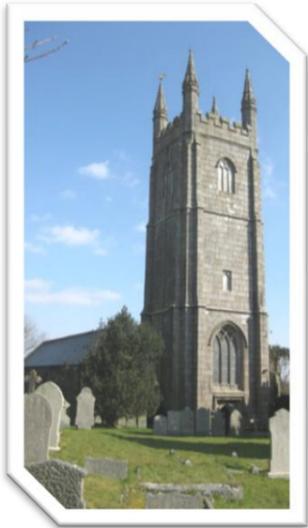


# Settlement

North Hill village grew up around the parish church of Saint Torney which towers over the village from its standpoint on the hill overlooking the River



Lynher. The Norman font was probably once in an earlier church on the same site. The earliest known rector was Ralph de Ilstintone. He was appointed on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1260 AD and had previously been the priest at Lawhitton, near Launceston. The record states that the position at Saint Torney was void suggesting earlier rectors whose names have been lost in the mists of time.



Who St Torney was is also unknown but he may be the Saint Erney to whom a church is dedicated 15 miles south of North Hill along the River Lynher.

The Duchy of Cornwall, which still holds lands in the parish to this day, was created in 1337 by Edward III for his son, later known as the Black Prince. Other landowners came and went. The Trebartha family, the Spoure family and the Rodd family all held sway in the parish at one time. Launceston Priory held the rights to farm on Twelve Men's Moor until the monastery was dissolved in 1539. During the Civil War (1642 - 46) North Hill parish, like most of Cornwall, was staunchly Royalist.

Throughout its history the people of North Hill parish had depended upon three main economic activities - farming, mining and quarrying. Agricultural and mining techniques developed during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19th centuries.

Settlements increased in size and number as people moved to live where they could get work. At the same time religious freedoms allowed Wesleyans and Bible Christians to practice their beliefs. Following the success of non-conformist circuits within the parish which met in people's homes, the groups built their own places of worship. Wesleyan Methodist chapels were built in North Hill Village, Coad's Green and Bathpool. The Bible Christians had chapels at Middlewood and Congdon's Shop.

Before 1826 when the first Methodist chapel in Coad's Green was erected, there were few houses, although some of the outlying farms were of great age. This is now a thriving community.

