

THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE KILVERT SOCIETY



Number 50

March 2020

BOOK-SELLER
BINDER &c.
CHIPPENHAM



CHAS. H. EVANS

CHIPPENHAM

Thermuthis Mary Kilvert
Sept. 5th 1858.

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

*Founded in 1948 to foster an interest in the Reverend Francis Kilvert,
his work, his Diary and the countryside he loved*

Registered Charity No. 1103815

www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk

President

Ronald Blythe FRSL

Vice-Presidents

Mrs S Hooper, Mr A L Le Quesne

Hon Life Members

Mrs M M Hurlbutt, Mrs T Williams, Mr J Palmer

Chairman: Rob Graves

Glan yr Afon Barns, Castle Road, Llangynidr, Powys
NP8 1NG. Tel: 01874 730535

Hon Secretary: Alan Brimson

30 Bromley Heath Avenue, Downend, Bristol BS16 6JP.
Tel: 0117 957 2030, mobile 07765 226329
email: jeanbrimson@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairman: Vacant

Hon Treasurer: Richard Weston

35 Harold Street, Hereford HR1 2QU. Tel: 01432 378 018

Hon Membership Secretary: Mrs Sue Rose

57 Newbury Avenue, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 9UN.
Tel: 01249 248516

Hon Publications Manager and Archivist: Colin Dixon

Tregothnan, Pentrosfa Crescent, Llandrindod Wells,
Powys LD1 5NW. Tel: 01597 822 062

Hon Editor of the *Journal*: Mary Steele

1 Saffron Rise, Eaton Bray, Dunstable LU6 2AY.
Tel: 01525 221797. Email: mary.steele1@btinternet.com

Website: www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk

The Treasurer would like to thank all who responded to his appeal to change their standing orders to the new subscription rates. There are still a few members yet to make the change.

Contributions to the *Journal* should be sent to the Hon Editor by post or email. Address above
Deadlines: 1st January and 1st July

Forthcoming Events 2020

All teas and pub lunches must be pre-booked with the Secretary by post or email (jeanbrimson@hotmail.com)

Wednesday 11 March

Visit to Worcester and the Cathedral.

Friday 24 April

Annual General Meeting at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, 7pm.

Saturday 25 April

Morning Seminar 10.00 for 10.30am at The Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch. Speaker: Patrick Furley presenting 'A Victorian Magic Lantern Show'.
Annual dinner 6.30 for 7pm at the same venue.

Saturday 27 June

Visit to Aberystwyth and the National Library of Wales.

Saturday 26 September

Visit to Aber Edw, *the famous rocky wooded gorge, the Edw and the Wye and the meeting of the sweet waters* (Vol I, p60).

Sunday 27 September

Church Service at St Michaels and All Angels, Clyro at 11am, followed by an organ recital by Hilary Wetton, after which there will be a lunch in the parish hall.

If you are on email please help us to cut postage costs by sending your e-address to the Secretary at jeanbrimson@hotmail.com

Front cover: *The fly leaf and carte de visite inside the book recently donated to the Society. See news item.* Photo: Alan Brimson

Back cover: *The lake at Draycot Cerne, scene of the ice skating episodes, and of the KS September 2019 visit.* Photo: Nicholas Green

From the Editor

We celebrate *Journal* number 50 with this edition, developed from the newsletter by editor emeritus Jeff Marshall, who took it to full colour, designed for us by Jon Clucas at Warwick Printing Company. 2020 is also the 150th anniversary of the first entry in the published *Diary*, 18 January 1870. This earned Kilvert and the Society a posting on the Facebook page 'History of Wales', spotted by member Charlie Bass.

This edition of the *Journal* has been greatly enhanced by members sending me material 'in case it will be useful'. It certainly has been. Member Mary Chetwynd has sent me a 1995 press cutting about the visit of Edward West, KS Secretary between 1977 and 1995, and newsletter editor until 1999. Mr West visited the US at the age of 81 to be guest of honour at the second New England Kilvert Society Dinner at Harvard. American member Alan Seaburg wrote about the appeal of the *Diary* in his country in *Journal* 41 and noted that he had, in his capacity of emeritus curator of manuscripts at the Harvard Divinity School Library, established a collection of material relating to the Kilvert Society, including most of Edward West's correspondence with himself and his brother.

Thank you very much to members who kindly sent letters reporting their enjoyment of the last *Journal*. They were much appreciated, as will be members' continued contributions.

AGM papers are all enclosed separately in this mailing.

From the Secretary

The new paperback edition of *Kilvert's Diary* appeared in time for Christmas. Published by Penguin Random House under its Vintage Classics label, it is all of the original 1944 one volume selection by Plomer in 474 pages plus illustrations, priced at £9.99. Mark Bostridge has written a very comprehensive 18-page introduction which brings the story of Francis Kilvert alive and analyses his character and foibles in depth; then we go straight into the *Diary* itself.

The Radio 4 dramatisation of *Kilvert's Diary* was broadcast during Christmas week. There were five episodes of 15 minutes each. Although the adaptation took some minor liberties with the storyline, by and large, I thought it a fair interpretation and great publicity that should help the Society. It followed on from 'Woman's Hour', which I am led to believe has a good audience, and was repeated in the evening.

I did send out an email to remind members the programmes were to be broadcast with times etc. I was, however, surprised by the number that 'bounced' back. Please keep me informed of any changes to your email address, particularly if you did not receive the reminder.

Please find enclosed details of our weekend of the AGM seminar and annual dinner. The seminar will include a Victorian magic lantern show, presented by a very entertaining speaker. It should be a great weekend, do come and join us.

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and dates for your diary

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about Francis Kilvert

From the Chairman

There are some within our membership who would assert that we are a literary society. This has always troubled me since it begs the question: can a diary be a work of literature? Dictionary definitions of literature are so vague as to be of little practical use. Most of us, however, when we think of literature, call to mind novels, drama and poetry, which all have one thing in common: their writers consciously reinterpret the worlds upon which they focus. Dictionary definitions of what constitutes a 'diary', however, do tend to concur more helpfully on certain essential points. According to these definitions a diary is a form of autobiographical writing, differing from autobiography in its peculiarly personal and frank presentation of the writer's activities and reflections. They show their writer warts and all. Diaries, furthermore, being written exclusively for the benefit of their writers, are not produced with publication in mind. These attributes clearly apply to *Kilvert's Diary*. When Kilvert wrote in 1874 that he was keeping his *voluminous journal* in the expectation that *the record may amuse and interest some who come after me* he does not appear to be looking ahead to general publication, as was certainly the case with his poetry, but rather to a more limited readership, one presumably composed of close friends and members of his own family circle, including, of course, the children he always hoped to

have. We know, for example, that he did show selected parts of the diary to his friend Mayhew in July 1875.

What we have today in *Kilvert's Diary* is of course the product of William Plomer's skilful editing. It constitutes essentially the 'best bits' of the those parts of the diary that had already survived the scissors of Kilvert's wife, Elizabeth, who excised two extended sections of the diary in her efforts to suppress not only all mention of herself but also most references to Kilvert's relationships with Katherine Heanley and Ettie Meredith Brown. The fact that both Elizabeth and Kilvert's niece, Essex Hope, who burned all but three of the original notebooks, were so seriously concerned by the 'warts and all' elements in the diary that they employed the most drastic means to remove them is the clearest evidence of the preponderance of those elements within the whole of the diary.

If *Kilvert's Diary* does contain 'literary' qualities, as for example in his descriptions of natural scenes and places, this does not make it a work of literature. It would surely be fairer to state that, like most diaries that have come down to us, it occupies a special place outside and beyond the conventional literary canon in its unique qualities as a vehicle for the expression of genuine and directly experienced emotion. It is Kilvert the man who reveals himself through his own words in its pages. Plomer's editing has of course played its part in our assessment of the *Diary*, but ultimately it is Kilvert and not an imagined version of him that we encounter as we read it. And for that we should be thankful.

The Iron Church at Newbridge-on-Wye

While researching the Revd W.E.T. Morgan (see *Journal* 48), John Price kindly obtained for us a photograph of the Iron Church at Newbridge. It was taken by GS Venables and given to Mr Richard Meredith by Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn. We are grateful to Mr Meredith for permission to reproduce the photo.

The Iron Church was mentioned twice in the *Diary*. On Friday 7 May, 1875 Kilvert received a *bright letter from Mrs Venables full of enthusiasm and hope about a new Iron Church for Newbridge. Wrote to her about it.* (Vol 3, p181) Exactly a year later, on Sunday 7 May, 1876, he *preached twice in the beautiful little iron Church. Mr Venables read prayers in the morning and Morgan the curate in the afternoon, when there was a capital congregation.* (Vol 3, p294)



Kilvert and the Wordsworth connection: a new acquisition

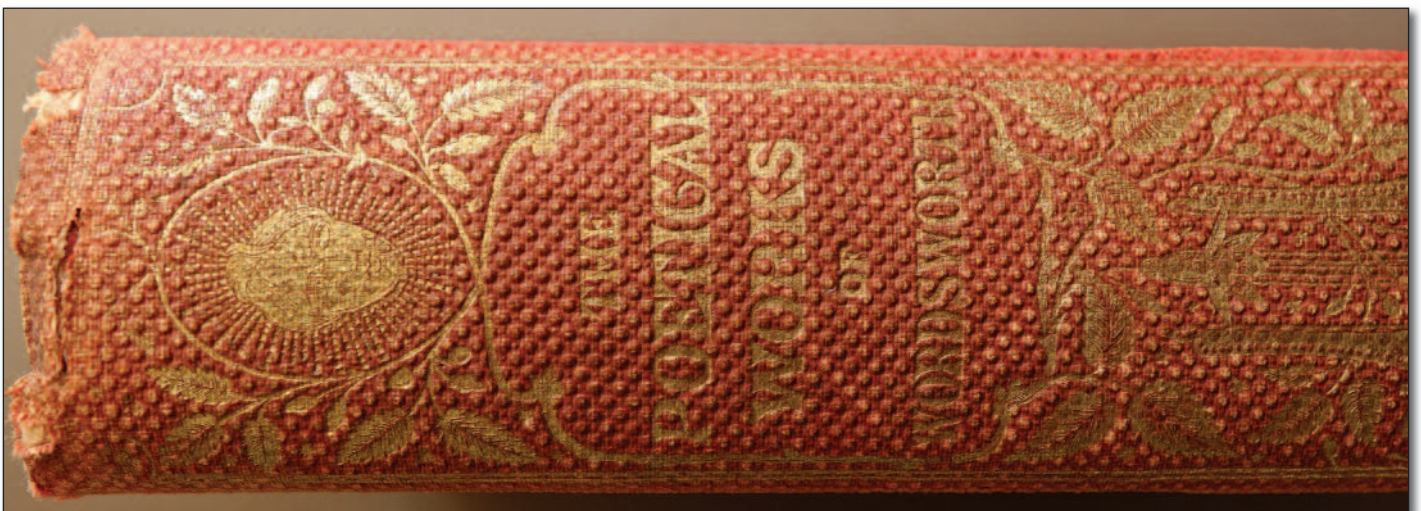
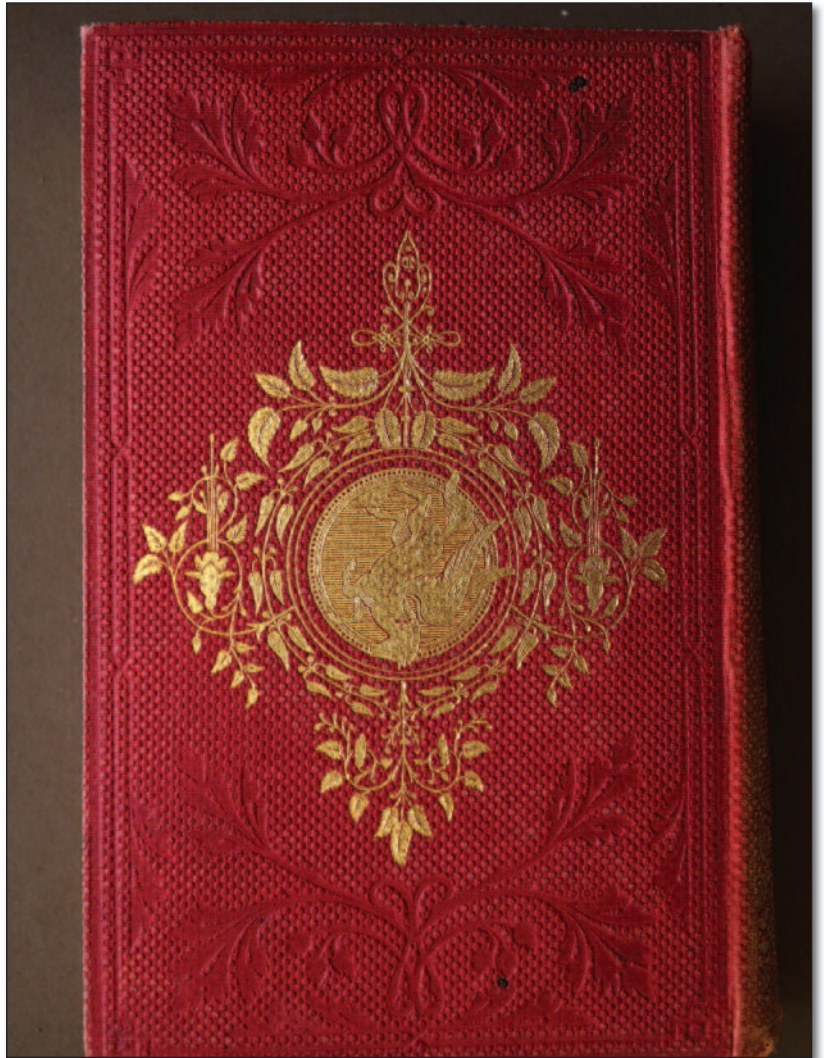
Alan Brimson reports

Last year, quite out of the blue, I received an e-mail from a gentleman offering to sell to me a book that might be of interest. The volume in question was the *Poetical Works of Wordsworth*. Unremarkable you might say, but there is an inscription on the inner flyleaf that reads ‘Thermuthis Mary Kilvert Sept 5th 1858’. Not only that, but also loose inside was a carte de visite featuring Kilvert’s sister Fanny, Frances Henrietta Kilvert. The book had been purchased originally from Noyes the bookseller of Chippenham. These details are shown in the photo on the front cover of this *Journal*.

The seller of the book found it in the remains of a book sale that had been held for a local charity in Suffolk. He had researched Kilvert via the internet which resulted in his approach to me. I gladly purchased the book, which will be donated to the Society Archive along with the carte de visite of E.L. Awdry dated 1883 purchased and donated by member Charlie Bass. The book has been placed on loan with Chippenham Museum, which also looks after our Kilvert Family Photo Album.

Mary Steele adds:

It is quite possible that Francis Kilvert handled this copy of Wordsworth’s poetry. He is known from the *Diary* to be a poetry lover and poet himself. His own association with the Wordsworth family came from his geographical closeness to Whitney-on-Wye and Brinsop when he was curate at Clyro. Mr Monkhouse, a cousin of Wordsworth’s wife Mary,



Photos: Alan Brimson

had lived at Stowe Farm, Whitney. Mr Monkhouse's niece, another Mary (1821-1900) was, at the time of the *Diary*, married to the Revd Henry Dew and living at Whitney Rectory.

