish.⁴²²

Thomas Petty became incumbent in 1693, under the patronage of Samuel Ashe's son-in-law, Lionel Duckett.⁴²³ Petty died the following year to be replaced by Thomas Stamp, a non-juror who was deprived of the living in 1702. Stamp was replaced by Thomas Read, who was rector of Langley Burrell for 40 years until his death in 1743.⁴²⁴ Read is commemorated in the church.

Thereafter, and until the late 19th century, rectors were successively the patron or a member of the Ashe family (except 1774–7). Samuel Ashe was presented two weeks after being ordained as a priest in 1777, following the resignation of the former incumbent, Robert Boyer. Boyer had held the living from the death of Ashe's uncle, Robert Ashe, in 1774 on the understanding that he would quit in 1777.⁴²⁵ The parsonage house was replaced during his tenure.

On Samuel's death in 1807, Robert Ashe, who held the advowson, became rector, having been curate of Hardenhuish since 1803;⁴²⁶ he remained the incumbent until his death in 1855.⁴²⁷ St Paul's church, at the Langley Burrell boundary with expanding Chippenham,

⁴¹⁶ Stokes, *The Wilts. Rant*; Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 99–100.

⁴¹⁷ ODNB, s.v. Webbe, Thomas, Ranter, accessed 17 Aug. 2024; Stokes, *The Wilts. Rant*, 57.

⁴¹⁸ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 118212. WSA, P3/G/280 (will pr. 1681).

⁴¹⁹ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 52063; *Memorial Inscriptions of Wilts.* (WRS. 53), 9; *Alumni Cantab.* i, pt 3, 120.

⁴²⁰ *Alumni Cantab.* i, pt 3, 120; *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541–1857: vol. 9, Lincoln diocese* (London, 1999), 130–2.

⁴²¹ *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541–1857: vol. 6, Salisbury diocese* (London, 1986), 73–5.

⁴²² TNA, PROB 11/409/22; *Alumni Cantab.* i, pt 3, 120; *Memorial Inscriptions of Wilts.* (WRS. 53), 9. There is some discrepancy in dates between sources.

⁴²³ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 83374. *The familial connection is recorded in the Duckett family memorial within the church. Memorial Inscriptions of Wilts.* (WRS. 53), 10.

⁴²⁴ TNA, PROB 11/729/15; memorial in the church.

⁴²⁵ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 44999; ID 8398, ID 9374; Phillipps, *Institutions*, II, 88; WSA, 118/92; *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 137. WSA, 118/92, letter dated 27 July 1775, suggests he may have been preaching in the church as early as July 1775

⁴²⁶ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 137434; Phillipps, *Institutions*, II, 105.

⁴²⁷ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 137434; WSA, 1487/7; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.* 17 Feb. 1855; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 22 Feb. 1855; *Morning Advertiser*, 19 Feb. 1855.

was built during his tenure, and he gave the site and an annual £50 endowment.⁴²⁸ He died shortly before it was consecrated. The sermon preached at its dedication marked his role as its chief benefactor.⁴²⁹ Between 1825 and at least 1833 (probably 1835), Ashe was also incumbent of Harnhill (Glos.), where he was patron.⁴³⁰

Robert Ashe was replaced as incumbent by Robert Kilvert, whose wife Thermuthis was related to the Ashe family.⁴³¹ Kilvert's son (Robert) Francis was appointed his curate in 1872.⁴³² Francis Kilvert's diary, discovered and published more than 50 years after his early death in 1879, depicts a nuanced picture of the life of mid-Victorian rural society, and incorporates his descriptions of Langley Burrell during the 1870s, including the sometimes strained relations between the Kilverts and their patron, Robert Martyn Ashe.⁴³³

According to the diary, 'Squire' Ashe disapproved of church music and in 1874 dismissed the leader of the church singers. The rector Robert Kilvert (who was prepared to give up the living over the issue) took the opportunity to raise a subscription to purchase a harmonium, and this met with the congregation's approval.⁴³⁴ However, this was not the first instrument used by a choir. A bassoon was given to 'the singers of the parish of Langley Burrell' by the incumbent, Samuel Ashe, in 1796 particularly and exclusively for use in the parish church, and 'never to become the property of any individual'.⁴³⁵

