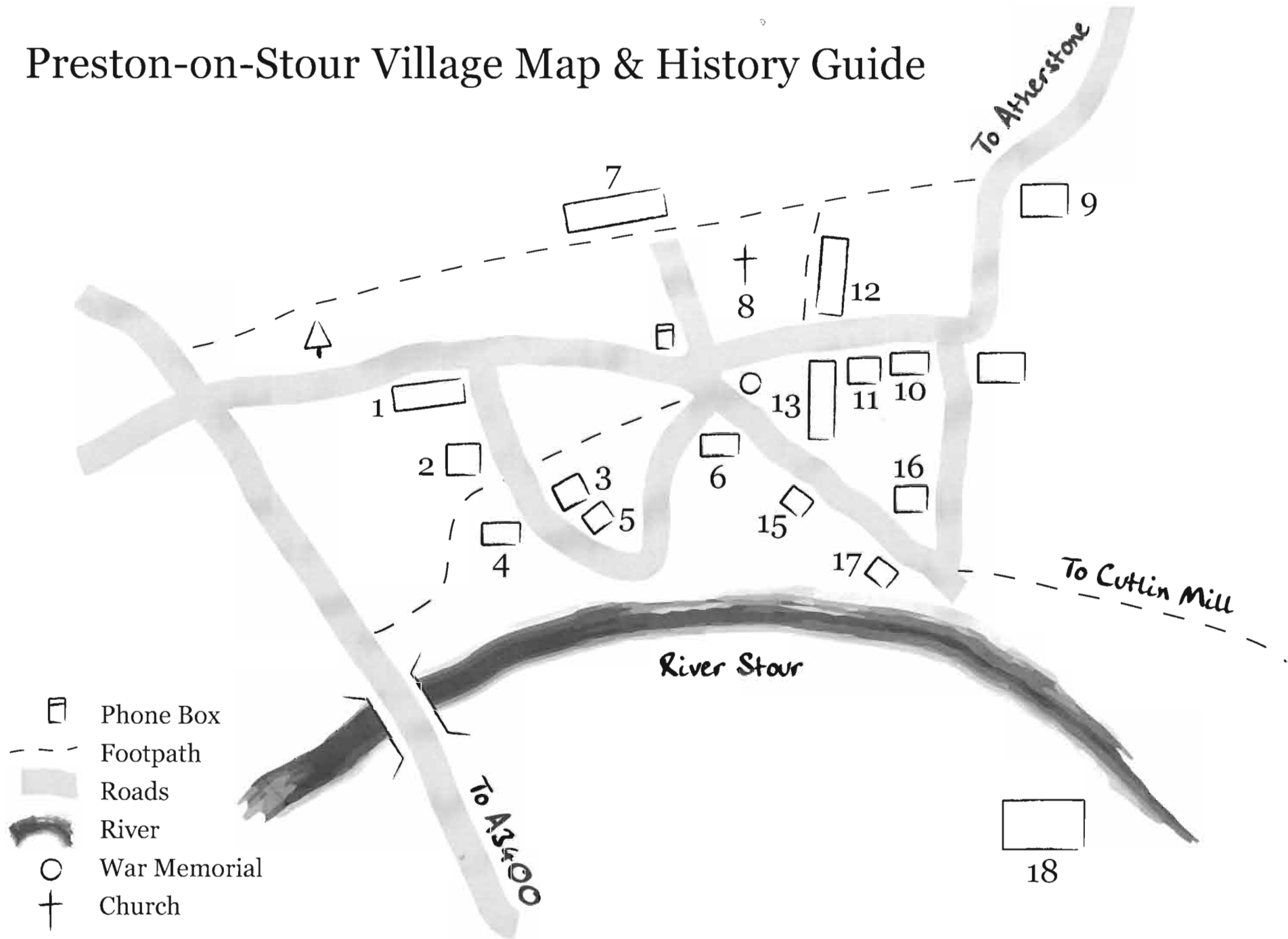


Preston-on-Stour Village Map & History Guide



1 Old School House

Built in 1848 at a cost of £1500 for J R West esquire of Alscot Park as a part of his 'model village' This and 1 and 2 Preston were the first buildings constructed. It was designed to hold up to 120 pupils but when it closed in the 1970s it only had 18. Now the JUNIORS is used as the village Shop and Post Office and INFANTS and HALL are used for furniture manufacture. 19 and 20 Preston at each end were for staff. This was built on part of the farm that went with the 'Manor House' next door.