The *Diary* records visits to Whitney, for example 1 April 1871 (Vol 1, p317-9), when he was invited to meet Elizabeth Hutchinson (1820-1905), niece of Wordsworth by marriage and goddaughter of Dorothy. Elizabeth's father was a farmer in Radnorshire, leasing Hindwell Farm near Evenjobb and then Brinsop Court, where William and Dorothy Wordsworth visited. On July 14, 1871, Kilvert recorded being sent a relic *very precious to me, a little poem of her aunt Dorothy Wordsworth in her own handwriting* (Vol 1, p377).

Kilvert was given his own copy of an edition of Wordsworth's complete works on 12 August 1872, when Emily and Jenny Dew

gave me a most kind and beautiful present as one of the gifts he received on leaving his Clyro curacy (Vol 2, p246).

The carte de visite is not annotated with a name, but most closely resembles Fanny. Members can compare this with the photo of Fanny in *Journals* 47 & 48.

Postscript

Another Kilvert artefact? Ann Dean has emailed: I have in my possession a bright yellow jug. I removed it from Kilvert's grave because it is bright and the PCC/Diocese can be a bit fussy about what goes on to a grave. I thought it best to remove it and hang on to it for safe keeping.

If it is yours, contact the *Journal* editor, who will put you in touch with Ann.

An Awdry family photograph

This is the carte de visite, labelled E.L. Awdry, 1883, which was found and bought by member Charlie Bass and donated to the Society. In his 'From the Secretary' piece in *Journal* 47, Alan Brimson suggested it was Edmund Awdry (Vol 1, p288). The Awdrys were an extensive family with several branches. The index to the three-volume *Diary* divides them by location,

placing Edmund in the Kington branch. There is another E. Awdry in the *Diary*, but he was E.C. Awdry, the Revd Edward Charles (1811-1903). He's worth considering; the gentleman could be wearing clerical dress. The reverse of the carte de visite is shown below: just possibly, the initials are E.C. If Edward, he would have been 72 when the photo was taken.



Photos: Alan Brimson

EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS

The September excursion: a visit to Langley Burrell and Draycot Park

by Rob Graves

Our late summer visit to Wiltshire took place on Saturday 28 September. Given that the day both began and ended with rain the group of thirty members who assembled around midday at St Peter's Church, Langley Burrell, were fortunate to experience an agreeably dry time of it. Following a packed lunch in the church, Jim Hall, our local Langley Burrell committee member, proceeded to point out several items of interest in and around the church. Jim firstly showed us the brass candle sconces fixed to the pulpit by Kilvert and his father on October 15 1872 (Vol 2, p280). Presumably this was to alleviate the problem with his eyesight that often seems to have afflicted Kilvert whilst giving his sermons and readings. Outside the church Jim pointed out two inscriptions scratched into a small window in the north wall, one giving the date December 1719 along with the words 'plumber and glazier' (perhaps a piece of early amateur advertising), while the other simply and rather mysteriously bore nothing but the date 1812. Wandering in the churchyard we were able to view the Ashe family graves, now sadly neglected, and the grave of Kilvert's parents Robert and Thermuthis. Robert Kilvert was rector of St Peter's from 1855 until his death in 1882, three years after the death of his elder son. On parting the greenery at the base of the headstone we were able to read the inscription from Hebrews 11:4: 'He being dead yet speaketh.' As most members will be aware, the same inscription appears on Francis Kilvert's own gravestone at Bredwardine.

From St Peter's Church the party went on to nearby Draycot Park, where we were met by member Reuben Couzens, who retains clear memories of Draycot House in the early twentieth century, when it would still have been much as Kilvert knew it. The house itself, the residence of the Tylney Long family, though



Draycot Cerne church



Jim Hall shows us the brass candlesticks attached by Kilvert to the pulpit at Langley Burrell church

Photos: Mike Rose

List of the Patrons & Rectors of Langley Burrell

* They which have been made Rectors many in number, none that by death may be hindered from continuing; but he, because he abideth for ever, hath his priest-hood unchangeable".

At the time of the conquest of England by William, Duke Normandy, in 1066, Langley belonged to the Saxon House, viz. King William granted it to Edward the Sheriff, Earl Salisbury. He gave in lease the Manor to a Norman, named Raul. The Rauls or Rauls were owners from about 1070 to 1300. During this time the oldest part of the existing Church was built, about 1168, in the reign of Henry II. Nothing is known of the Rectors before 1304, but the Succession Register since that date are still in existence. The parish was in the Diocese of Salisbury until 1856.

| AD | Inheritance of Kings | Patron | Rector | Notes |
|------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1304 | Edward I | John de Burell | John de Burell | * He built the Tower, about 1210, with the Incumbent as his first pastor of which his Rector was the Master of Langleyhouse. |
| 1322 | Edward II | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1343 | Edward III | Thomas de Burell | Richard de Burell | * He was an incumbent of Salisbury, 1343, in 1352 he was Rector of Langleyhouse. |
| 1349 | Edward III | John de Burell | John de Burell | * He built the Incumbent as his first pastor of which his Rector was the Master of Langleyhouse. |

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|------|------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| 1379 | Richard II | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1386 | Richard II | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1391 | Richard II | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1396 | Richard II | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1418 | Henry V | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1429 | Henry VI | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1440 | Henry VI | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1446 | Henry VI | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1449 | Henry VI | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1460 | Henry VI | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1490 | Henry VII | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1505 | Henry VIII | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1522 | Henry VIII | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
| 1537 | Charles I | John de Burell | John de Burell | |
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Reuben Couzens, our host at Draycot

Photo: Mike Rose



Fireplace and panelling in the Long private chapel

Photo: Mike Rose



By the lakeside, with resident swans

Photo: Nicholas Green

sadly demolished to cellar level in the 1950s, was in its day an extremely substantial and impressive pile. Kilvert describes its interior in some detail following his visit to the house on December 15 1873 when he was shown around by the housekeeper, Miss West. For Kilvert and his contemporaries the house seems still to have retained many of its infamous associations with the unfortunate marriage in 1812 of the heiress Miss Catherine Tylney Long to the ‘scamp’ (Kilvert’s own word), William Wellesley Pole, the nephew of the Duke of Wellington. The story of the scandal revolving round their courtship and marriage, on which Kilvert dwells with no slight relish, was covered by Mary Steele in her article ‘Kilvert and Gossip’, published in the September 2019 *Journal*.

Reuben Couzens proved to be a mine of information on the church, the house and the once vast Draycot estate. Inside the church he showed us the unusual sunken chancel containing the stone tombs of Sir Philip de Cerne and Sir Thomas Long. It seems that the latter of these tombs may have been painted in watercolours at some point in the nineteenth century, which would explain the faded traces of paint still visible on its sides. Reuben then pointed out the church’s single side transept for the Tylney Long family’s use with its fireplace and curtain rail, evidently intended for the comfort and privacy of family members during services. In the church our Secretary Alan Brimson read to us Kilvert’s description of the house subsequent to his visit in 1873 (Vol 2, p396-7). This was followed by a brief but most enjoyable organ recital and an impromptu vocal accompaniment to the organ, both given by Reuben’s wife Geraldine, the clarity of her voice affording a particularly convincing demonstration of the acoustic qualities of the building.

We next went outside to the lake on which Kilvert twice skated in December 1870, when, amongst various other mishaps recounted in the *Diary*, Maria Awdry committed the extraordinary social gaffe of addressing Kilvert’s brother Edward by his first name, and Harriet Awdry accidentally hit Lord Cowley, the then owner of Draycot House, on the shin with a carelessly discarded burning torch. Kilvert devotes several *Diary*



Old pictures of Draycot House

Photo: Mike Rose

pages to descriptions of these skating scenes, parts of which were read aloud to the assembled party at the lakeside by Alan (Vol 1, p287-291). The day concluded with a very pleasant tea at Manor Farm, Langley Burrell, the catering provided, as always, by the capable hands of Sue Rose. As we were savouring this repast Jim Hall showed us some delightful pictures by Lucy Ashe, while Reuben Couzens displayed documents relating to the Draycot Estate, both of very great interest. Finally, replete with sandwiches, sausage rolls and cake and awash with tea, we went our separate ways with lasting memories of a most worthwhile and enjoyable visit.

Note: Manor Farm was where Kilvert heard the story of Catherine Tylney Long during a *long chat with Alice Banks about old times* (Vol 2, p393). *ed.*

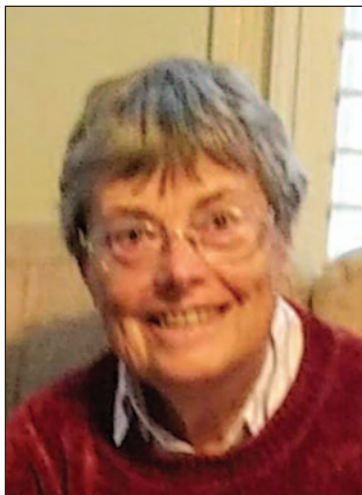


Draycot Cerne church: the sunken chancel

Photo: Mike Rose

A tale of two Richards: the Bishop of Worcester and his Chaplain

by Christine Penney



Christine Penney is librarian of the Hurd Library, Hartlebury Castle. She introduced us to the Hurd Library on our visit in April 2018 and was our speaker at the 2019 AGM

When Richard Hurd became Bishop of Worcester, in the summer of 1781, he needed a domestic chaplain. The obvious choice was the young Richard Kilvert, son of his cousin Thomas, whom he had ordained the previous year.

The relationship between Hurd and the various branches of the Kilvert family is both complicated and fascinating. Fortunately, genealogy was almost as popular a study in the late eighteenth century as it is today and the Hurd Library archives include some detailed family trees. Bishop Hurd's maternal grandparents, Richard and Mary Evans, had seven children. Their daughter Hannah married John Hurd in 1714; they were the parents of Bishop Hurd. Another daughter, Hurd's aunt Mary, married Thomas Kilvert in 1702. Their son Thomas, born in 1706, was Hurd's first cousin. He married – as his second wife – Elizabeth Caint in 1754; their two sons were Hurd's first cousins once removed. The elder was Richard, born in 1755; the younger was Francis, born in 1757. Meanwhile another of Hurd's aunts, Sarah, married William Parsons in 1712. Their son John had a daughter, Anna, who married Richard Kilvert's brother Francis (her second cousin). Their children, Hurd's first cousins twice removed, included Francis, born in 1797 (Hurd's future biographer) and Robert, born in 1803 – father of Francis, the diarist, who was thus Hurd's first cousin three times removed.

Comparatively little is known about Richard Kilvert; we have no portrait and there are no extant papers. Hurd's life, however, is very well documented. He was born in 1720, the second of three sons. His parents were Staffordshire farmers and not particularly well off, but they lavished education on the young Richard, the only one who showed intellectual promise. His elder brother, John, took up farming in Shropshire and the younger, Thomas, became a draper in Birmingham. Richard was sent to an excellent grammar school in Brewood, near Wolverhampton, and thence to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to study as a clergyman – a suitable career for a young man without private means. He

began collecting books aged only 17; two of them are in the Hurd Library. He duly took orders and held a curacy for a short time in the Norfolk village of Reymersston; but in 1742 the college offered him a fellowship and he returned to Cambridge. This appointment could be a meal-ticket for life – the only drawback was a veto on marriage. Fortunately, Hurd had no interest in romance (except when it occurred in literature). He once told a friend he shuddered at the thought of matrimony, having noticed the wives of his friends were excellent company when away from home, but tiresome in the bosom of their families and subject to all manner of ailments. So he settled down to an extremely comfortable life; but in 1749 he met the rather unpopular William Warburton, who was grateful to him for praising his edition of the works of Alexander Pope. Warburton was a good deal older than Hurd; he was also a clergyman, fancied himself as a scholar and had taken all the opportunities that came his way. These included a close friendship with Pope, who introduced him to Ralph Allen, the rich entrepreneur of Bath. Warburton married Allen's niece, who was his heir, and eventually inherited a large library which included books belonging to Pope. He was a good mentor to Hurd, encouraging him to concentrate on a clerical career, rather than stay all his life in Cambridge.

On 13 September 1755 Hurd was staying with his brother John on his farm near Shifnal. Their father was dying, slowly and painfully, of cancer at nearby Brewood; Hurd had visited him the day before and in a heart-rending letter to Warburton he described his anguish at such suffering. Four days later, on the 17th, a baby boy was baptised not far away, at Conover. This was the first son of Hurd's cousin Thomas Kilvert; he was christened Richard, perhaps in compliment to Hurd.

In 1756 Emmanuel College presented Hurd to the rich living of Thurcaston in Leicestershire. During his sixteen years there, he annoyed the villagers by replacing some of the damaged stained glass in the church with plain; but he was a conscientious and caring rector and wrote several books, the most important of which was *Letters on chivalry and romance* published in 1762. Warburton continued to be his friend; he made Hurd his chaplain when he became Bishop of Gloucester in 1759 and, later, Archdeacon of Gloucester as well. At Christmas 1764 we hear first of another Richard, who, with space for only a walk-on part in this study, deserves an article to himself: Hurd's young nephew, Dicky, the son of his brother Thomas, born in 1750. Aged 14 Dicky, who was at boarding school in Northampton, had been spending his holiday at Thurcaston Rectory with his kindly uncle, whose maid had overcome the lad's reluctance to go back to school by packing him up "a cargo of plumb cake". Little Richard Kilvert, aged 9, was probably at school too. His nephew Francis tells us that he was educated at Shrewsbury School. The archives sadly have no record for his attendance there – only scholars are listed; but on 28 September 1772, aged 17, he was admitted to Hurd's old college, Emmanuel – perhaps on Hurd's recommendation, for he, too, was to be a clergyman.

Hurd now held the prestigious post of Preacher at Lincoln's Inn in London and his sermons attracted large audiences, bringing him to the notice of King George III. In 1774 the King made him Bishop of Lichfield. Three years later Richard Kilvert graduated BA. He appears to have stayed in college for the next two years and in 1779 he was made a Fellow. It is obvious that Hurd had a hand in this. The Master of Emmanuel, Richard Farmer, wrote to him on 19 September, saying: "We are very happy in the Election of Mr Kilvert, whose merits claim'd it of us, independently of your Lordship's Recommendation". Ordination was evidently the next step. There appears to have been a problem with the Bishop of Ely, now happily resolved. Dr Farmer went on: "The difficulty with the Bishop of Ely, which your Lordship has been so kind as to speak of, was not peculiar to ourselves....The Question, my Lord, was whether a Fellowship be, or not, a general Title for Orders: & as far as I could collect from a very friendly conversation on the subject, we shall have no more hesitation about it. I believe it has been no disadvantage to Mr Kilvert, who has been well employ'd all the summer (even for his own improvement) in the Care of a Pupil, to whom I recommended him". Hurd himself ordained the young man deacon on 12 December 1779 at St George's Church, Bloomsbury. On 21 May 1780 he ordained him priest. Kilvert took his MA the same year and for the next seven years he continued to draw his salary at Emmanuel. As a Fellow he could not, of course, get married, but, as later events were to show, he did not share his bishop's attitude to matrimony.

