

Hope in the 1850s

4. Pump Street

When you turned right out of School Lane by Watergates Bridge you would have entered Pump Street (now Pindale Road). A pump was situated on the left where the telegraph pole stands today. The villagers would have collected their water from this and other pumps around the village as there was no mains water supply.

The vicarage and the Manor House both belonged to the vicar, the Rev Cave Brown Cave. At the time of the census in 1851 the old vicarage building was still in use. It is described by Dr Orton, the previous incumbent as

“an old but (now) comfortable parsonage, having been made so at between two and three hundred pounds expense, by the present incumbent, at his sole expense. It contains two parlours, a study and three lodging rooms, exclusive of one for the servants, kitchen, back kitchen, pantry and cellar, but no outbuildings except coach house.”

The Rev Cave Brown Cave borrowed £600 from the governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty to build a new vicarage but when Rev. John Daniel took possession in 1856 he describes it thus:-

“It was simply a carcass, the floorboards, sashes and doors were on the premises but not fixed, no plastering on any of the walls and ceilings or any painting and papering.”

He also had to put it right at his own expense and the parish had to pay the interest on the building loan.

Whilst re-building the vicarage the family would have lived in the Manor House, which had also had a makeover. It seems to have been empty at the time of the census in 1851 and is described as “The Doctor's House” – presumably after Dr Orton, the previous vicar with whom Rev Cave Brown Cave exchanged parishes in 1843.

On the corner was the home of the Woodroffe's. Members had served as church wardens for several generations and they looked after the Parish Registers. As they ran a pub the first register became a little battered, with beer stains and Woodroffe signatures practised in odd corners. The current landlord was Nathan Woodroffe aged 77 who describes himself as a farmer of 60 acres. He was helped by his son-in-law Stephen Shirt. The household also contained his daughter, Martha, grandson William who helped on the farm and two granddaughters, Mary, who was a barmaid, and Jane and also a new great grandson, James.

Ann Price

Sources; - St Peter's Church Terriers 1840 & 1870. 1851 Census Returns