Francis Kilvert 'won for himself by his piety and unostentatious manner the esteem and respect of the whole population' of Langley Burrell. His father resigned in the year of Kilvert's death and was replaced by John Jeremiah Daniell, an author whose works included *The History of Chippenham*.⁴³⁶

In 1754 (and again in 1786), the church of St Giles Kellaways was recorded as having been destroyed.⁴³⁷ Nonetheless, in 1754 John Copson was presented (already vicar of Malmesbury and after 1765, vicar of Kemble). According to Copson the congregation in 1783 was actually served by the vicar of Dauntsey,⁴³⁸ and Copson held St Giles' under sequestration for the benefit of Sir Robert Long's widow, who received £4 annually from Queen Anne's Bounty.⁴³⁹

⁴²⁸ *Morning Chronicle*, 15 Aug. 1853; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 23 Feb. 1854. The later history of this church is described above, Chippenham, relig. hist.

⁴²⁹ *Morning Chronicle*, 19 Feb. 1855; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 19 Apr. 1855; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.* 17 Feb. 1855.

⁴³⁰ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 137434. His tenure in 1835 is noted in *Royal Com. to Inquire into Ecclesiastical Revenues and Patronage of the Established Church of England And Wales. Report*. (Parl. Papers, 1835 (cd. 67), xxii), 414.

⁴³¹ Kilvert, *Diary*, I, 9.

⁴³² *Kilvert's Diary*, I, 10.

⁴³³ For more information on the life of Francis Kilvert, see ODNB, s.v. Kilvert, (Robert) Francis, diarist, accessed 17 Aug. 2024; *Kilvert's Diaries*.

⁴³⁴ *Kilvert's Diary*, III, 100–10.

⁴³⁵ *Gleanings from Wilts. Regs.* (WRS. 63), 141.

⁴³⁶ *Wilts. Times*, 27 Sept. 1879, 8.

⁴³⁷ Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum* (1754 edn.), 404; Ecton and Bacon, *Liber Regis*, 887.

⁴³⁸ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 82, 131.

⁴³⁹ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 131.

After sequestration it was awarded to Henry Brindley by the Lord Chancellor in 1785.⁴⁴⁰ It was described by Archdeacon Coham [*sic*], two years later, as ‘the smallest and meanest church I ever saw... No parsonage house, only one bell, no burying place, no glebe.’ Church services were held once a month.⁴⁴¹ Later monthly services became weekly, and through Brindley’s ‘zeal and interest’ the church was rebuilt. Brindley instituted an annual lecture on the sin of cruelty to animals. He died in 1819 and is buried in the church. His memorial against the east end records that ‘he was as pious, generous, and affectionate as he was humane’.⁴⁴² Several curates were employed from 1808 during Brindley’s old age.⁴⁴³

The new church in Kellaways, erected in 1805, included only one churchwarden. Church rates were collected from only three or four people but the parish retained a salaried clerk.⁴⁴⁴ The new church had 85 sittings, with 45 of them free, according to the incumbent in 1851, although later directories suggest that there was seating for only 55.⁴⁴⁵ On census Sunday (30 March) 1851, rector Walter Long stated there had been 26 congregants attending morning service and 21 in the afternoon. At the time the population of the hamlet was 35. There was no Sunday school due to the small size of the parish.⁴⁴⁶

In 1676 the church at Langley Burrell had 150 communicants while Kellaways had 10.⁴⁴⁷ In 1783 services were conducted at Langley Burrell twice on Sundays throughout the year and on Christmas Day, St Stephen’s (Boxing Day), Easter and Whitsun. Holy Communion was celebrated on Christmas Day, Easter Sunday and Whitsunday. Only 7 or 8 parishioners took communion (the church then had 246 sittings).⁴⁴⁸ On census Sunday in 1851, under Robert Ashe, also patron of the living and owner of the manor, the congregation was about 100, and the sittings 200.⁴⁴⁹ In 1874 the rural dean remarked that the church was ‘a singular instance of the morning congregation being larger than the afternoon one.’⁴⁵⁰

No Sunday school was noted in 1783; in 1818, however, a room was under construction for a Sunday school.⁴⁵¹

Nonconformity: In 1667 Sir Edward Bayntun was alleged to have suppressed evidence concerning a religious ‘fanatic’ in Langley Burrell.⁴⁵² In 1676 it was reported that Kellaways had two nonconformists and Langley Burrell seven. Neither parish had any reputed

⁴⁴⁰ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 9560; Phillipps, *Institutions*, II, 93. WSA, A1/345/238 records a Rev Dr West collecting Kellaways tithes before Brindley; WSA, D/3/14/1.