Bishop Hurd meanwhile was enjoying a developing friendship with the Royal Family, spending Christmases at Windsor, occupying a grace and favour cottage on Kew Green, christening the occasional royal baby, preaching at the Chapel Royal (where he was once heard by James Boswell) and having his portrait painted twice by Gainsborough. Queen Charlotte, who was very fond of Hurd, kept one of them in her bedroom at Kew Palace, alongside one of her other great friend, Mrs Delany – the lady who perfected the art of cutting coloured paper to make exquisite pictures of flowers. In 1779 Warburton died, leaving a large library. His will directed it should be sold in aid of the Gloucester Infirmary. Hurd was a trustee of his will and decided to buy it, to add to his own growing collection. It cost him £350 – a fifth of his annual salary of £1,800. However, before he had

time to move it to Eccleshall, the Lichfield see house, the event which was to change the lives of both Richards occurred; in May 1781 the King promoted Hurd to the See of Worcester.

Hurd's first visit to the Worcester see house, Hartlebury Castle, immediately threw up a difficulty. The house was in rather a pickle but the overriding problem was the absence of a room large enough to hold his books, which now numbered about 3,000. This, he said, obliged him to build one. There was a useful space above the long gallery, which had only a sloping roof above it. Hurd lost no time. He found an architect, James Smith of Shifnal, whom his brother John may have known, and got him to come over to take a look. In

November 1781 Smith produced a plan and in 1782 he began building. At the end of the year it was finished.

Richard Kilvert was appointed Hurd's domestic chaplain on 6 December 1781. He was now 26 and Hurd, at 61, was more than twice his age. The bishop now had two Richards to help him. His nephew, Dicky, aged 31, became his secretary and companion and later took on the post of Diocesan Registrar. He does not appear to have attended either of the universities but he had evidently acquired considerable administrative skills and was a born antiquary. His uncle was rather dismissive of him as a scholar, writing to a correspondent in 1786: "My nephew is a good secretary but is no capable reader of so learned a work as yours". Kilvert, despite his youth, was clearly going to be a real soul-mate. His nephew Francis describes him thus in his biography of Hurd, published in 1860: "He was a man of real but unobtrusive piety, of high moral worth and great benevolence of heart. These solid qualities, aided by modest and retiring

manners, extensive acquirements and correct taste – set off by a vein of coy humour peculiarly his own – and refined by intercourse with the best society, obtained him universal respect and affection. In character and manners he much resembled his patron and friend. Like him, he shrank from indiscriminate association with the world: like him, he cultivated literature, not as a means of advancement or profit, but for its own sake, and for the great ends of mental and moral improvement: like him, he was a constant reader; and the Holy Scriptures, and classical authors, which had been the study of both from their youth, formed the delight and solace of their declining years".

Kilvert no doubt watched the building of the Hurd Library in



1782 and shared Hurd's shock at the King's proposal to make him Archbishop of Canterbury in 1783. Hurd declined graciously and the books could then be moved in. They were in wild disorder at first but a catalogue was compiled in August 1783.

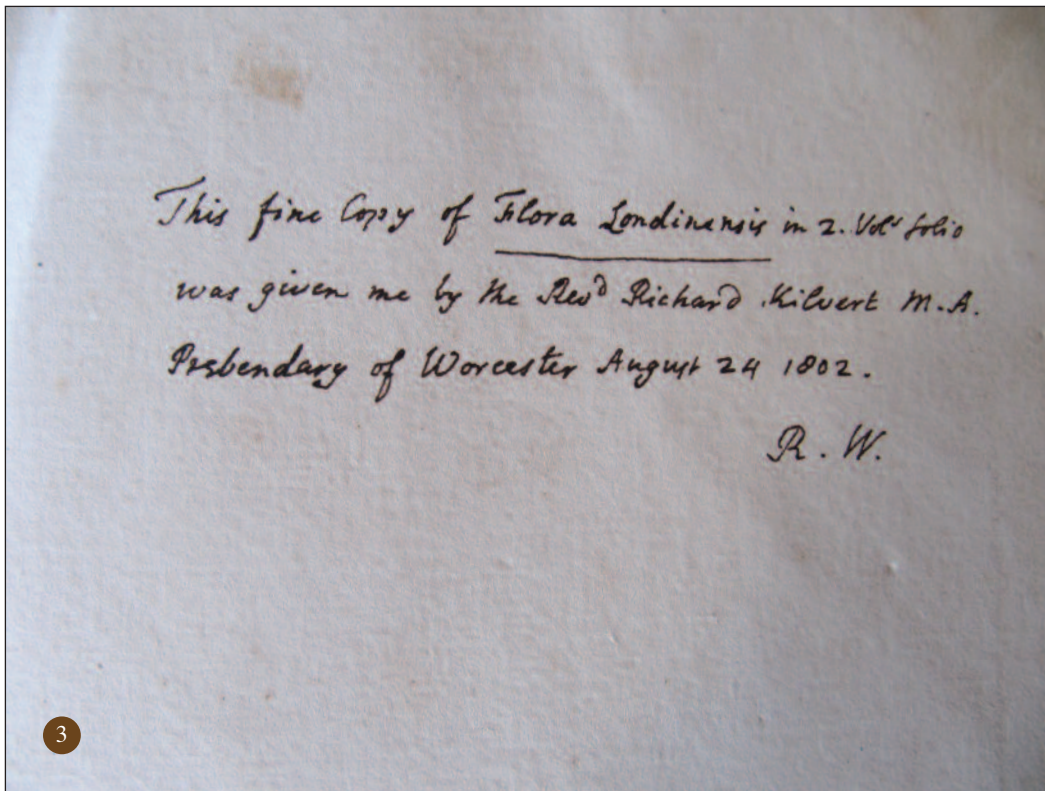
Kilvert remained on the college books at Emmanuel and received his Fellow's stipend until 1787, but he did not sign for his salary in person after 1781, so it must be assumed that he was not resident for his final six years. It is clear that Hurd was concerned about his career and anxious to get him financial security. In 1786 he succeeded. The Bishop of Salisbury wrote to him on 2 June: "Your Lordship cannot have more satisfaction in hearing than I have in communicating that your work with respect to the vacant stall in your church will be gratified. This intelligence is the result of a private conversation with which I have been honoured. With whom you will easily guess". It was, of course, the King. The stalls in Worcester Cathedral were in his gift and on 7 July Kilvert was appointed Canon and Prebendary. It is no exaggeration to say that Hurd was over the moon. To his old friend Thomas Balguy, Archdeacon of Winchester, he wrote: "You have heard of the King's favour to me and Mr Kilvert. It makes us both very happy". To the King he wrote at length on 14 June, in his usual respectful style which did not disguise his joy. "I made no fresh application to Your Majesty on the vacancy at Worcester because I was sure Your Majesty would not be unmindful of me if the season was convenient. It was therefore no surprise to me, tho' it gave me much pleasure to be informed

by the Bp of Salisbury about 10 days ago, that my wish with respect to the vacant stall in my church would be gratified... I can now no longer delay my warmest acknowledgments for this fresh mark of your bounty to me, which is the more valuable, Sir, not only as it relieves me from all difficulty in providing for my chaplain but as it satisfies my wishes and leaves me nothing more to ask for myself for the future".

The 30-year-old chaplain was now secure for life and his career illustrates the parable of the talents: "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance". Hurd was generous with benefices: Knightwick 1786-1793; Grimley 1792-1798; Alvechurch 1793-1801; Kempsey 1798- 1804; Hartlebury 1801-1817 and Harvington 1804-1813. Kilvert must have had to employ several curates. In 1787 he finally resigned his fellowship at Emmanuel. This meant he could now get married and he did so on 23 November. His wife was Maria Green. They began married life in a house on College Green to which his stall entitled him. Their only child, Frances Maria, was born in 1789.

The rest of the story for all three Richards is a pleasant one. In 1788 Kilvert and Dicky probably saw, and may both have met, the King and Queen, who visited Hurd on 2 August 1788 and took breakfast in the library. Dicky recorded the visit in a beautifully written account. His work for his uncle included making copies of his letters and he also transcribed many of his notes – very helpful to scholars as Hurd's hand is not always easily legible. He worked on the library too, adding books to the





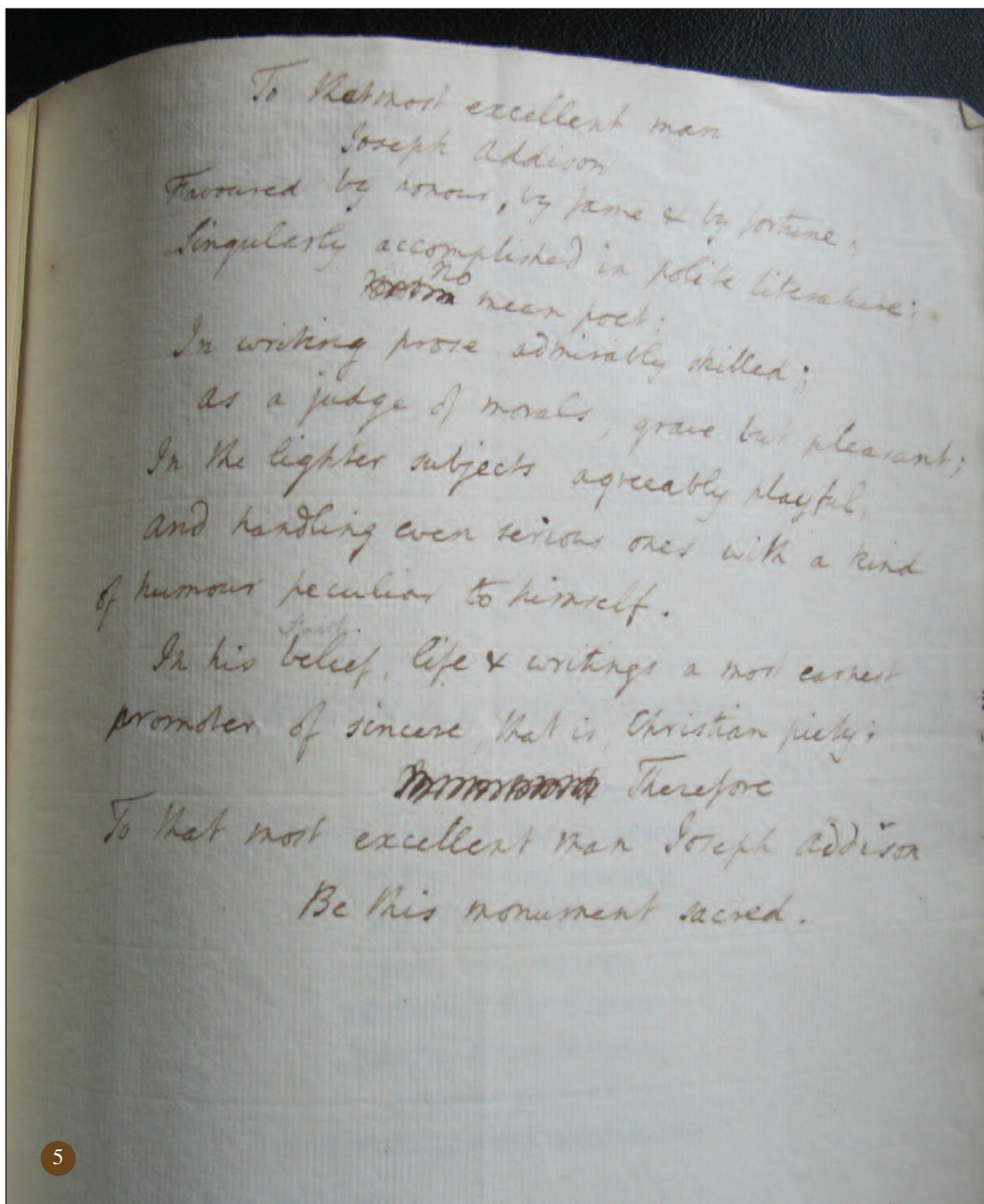
hand-coloured plates now provide funds to help its care. On becoming Rector of Hartlebury in 1801 Kilvert was able to move into the seventeenth-century rectory, built by Bishop Stillingfleet for his son Edward. His nephew Francis records staying there with him, sitting in the rectorial pew in the village church on Sundays and being greeted there by Hurd. In 1807 the Prince of Wales visited Worcester. Hurd, now aged 87, was too infirm to greet him there so Kilvert deputised for him, and possibly met the prince when he visited Hurd a few days later. Hurd died in May 1808 and was succeeded by Ffolliot Cornwall. Kilvert gave two more books to the library in

catalogue and often inserting pages of notes into the volumes of local history – all now a treasure trove for modern scholars. Kilvert's love of the library and of learning was demonstrated in a number of valuable and well-chosen gifts, adding to the extraordinary variety of its contents. The first two arrived only a week after he received his stall – Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, 1656, and Stephanus's *Thesaurus graecae linguae*, 1572. In 1789 he gave Henry Baker's *The microscope made easy*, 1743, and in 1797 Parkhurst's *Hebrew and English lexicon*, 1792. His finest gift came in 1802 – William Curtis's magnificent *Flora Londinensis*, 1777-1798. This is the most beautiful book in the library and cards showing its



Images from the Hurd Library collection are reproduced by kind permission of the Bishop of Worcester and the Church Commissioners.

1. Hand coloured engraving of the anemone in William Curtis's *Flora Londinensis*, 1777-1798.
2. Rectory house and church at Hartlebury, 1802. Watercolour by Louisa Lucas, Bishop Hurd's great-niece.
3. Bishop Hurd's inscription in William Curtis's '*Flora Londinensis*', 1777-1798, donated by Richard Kilvert in 1802.
4. The Hurd Library today. Photo: Christine Penney
5. Manuscript of Richard Kilvert's translation of Hurd's memorial to Joseph Addison, 1815.



1809: John Hooper's *Declaration of the x. holic commandments*, 1550 and William Habington's *Historie of Edward the fourth*, 1640. Both these books contain neatly written notes on the fly-leaves, almost certainly by Kilvert. In the library we have the only definite example of his handwriting, certified by Dicky in 1815 – a translation of a Latin memorial to Joseph Addison, composed by Hurd in 1805. Bishop Cornewall's chaplain died in 1813 and he gave the post to Kilvert, together with the parish of Cropthorne.

