

## DIRECTORY OF FARINGDON.

Extracted from a directory of Berkshire and Oxfordshire,  
published in 1854.

Faringdon is pleasantly situated on an eminence, about 17 miles W.S.W. from Oxford, 14 W. from Abingdon, 36 N.W.W. from Reading, and 69 W.N. from London; and contained in 1851 a population of 3390 inhabitants.

The town is of very ancient date: the Saxon kings had a palace here, wherein Edward the Elder died, in 925; and a castle was built here during the wars in the reign of Stephen, by the Earl of Gloucester, or his son, but was totally destroyed a few years after by Stephen. In 1202 this King (sic) founded at Faringdon a priory of Cistercian Monks, subject to the Abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire; and here, according to a manuscript in the Bodleian Library, King Henry III, his Queen, and Prince Edward passed a night, being entertained at the cost of the Abbot of Beaulieu. The expense of the King's entertainment amounted to 100s. 6d., the Queen's to 75s. and Prince Edward's to 50s. 6d. This Priory, like the Castle above mentioned, has long since been entirely demolished, no vestige of either remaining. Faringdon House was, during the civil war, made a garrison, and Sir Marmaduke Rawdon appointed its Governor, whose memory is commemorated by an inscription in the parish church. Cromwell himself, in June, 1645, attacked it, but unsuccessfully; and a second attack was made with a like result, under the command of the owner of the house, Sir Robert Pye. From this family the Poet Laureate, Henry James Pye, Esq., was descended. King Charles was at Faringdon after the second battle of Newbury. Near Radcot Bridge, about three miles to the North of Faringdon, was fought the battle between Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, and the Earl of Derby, afterwards King Henry IV.

In the year 1771, as some labourers were digging in a field called the Lambclose, they discovered six human skeletons, lying three in a row, and under the heads of two of them were found some silver coins of James I and Charles I: one of the skulls appeared to have had a bullet quite through it. By the size of the bones, and the soundness of the teeth, they were most probably young men, and soldiers who had been slain in the troublous reign of Charles I.

FAIRS -- February 13, horses and cattle: Whit Tuesday, horses etc.; Tuesday before and after Old Michealmas, statute; October 29, horses and fat cattle.

Monthly Great Market, first Tuesday in every month. Market Day, Tuesday.

The PARISH CHURCH, which is dedicated to All Saints, is an ancient cruciform building, with a low square tower, situated at the intersection of the transepts, and formerly surmounted by a spire, which was destroyed during the civil war. The Church contains nave, north and south aisles and transepts, chancel, and south porch. The north and south aisles are supported by four circular arches on round columns, with decorated heads. The nave and aisles are of Norman character; the tower, chancel, and south transept (the last recently restored) being in the early English style. The most remarkable points of the building are the Norman doors of the nave, north and south, the enriched early English piers supporting the tower internally, and the finely-sculptured sedilia in the chancel. The Church contains many ancient monuments. The living is a Vicarage, in the patronage of Simeon's trustees. Rev. Henry Barne, M.A., Vicar; Rev.

Edmund Thompson, M.A., Curate; Mr. James Cadel, Clerk.

Service -- 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 6.30 p.m.

The BAPTIST CHAPEL is situated near Marlborough Street, and the spot on which it now stands has been used for the purpose of divine worship for 300 years by protestant dissenters of the Baptist denomination. It is supposed that the Church was formed in the troublous times of Henry VIII, during whose reign many fled the kingdom, and others suffered persecution on the subject of baptism. About the year 1680 there was a flourishing cause here, the chapel being attended by some of the most respectable families in the neighbourhood. The Rev. R. Stead, ejected from a living in Somersetshire, was pastor of this church, which he represented in the General Assembly in 1689 and 1692. From various circumstances, however, the cause fell into decay, and the house of God was used for other purposes; the pews were torn up, and part of the chapel was used for a stable. From this state it was redeemed by the aid of Mr. Freeman, a resident in London; and since that period a society has existed, and the pastorate has been held by many respected ministers, some of whom are still living, and occupying other stations of usefulness in the christian church. The chapel, however, from the ravages of time, had become too dangerous for the continuance of divine worship, and in 1852, by the efforts of the present pastor, it was thoroughly repaired, at a cost of £300, and opened May, 1853. It is a neat structure, capable of holding 250 persons. Rev. Alfred Major, Minister. Service -- 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Monday and Thursday, 7 p.m.

