

# A HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S IN 100 OBJECTS



17.

The tithe map

Date: 1840

It was established in England before the Norman conquest that a tenth of all produce (a tithe) was paid to the church (to the rector). In many cases this was granted to a religious house who then appointed a representative ( a vicar) to run the parish. In Chesterton's case, unusually, our rector was foreign—Vercelli Abbey. As well as appointing a vicar to run the parish, Vercelli had their own resident proctor who lived in Chesterton Tower where he received the village's tithes (in the tithe barn). Following the Dissolution of the monasteries, the right to the tithes passed—in our case—to Trinity College who retained Chesterton Tower as part of the old Rectory Farm and acquired the new Rectory Farm to the north of the village (now the science park) when enclosure led to land being allotted to the tithe-owner in lieu of tithes. In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act converted tithes into cash and tithe barns became redundant. By law maps were drawn up in all England and Wales that detailed their landowners and the tithe arrangements. On display is a copy of Chesterton's tithe map of 1840 (the original is in the County Record Office). This is the oldest map of our area: the ordnance survey did not begin mapping until decades later.