Kilvert died, aged only 62, in Hartlebury Rectory on 15 December 1817. The notice of his death in *The Gentlemen's Magazine* lists his posts as sub-dean and senior prebendary of Worcester, Rector of Hartlebury and Vicar of Cropthorne. He was buried in the cloister garth of the cathedral, in a grave marked by a flat tombstone, joined by his wife in 1859 and his daughter in 1870. The latter's rather bizarre funeral is recorded in Francis Kilvert's *Diary* (Vol 1, p 270-4). He also comments on her will, describing it as *A most iniquitous will, not a shilling was left to any of the Francis Kilverts, the old grudge and malice against Uncle Francis for writing Bishop Hurd's life ruling strong in death*. He does not explain the grudge, but the concluding

sentence of the handsome tribute to Richard Kilvert in Uncle Francis's biography, quoted above, may do so: "In one point they differed – that Mr Kilvert's varied stores of information expired with him, never having been communicated to the world". His devoted daughter may well have taken this as a slight, but it would be a pity if it remained the final word on this unassuming and scholarly man, who made his bishop's last years so happy. They must often have sat in the library together, at the table in the bow window where George III had eaten breakfast, looking west over the lake in the evening sunshine – discussing diocesan business and sharing their love of the books which were to make the Hurd Library such an outstanding survival of the Age of Enlightenment.

Note

Diana Clutterbuck's article on Richard's daughter, Frances Maria, in *Journal* 41 was the inspiration for this study of him. I am grateful to Diana for her generous help with the Kilvert genealogy.

‘...my dear nurse Abodie...’

‘For Words like Nature half reveal, And half conceal the Soul within’

Margaret Collins reflects upon a figure from the Diary who is only twice mentioned, but who was important to Kilvert

Sweet Harden Ewyas, in all my wanderings I have seen no spot lovelier than thee....My old home, mine own dear home...In this *Diary* entry for Saturday, 9 May 1874 (Vol 2, p445) Kilvert speaks of his beloved childhood home at Hardenhuish. There follows a poetic and impassioned *cri de coeur*:

O that I could make thee famous in song/O that where my cradle was there my grave might be/O that one peaceful happy day I might rest in thy sweet arms/O that the little child after his weary pilgrimage might come home at last and rest beside Abodie's grave.

The published *Diary* has only two references to Kilvert's nurse Abodie. A footnote to Vol 2, p445 tells only that 'it was the name or nickname of the woman who nursed Kilvert when he was a child'. This first reference to her stands alone and has no context, the entries for 7 and 8 May not having been included by William Plomer. We can never know what brought on this rush of sentiment and nostalgic longing. However, it can be interesting to examine the entries for the days immediately before a particular *Diary* event for any hints that shed a light or possibly offer some insight into Kilvert's frame of mind at the time. The days preceding this striking *Diary* entry were indeed eventful.

On *Thursday, May Eve* (Vol 2, p437) Kilvert records his long-anticipated meeting with the poet William Barnes which *will always be a happy and memorable day in my remembrance*. We have a full account of this visit that was clearly a highlight. The next day is *Friday, May Day* on which Kilvert receives a letter from my dear young dragoon Frank Vincent who reports that he is not having much success in implementing Kilvert's pastoral advice *to do right*, which has caused him to become a laughing-stock in the barracks. Later that day Kilvert, still buoyed up by his meeting with William Barnes, is in conversation with his father and tells him of his wish to publish a book of his own poetry but *He rather discourages the idea*. It was this response which led me to suggest that Robert Kilvert was author of the anonymous preface to the volume of Kilvert's poetry 'Musings in Verse' published as the family's tribute after his death; a copy owned by his sister Thermuthis and inscribed by her as being a gift 'from dearest Lizzy', Kilvert's widow, had briefly come into my possession (*Journal* 41).

Saturday, May Morrow sees a visit to Mr and Mrs Austin at Peckingell who told Kilvert of doings in the parish which *drew aside a veil from my eyes and showed me in what an atmosphere and abyss of wickedness we are living and how little many people are to be trusted whom we thought respectable and good*. This conversation surely left Kilvert shaken. Its lingering effect may have informed the next entry a couple of days later on *Wednesday, 6 May* as Kilvert implores God's Great Mercy as he struggles with being *tied and bound with the chain of my sin*....as ever with such references, Kilvert does not elaborate on the nature of the sin. Later while passing down Cocklebury Lane, he

espies a pretty girl sitting in a stationary carriage as she briefly primps her little hat and coiffure. *The old, old story, ca ira*.

The second reference to Abodie comes on *Saturday, 15 April. Easter Eve* 1876. This follows a significant gap in the *Diary* from 9 September 1875 until March 1, 1876 encompassing Kilvert's developing friendship with the *beautiful* and fashionable Ettie Meredith Brown. Kilvert was smitten at their first meeting on 6 September 1875 (Vol 3, p229) when Ettie and her sister came to afternoon tea at Langley Burrell Rectory followed by croquet. However, Ettie's family strongly disapproved of the relationship which soon became a clandestine affair with retrospective references to *All the Bournemouth memories of last December... and those wild sweet sad trysts in the snow* (Vol 3, p246). By the time the *Diary* resumes in March 1876 family pressure meant that the romance was doomed.

Again, the preceding entries give some clue to the immediate background at this time (Vol 3, p255-6). Most notably on *Thursday 13 April* the Kilverts' former neighbours from Langley Lodge, the young couple Emma and William Hockin, came to stay at Langley Burrell Rectory until Saturday on their way home from seeing the University Boat Race. They attended church on *Good Friday, 14 April* to the delight of many local people who remembered them. Kilvert's memories of his idyllic Cornish holiday at their home 'Tullimaar' in the summer of 1870 and his undoubted attraction to the engaging Emma Hockin, of which she was not unaware, were surely vividly rekindled as he notes how *fair and bright and young she looks....and those bright blue eyes as quick and sly and merry as ever*. The Hockins took their leave of the Kilvert family on the very day that Kilvert *posted a long letter and a MS book of my poems to dear Ettie*. Plomer adds an editor's note: 'After a busy day Kilvert walks over to Harnish with a basket of flowers.' Kilvert is in reflective mood as he contemplates the beauty of the setting sun on the *dear old Rectory, my birthplace and the home of my childhood*. No-one else had yet been to flower the graves in readiness for Easter Day; *I laid the primrose crosses upon the 4 graves, of my grandmother, my dear nurse Abodie, and the two little children*. To compound what must have been an emotional few days, earlier that evening Kilvert had received a letter from Ettie containing *two such sad sweet little verses, beginning When shall we meet again*. He walks over to the iron seat under the southern wall of the church and there, in the gloaming, he takes the verses from his pocket and reads them again. Their meaning is unclear, making him feel *strangely unhappy*. He has just placed flowers on Abodie's grave and it is quite possible that his childhood love and longing for his nurse Abodie welled up at this time of despair and uncertainty. Five days later on 20 April Kilvert received *from my darling Ettie, a tender beautiful letter of farewell*. Enclosed is a *kind friendly note* from young Mrs Meredith Brown, informing him that further communication with Ettie must cease.

My dear nurse Abodie was undoubtedly a significant presence during Kilvert's formative early years. At the time of the *Diary*

references to her, Kilvert's parents were both in good health but it is interesting to note that on Saturday, 9 May 1874 his thoughts turned not to his parents but to the love and security he experienced as a small child with his nurse Abodie.

Many years ago in February 2008, the KS spent an interesting day on a tour of Chippenham. Having travelled down the previous day Geoff and I spent some time in the churchyard of St Nicholas' Church, Hardenhuish looking at the graves. Anna Kilvert's was on the left near the road but many of the old graves were pretty indecipherable due to weathering on that exposed hillside. At that time we were hoping to solve the mystery of Abodie's identity. During our lunch break on the tour I asked at the museum about the burials at Hardenhuish and was directed to the newly opened Wiltshire and Swindon History centre nearby. Staff were helpful and forwarded to me two copies of the original burial records for the relevant period. This was in the days before

it is very difficult to read. The manuscript first page of Kilvert's *Cornish Diary* is reproduced in Frederick Grice's book 'Francis Kilvert and his World' (between pp 118/9) where it can be seen that Kilvert had a curious habit of dotting the letter 'e' and this is confirmed in the introduction to the *Cornish Diary*. It is seen on the words *Chippenham/passengers/green/seen/river/being/they*. I first noticed this peculiarity some years ago where Kilvert refers to seeing what has been transcribed as *the dim sea* through the train window. Surely it's meant to read 'clear'? On page 17 of 'Kilvert's Cornish Diary', showing the manuscript (illustration 8), Kilvert seemingly refers again to *the dim blue sea* when the actual entry for Friday, 29 July 1870 page 74, refers to *a glorious view back over the beautiful blue St Ives Bay*. Additionally, Captain Parker's name appears to read 'Parkin' – none of which helps when thinking about the name 'Abodie' and the subject was reluctantly set aside.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| James [unclear] No. 101. | Hardenhuish | April 28 | 29 years | Rev. Madley Rector |
| John Strange No. 102. | Hardenhuish | December 9 th | 56 years | Rev. Madley Rector |
| Elizabeth Hatherell No. 103. | Folly Hardenhuish | December 26 th | 42 years | Rev. Madley Rector |
| 1865 Sarah Shergold No. 104. | Hardenhuish | March 2 nd | 37 years | Rev. Madley Rector |

The burial record for Elizabeth Hatherell

Photo: courtesy of Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre

Ancestry made such records widely available online. I forwarded one to my Kilvert penfriend, Mrs Teresa Williams, with whom I have had the privilege and pleasure of corresponding for many years after first being put in touch by the late Mr R.B. (Ray) Taylor. Teresa's remarkable research sheds much light on matters related to Kilvert's *Diary*. She is also a highly respected researcher in other areas of historical interest and we correspond by letter and e-mail. I shared the few notes I had been able to make with regards to the graves in the churchyard and we discussed them but there were too many 'possibles' and not enough evidence to identify Abodie. It could have been a child's attempt to say her name or Kilvert's pet-name for his nurse, or it could have been wrongly transcribed. Despite exchanging many thoughts, Abodie remained elusive.

Kilvert's handwriting cannot be overlooked in the matter for

Recently, I was reading the *Diary* last thing at night as I have done for many years. It was the Bredwardine section which always seems to have a somewhat melancholy undertone and I have pondered the reasons for this at some length in past KSJ articles. However, what I did notice was that when Kilvert visited the Westhorps at Ilston Rectory the tone is markedly lighter as Kilvert is enjoying his time away from Bredwardine and there *was great fun and famous laughing*. On 16 October (Vol 3, p427) he mentions *sweet Annie Mitchell*. Next day on 17 October, she is *Carrie* and on 19 October *I parted from all my dear kind friends and looked my last in sweet Corrie Mitchell's lovely blue eyes...* In this extract an A and a C had both been transcribed for the same girl.

Having read this, I began thinking of the transcribing of 'Abodie' which Teresa Williams and I had discussed at length by

letter more than ten years ago. I found the Hardenhuish burial records, wondering if perhaps there was a Clara or similar, but there was not. I found a note I had written by the name Elizabeth HATHERELL buried on December 26th 1864 aged 42 years 'Is this Abodie?' So this name was one of those we discussed.

This sent me to Emily Wyndowe's 'Rambling Recollections' and on page 89 I had again underlined the name where Emily says 'The first nurse I recollect was Eliza Hatherell, or Hadrell as it was sometimes spelt...' 'Elizabeth Hatherell was born in 1822 and would have been 18 when Kilvert was born. She lived locally and it would appear that she did not marry. She later entered the service of the Meek family at Devizes.' I still have the copy of Bogatzkeys' Golden Treasury which Eliza brought me as a present one day when she came over with the Meeks'. This book choice makes me think that Eliza was a discerning person who judged that Emmie was able to appreciate such a book during her early years because she had known her beyond babyhood. However, I do find it rather curious that despite Emily's Wyndowe's keen eye and ear for detail, she makes no mention of the name 'Abodie'. Eliza's place in the nursery was taken by my namesake Margaret Collins, later the cook, who it seems was dismissed by Mrs Kilvert after an altercation about scrubbing the kitchen table (!). Emmie and the children were very fond of Margaret and she of them. Emmie and Dora stayed in touch for the rest of Margaret's life and she would sometimes do work for them both.

Kilvert was born in December 1840 and Emily was born on 8 October 1842, so there was less than two years between them. Is it possible Elizabeth Hatherell was the nurse that Emily remembered because she was her nurse too? If it was indeed Elizabeth Hatherell she would have played a vital role in Kilvert's formative early years and his outpouring of nostalgic longing at her memory indicates she was important to him as an early 'attachment' figure, as we would say today. In his outpouring for *Sweet Harden Ewyas*, Kilvert says *O that the little child after his weary pilgrimage might come home at last and rest beside Abodie's grave*. If Kilvert recalls her as a *little child* then surely Emmie would remember her as well? Maybe *Abodie* was the infant Kilvert's attempt to say Elizabeth or Betty? I do wonder if hers were the first pair of beautiful eyes he fell in love with. Far from being 'Rambling', Emmie's recall appears very sharp throughout her memoir.

Hardenhuish Church's website helpfully lists burials alphabetically. It now says 'None-rec' for the location of Elizabeth Hatherell's grave, so my attempts to find it all those years ago would never have succeeded. It occurred to Geoff and me, sitting on Kilvert's iron bench in the churchyard after the KS Draycot outing 2019, that perhaps the Hatherell family, having paid for the burial, could not afford a headstone. I mentioned this in an email to Teresa Williams who replied: 'The Elizabeth Hatherell grave is a puzzle but I have found it not unusual for servants and the thousands of agricultural labourers not to have a headstone.'

Kilvert would have been 24 when Elizabeth Hatherell died, well before he started to write his *Diary*. It is curious that there is no further reference to Abodie in the published *Diary*, but then so much has been lost. Other Hatherells are listed in the index and it is interesting to note that a Charlotte Hatherell was nurse to Emmie's children when they lived with their grandparents at Langley Burrell Rectory. From the three brief mentions of her it seems she was a trusted servant of the family. On *Monday, 8 May 1871* Kilvert and Dora went to the station *to meet my Mother and*

the children. The train came in as we reached the platform. The children arrived with my mother and Charlotte Hatherell in good form, Katie especially... (Vol 1, p330). On New Year's Day 1873 Charlotte sat with Katie and the Monk on a special pew for children in the chancel at Keren Wood's wedding. She was still employed in November 1874:- *Charlotte Hatherell the children's nurse is gone home across the Common this evening to see her sick father* (Vol 3, p114).

We will never know for sure the identity of Abodie. Nonetheless, what we do know with certainty is that she was very important indeed to a little boy growing up in the bustling household at Hardenhuish Rectory during the early 1840s.

THE GRAVES OF THE TWO LITTLE CHILDREN

In the Society's Newsletter for June 1991, there was a fascinating article by Teresa Williams entitled 'The Graves of the Two Little Children; more thoughts on Hardenhuish.' In his book 'Francis Kilvert and his World (p14) Frederick Grice lists the birth dates of the 6 Kilvert children and adds 'Kilvert refers mysteriously to a fifth sister who seems to have died young...and, more mysteriously, to the graves of two children who may have been members of the family but no trace of these is to be found in the genealogy...nor is there any mention of them in the Hardenhuish parish registers.'

