

CORNISH PARISHES IN 1753

VI. ST. ALLEN

This account of St. Allen was sent to William Borlase by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Buckland, on 15th May 1753. Unlike previous items in this series, it is here printed in abbreviated form, since the full version includes very detailed accounts of agricultural operations and other matters which are of little interest and are here omitted or greatly shortened. (Penzance Library, Borlase MSS, Original Letters V. 102).

P.A.S.P.

THIS parish in the Bishop's writings (who is High Lord of the Manor of Cargol part of which is in this parish) is called St. Allen, which Halse sayth in the Saxon language is "All Beloved". It lies in the Hundred of Powdre and is bounded on the east by St. Erme, north and west Perran Zabuloe, west Kenwin, south Kenwin and St. Clements. The Patron of it is the Bishop of Exon for the time being. It is a vicarage endowed with the sheaf of two estates, Laner and Trethuras or Tritherris, about 500 acres all arable ground except two small woods of about 3 or 4 acres, and a large wood not included in the above number of acres, which is part of the said estate of Laner and part of the Manor of Cargol, called the Bishop's Wood; half of the above estates much inclined to furz, but have been all tilled within these twelve years except about 6 or 8 acres. This estate of Laner was the residence or mansion of the Bishops of Cornwall and Exon, being now incapable of being leased as the other estates of the Manor of Cargol, for any three lives who should take from the present leasor, but only for the three lives which the leasor holds it by as leasee of the Bishop of Exon, there being some remains of the Bishops' private chappel. The Parish Feast is on Rogation Sunday.

The only manor that is wholly in this parish is Gwarnike the seat of the well known family of the Beavilles whose ancestor is said to come out of Normandy with William the Conqueror and which terminated in two daughters, the one married to Grenvill of Stowe, the other to Arundell of Trerice, to whose younger son this manor and barton was given, who dying without issue gave it to his kinsman Prideaux of Tewburrow in Devon, whose heir sold it to Samuel Kempe of Carclew Esq. who gave it to Nicholas Kempe of Rosteage Esq. who sold it to Edmund Prideaux of Padstow late Councillour at Law, who gave it to his two younger sons Charles and Benjamin the present possessors; but there is an estate called the Garrows, as also a wood near the mansion house but in the parish of Kenwyn belonging to Richard Arundell Esq. and part of the ancient manor. Over the hall door on a stone is writ in Saxon letters:—

"Man above all thing
Fear God and the King."

The northern part of the parish is divided into several parcels or tenements leased out of the Manor of Cargol, which manor was leased by Bishop Voysey to Clement Throgmorton Esq. cup-bearer to Queen Katherine Parre, from whence it passed by sale to Williams Esq., from Williams to Borlase Esq., and after Borlase to Philip Hawkins; from him to his son Hawkins D.D., it then came by no will to Counsellor Hawkins, who gave it to Thomas Hawkins Esq. who reversed it, or renewed the lease, from my worthy patron Dr. Weston late Bishop of Exon, and who is now in possession of the said manor.

The next manor if I may call it a manor in this parish are the estates of Coke Esq. called Trefice and Tolcarne Barn, which was so called from its being the barn where the sheaf was carried and threshed. It brings about £20 per annum and belongs to the sheaf, as also Tolcarn another estate in this parish, all now in the possession of Lord Viscount Falmouth annexed to the Manor of Allet, and purchased of Coke's heir by Hugh Boscawen Esq. with his other estates of Tregaza etc. in St. Erm and I believe elsewhere. The Rector's or Impropriator's glebe Tranike, Treonike or Trefronike, which sayth Halse is "Trees on a Lake" for there the river or rivulet arises that emptieth itself into the River Vale or Fale, is a fee estate of above £40 or £50 per annum and was lately the residence of one branch of the Borlase family, by James Borlase of Tregogian in Crantock marrying the heiress of the eldest branch of Coke, or of one of Coke's sons, who came to reside at Tranike, which descended to N. Kemp Esq. by Dorothy daughter of James Borlase his wife, who sold it to Thomas Michell of St. Agnes, now in the possession of his son Thomas Michell of Truro, the other estates of Coke went to the male heirs and were sold as above to the Boscawen family. Nancarrow and Nanteage estates in this parish are in the possession of Thomas Scawen Esq., formerly the Borlases.

A particular curiosity is an encampment in the Bishop's Wood part of the estate of Laner and the Manor of Cargol, which is an entrenchment of a circle, near a true one, as the cross diameters 22 perches taken by me as near as possible through the centre (whose fosse I also went round) shews by its being exactly equal. This encampment is on a rising ground, with a steep ascent to it from every point but the north, and in the middle of a wood about 200 acres, and is now itself overgrown with . . . (illegible) but lately rinded and cut down, and contains within the rampart in an area two acres a quarter and 25 perches Cornish measure, or 385 perches, i.e. 457 statute, or 2 statute acres three quarters 17 yards, or perches, or 124,740 feet. The height of the rampart outside the ditch being (though filled with continual washing of soft woody ground) from 17 feet high to 36. The base or foundation is 36 feet and the fosse is from the level of the ground outside to the same level of the rampart 30 feet broad.

The parish in general is of a shelf, or brown slaty soil covered with mould 3, 4, 5 or 6 inches deep. Some clay, but this is mostly in meadows

and low lands. The clay land in general is good for corn and grass, wheat especially, and seldom fails to answer good husbandry, or dressing especially sanding. The ground nearest the farm houses is best, owing to the more easy carriage of dung in a but by horses or oxen from the farm yard, when the more distant ground is suffered to be encroached on by furz for want of ploughing or dressing. The parish is generally in tillage, some keep it lay but one year, some two, some three, seldom four years except meadows. The grain, wheat, barley and oates, sometime pease. The furze ground in this parish is almost inclosed except a triangular slip about a mile and quarter long and a quarter mile at the base west of Michael Down, which is a common. The strata are first loam mixed with a slate kind of stones and in some places a sandy kind of stone, the next rubble with very little earth, the next a rock for 36 feet deep as I find by a well and quarry.

There is but one mine contiguous to this parish which is of rich lead, but not now worked, fire engines being not used when left off, called Gwarnicke Work, producing the most silver from a tun of ore above 100 ounces of silver, except a mine in the parish of St. Teath in Sir John Molesworth's land which produced 150 ounces. We have no moorstone either on the surface or in quarries.

The late incumbents of this parish were before 1680 the Rev. Mr. James Rossington, next Mr. Antony Rossington his son, next in 1710 Mr. William Richards, in 1732 Mr. Thomas Bennet who after two years taking St. Enoder was succeeded by Mr. George Turner, who taking the united parishes of Milor and Mabe was succeeded by me in 1740.

The parish is of a very healthy air, having buried but two of a consumption these ten years, and one of them received it from an imposthume of the breast, by breaking a blood vessel by lifting.