⁴⁴¹ WSA, D/3/14/1

⁴⁴² *Memorial Inscriptions of Wilts.* (WRS. 53), 11; TNA, PROB 11/616/364; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 12 Apr. 1819, 4.

⁴⁴³ *Clergy of the C of E Database*, ID 87242, 91809: William Marsh (1808–16), Timothy Conyers (from 1816).

⁴⁴⁴ WSA, 1711/3.

⁴⁴⁵ TNA, HO 129/253; *Kelly’s Dir. Wilts.* (1889 edn.).

⁴⁴⁶ TNA, HO 129/253.

⁴⁴⁷ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

⁴⁴⁸ *Bishop’s Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 66–7.

⁴⁴⁹ TNA, HO 129/253.

⁴⁵⁰ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 27.

⁴⁵¹ *Bishop’s Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 66–7; *Educ. of the Poor. Digest*, 1031.

⁴⁵² *VCH Wilts*, IV, 120.

Catholics.⁴⁵³ Several Quaker marriages and burials are recorded for residents of Langley Burrell and Kellaways during the 17th century.⁴⁵⁴

John Cennick (Methodist, but later Moravian evangelist) preached regularly at Langley Burrell during the early 1740s, although subject to strong opposition. He noted in November 1742, 'We were again sadly misused at Langley Burrell. The rude people besides making a noise, cut the clothes of such as were at the meeting, and threw aqua-fortis [nitric acid] on them and pelted them with cow-dung.'⁴⁵⁵ He also suggested the overseers and churchwardens were warned not to provide any poor relief to local residents who attended his gatherings.⁴⁵⁶ How effective this was is difficult to deduce as Cennick was able to start a Moravian 'society' at Langley Burrell in May 1743, two weeks before he laid the cornerstone of a new chapel at East Tytherton.⁴⁵⁷ In 1744 a local widow, Patience Knight, presumably a follower of Cennick, registered her home with the authorities as a place of worship.⁴⁵⁸ She was later buried as a Moravian in the graveyard at East Tytherton.⁴⁵⁹

In 1783 there were no nonconformists or Catholics in Langley Burrell, according to the incumbent, although a few individuals commonly absented themselves from all public worship.⁴⁶⁰ No dissenting chapels were recorded in 1851, but four dwellings were registered as meeting houses between 1700 and 1744, coinciding with a period when members of the dominant Ashe family were not the rectors.⁴⁶¹

Church architecture

The church of St Peter's, Langley Burrell consists of a chancel with chantry, a nave of three bays with north aisle and, to the south, the porch and tower. It is grade I listed.⁴⁶² It incorporates elements from before 1200 (the north aisle and blocked windows in the chancel) but otherwise dates predominantly from the mid 13th to the mid 14th century. The south tower dates from the 14th century, and was possibly built by John Delamare, whose canopied tomb is recessed into the tower's external south wall. The Cobham arms (a chevron with three stars) are located on a wooden boss in the nave roof, and this family, owners of the estate from the mid 14th century, are likely to have enlarged or renovated the church. A battlemented chapel to the south-east dates from the late 15th century.⁴⁶³

The parson Walter Jeffrey (d.1532) left 12*d.* for the maintenance of the bells, 4*d.* for every light within the church as 12*d.* to each householder and each widow.⁴⁶⁴

⁴⁵³ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128; *Wilts. N&Q*, III, 536; IV, 224, 305.

⁴⁵⁴ *Wilts. N&Q*, II, 343.

⁴⁵⁵ *The Baptist Magazine*, 1865, Vol LVII, 90; *The Primitive Methodist Magazine*, 1864, Vol II (of the new series), 592, 594, 600.