The identity of the 'little sister' is a mystery, correspondence with Teresa Williams suggesting that maybe she was a playmate, a relative, a 'sister' in the wider religious sense, or even a little girl who had died while visiting the Rectory. The single passing reference to her in the published *Diary* is the entry for Christmas Eve 1878 (Vol 3, p442) when Kilvert visited Margaret Davies following the death of her son Little Davie – *I never saw death look so beautiful ... I stooped and kissed the child's forehead...it brought back the sudden shock that I felt when as a child was taken into a room at Hardenhuish Rectory where our little sister lay dead and was told to touch her hand*.

In 2010, having studied the Hardenhuish Burial Records, Teresa Williams wrote:

'You will remember our long written discussions about The Two Little Children buried in Hardenhuish churchyard: I wonder if you might consider whether the two babies mentioned below could possibly qualify to be the Two Little Children? Remember that both William Henry Colborne and Francis Spencer were friends of the Kilvert family as well as being their medical attendants. After WHC's death in 1869 Francis Spencer became their main medical adviser.

On checking the Burial Register entries (of which you kindly sent me copies) I noticed on page 12 a burial is listed for 'BEATRICE FRANCES COLBORNE' of Chippenham, who died aged One Month and was buried on 14th November 1857, with a grave plot number of S8. The officiating minister was the Revd Alexander Headley, Rector of Hardenhuish. Beatrice was the daughter of William Henry Colborne M.D.

On the previous page of burials at Hardenhuish, i.e. page 11, there is one listed for 'JESSIE HOMES SPENCER' also of Chippenham, who died aged Five Weeks and was buried on 5th June 1856, with a grave plot of N11. The officiating minister was the Reverend Alexander Headley, then the Curate of Hardenhuish. The baby was the daughter of Francis Spencer Esq., and according to a notice in *The Devizes and Wilts Gazette* of Thursday 1st May 1856, was born on 28th April 1856 at Chippenham.

No Birth notice could be found for the Colborne child nor was there a Death notice found for either baby in any of the Wiltshire newspapers still available to readers at Colindale.

The Diarist would have heard of the two deaths, having moved only recently from Harnish to Langley Burrell. He would have been fifteen and a half years old in 1856 and sixteen and half years of age in 1857, and knowing how deeply he felt about his former home, I am sure he was keen to hear all the latest news.

Not having access to the Burial Register when I wrote my article on 'The Two Little Children' in the June 1991 Newsletter, I know I came to a different conclusion, but part of this was based on whether the three Birth notices for the infant born to Mrs Robert Kilvert on 25th February 1844, were relevant to the mystery of *our little sister*.'

REFERENCES

- Frederick Grice *Francis Kilvert and his world* (Caliban, 1982)
Richard Maber and Angela Tregoning (eds) *Kilvert's Cornish Diary* (Alison Hodge, 1989)
Emily Wyndowe *Rambling Recollections* (in *More Chapters from the Kilvert Saga*, Kilvert Society)

Note

The title quote is from Tennyson 'In Memoriam', Canto V.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Kilvert's Draycot



Geraldine Couzens plays the organ for members at Draycot Cerne church, September 2019

Photo: Mike Rose

Draycot Cerne was the venue for the summer commemoration service in 1989. In those days, members travelled by coach from Hereford – the coach driver got lost and the churchwarden set off on his bike to find the congregation. 'The contribution of the lady organist must be mentioned', wrote KS Secretary Edward West in the August 1989 newsletter. 'Her firm lead obtained very hearty singing of the hymns and canticles'. Could the organist have been Geraldine Couzens, who played the organ for us during our September 2019 visit (see p 7)?

'Kilvert's Draycot' was the title of an article by Swindon member Sidney Ball in the May 1989 newsletter. In it, he traced a family link between the Longs of Draycot and the Diarist. 'I end with a descendant of the Longs who has brought us together – FRANCIS KILVERT. Yes, although he did not know it, Francis was descended from the family in which he showed so much interest. In the sixteenth century, Sir Robert Long of Wraxhall and Draycot married Barbara Carne of Eweny in Glamorganshire. Their daughter Anne Long married Sir Thomas Snell of Kington St Michael. Kilvert was eighth in line of descent from Anne and Sir Thomas'.

Tom Williams – one of Kilvert’s closest clerical friends

The Revd Prebendary Thomas Williams, Vicar of Llowes and Rural Dean of Hay (1834–1915)

by John Price

Thomas was born in 1834, educated at Sherborne and Oriel College Oxford, graduating in 1856. After ordination the following year, he became a curate in Monmouth for two years and was appointed vicar of Llowes in 1859 following his elder brother the Revd Garnons Williams who had been the vicar of Llowes for the previous six years.¹ In 1861, Garnons Williams inherited the Abercamlais estate, Brecon. The current vicarage house seems to have been called ‘Sunnybank’.

CENSUS 1861

Sunnybank. Llowes

Thomas Williams – Head – Unm. – 26 – Vicar of Llowes,
Llandewy – Monmouth, Llanvapley

Sarah Watkins – Serv – Widow – 34 – Housekeeper –
Monmouth, Llanarth

Curtis Harris – Serv – Unm – 15 – Groom – Radnorshire,
Glasbury

CENSUS 1871

Sunnybank. Llowes

Thomas Williams – Head – Unm. – 35 – Vicar of Llowes –
Monmouth, Llanvapley

Llewelyn Lloyd – Boarder – Unm. – 28 – Curate of Llowes –
Denbeigh, Ruthin³

Sarah Watkins – Serv. – W – 44 – General Serv, Dom. –
Monmouth, Llanarth

In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson’s *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described Llowes: LLOWES, a parish in the district of Hay and county of Radnor; on the river Wye, at the boundary with Brecon, and on the Hereford and Brecon railway, 3 miles SW by W of Hay. Post town, Hay, under Hereford. Acres, 3,319. Real property, £3,127. Pop, 324. Houses, 69. The property is divided among a few. The living is a vicarage, united with the vicarage of Llanddewi-Vach, in the diocese of St David’s. Value, £132. Patron, the Archdeacon of Brecon. The church is very good.⁴

Llowes School Log book entries, show that Tom Williams was very active from 1868 until the log book ended in the early 1900’s.⁵

1867 Friday 11 October ‘Her Majesty’s Inspector & the Rev Kilvert of Clyro School at 11.15 AM’

1868 Monday 16 November ‘Rev T Williams, Vicar visited the school and inspected the work of the classes.’



Llowes church and school

Photo: John Price

'Afternoon, Rev T. Williams and Rev L. Lloyd visited school.' (Curate Llewelyn Lloyd frequently took the school for Scripture).

1868 22 November, the school's teacher 'Received intelligence of the death of my brother and Aunt. Rev T. Williams called and kindly made arrangements with the daughter of the Parish clerk to take charge of the school for a few days to enable me to go home.'

1869 3 March, Rev T. Williams 'took the First class to reading' and 5 March 'took the second and third class to spelling.'

Tom Williams was still very active in the school reading Scripture in the first decade of the 1900's.

An early mention of Kilvert and Tom Williams together was at the Hay Choral Society concert, reported in the *Hereford Times* on 8 May 1866, though Kilvert was listed as 'Rev G Kilbert'. They were both listed again in the *Brecon County Times* on 19 May 1866, Kilvert as 'Kilvest' this time.

The first mention of the Revd Tom Williams in Kilvert's *Diary* appears on Thursday 7 April 1870:

I met a Llowes woman coming to deposit money very leisurely having understood from Tom Williams that Savings Bank office hours were from 2 till 4, instead of 1 till 2. (Vol 1, p82)

Kilvert and Tom Williams met regularly, socially and on clerical business.

May Eve, Saturday: *At 2.30 went out for a ride with Morell. Rode Gipsy, the grey mare, as Mr Venables had told me I might exercise her. We went to Llowes, called on Tom Williams but he was not at home. Then rode to Glasbury, past Woodlands.* (The *Diary Of Francis Kilvert* April – June 1870 ed Dafydd Ifans, p10)

Friday 6 May 1870: *I took to Crowther's pool an order for Charles Williams of Crowther to be an outpatient for Brecon infirmary which I got from Tom Williams of Llowes for him.* (The *Diary Of Francis Kilvert* April – June 1870 ed Dafydd Ifans, p27)

Friday 13 May 1870 *Found Tom Williams at his house and went down with him to the school. The school soon filled with local dignitaries and music and singing was enjoyed. The concert lasted 7 till 9.30. Then some of the people drove away, and the people who had been singing and Williams' own friends came up to his house for supper. After the meal Mr E. Williams of Maes y garn made a speech proposing the Vicar's health, a strange laborious hammering speech in which no two words were strung or joined together in any good way. At the end of it he (gravely and as if it were a grand triumph of oratory) proposed also 'the health of Mrs Williams in embryo'. It nearly killed me and poor Williams did not know which way to look. After this, knowing that the choir people and the more humble singers were waiting to come into the room and have their suppers, and thinking perhaps that Williams would feel some delicacy about suggesting a move, I rose again and proposed that we should adjourn to the drawing room.* (Vol 1, p131-134)⁶

Monday 16 May: *Morell drove down and picked me and my luggage up at 7.30 and drove me to the station... Pope joined me at the station at Hay and travelled with me as far as Gloucester. I told him the story of Mrs Tom Williams in embryo being proposed and it nearly put an end to him. He suggested that the future Mrs Tom Williams had a long time to wait.* (Vol 1, p135-136)

On Saturday June 11 1870, Kilvert walked with his brother Perch to Llowes. Williams and Lloyd were just finishing dinner. They took us for a walk on Bryn-yr-hydd Common through the wild walnuts and the oak grove. A dead jackdaw lay on the grass among the young fern — a very aged jackdaw with a hoary head. On turning him over two ugly carrion beetles, one very large,

crawled from the dead bird. These beetles seemed to be old acquaintances of Perch who recognized them immediately as the wailing beetle or Necrophorus sepulcor.

A wild dark threatening sky and gloomy awful clouds rolled along the mountain tops. The valley lay in murky twilight, but even this could not extinguish the beauty of sweet Glasbury or rob it of its dear memories and associations. Through the dark valley wound the S of the Wye like a silver serpent in the gloom. The castle towers and turrets crowned the slopes westward, the battlements peeping over the trees. We stood and talked for some time looking at the view from a bank near Bryn-yr-hydd till it grew dusk and chilly and then we returned over the common through the fern. Williams was most hospitable and made us stay to supper and we did not get home till late. The warm night scented with wild roses. (The *Diary Of Francis Kilvert* June – July 1870 ed Dafydd Ifans, p2-3)

Saturday 14 October 1871: *Tom Williams came over to dine with us and talked to my Father about the old Oriel days.* (Vol 2, p32-33) He also gave Kilvert an introduction to a contact in St David's where Kilvert and his father were about to travel.

Tuesday 17 October 1871, at St David's Head: *A gleam of sunshine shot across the green sea and a mile or more out from the Head the sea was breaking in white fringes of foam on the dangerous treacherous black rock 'the Bishop and his clerks', the rocks to which Tom Williams' grandfather, Archdeacon Davies of Brecon, used to swim out and to which he challenged the then Bishop of St David's to swim with him for a wager one day when they were both walking together along the shore. Later on, Kilvert and his father visited Canon Thomas. We were shown into the drawing room and I sent in my card upon which I had written 'a friend of the Rev Thomas Williams, Vicar of Llowes, Radnorshire', as Tom Williams had told me I might call on the Canon and mention his name. Presently a venerable old white-haired man came into the room. He told me he had once been Vicar of Aberedw.* (Vol 2, p63-67)

Friday 3 November 1871: *Called at Cae Mawr for the first time for a fortnight, went on to Llowes and found Tom Williams just come in from a parochial walk. I agreed to stay and dine with him as he said it would be a mercy to him, and we went first for a walk to Brynrydd.*

We leaned upon the iron railing of the bridge over the deep and beautiful dingle of the Afon and watched the grey brook leaping in white foam falls down the ravine overhung by trees and rocks. After dinner we went to the Choir practice at the Church. It was very cold and Williams lent me a thick coat which I was very glad of. Afterwards...A dark walk home at 10 o'clock in drizzling rain and cold East wind. A cheerful light burnt steadily from Wye Cliff as I have seen it burn for 7 years in my walks home from Llowes at night. (Vol 2, p79-80)

Monday 13 November 1871: *Tom Williams of Llowes, Pope and Clouston dined with me this evening. Mrs Venables sent some soup from the Vicarage and we had a leg of mutton roasted and a couple of boiled chickens and bacon and a brace of pheasants from Llysdyman, an apple pie and an apricot jam tart.* (Vol 2, p86).

The social round resumes, in the *Diary*, the following Spring.

Saturday 9 March 1872: *At noon Tom Williams drove over from Llowes and we walked down to the Dolau to a picnic luncheon by the river that Morell had invited us to.* (Vol 2, p147)

Tuesday 12 March 1872: *Called on Esther Rogers. Speaking of Tom Williams the Vicar of Llowes she said he was 'mild as a dove and as humble as the grave'.* (Vol 2, p148)

Monday, Midsummer Day 1872 *In the afternoon Tom Williams came and carried me off to Llowes to dine with him...At dinner he told the following story. A soldier who did not want to go to church told his officer that he was neither Catholic nor Protestant, Church of England nor Presbyterian, nor Dissenter. The officer asked what he did belong to. The soldier said he belonged to the Yarmouth Bloaters. He meant the Plymouth Brethren.* (Vol 2, p217)

Wednesday 3 July 1872 *Tom Williams of Llowes and I had long been talking of going up to Llanbedr Hill to pay a visit to the eccentric solitary, the Vicar, and we arranged to go this morning...Tom Williams was on horseback, I on foot. As we mounted the hill, beautiful views of mountains and valley opened gleaming behind us, and Tom Williams pointed out to me some of the Llowes farmhouses scattered over the hills.* There follows one of the most famous and popular entries from the *Diary*, the visit to the Revd John Price, the 'Solitary'. (Vol 2, p223-231) This extract shows that Tom Williams was not as practical as Kilvert:

The Solitary and his landlord and a little boy, the son of the landlord, began loading and piling the peats upon the gambo first removing the outer turves which had been thrown over the rest to keep them dry. I helped the hermit in loading his mawn while Tom Williams looked on with a benevolent smile.

That August, Kilvert left Clyro to help his Father at Langley Burrell, returning the following March to take charge of the parish for three weeks. On Tuesday March 4 1873, *How natural it seemed to be going about the village and teaching at the school as usual. I seem to fall into all my own ways as if I had never been away. After school I went to Clyro Court and saw Mrs Baskerville and Miss Edith. Dined at Cae Mawr and met Tom Williams.* (Vol 2, p331)

That Autumn, Kilvert was again visiting Radnorshire. On Thursday 3 October, *Mrs Venables' birthday. She returns this evening to Llysdimam with Miss Higginson. Sir Frederick and Lady Pollock also arrive to-day. Mrs Venables asked me to stay till tomorrow to meet them but I did not like to seem to throw Tom Williams over for what might be thought a more pleasant engagement. Left Llysdimam at noon. Mr Venables walked with me to the Newbridge station. A lovely morning and journey. Tom Williams' dog-cart and servant met me at Glasbury Station and drove me along the new road just opened to Llowes.* (Vol 3, p425)

On Friday 4 October 1878, Kilvert preached at the Harvest service at Llowes. *In the evening Tom Williams gave a supper to his choir and their helpers and we passed a pleasant musical evening. To my great astonishment I sang 3 songs, 'The Vicar of Bray', 'When Good King Arthur' and 'The Blue Bells of Scotland'.* (Vol 3, p425-426)

The Revd Tom Williams of Llowes: his life after the *Diary*

Unlike his friend Kilvert, Tom Williams lived to old age, and spent it largely in one place.

