

The April 2nd 1911 Census for Congresbury

By Richard Baker

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My interest in the 1911 Census was sparked by my son, who had moved into one of Congresbury's older houses. He wondered if it was possible to discover who had lived in the cottage from the census, taken every 10 years from 1841. Well it wasn't easy, because houses were rarely numbered or named; but as I scanned a census I was struck by how few of the residents of the village, particularly the "Heads of the Household", were born in Congresbury.

Having come from a family that had lived in the same industrial town for over 300 years, and having always supposed – without any evidence - that families in rural areas had always lived locally I was surprised.

The best starting point to investigate this was, I thought, the 1911 census because of the amount of information that it contained. So I began to transcribe it

It quickly became apparent that I was looking into a very different world. A world that my grandparents had known, but which I had never asked them about. It was no surprise to discover the number of people in Congresbury who worked in agriculture. Most surprising and shocking was the number of families who had mourned dead children. And frequently as I entered the details of young men, I wondered if they had any awareness of the shadow of events that would consume them just 3 years into their future, in 1914.

Having recorded the census data, I then looked at such things as age of the population, marital status, place of birth and infant mortality. I entered the data into Excel 2016 and some of my spreadsheets are listed below. I have also attached two summaries of other data that I produced. One covers a number of topics, while the other looks specifically at those residents who worked as servants in the village.

The first section contains the census data. This is unprotected, and can be downloaded and analysed. The other sections have been protected and cannot therefore be changed.

The sections are:

1. The 1911 Census
2. Congresbury residents, listed alphabetically by surname – a protected Excel file
3. Residents listed by age, with marital status and birthplace – a protected Excel file
4. Occupations – a protected Excel file
5. Servants – a pdf. File
6. Servants and their employers – a pdf.file
7. Summary of other data – a pdf. file