⁴⁵⁶ *The Baptist Magazine*, 1865, Vol LVII, 92.

⁴⁵⁷ *The Primitive Methodist Magazine*, 1864, Vol II (of the new series), 600.

⁴⁵⁸ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 25.

⁴⁵⁹ TNA, RG 4/306.

⁴⁶⁰ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 136.

⁴⁶¹ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 9, 15, 21, 25.

⁴⁶² NHLE, 1199423.

⁴⁶³ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts*, 393–5; Mynors and Brakspear, *Notes on Hist. of St Peter's*.

⁴⁶⁴ TNA, PROB 11/24/271.

In 1716 the tower was askew and had ‘sunk’ at the north-east corner.⁴⁶⁵ Samuel Ashe, incumbent 1777–1807, described the church prior to subsequent renovations: it ‘seems to have been of very ancient date, from the nature of the pillars which support the nave and side isle [*sic*] both of which are decently pewed, it has a neat gallery for the singers under which is the font and vestry. The tower contains four bells... the chancel is light and spacious, to which on the south is attached a small building or chapel, which is the burial place of the lord of the manor.’⁴⁶⁶

In 1859 the church was reported to be in good repair.⁴⁶⁷ Later, according to Kilvert, the structure of the building was examined by the rural dean ‘within and without narrowly’ in 1874 and found to have no fault.⁴⁶⁸ However in 1891 Charles Ponting, diocesan architect, reported to the vestry that there were unmistakeable signs of ‘insecurity’ in every part of the structure of the church, blaming soft and yielding soil making the foundations inadequate, and warned of the risk of total collapse. Remedial works were put under the control of a committee which included the rector (John Jeremiah Daniell), churchwardens, and Thermuthis Ashe, owner of the Langley Burrell estate.⁴⁶⁹ Renovations were made to the chancel and the tower but the nave remained untouched. In 1897 further extensive repairs were required to the central nave and north aisle, including underpinning and a new roof. The supervising committee was reformed,⁴⁷⁰ and renovations were executed by Downing and Rudman to the plans of Harold Brakspear. The work, estimated to cost £750 rose to £898 during the renovation, which also involved a new wooden floor and the seating ‘reconstructed and modernised.’ Thermuthis Ashe made a subscription, alongside several others, and fundraising included a bazaar in the grounds of Langley House. The church was re-opened in April 1899 after several months closure,⁴⁷¹ but refurbishment was only finally completed by the restoration of a stone parapet and carved pinnacles on the north aisle wall in February 1905.⁴⁷²

During renovations 1898–9 the remains of three fonts were found, including one Norman font treated as a scalloped capital. A Latin inscription was also discovered in the north wall of the nave.⁴⁷³ Subsequent newspaper reporting suggested that fragments of two further fonts had previously been found in repairs during the 1870s.⁴⁷⁴ John Aubrey had suggested that a 14th-century trefoiled squint or ‘hole’ on the south side of the chancel arch may have been used as a confessional.⁴⁷⁵

⁴⁶⁵ WSA, 118/140.

⁴⁶⁶ WSA, 3623/1.

⁴⁶⁷ *Kelly’s Dir. Wilts.* (1859 edn.).

⁴⁶⁸ *Kilvert, Diary*, III, 27.

⁴⁶⁹ WSA, 1487/7, 5 Mar. 1891.

⁴⁷⁰ WSA, 1487/7, 5 May 1898.

⁴⁷¹ *Wilts. Times*, 21 Aug. 1897, 22 Apr. 1899; WSA, 1487/7, 5 May 1898.

⁴⁷² WSA, 1487/7, undated note Easter 1905.

⁴⁷³ WSA, 1487/7, undated [1898?]; Mynors and Brakspear, *Notes on Hist. of St Peter’s*.

⁴⁷⁴ *Wilts. Times*, 22 Apr. 1899.

⁴⁷⁵ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.*, ed. Jackson, 96.