CENSUS 1881

Sunnybank, Llowes

Rev, Thom. Williams – Head – Unm – 46 – Vicar of Llowes – Monmouthshire, Llanvapley

William Griffiths – Visitor – Mar – 45 – Vicar of Llandewifach – Carmarthen Llanelly

Sarah Watkins – Servt. – W – 53 – Cook Domestic Monmouth Llanarth

Anne James – Servant – Single – 17 – Housemaid Domestic – Monmouth Newport

William Gwilliam – Servt. – Unm – 24 – Groom & Gardener – Radnor Clyro

Charlotte Ricketts – Servt. – Unm – 17 – House Maid – Hereford Pembridge

CENSUS 1891

Sunnybank. Llowes

Thomas Williams – Head – Single – 56 – Vicar of Llowes – Monmouthshire, Llanvapley

Sarah Watkins – Servant – Wid. – 63 – Cook Domestic Monmouth Clytha

Anne James – Servant – Single – 17 – Housemaid Domestic – Monmouth Newport

Note: Sarah Maria Watkins of Sunnybank aged 65 was buried at Llowes on October 27th 1892. Thomas Williams, Vicar performed the ceremony.

CENSUS 1901

Sunnybank. Llowes

Thomas Williams – Head – Unm – 66 – Clergyman (Church of England) – Monmouthshire, Llanvapley

Elizabeth Price – Servant. – S – 29 – Cook, (Domestic) – Herefordshire, Hereford

Agnes Kate Ricketts – Servant. – S – 18 – Housemaid, (Domestic) – Radnorshire, Glasbury.



The Revd Thomas Williams, a photo taken in old age
From the Brecon County Times



Tom Williams outside Llowes Church in 1908.

Photo: courtesy of the Milward family

Tom Williams featured in local public life, for example being included in an Agreement about a lease of land in Bridge St, Hay.⁷ He was chair of Painscastle Rural District Council for ten years from its beginning in 1894.⁸

From the *Western Mail* 12 November 1894: "Wales Day By Day: The following gentlemen have been elected as representatives of the Welsh branches on the central council of the Church Defence Institute:- Celdewain RD., Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones. M.P., Dderw, Newtown, Mont; Eastern Valleys (Llandaff), the Rev J.E. Dunn, Bettws Newydd, Monmouthshire; Hay R.D., the Rev Thomas Williams, Llowes Vicarage, near Hay; Swansea, Mrs C.H. Glascodine, of that town."

From the *Hereford Journal* September 19 1903. "Radnorshire Elementary Schools List of Managers.

The following is a list of managers of public elementary schools in Radnorshire approved by the County Council:- Llowes. – Mr Walter de Winton, Maesllwch Castle; Mr Stephen Lait Brooks, Brunant, Llowes; Miss C. Beavan, Brynrhydd, Llowes; Rev Thomas Williams, Vicarage, Llowes; under interim order of Board of Education Mr D. Davies, Llowes Court, Llowes; Llowes Parish Meeting, Mr John Watkins, Moity; County Council."

Records of the Cambrian Archaeological Association 1908 show shared interests within the Williams family. One of the many Vice Presidents was the Revd Prebendary Garnons-Williams M.A.

Members for South Wales included three of the Williams family, including the Revd T. Williams.

Also in 1908: 'Llowes parish church was filled to its utmost capacity at 2.30 and 7 on Friday. Rev Prebendary Thomas Williams took part in the services and the afternoon sermon was preached by the Rev R. Sargent (vicar of Cusop), and in the evening by the Rev D. Griffiths (Brynawr). Musical portions

were well rendered under the leadership of Mr W.H.H. Sheldon, Mr Vulliamy presided at the organ, and the anthem was Clare's, "The eyes of all wait upon Thee." The offertory was in aid of the local hospitals, and the parish tea between the services was well patronised.' (*Brecon and Radnor Express and Carmarthen Gazette* 15 October 1908). The following week, on October 28, Prebendary Garnon Williams, Abercamlais, was buried. The Revd Thomas Williams attended the funeral and left a card with his floral tribute 'A tribute of affectionate love, from your only surviving brother Tom'. (*Brecon and Radnorshire Express* 5 November 1908)

In 1909, Tom Williams celebrated his golden anniversary at Llowes. "The chalice and paten now used to celebrate Holy Communion are part of a set presented by friends and parishioners to the Revd Thomas Williams (vicar 1859-1914) on his completion of 50 years as vicar of Llowes, and given by him to the church on 14th October 1909."

CENSUS 1911

Vicarage, Llowes, Hereford¹⁰

Thomas Williams – Head – 75 – single – Clergyman

(Established Church) – Monmouthshire, Llanvapley

Elizabeth Price – Servant – 40 – single – Cook, (Domestic) – Herefordshire, Hereford

Gladys Marion Davies – Servant 18 – single – Housemaid, (Domestic) – Herefordshire, Much Cowarne

Four years later, Tom Williams died in 1915.

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS IN ONE PARISH¹¹

On Wednesday afternoon, the 12th inst., at the ripe age of 81 years, the Rev Prebendary Thomas Williams, of Wye View, Glasbury, breathed his last. He was the son of the late Reverend Thomas Williams, dean of Llandaff, and was educated at Sherborne School and Oriel College, Oxford, where he graduated in honours – Second Class Law, etc – in 1856, He was ordained in 1857, and in 1859 was appointed vicar of Llowes, where he remained until 1914, when he resigned the living after faithful ministry of fifty-five years. In 1880 he was appointed rural dean of Elwell (Elvael) South, and, on a readjustment of the parishes, became rural dean of Hay in 1885, holding the office until his death. In 1902 he was offered the Prebendal stall of Llangan in the cathedral St David's. When the late Archdeacon deWinton was appointed to the archdeaconry, the Rev Preb. T. Williams was appointed Secretary – with the late W. Williams (Rector of Llandefaelog) the Archidiaconal Board of Education and as such did some excellent work. He was also appointed member of the Radnorshire Education Committee. For 26 years he was Hon. Sec. of the Brecon Archidiaconal Clerical Charity, resigning in 1902. For over 30 years he was a member of the Hay Board of Guardians and some years was chairman of the School Attendance Committee. He was never married. Preb. Williams

was a man of shy and retiring nature but of decidedly strong and matured convictions, which he was ever ready to express and maintain; and he never flinched or wavered when duty called. Being erudite and a traveller his opinions on most questions were worth having. He was, if anyone was, a man without guile. For over half a century he lived a simple life in his quiet home in his parish and people and in turn loved and trusted by them. As long as health permitted, he visited the school every morning of the week and taught the children the principles of the Christian religion. He was a model parish priest, who never tired of visiting his people, especially when sickness overtook them. He was most careful in preparing candidates for confirmation, earnestly impressing on their minds the importance of the rite. In the pulpit and on the platform he was no orator, but what he had to say was full of common sense and information. His was a ripe judgment in all things. He was revered by the clergy of the rural deanery and they looked up to him with love and veneration. This remark applies also to the teachers of the various Sunday schools of the deanery, who had chosen him as the president of their association; and his characteristic virtues were never more marked than when he presided over their annual meeting held in November last at the Parish hall Hay. When he had completed his 50th year of service in the parish, the clergy presented him with a small mark of their esteem. The parish also commemorated the event by offering to him several gifts as tokens of their affection and regard. One of the chief pleasures was to entertain the clergy on the occasion of their chapter meeting, when his hospitality was boundless. The clergy and laity alike will miss his genial presence and kindly greeting. He was in every sense of the word a friend to all.

A GLASBURY APPRECIATION

Our Glasbury correspondent, who was intimately associated with Prebendary Williams in Church work for a quarter of a century writes:- During the past week the Church has suffered a stupendous loss by the passing away from our midst of Prebendary Thos. Williams, M.A. Rural Dean of Hay, and Vicar of Llowes by upwards of 54 years. Coming of one of our oldest and best-known county families, the Williamses of Abercamlais, and descended from Sir Edward Bullen, uncle of Anne Boleyn and great uncle of Queen Elizabeth, he was born at Llanvapley, in Monmouthshire. Of this parish his father was then Vicar, being also Archdeacon, and subsequently Dean of Llandaff. The Rev Thos. Williams was educated at Sherborne and Oriel College, Oxford, and on leaving the University was ordained curate of Monmouth. In 1859 he became Vicar of Llowes where he ministered faithfully to his small parish, beloved by everyone, Churchman and Nonconformist alike, a pattern to all his brother clergyman of a faithful pastor. Whilst he was known and beloved by all, he was especially the friend of the aged, the poor and distressed and of the children. One of the greatest educationalists of his age, and a most gifted man, he daily visited the village school and spent the first 1 or 2 hours of each day in helping to educate the poor. A perfect gentleman of the old school, naturally retiring, one have thought his interest in life would have centred here from this quiet corner his master mind went forth to every good work in the diocese, and there was scarcely a meeting of the Church in any part of the diocese that not attend. He was deeply beloved by clergy in his Rural Deanery, and they vied with each other in showing him respect and little services of love. Coming from one of the hospitable families in Breconshire, it was not the rich and great he cared most to entertain, but first and

foremost the clergy, who looked up to him as an elder brother, and every gathering for the good of the Church, especially the choir and his school children, who all known to him personally. A year ago, his deep interest in the welfare of the Church and especially for the good (as he thought) of the parish he loved so well, at a great sacrifice to his own personal feelings (for nothing would have pleased him better than to have died in harness among the people to whom he had ministered for so long), he resigned the living of Llowes to a younger man, and retired to Glasbury to be near to his people, and to be buried amongst them. His whole life and thoughts were devoted to the Church he loved better than his life, and parish, Rural Deanery and Diocese will bitterly feel his loss. On Sunday, at St Peter's Church, the Rev H.H. Gibbon preached an eloquent sermon to his memory from the text, "I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do." At the close of the morning service Mr Stuart played most effectively the "Dead March in Saul," the congregation standing.

THE FUNERAL

Amid general tokens of sorrow and respect, the body of Prebendary Williams was buried at Llowes Parish Churchyard on Saturday afternoon last, the burial place being near the eastern entrance to the churchyard and on the right hand side of the path leading to the south door of church, which the deceased had so often trod. The grave had been decked with lilies of the valley, jonquils and tulips on a background of moss, by Mr Sheldon and his sister.

Punctually at 2.30 the funeral cortege arrived at the western entrance to the churchyard, and met by the Archdeacon of Brecon and the following clergy of the Rural Deanery in their robes:- Prebendary Jackson Taylor (Boughrood), Rev Prebendary D. Griffiths (Clyro), Rev W.E.T. Morgan (Llanigon), Rev T.H. Beavan (Bronliys), Rev H.H. Gibbon (Glasbury), Rev Hubert Griffiths (Glasbury All Saints), Rev W. Thomas (Bryngwyn) Rev H. James (Newchurch), Rev J.J. de Winton (Hay), Rev F.B. Ricketts; Rev Jones (Paincastle), Rev D. Morgan (Llanstephan), Rev, J.P. Jones (curate of Clyro) and the Rev Arthur Garnons Williams, Vicar of Penpont and nephew of the departed.

The chief mourners were Miss Williams, of Clifton (sister), Mrs Garnons Williams (niece), Mrs Gerald Garnons Williams (niece), Col. R.D. Garnons Williams (nephew), Mr Gerald Garnons Williams (nephew), and three servants.

As the congregation assembled and the procession entered the church the organist (Mr C.G. Portman, of Hardwicke Parish Church) impressively played 'Blessed are the departed' and 'Rest in the Lord'. The Archdeacon of Brecon read the lessons and the Rev Canon Griffith took the other portions of the service in the church, which commenced with the singing of the hymn 'For all the saints who from their labours rest' and concluded with the hymn 'Now the labourer's task is o'er'. As the coffin was being borne from the church to the grave, followed by the mourners and congregation, the organist played Chopin's Funeral March, The Rev Arthur Garnons Williams read the prayers at the graveside and the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis.

The coffin was of polished oak with brass fittings, and on the plate was engraved—

THOMAS WILLIAMS (Priest), Born May 1st, 1834, Died May 12th, 1915.

Among those present were the Rev and Mrs D.L. Davies (Llanelwedd), Rev W.L. Crichton (Llyswn), Col. and Mrs Beavan, Col. Fielding, Capt. Synge, Dr. Jayne, Messrs W. Mortimer Baylis, Williams Vaughan, Alwyne Mason, El. Lloyd,



Tom Williams' grave is the Celtic cross in the foreground in Llowes churchyard

Photo: John Price

C. Butcher, W. Owen Price, Jas. Gunter, W. Gunter, W. Sheldon, — Davies, (Llowes Court), G. Davies, — Bishop (Travelly), — Davies (Dolybongom), F. Jones (Tyruched), H. Morris (Schools, Hay), Mrs Lowe (Schools, Llowes), Mrs Jones (Schools, Glasbury), Miss Davies (Schools, Llanigon), &c.

Flowers were sent by the Hay Rural Deanery Sunday School Teachers' Association; the Villagers of Llowes; Mr and Mrs Davies, Llowes Court "Barbara, Katharine and Roger"; Teachers and Scholars, Llowes School; Churchwardens, Bellringers, and Choir, Llowes; "Gerald and Lilian" Mr Elystan Lloyd Dolly and Maggie Hughes and Mary Preece; Mabel Wilson; Mary Ellis; Mr and Mrs Chas. Butcher; Preb., Mrs and Misses Jackson Taylor; Sisters Colonel, Mrs and Miss Beavan; Archdeacon and Miss Bevan; "Price, Lily and Jenkins;" Mary Garnons Williams; F.E. Lewis Davies; "Dick and Alice;" Rev and Mrs A. Garnons Williams; Mrs F.P. James and family; Capt. and Mrs W. deWinton; Rev and Mrs W. Thomas; Capt. and Mrs A.H. Garnons Williams; "Mary;" "Dorothy;" Capt. Alymer, R.N.; and Mrs Hort.

The undertaker was Mr A.F. Gwynne, Glasbury.

REFERENCES

The late Ursula Cooper wrote a fine history of Rev Williams in the *Kilvert Newsletter*, February 1985, p10, aided by a letter from Tom's nephew, Basil. Personal note: I was a bearer at Peter Cooper's funeral (Ursula's husband); he taught me Maths and Geography at Clyro Court school.

Archive photo: Mr Henry Milward of Gogia, Llowes died in 2018; his daughter-in-law Carol and son Haydn Milward kindly let me scan this picture in his collection of Rev Thomas Williams standing in front of Llowes Church. They understand that the photo was taken in 1908.

