

ONWARD EAGER BUYERS

The author of one of the world's best-known hymns, Onward Christian Soldiers, designed and built his own rectory in 1906 at Lewtrenchard.

The Grade 2 listed property, The Old Rectory, is now being offered for sale at £315,000 by the Tavistock office of Millerson.

Designed in what is known as the Arts and Crafts style, the house which is set in about two acres, offers a main hall with feature fireplace, two reception rooms, a superbly appointed kitchen with large breakfast area, a conservatory, cloakroom and utility room. There are eight bedrooms, including a master suite and a guest suite.

The house is centrally heated and has been fully re-wired. Close to the main house is the coach-house, formerly the stables, which is now used for workshops and garaging.

Gardens encircle the property. There are formal lawned areas with landscaped terracing, informal areas and an orchard. There are about 100 mature trees in the grounds.

Historical note: Sabine Baring-Gould was the "Squarson" (Squire and Parson) of Lewtrenchard, to the west of Dartmoor, from the age of 47 until his death 43 years later. Previously, in Yorkshire, he had married Grace Taylor, a simple mill girl who was considered to be the inspiration for George Bernard Shaw's Eliza Doolittle. She bore Baring-Gould fifteen children of whom fourteen survived.

Unable to provide for his large family on his rector's stipend and income from the estate, he turned his hand to writing copiously.

He was a good writer who could turn his hand to fiction, travel works, sermons, religious tract and, of course, hymn writing.

As his finances improved he became interested in architecture and designed The Old Rectory as well as building barns on the estate in a grand style.

For further information please contact Martin Gibbs on 0822-617243.

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