In 1887 the graveyard was extended by 11 perches through the gift of land adjacent to it by Thermuthis *Ashe*.⁴⁷⁶

The original chapel of St Giles, Kellaways, was constructed by 1304. A floor plan made before its demolition shows it to have been a simple structure of a nave of 31 × 21 ft. with a single doorway and two windows.⁴⁷⁷ In 1803 the condition of the church was described as 'very ruinous.' It was also infested with vermin and prone to flooding, allegedly because of its proximity to a water grist mill, with whose mill house the church shared a wall. This rendered it damp and 'dangerous to the health of parishioners to attend.' The bishop of Salisbury licensed its replacement and a new site opposite the mill, on the other side of the road that ran between Kellaways and Langley Burrell, was purchased from Thomas Crook (the churchwarden and parish overseer) by Walter Long of South Wraxall, Hugh Beames of Avon and William Crook of Tytherton. The land was put in trust for Henry Brindley, rector, and the principal inhabitants for the site of a new church and churchyard. The new church, funded by donations, was built to the same size as its predecessor and completed by February 1805. The old church was taken down and materials from it used to create the new churchyard wall.⁴⁷⁸ A licence was granted to allow worship in the new church of St Giles before it was consecrated by the bishop on 21 July 1808.⁴⁷⁹

The small church of ashlar masonry comprises a simply furnished nave of 3 bays with pointed windows. The pointed west door has an ogee-headed surround, and there is an octagonal wooden bellcote.⁴⁸⁰ It is likely that the font predates the church.⁴⁸¹ The structure remained little altered in 2024 and is Grade II listed.⁴⁸²

The parish registers for christenings, burials and marriages at St Peter's survive from 1607 but for St Giles only from 1815.⁴⁸³

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Manorial Government

Court books have survived for Langley Burrell for 1586–1639 and 1682–1706. These indicate that the court baron was held twice in 1685 but otherwise annually or less frequently, with

⁴⁷⁶ WSA, 1487/7, 11 Apr. 1887.

⁴⁷⁷ WSA, D/1/61/4/47.

⁴⁷⁸ WSA, D/1/4/2/1, D/1/61/4/47.

⁴⁷⁹ WSA, D/1/60/1/9, D/1/4/2/1.

⁴⁸⁰ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts*, 376; NHLE, 1022353; WSA, D/1/61/4/47; D/1/60/1/9.

⁴⁸¹ WSA, 2512/170/85. Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts*, 376.

⁴⁸² NHLE, 1022353.

⁴⁸³ St Peter's: WSA, 1487/1–6; WSA, 2682/1–2. St Giles: WSA, 1711/1, 10–12. Baptisms 1815–1988, marriages 1818–1831 and 1839–1994 and burials 1816–1981.

gaps including between 1618 and 1630. There is an incomplete manor survey from 1586 and accounts from 1682, as well as various other court records.⁴⁸⁴

Lists of the annually selected tithingmen for Langley Burrell have survived for 1643–1749 within overseers' papers.⁴⁸⁵ The names of the tithingmen are also recorded in highway surveyors' accounts as one of their duties appears to have been auditing the surveyors.⁴⁸⁶

Those entitled to beast leazes on Langley Burrell Common and in Bird's Marsh formed a committee of commoners with responsibility for the upkeep and management of the wastes. Annually the body selected a hayward, agreed on levies to be charged (used to mark the bounds and make repairs) and the date at which the common and marsh were to be stocked. Accounts of the commoners were inspected annually and one member often acted as a treasurer. A minute book survives for the period 1744–1831.⁴⁸⁷ The common was enclosed in 1838.⁴⁸⁸

A court book has survived for the manor of Tytherton Kellaways only for the year 1640 when two admissions were made.⁴⁸⁹

Parish Government

No separate vestry minutes for Langley Burrell have survived although there are lists of overseers and churchwardens or records of their selection from 1665.⁴⁹⁰ Lists of poor rate assessments exist for the parish for 1666–1708, 1714–44, 1765–1811, 1812–17, and 1817–30.⁴⁹¹ Accounts or disbursements of overseers are also available for 1705–29, 1765–1811, and 1812–35, and the accounts for surveyors of the highways for 1757–1815.⁴⁹² Boundary changes in 1882 and 1884 affected the area governed by the vestry.⁴⁹³

After their purchase of the Langley Burrell estate in the 17th century successive generations of the Ashe family took an interest in local government. They attended meetings, acted as auditors of accounts (seemingly as principle inhabitant rather than magistrate) and fulfilled the role of a parish officer.