- ¹ The Illustrated London News 29 October 1859. Preferments and Appointments. Vicarages: Rev T. Williams to Llowes, Radnorshire; Rev G Williams to Brecon.
- ² Site Description: Vicarage House was built c.1860-1870 to replace the medieval vicarage (nprn 81454) and is associated with the diarist, Francis Kilvert who visited here on a number of occasions. Source: Cadw listed building description S.L. Evans, 03/200 <https://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/302849/details/vicarage-house-llowes>
- ³ Curate Lloyd took the Ascension Day service at Clyro Church on June 2nd 1870 (The Diary Of Francis Kilvert April – June 1870, ed Dafydd Ifans p74)
- ⁴ <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/6722>
- ⁵ The original Llowes School log book is at Powys Archives. Thank you to Dr Colin Hughes of the Radnorshire Society for mentioning Rev Kilvert's visit to Llowes school in a recent lecture.
- ⁶ Mr Edward Williams of Maes y garn was the Executor for my great, great grandfather, Joseph Price when he died in 1871! Buried by the Revd John Price, Llanbedr church. My great grandfather farmed at Maesygar. Llanigon in the early 1900's.
- ⁷ TOH Hay Bridge & Toll House/TOH/D/13 Deeds 16 Feb 1883'
- ⁸ Tony O'Brien *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary* Kilvert Society, 2010, p25.
- ⁹ M.A.V. Gill *A History of the Parish Churches of the Wye Valley*, 2010.
- ¹⁰ <https://newspapers.library.wales/view/385764/38/Llowes%20AND%20Williams> The Brecon County Times Neath Gazette and General Advertiser for the Counties of Brecon Camarthen Radnor Monmouth Glamorgan Cardigan Montgomery Hereford, 20 May 1915.

What became of ‘Gipsy Lizzie’?

We do not know why Kilvert nicknamed this Clyro schoolgirl ‘Gipsy’, but we can learn more about her life

| BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Trevelthin</u> in the County of <u>Monmouth</u> - in the Year 18 <u>60</u> | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| When Baptized. | Child's Christian Name. | Parents' Name. | | Abode. | Quality, Trade, or Profession. | By whom the Ceremony was performed. |
| | | Christian. | Surname. | | | |
| 1860 Friday July 6 th No. 3464 | Cornelius born June 5 th last. son of | Thomas and Hannah. | Pegginton. | Tranek. | Labourer. | By me Thos. Davies. Incumbent. |
| Thursday July 12 th No. 3465 | Sarah Elizabeth. born June 12 last. daughter of | Richard and Sarah | Jones. | Railway Tavern. Trosnant. | Publican. | By Jeffrey Hooper. Curate. |

Sarah Elizabeth Jones parish birth record

Photo: From the original held by Gwent Archives Ref DPA 13/5: St Cadoc's Trevithin, Register of Baptisms, 1833-77

Richard Parker tells us her story

How is the indescribable beauty of that most lovely face to be described? ...Oh Gipsy, if you only grow up as good as you are fair. We can never know the answer to that but who was this little girl who so bewitched Kilvert and what became of her? Only names, places and dates can be offered as makeshift markers along her life's journey. Most Kilvertians know that she lived at Pen y Cae farm with her grandparents John and Sarah Harris and her real name was Sarah Elizabeth Jones, although later on the two forenames were invariably reversed. A note by Laurence Le Quesne in the June 1978 *Newsletter* suggested that she was the child of the Harris's daughter who went to live in Pontypool – this was on the right track. The daughter in question i.e. Lizzie's mother was Sarah who married Richard Jones on 30 July 1859 and both are recorded as living in Trosnant, Pontypool. Richard Jones's occupation on the marriage record is 'publican' and no doubt this refers to the Railway Tavern (in Clarence Street), which had become available in June 1859¹, as this is in the Trosnant area and this address is later confirmed on the parish baptism record for Lizzie, who was born on 12 June 1860 – this date differs from that usually quoted of April 1861 – an explanation will be offered later. Richard Jones hailed from Montgomeryshire and naturally there is the question of how

Sarah Jones (née Harris) came to be living in Pontypool, but no doubt that will always remain a mystery.

The next big event is the death of Lizzie's father which one supposes occurs sometime between April 1861 and July 1866. He was still alive at the time of the 1861 census, his age being thirty seven and his wife's age stated as twenty two; Lizzie's first recorded admission to Clyro school is 2 July 1866 and a marginal note in the register states 'father dead'. It seems a fair assumption that Lizzie's transfer to Clyro was a consequence of this tragedy: are her mother's circumstances so straitened that she is unable to cope? One wonders how Lizzie adapted to such a contrast of scene, exchanging the bustling town centre location of the Railway Tavern for the very rustic and isolated surroundings of Pen y Cae farm.

The Clyro school register of admissions² is a valuable source document, but there are obvious anomalies when it comes to Gipsy Lizzie. For example, at her 1866 admission, not long after her sixth birthday, her age is stated as '7 years 0 months' which is clearly wrong, as this would put her birth year as 1859, although it would accord with a birthday of 12 June. Oddly, her address is not entered and there is no pupil index number. She apparently leaves after three months because a new admission

Page 112.

1888. Marriage solemnized *after Banns* in the parish of *Clyro* in the County of *Radnor*

| No. | When Married. | Name and Surname. | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the Time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|-----|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 223 | <i>December 15th</i> | <i>John Wilding</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>Bachelor</i> | <i>Labourer</i> | <i>Clyro</i> | <i>John Wilding</i> | <i>Labourer</i> |
| | | <i>Elizabeth Sarah Jones</i> | <i>25</i> | <i>Spinster</i> | | <i>Clyro</i> | <i>Richard Jones</i> | <i>Butler</i> |

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* by me, *J. H. Jones* Vicar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *+ The mark of John Wilding* in the Presence of us, *George Harris* *Eliza Harris*

Elizabeth Jones parish marriage record

Photo: by kind permission of Powys Archives

entry exists for 31 May 1869 when her real age is nine, although the teacher states her age then as 8 years 1 month, thus appearing to support the April 1861 birthday. Under 'means of previous instruction' the teacher has written 'National [school] Clyro 3 months'. However, an entry in the school log book² for 12th December 1866, records: 'Elizabeth Jones "sick" this week' – the inverted commas are the teacher's.

Returning to the 1869 admission, she is given an index number of 407 and her residence is now given as 'Pen-y-cae' but her parent's occupation is stated as 'farmer', obviously incorrect unless intentionally referring to her grandfather as guardian. Between Lizzie's first school appearance and the second, there had been a change of teacher and perhaps Mr Harris, Lizzie's grandfather, was mistaken for her father. After all, his youngest child, Edwin, was only a year older than Gipsy. Looking at the 1871 census for Pen y Cae, Gipsy's birth year also appears as '1861' – my explanation is that whoever provided the information for the school – I'm assuming her grandfather – was mistaken and repeated the error for the census enumerator. To further muddy the waters, the register has an entry for an 'Elizabeth Harris' for 21 September 1868, age 7 years 0 months with address 'Pen-y-cae'. Now grandfather John did not have a daughter of that name or age and there is no child matching these details on the 1871 census or in Radnorshire birth records, so is this another entry for our Lizzie? Edwin Harris also appears on the register at this time and he is certainly old Mr Harris's youngest child. Perhaps at this point it is well to note all the Harris offspring: the four mentioned in *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary*³: Edwin b1859, Henry b1855, William b1864 and Thomas b1846 but also John b1836, Sarah b1838 (Lizzie's mother), Mary b1843 and Harriet b1849.

At the time of the 1881 census, Lizzie is still living at Pen y Cae, aged twenty ('19' on census) but is in domestic service. On Saturday 15th December 1888 in Clyro she marries John Wilding (of Clyro), he aged thirty and she twenty eight ('25' in parish record). John Wilding is unable to write his signature so marks with an 'X' (not at all unusual in those times), Lizzie has signed her name and her father is correctly recorded as Richard Jones but not noted as being deceased, his occupation is stated rather quirkily as 'butler'. The witnesses to the marriage are George and Eliza Harris, a married couple both aged twenty one and living at Upper Bettws, Clyro. It seems reasonable to assume that George is a relative of Lizzie's grandfather. Until marriage, John Wilding had lived with his family at Tybella, a mere 600 metres from Pen y Cae. Kilvert twice mentions Tybella but only in passing.

At the 1891 census Gipsy is residing at Penworlodd, Lower Betwys, Clyro with her husband, one year old daughter Margaret and her husband's widowed mother. The husband's occupation is shown as 'Agricultural Labourer'. Lizzie's birthplace is incorrectly stated as 'Clyro' but this is corrected to Pontypool on the 1901 Census, where Lizzie is living at Celtun, Clyro with her husband, daughter & son Ernest aged eight. The husband's occupation is given as 'roadman' for the R.D.C. By the time of the 1911 census the family has moved to 'Cae Noyadd', a dwelling apparently with three rooms; the husband's occupation is unchanged. Penworlodd (as Pen-y-wyrldod) and Cae Noyadd both appear in the Diary but 'Celtun' is not mentioned, however, a note in the census adds 'Whitty's Mill' above 'Celtun', the former being very familiar to Kilvertians. For the first time the 1911 census return is supposed to be completed by the head of the household, but to my untutored eye, comparing the signature here to that in the marriage register, the handwriting is that of Lizzie. This is possibly corroborated by the fact that in the column for family relationship for Mr Wilding, Lizzie has initially written "husband" instead of "head".

Mention of the children prompts me to add that in the baptism record for baby Ernest, the mother's maiden name is stated, as one would expect, as 'Jones' but in the case of Margaret, is erroneously given as 'Harris'. Trawling the archives further shows that Margaret married at seventeen, in 1907, her spouse being one Joseph Lewis. Digressing to Lizzie's Clyro grandparents, Mrs Harris died in 1886 aged seventy two and Mr Harris in 1893 aged eighty one. His second eldest son Henry had already taken over the running of the farm because Mr Harris senior is described as 'retired' on the 1891 census. Henry is still there and unmarried by the time of the 1901 census, the only other occupant being a niece, Alice Jones, employed as housekeeper. By 1911 the tenure of Pen y Cae farm had passed out of the family. The grandfather John Harris seems to have been a good hearted man as he gives lodging (and work depending on their age) to several grandchildren. By a strange coincidence, a John Wilding, servant, is residing at the house in 1891 but he is definitely not Gipsy's husband.

It appears that Lizzie had no siblings, who would have been younger than her; had there been then one would have expected them to have joined her at Pen y Cae and double-checking the birth records confirms this assessment. To complete the picture, it would have been satisfying to record a full account of the parents' fate but I have been unable to locate an identifiable death record in Pontypool for Lizzie's father. Between 1861 and 1866

Lizzie died in 1934 and her burial is recorded as 7 February in Clyro, where her residence was 'Twyns'. Her age is stated as seventy three years, for once agreeing with a June 1860 birth. If this was the same 'Twyns' by which Kilvert referred to Twynyngreen (actually comprising two cottages), then it also happened to be John Wilding's parents' abode at the time of his birth. John survived until 1936 aged eighty three and his residence then had been 'Wellfield' in Clyro. This name does not appear on any maps available to me but from the 1939 Register, appears to be in the Sunny Bank/Cwm Cottage area. Also of note is that the chief occupant of Wellfield on that Register is one Joseph Lewis, aged eighty six, occupation 'roadman', so possibly an old workmate of John Wilding's.

REFERENCES

- 1 *Pontypool Free Press* 11 June 1859
2 Clyro School Register of Admission, Progress & Withdrawal
1861–1885 and the School Log Book 1864–1899 both held
in the Powys Archives, Llandrindod Wells. Note also the
article in the Society's *Newsletter* dated June 1978.
3 Tony O'Brien *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary* Kilvert Society,
2010.
4 *Monmouthshire Merlin* 15 September 1860 and 20 October
1860.
5 Vol 3, p268-9. Omitted entirely from the single volume
'potted' version of the Diary.

[illegible]

1911 Census extract

Photo: by kind permission of the National Archives, Kew

Kilvert's Diary

(Penguin Random House, Vintage Classics, 2019, £9.99
ISBN 978-1-784-87571-8)

Kilvert at Clyro: a dramatisation in five 15 minute episodes

(Radio 4, 23-27 December, 2019)

At the end of last year the world of books, and Kilvertians, benefited from a new edition of the one volume *Diary*, reprinting the selection *Diary* editor William Plomer made as a

response to the popularity of the first publication of the three volumes and adding a new introduction from historian Mark Bostridge. First reaction, after the rather bland cover, was appreciation of the clear type and “Joy, oh joy” wrote one correspondent “it has the year and month at the top of every right hand page” (a lack when navigating the three volumes). The thoughtful and thought provoking essay by Mark Bostridge was judged very interesting; it includes an explanation of the first publication, Plomer’s editing process and the founding of the Society and states the Society’s aims. Disappointingly, the book does not list the Society elsewhere, except with the photo acknowledgements, and one comment was that the Society could have been mentioned on the same page as the Further Reading (including the *Journal*, perhaps).

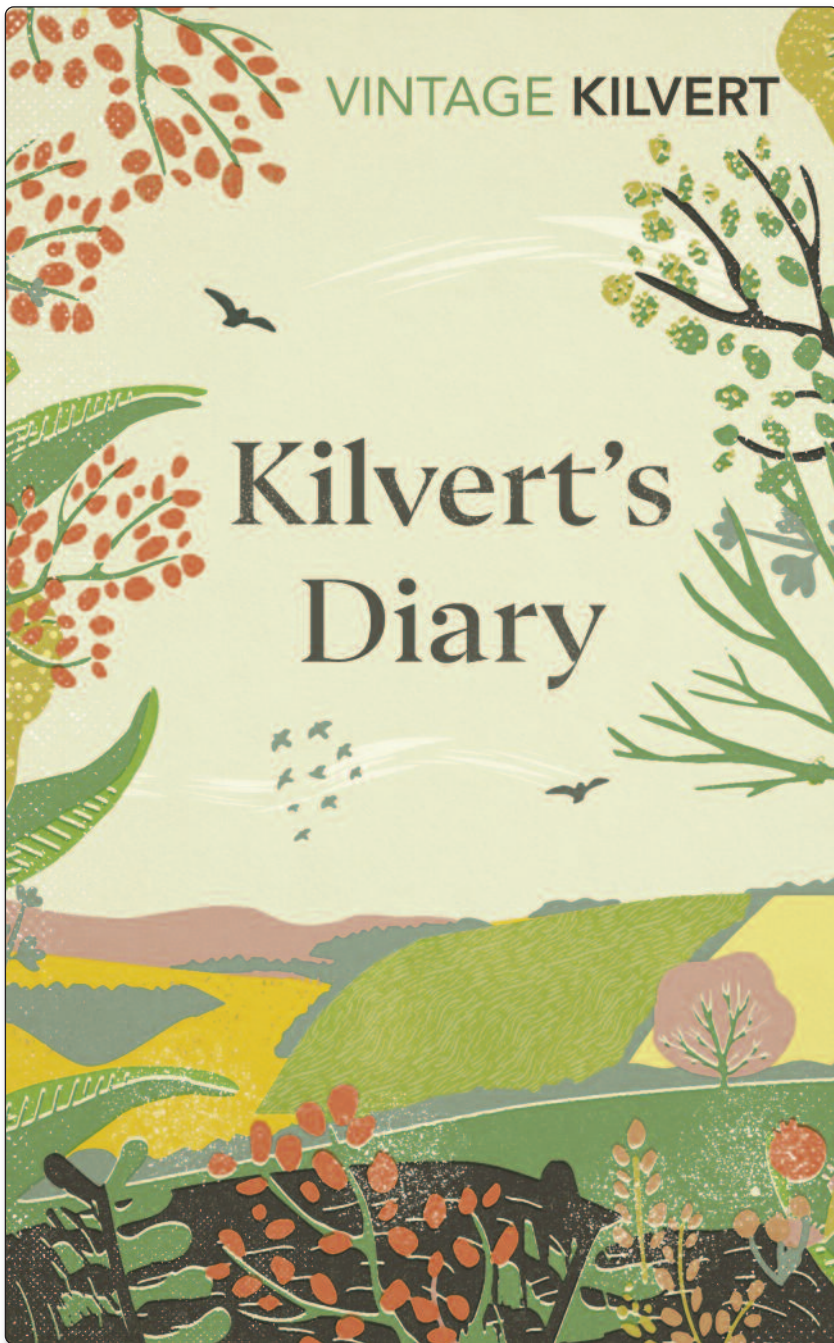
Responses to the radio programmes ranged from “disappointing and insipid” to “I listened eagerly...hearing it acted like this somehow added a new dimension”. There was “artistic licence, but for we purists, it grates somewhat.” Overall, the dramatisation “should entice some listeners to pick up the *Diary*.”

