

EAST WORLINGTON HOUSE

FARM/LONGHOUSE

built mid 15

No known problems until the Civil War 1642-1646. Then battles were fought all over Devon between the King (Charles I) and Oliver Cromwell.

East Worlington supported Cromwell, and West Worlington supported the King. With armies marching over the land farmers could not grow their crops. Cromwell won and governed England. The King's head was chopped off in 1649. Cromwell died in 1658. Charles I's son was crowned King in 1660.

Apart from damage to farming land, the Civil War brought a problem to the Church. It was taken over by the Cromwellians, and all the silver was melted down for money. After 1660 the King gave our church new silver, and appointed a new Rector. In the past, when the priest was a Roman Catholic, he was unmarried, and lived in a little house where the school is; or sometimes stayed in one of the farm houses. The new Protestant rector was married and had a family, so he needed a bigger house. The farmers, who had been unable to bring their "tithes" (one tenth of their corn or hay) to the "Tithing-barn" (now the parish-hall) where the Bishop's men could collect them and sell them for money, felt that if they gave a farm house for use as a rectory, they might be forgiven. They offered this house, and the farmers were indeed forgiven, although later when the land was again cultivated, they were still asked to pay their "Tithes". (This was changed in the 1830s, when the Tithes were "commuted" and Church people paid money instead. They still do)

RECTORY

1660 - 1958

So the Rector and his family moved into the new Rectory, and they farmed the fields which had come with the house. This went on until 1958. Then, because everything was getting more expensive, the Church of England felt it could no longer afford a priest in every parish. So the house and the land were sold, and Worlington became part of a group of parishes - Wilton, Meslow, Creacombe and Melbridge.

PRIVATE HOUSE from 1959