2 Manor House (21-23 Preston)

Half-timbered and dated 1659 is probably so-called because the farm that went with it was the estate farm and not tenanted-out. From before 1659 the lord of the manor lived at Alscot. In the 1700s a Mr Garfield lived here who was a 'mechanik' and drew maps for the estate. In the 1800s it was divided into cottages but now in private hands is now one property.

3 The Dell

Another half-timbered former farmhouse which was once owned by the Smiths of Admington who were a family of gentleman farmers. In the 1700s this was divided into 2 cottages but is now restored.

4 The Gables

The half-timbered property of the Mansells. They farmed in the parish from the 1500s until 1905. Next to the house is Mr Mansell's barn. Once there were many half-timbered barns in Preston like this. This one was sometimes used as a Village Hall. The first Parish Meeting was held here in 1894. Also the tea following the opening of the Chapel in 1885. When Mr Robert Mansell died in 1905 it was said he was "the last of the yeoman farmers".

5 The Chapel

Opened in 1885 on ground given by Mrs J C Smith (nee Mansell) was in use as a Mission Room until the 1960s. Now converted as a private dwelling.

6 The Cottage

For many years this was the farmhouse of Mr Salmon and then Mr Sylvester. The house is listed grade II and is much older as

is shown by the upright timbers in the wall. Once upon a time the occupants could look out towards Alscot over the mill and the road to Stratford before the trees were planted.

Telephone Box

The Telephone Kiosk was put there because 10 Preston at the time was the Post Office. It is a listed structure.

7 Sylvester's Cottages or Scrapper's Row

Built as a row of 8 cottages for farm workers or former farm workers these eventually fell into the ownership of Mr Sylvester. These and his other cottages and The Cottage were bought by the estate in 1875. At one time one was used as the Boy's Club and another as the Girl's Friendly Society but are now 3 cottages.

8 Church

Dedicated to St Mary, the original building was probably built for the Prior of Deerhurst in Gloucestershire who owned the whole parish before the reformation. Only parts of the tower and nave remain of the original building. Parts of the nave and all of the chancel were rebuilt between 1752 and 1764 by Mr Woodward of Chipping Campden for James West esquire of Alscot park. Most of the monuments inside are to the West family or their relatives. The one notable exception is the one to Sir Nicholas Kemp, died 1624 and his two wives which was brought here from a church in London.

9 Gate House / Top Lodge

Built as a gatekeeper's lodge next to a gate into the extended Park from where there was a drive down to a bridge over the river into Alscot. In more recent times it was used as a gamekeeper's lodge.

10 The Priest's House

Possibly the oldest building in Preston. As there is no rectory or vicarage in Preston this is perhaps where the priest lived.

11 The Thatch with No. 28 & No. 29

They are probably the only surviving example of the cottages that existed before the rows of estate houses were built.

12 The Bakehouse

The building next to 50 Preston is where the bread was baked for at least a century. At one time the house was also the village shop.

13 Locke's Farm House (47-49 Preston)

The Locke family farmed or owned property in Preston for over 200 years until 1828 when this building was sold to the estate. It was then sub-divided. 48 Preston (nearest the road) was once the estate office.

○ War Memorial

Originally erected in 1921 there are 4 names inscribed of the First World War. Then following the Second World War 3 more were added. Besides a Lord of the Manor almost all the others were born in Preston or went to school there. The one exception lived in Stratford and is also on their memorial.

15 No. 44

This is where the Beerhouse run by Mr Fletcher once stood. The present house dates from around 1900. Mr Fletcher was also a carpenter.

16 The Blacksmiths Shop / Forge

This building was used by a blacksmith within living memory. But by then the smith visited once a week from Quinton. The double doors were so it could be used as a garage.

17 The Old Vicarage

This house only had one vicar who lived in it. Previously it was owned by the Zouch family of Milcote and Shottery. Like the Smiths, Salmons, Lockes etc. they owned land in the parish.

18 Alscot Park

Alscot is a separate manor within the parish of Preston on Stour. The first Lord of the Manor to live at Alscot and own both Alscot and Preston was sir Hugh Brawne in around 1600. Thomas Marriott who married Lucyan Brawne lived there from 1663. In those days the house was much smaller. John Lowe sold the estate to James West M.P. in 1747 and he had it rebuilt by Mr Woodward between approximately 1752 and 1764 to look much as it does today.