The INDEPENDENT CHAPEL is a neat and commodious building, in the modern style of architecture, capable of seating 400 persons. A congregation was gathered by the occasional visits and preaching of the late venerable Rowland Hill. A small chapel, accomodating 200 persons, was erected in 1799, but proving too limited for the congregation, th present building was erected in 1840. Rev. Richard Soper, Minister. Service -- 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Thursday, 7 p.m.

The WESLEYAN CHAPEL, situated in Gloucester Street, is a plain stone building, and was erected in the year 1837, by the late Thomas Bush, Esq., of Lambourne, Berks. It will accomodate about 200 persons. Rev. James Cook, Minister. Service -- 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.

The PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, situate in Coxwell Street, was erected in 1851, by subscription. It is a neat building of brick and stone, and is suficiently commodious to contain 160 persons. Rev. George Wallis, Minister. Service -- 2 and 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 7 p.m.

the NATIONAL SCHOOL, a commodious stone building, situate on the Wantage Road, was erected in the year 1825, and is supported by voluntary subscription. Average number of boys, 120. James Long, Master.

The BRITISH SCHOOL, which was built by voluntary subscription, in 1853, is capable of containing 140 children. Present number on the books, 64. Mr. John Holroyd, Master

The MARKET HOUSE, which is situate in the square or Market Place, is an ancient building, resting on circular pillars, on which time has made great havoc. The upper part of the building is used as a Subscription Reading Room.

The COUNTY COURT is held monthly, at the Crown Inn. J>B>Parry, Esq., Judge; Mr. G.F.Crowdy, Clerk; Mr. W. Hanslow, High Bailiff. The EXCISE OFFICE is at the Crown Inn, Market Place. Mr. E. Crossley, Officer.

There is a GAS AND COKE COMPANY in the town. Mr. John Haines, Market Place, Clerk.

FARINGDON UNION -- Chairman, Viscount Barrington, M.P.; Vice-Chaormen, Rev. J. F. Cleaver and Charles Edmonds, Esq.; Clerk to the Board and Superintendent Registrar, Mr. John Haines; Chaplain, Rev. R. H. Hooper; Surgeon, Frederick C. Spackman; Master, Cornelius Sporle; Matron, Marianne Sporle; Schoolmaster, Mr. Benjamin Kirke; Mistress, Miss Julia Long; Relieving Officers, Joseph Hughes and William Matthews.

The following are the Parishes comprised in the Union:-- Ashbury, Baulking, Bourton, Buckland, Buscot, Charney, Coleshill, Compton Beauchamp, Great Coxwell, Little Coxwell, Eaton Hastings, Great Faringdon, Little Faringdon, Fernham, Grafton, Hatford, Hinton, Kelmscott, Kingston Lisle, Longcott, Longworth, Langford, Lechlade, pusey, Radcott, Shellingford, Shrivenham, Stanford, Uffington, Watchfield, and Woolstone.

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HAMLETS BELONGING TO FARINDON.

LITTLEWORTH, a small hamlet of Faringdon, is situate about two miles N.E. from the town. The village is small, containing a few substantial houses.

Here is a CHAPEL OF EASE, a small modern building. Rev. Charles Oakeley, Curate; John King, Clerk. Service -- 11a.m. and 3 p.m.

THRUPP is another small Hamlet of Faringdon, situate about one mile N.N.E. from the town, containing principally farm houses, and possessing little worthy the attention of the traveller.