Charles Weston presents a synopsis and review:

The five broadcasts proved to be most enjoyable and were a credit to the BBC, the Pier Production team and to the cast of actors/readers. Kilvert was played by Alastair James Muirden. The series of dramatised extracts covered sections of the *Diary* from 1870-72 and encapsulated some of the best known entries.

Episode 1 entitled ‘Villaging’ dramatised an assortment of visits made to parishioners, Kilvert’s relationship with landlady Mrs Chaloner and the mysterious rushed wedding ceremony of Eliza Pring (No bells!).

Episode 2 ‘Meeting Daisy’ set the scene for his first meeting with Daisy Thomas at the Clyro Court tea party. Further villaging excursions were



recorded with a well-enacted meeting between the diarist and John Morgan – the Old Soldier (gory tales from the Spanish Peninsula Wars!). Daisy remained very much at the forefront of his thoughts.

Episode 3 ‘Christmas Cheer’ recounted the events of the chilly December of 1870 with an ice covered morning bath for the diarist and an equally icy baptism for the christening of baby John Vaughan in the font at Bettws Chapel. The scenes with Mrs Watkins (the Mad Woman of Cwmgwanon) and Edward Evans (poverty and benevolence via church funds) were sensitively portrayed.

In Episode 4 Daisy Thomas re-entered Kilvert’s musings with a final biting of the bullet and hesitant proposal for Daisy’s hand in marriage to Reverend Thomas – followed by a prompt rebuttal! Anne Evans’ predicament as a dependent of her uncle with no prospect of an inheritance showed Kilvert at his most tactful in handling her worries and concerns.

The final episode – ‘Leaving Clyro’ – pulled at the heartstrings as the replacement curate moved into Ashbrook House on Kilvert’s final day in Clyro. Kilvert shared his inner thoughts about Daisy with Mrs Chaloner (a conversation which does not exist in the *Diary*). His final round of visits was also fictional. The inclusion of the musical appearance of *Irish Mary* on the final train journey out of Hay Station *to fresh woods and pastures new* was a misplaced but appropriate insertion (she figured in Kilvert’s visit to Liverpool by train some two months previously!). However, although misplaced, it added pathos and interest to what must have been a very sad final farewell.

The scripting for all episodes was well thought out and delivered and captured the essence of the entries. Essentially it provided a snapshot of Kilvert’s life over the two year period from 1870-72. The voices of the villagers sounded authentic – perhaps there could have been a stronger Welsh accent at times.

Two musical features worked really well. The lyrical and dulcet tones of the accompanying soundtrack music was by the



Cottages at Clyro: Kilvert ‘villaging’ was a feature of the radio series.

Photo: Jeff Marshall

Welsh folk group Crasdan. Their blend of traditional instruments – accordion, harp, flute and guitar – captured the pastoral and timeless mood of the times. The opening and closing children’s hymn ‘All things bright and beautiful’ was a recording made in Wales at Ysgol Maenclochog. First published in 1848, it would have been one that Francis Kilvert knew and would have heard the children singing in church and at Clyro school. Its composer – Mrs Cecil Alexander – was apparently inspired by the landscape of the Sugar Loaf Hill in nearby Monmouthshire. The words would have resonated with 19th century villagers in Clyro just as much as it does with Kilvertian aficionados today.

*.....The purple headed mountain, The river running by,
The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the
sky.....*

*Thanks to all members who commented at short notice.
Discussion will no doubt continue and correspondence is
invited.*

IN THE MEDIA

The Christmas Day episode in the Radio 4 dramatisation of the *Diary* included the famous ice bath and Kilvert’s walk through the hoar frost to church. From elsewhere in the media, two members sent the *Journal* the Weather Eye column from the *Times* of Christmas Eve, which included both these extracts, but mistook in locating them in Draycot Cerne, scene of the ice-skating episode, the writer having missed seeing that Kilvert travelled from Clyro to Langley Burrell between Christmas and New Year 1870/1. The point of the column was to discuss the science of the rainbow colours observed in the frosty road by Kilvert, *the seven colours gleaming in every glittering point of hoar frost* (Vol 1, p286). It demonstrated the detail and quality of Kilvert’s writing about nature and the landscape in a way that was limited in the radio dramatisation, being largely about characters.

OBITUARIES

James HUGHES-HALLETT

September 10 1949 – October 10 2019

Hon. Life Member

Alan Brimson writes:

In June 2009, the Society launched an appeal to conserve its extensive archive that was in a rapidly deteriorating condition, requiring a sum of £38,000.

Although there was a magnificent response from the membership there was still a requirement to approach various charitable trusts for support. One of these was the Esmée Fairbairn Trust, who unfortunately had earlier rejected our application for funding.

One day my telephone rang “Mr Brimson?” our gentleman caller asked, “yes”, I said, thinking ‘not another sales call’!! I was about to say ‘thanks but no thanks’ when he said “I am James Hughes-Hallett of the Esmée Fairbairn Trust, I am interested in your project, tell me all about it.” I explained that the Esmée Fairbairn Trust had refused our application earlier. He went on to say he had access to the Trust in a personal capacity (he was chairman). I gave a lengthy explanation on what the Society was trying to achieve with the archive conservation project. “Right” he said “I would like to give some money, would £7,000 help?”

I gulped. £7,000 would not only help, it meant we had hit our target of £38,000. It was a magnificent gesture, the cheque duly arrived and, as we all know, the archive conservation project was completed.

It was in gratitude that I proposed James for Hon. Life Membership of the society at the following AGM. When I subsequently spoke to him, he accepted our offer graciously and said it was a great honour to be elected a Life Member.

As well as chairman of the Esmée Fairbairn Trust, he had been chairman of the Swire Group, including Cathay Pacific Airline and was a past chairman of the Courtauld Institute of Art and a trustee of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, along with many appointments in the City.

His sister, the author Lucy Hughes-Hallett recalled “A subtle-minded autodidact who sought out learning for the pleasure it gave him, whose refined aesthetic taste and compendious knowledge brought him joy”.



Eric George BALL

8 July 1926 – 19 October 2019

Eric and his wife Joyce were members of the Society from May 1988 and rarely missed any Society events.

Wiltshire born and bred in Royal Wootton Bassett and latterly living in Purton, Eric was an engineer, but his heart was in the countryside; he had come from farming stock. He was a fount of knowledge particularly of Kilvert’s Wiltshire origins. His brother and fellow member was the late Sidney Ball who was another great local historian whose knowledge of Wiltshire families was second to none. Eric’s obituary in the *Chippenham Gazette and Herald* mentioned his membership of the Kilvert Society as well as the William Barnes Society (the Dorset poet) and the Wiltshire Society.

Eric was a true gentleman. Our condolences to Joyce, who we hope will continue to support the Society.



Dorothy Anne WHEELDON

23 April 1929 – 8 December 2019

Anne and her sister Elizabeth were great stalwarts of the Society over very many years. Both served on the committee and were a great help to the Secretary at that time, Edward West.

Although blind, Anne attended Society events and was a great walker and talker. My lasting memory of her was on a Society walk to Twm Tobacco’s grave, high in the Begwyn Hills. She took my arm and strode out across the moorland with a lively conversation.

Anne never let her handicap daunt her and carried on with life with great vigour... A great lady.



Mrs Joy BOYLES

Mrs Joy Boyles of Pembridge died in September 2019. She was a life member who joined in September 1995.



Mrs Nesta HALLAM

Mrs Nesta Hallam of Hereford died in June 2019. She was a life member who joined in October 2000.

SPECIAL OFFER

Three-Volume Diary,
packed in slip case,
available to members at £60
plus £12.98 p&p (or can be
collected post free)

Kilvert Society DVD

A film depicting the early
days of the Society. £15 +
£2 p&p.

East End: West End. Alone

in London, by John Toman
The history of Victorian
clergyman George
Trousdale and his wife, Bee
Smallcombe, who was
known by Kilvert. (Vol III,
pp184,186). Their lives are
explored in comparison
with the *Diary*. £15 inc
p&p.

**Who's Who in Kilvert's
Diary**

A fully comprehensive
Who's Who with over 400
biographies and 22 family
trees, compiled by the late
Tony O'Brien. £13
including p&p.

**More Chapters from the
Kilvert Saga** (reprinted)

Contents: The Memoirs of
the Rev Robert Kilvert (the
Diarist's father) and
Recollections of Emily
Wyndowe (the Diarist's
sister); also extracts from
Augustus Hare's account of
the school at Hardenhuish
Rectory. £5.

Jubilee Praise. The Tom
Palmer Memorial Booklet,
compiled to celebrate the
Society's Jubilee in June
1998. This new publication,
edited by our former
Chairman, Michael Sharp,
is a selection from the
Newsletters of the last
thirty years. £5.50.

**Francis Kilvert Priest &
Diarist**, by Frederick Grice.
A reprint of the 1975
original. £5.50.

Collected Verse. Contains
the 55 poems of Francis
Kilvert printed privately in
1881. £4.50.

**The Frederick Grice
Memorial Booklet**

Contents: The Missing Year
– Kilvert & 'Kathleen
Mavourneen' by Laurence
Le Quesne; two hitherto
unpublished articles on
Kilvert by Frederick Grice;
several articles, also by
Frederick Grice, reprinted
from various newsletters.
£5.

**Kilvert's 'Kathleen
Mavourneen'**

by Eva
Farmery and R B Taylor.
The publication records the
painstaking research,
extending over some 35
years, into the Heanley
family of Croft,
Lincolnshire, and the
related Cholmeley family,
who were related by
marriage to the Kilvert
Family. Particularly
interesting is the section
dealing with Katharine
Heanley ('Kathleen
Mavourneen'), her
relationship with the Diarist
and her tragic death. £5.

**Kilvert and the
Wordsworth Circle**

by R I Morgan
The author summarises
his researches into the
Wordsworth – Monkhouse
– Dew connection, in
which Kilvert was so
interested. £4.50.

Looking Backwards

References to Kilvert's
wife, their marriage and
honeymoon; accounts of
their home-coming to
Bredwardine and of
Kilvert's death and funeral;
extracts from the diary of
Hastings Smith (Kilvert's
nephew) relating to his

enquiries into his uncle's
year at St Harmon, etc.
£4.50.

**Miscellany Two: The
Oswin Prosser Memorial
Booklet.** Contents: The
Solitary of Llanbedr by the
Rev D Edmondson-Owen;
Radnorshire Legends and
Superstitions by Mrs Essex
Hope; Honeymoon Journal
by Dora Pitcairn; The
Venables Diaries by
A L Le Quesne; Memories
of the Monk by Ann
Mallinson. £4.50.

Kilvert's Poetry: A Study,
by Bernard Jones. £4.

The Other Francis Kilvert
Francis Kilvert of
Claverton (1803-1863), by
Teresa Williams and
Frederick Grice. £2.

**Index of Journal/
Newsletters
1956-2000**, by the late Rev
Dr Nigel Rowe. £2.

The Bevan-Dew Extracts
Entries from the original
Diary relating to the Bevan
and Dew families which
were omitted from the
published Diary. £2.

Vicar of this Parish,
by John Betjeman. £2.

Children of the Rectory,
by Essex Hope. £1.50.

Newsletter/Journals
Back numbers of some
Newsletters and Journals.
£2.50.

*The following books can be
purchased from booksellers
or on the internet:*

Francis Kilvert, by David
Lockwood. Seren Books,
1990. ISBN 1-85411-033-0
paperback.

Kilvert The Victorian,
by David Lockwood.
Seren Books, 1992.
ISBN 1-85411-077-2.

After Kilvert, by A L Le
Quesne. OUP, 1978. ISBN
0-19-211748-3.

**Francis Kilvert and His
World**, by Frederick Grice.
Caliban Books, 1980.
Hardback ISBN 0-904573-
52-4; Paperback ISBN 0-
904573-78-8.

**Kilvert The Homeless
Heart**, by John Toman.
Logaston Press, 2001.
ISBN 1-873827-37-7.

**Growing up in Kilvert
Country**, by Mona Morgan.
Gomer, 1990. ISBN 0-
86383-680-1.

Exploring Kilvert Country,
by Chris Barber. Blorenge
Books, 2003. ISBN 1-
872730-24-8.

Moods of Kilvert Country,
by Nick Jenkins and Kevin
Thomas. Halsgrove, 2006.
ISBN 1-84114-525-4 / 978-
1-84114-525-9.

**Kilvert's Diary and
Landscape** (978-071883-
0953) and **Kilvert's World
of Wonders – growing up
in Victorian England**
(978-071889-3019).
Both by John Toman.
Lutterworth Press.

**A Deep Sense of the Uses
of Money:** Kilvert's
forebears in Bath and India.
True Heirs to Israel:
Kilvert's theology.
The Lost Photo Album
(2nd edition). All available
directly from John Toman
johnntoman@dymond.force9
.co.uk

The three books below are
copies of Kilvert's original
Diaries and are complete –
the only surviving examples
of his work.

**The Diary of Francis
Kilvert**, April-June 1870
edited by Kathleen Hughes
and Dafydd Ifans. National
Library of Wales, 1982.
ISBN 0-9077158-02-1.

**The Diary of Francis
Kilvert**, June-July 1870
edited by Dafydd Ifans.
National Library of Wales,
1989. ISBN 0-907158-02-
1.

Kilvert's Cornish Diary,
edited by Richard Mabey
and Angela Tregoning.
Alison Hodge (Cornwall),
1989.
ISBN 0-906720-19-2.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER

Colin Dixon
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