Despite its small size and population, the hamlet of Tytherton Kellaways formed a civil parish until 1934. There are vestry minutes for the period 1846–84,⁴⁹⁴ which witness the selection of a churchwarden, passing of accounts, and setting of rates. Although there are no

⁴⁸⁴ WSA, 118/50/1; WSA, 118/156/1. Stewards' papers 1698–1705 are in WSA, 118/156/1. Other records: a manor valuation with rental, 1843 (WSA, 2526/1); manor rentals 1721–48 (WSA, 118/156/3); minute book of commoners, 1744–1810, with receipts 1803–14 (WSA, 118/156/2) and articles of agreement concerning common grazing rights, 1715 (WSA, 568/9).

⁴⁸⁵ WSA, 118/149/1.

⁴⁸⁶ WSA, 416/16.

⁴⁸⁷ WSA, 118/156/2. WSA, 118/156/2; 568/9 includes details of beast leazes and their holders.

⁴⁸⁸ WSA, 118/26. Daniell, *Chippenham*, 39–40 regarded the enclosure as illegal.

⁴⁸⁹ WSA, 947/1628.

⁴⁹⁰ WSA, 118/149/1; 415/15.

⁴⁹¹ WSA, 118/149/1, 3–4; 118/150/1–2.

⁴⁹² WSA, 118/149/2–4, 118/150/2, 415/16. See also WSA, 118/154, which includes removal orders and examinations, and indexed receipts and papers for the churchwardens, overseers of the poor and surveyors of the highways, 1785–1819.

⁴⁹³ above, boundaries.

⁴⁹⁴ WSA, 1711/6.

surviving overseers or highway surveyors accounts, it appears that during the 18th and 19th centuries Kellaways was fulfilling all the statutory requirements expected of a civil parish, such as providing poor relief and maintaining local highways.⁴⁹⁵

Two overseers were selected annually for Langley Burrell. In 1666 they raised £54 6s. 9½d. and disbursed £53 12s. 3d. to the poor.⁴⁹⁶ In 1736 a number of individuals and their families without legal settlement were told to return to their respective parishes pending legal action, or produce certificates that would indemnify Langley Burrell from the responsibility for their relief. In 1776 the cost of relief for Langley Burrell was £61 4s. 6d. and thereafter rose to £123 9s. 8d. in the mid 1780s. In the year ending Easter 1803, £200 8s. 4d. was expended by the parish of Langley Burrell on relief for the poor, including £1 18s. 4d. for the cost of removals.⁴⁹⁷ By 1813 the cost had risen to £380 before falling two years later to £203.⁴⁹⁸ The number of adults receiving permanent relief was between 22 and 25 in the period 1813–15, with between 7 and 11 receiving it occasionally. There was no parish workhouse.⁴⁹⁹

Relief provision was based on outdoor relief, predominantly in the form of cash payments and house rents. Medical relief for the poor was provided from 1768.⁵⁰⁰ Langley Burrell joined the Chippenham Poor Law Union in 1835.

There was no listing for Kellaways in poor law returns in 1776.⁵⁰¹ Subsequent returns record a nil cost. Given that the population of the parish was 19 in 1811, it is likely that there had been no necessity for anyone to receive relief in 1776. The average for 1783–5 was £15 1s. 1d., and in 1803 the total for relieving the parish poor was £33 4s. 9d.⁵⁰² The presence of an overseer is indicated by their occasional signature in vestry minutes for 1846–84, and by notes in 1883 and 1884, when a waywarden was also selected.⁵⁰³

In 1803 there were 6 adults and 11 children recorded as receiving relief in Kellaways, but the figures are suspect, as the total population in 1811 was only 19.⁵⁰⁴ The cost of relief fell from £41 in 1814 to £22 in 1815, despite the number in receipt of relief remaining static at four adults.⁵⁰⁵ The parish joined the Chippenham Poor Law Union in 1835.

