

# The Historic Buildings of Mere

## *The Old Rectory*



This home stands to the west of the Parish Church and was the site of the original vicarage. In 1774 shortly before, or after, the death of the Rev. Thomas Staples, the house was burnt down, and the vicar's widow was compelled to rebuild it.

Most of the present house is of that date; there are two rooms remaining of the earlier house where a large kitchen fireplace, old casement windows, and an arch leading to the back of the house can still be seen.

In 1863, Henry Townsend, Vicar of Mere, was allowed to sell it as it was 'in a most dilapidated state'. Thereafter it was known firstly as Layfield House and later as the Old Rectory. In 1975 was the local doctor's house.