Two highway surveyors were selected for Langley Burrell from 1651, if not before. In 1651 these surveyors, Richard Alland and Edmund Hort, and several principal inhabitants made an agreement with Chippenham and Hardenhuish that apportioned parochial responsibility for roads leading into Chippenham.⁵⁰⁶ During the 18th century surveyors were

⁴⁹⁵ Above, communications, and relig. hist.

⁴⁹⁶ WSA, 118/149/1.

⁴⁹⁷ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1804, 560.

⁴⁹⁸ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1818, 494.

⁴⁹⁹ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1818, 494–5.

⁵⁰⁰ WSA, 118/149/3.

⁵⁰¹ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1777, 484.

⁵⁰² *Poor Law Abstract*, 1804, 560, note; cf. *Andrews' and Dury's Map 1773* (WRS. 8), where East Tytherton is named Tytherton-Kelways.

⁵⁰³ WSA, 1711/6.

⁵⁰⁴ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1804, 561. *VCH Wilts*, IV, 359.

⁵⁰⁵ *Poor Law Abstract*, 1818, 494–5. No one received occasional relief. These returns do not include children.

⁵⁰⁶ WSA, 118/149/1; 415/16; 118/53. See also *Wilts. QS Order Book 1642–1654* (WRS. 67), 285–7.

annually selected from up to 10 nominees. In 1760–8 Robert Ashe, lord of the manor, was selected each year except for one year when Revd Ashe was selected instead.⁵⁰⁷

Maud Heath's Causeway traverses Kellaways and Langley Burrell, requiring the collaboration of both parishes with the Maud Heath trustees, who were often prominent members of the community.⁵⁰⁸ In 1794 surveyors from both parishes joined in repairing and widening Kellaways bridge, to which the trust contributed £50 of the projected £65 cost.⁵⁰⁹ Other works conducted independently by the trust relieved the parish authorities of some of the responsibility and financial burden of maintaining the thoroughfares which may otherwise have fallen to them.⁵¹⁰

Post-1894 Local Government

The first election to the parish council of Langley Burrell Without returned nine councillors including, unusually, two women, Thermuthis Ashe (owner of the Langley Burrell estate) and Lucy Ashe.⁵¹¹ In 1895 Thermuthis Ashe chaired the annual parish meeting in the school room. However, as there was no parish council election and no one raised any discussion, the meeting was closed.⁵¹² She also acted as chair in 1901 and 1902.⁵¹³ Minutes of Langley Burrell Without parish are available from 1894 to 1968. Until the 1930s they mainly recorded the annual parish meetings only, and discussion was often limited to the selection of councillors and appointment of parish officers.⁵¹⁴ In 1905 the council petitioned against the inclusion of the parish in the rateable area for new schools in Chippenham.⁵¹⁵ In 1938 and earlier the council was concerned to preserve the picturesque nature of the environment, and campaigned to prevent the felling of trees for road widening at the north end of Hardenhuish park and elsewhere.⁵¹⁶

There were five councillors on Langley Burrell Without parish council in 2024, meetings were held usually every two months, with an annual parish meeting, and minutes of meetings from 2017 were available online.⁵¹⁷

⁵⁰⁷ WSA, 415/16.

⁵⁰⁸ WSA, 3448/2/1; 415/16; WSA, 1769/67 (list of trustees).

⁵⁰⁹ WSA, 3448/2/1, 1794; WSA, 415/16. 2 July 1794.

⁵¹⁰ WSA, 3448/2/1–2: Maud Heath Trust minute books.

⁵¹¹ *Wilts. Times*, 22 Dec. 1894; *Bristol Times and Mirror*, 17 Dec. 1894.

⁵¹² WSA, 1746/1, 29 Mar. 1895.

⁵¹³ WSA, 1746/1, 4 Mar. 1901, 27 Mar. 1902.

⁵¹⁴ WSA, 1746/1.

⁵¹⁵ WSA, 1746/1, 26 Sept. 1905.

⁵¹⁶ WSA, 1746/1, 27 Oct. 1937, 5 Oct. 1938.

⁵¹⁷ <https://langleyburrellparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/> (accessed 15 July 2024).