

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,  
23 Droomy Hill,  
HEREFORD.

(Phone 2094).

May 4th, 1962.

ANNUAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENING.

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be, as for many years now, in EIGNBROOK CHURCH HALL, HEREFORD, on

FRIDAY, the 18th MAY, at 7 p.m.

Members generally say that they look forward to this annual event, and it is therefore hoped that no-one will be disappointed this time.

Following the business meeting there will be a Social Evening; with light refreshments once again provided by the generosity of our President (Mrs. Wright). The remainder of the evening will be taken up with the shewing of the Kilvert film, and of a number of slides in colour, including some taken last June on the occasion of the Annual Service at Bryngwyn, and interspersed with talks by several Vice Presidents and Members.

For the convenience of those who cannot attend, I append a copy of the ANNUAL REPORT and BALANCE SHEET, and a notice will be found on another page giving advance details of this year's KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

Yours sincerely,

*C. T. O'Brien*

Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1961.

The Annual Meeting was held in Eignbrook Church Hall on Friday, 28th April and was very well attended. The President (Mrs. Wright) welcomed all present and Mr. H. W. Butcher then took the Chair. Mrs. Wright was re-elected President, on the proposition of The Dean of Hereford (the Very Rev. H. R. Burrows) and seconded by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths of Llowes, and warmly acclaimed by all. Vice Presidents were re-elected en bloc, as were the Committee and Officials.

P.T.O.



To the list of Vice-Presidents the name of Mrs. T. A. Williams was added: she is a great-niece of the Diarist, her mother having been "the Monk" of the Diary. Refreshments were then enjoyed, these again being very generously provided by our President (Mrs. Wright) and served by her and a band of helpers. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. D. Worsey) then briefly spoke on the Society's finances, revealing a healthy position with £34 in hand and subscriptions coming in very well. We then listened, first to the Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. Hedley Burrows) and then to the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths of Llowes and to Mr. F. W. Stokoe of Hay-on-Wye. After this came a shewing of the Kilvert Film by Mr. Godfrey Davies, and the evening ended with votes of thanks to Mrs. Wright and to all others concerned with the success of the evening.

The Annual Service was held on Sunday, the 25th June, at BRYNGWYN (Radnorshire) by kind invitation of the Rev. Roswell M. Davies, the Rector of Bryngwyn (who conducted the service). The Lessons were read by Mr. T. Murray, Headmaster of Rhosgoch C.P. School and a Licenced Lay Reader, and by Ald. Tudor Watkins, M.P. for Brecon and Radnor, and a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society. The fine old Church of St. Michael and All Angels was packed to its utmost capacity and a large overflow congregation was in the churchyard and church porch hearing it all by means of loudspeakers. The address was given by the Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. Hedley Burrows) soon to retire from that office and go to live near Winchester. Clergy were present from Glasbury-on-Wye, Clyro and Clifford, and the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths of Llowes offered prayers and an Act of Remembrance. Many were present from long distances, the furthest being from Aberdeenshire; others were from London, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Derby, Somerset, Swansea, and many other places near and far. The President (Mrs. Wright) was accompanied by Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt., and by the Rev. T. Wigley, the Minister of Eignbrook Congregational Church in Hereford. After the service the company assembled on the green outside the churchyard for the presentation of an album of photographs of the Kilvert Country to the departing Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. Hedley Burrows). Mr. William Plomer spoke of the Dean's great assistance and friendly help through all the years of the Society and asked Mrs. Wright to present the album of photographs to the Dean as a parting gift from the Society. All present were then entertained to a splendid tea in the nearby Church Hall: in true Radnorshire style the local ladies had prepared an array worthy of description by Kilvert himself and this was enjoyed in the Hall and picnic-fashion in the sunshine on the surrounding grass by most of the 300 or so that came to the Service. Thanks for all this were warmly expressed by Mrs. Wright. Many of the large company who had come to the service then took advantage of the lovely day to wander up towards Bryngwyn Hill, to get the splendid views from there. The two coaches which had come from Hereford, both quite full, then returned via Painscastle and Clyro, after one of the most successful of the many "Kilvert Sundays" that have been held every year since 1948.

During the year parties of members have had several enjoyable rambles in Mid-Wales, to a secluded waterfall south of Plynlimon, to climb Plynlimon itself, and on a wonderful autumn day to again visit the hills above Llanbuchllyn, the Rocks of Pen Cwm and the moors above.

During the year several of the older members of the Society have passed away: these include Miss W. M. Hinckesman of Shucknall (Herefords) who died in November. She was a grand-daughter of the Rev. David Vaughan of Newchurch (Rads.) - an interesting note re the Vaughans can be read in "Notes and News" to be found



overleaf. We also report with much regret the passing of Mr. G. H. Butcher of Hereford, a motorist from the early days of cars, and a very well known citizen of Hereford.

There have been a number of new members during the year, and membership shows a further increase. At last we have the first few members from the Chippenham district. If this continues it might well be that someone in that area will start a movement towards some form of memorial to the Rev. Francis Kilvert at Hardenhuish or Langley Burrell - or both: the Society would help financially and with advice (if needed), and give support in every possible way, and thus bring about what our first President (Mr. Sid Wright) envisaged when the Society was formed in 1948.

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961

| Receipts                          |       |    |   | Expenses                                   |       |    |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----|---|--|-------|----|---|
| Balance brought forward from 1960 | 34    | 12 | 7 | Donation for use of room for A.G.M.        | 2     | 5  | 0 |
| Subscriptions                     | 54    | 7  | 6 | Hire of 2 Coaches to Bryngwyn              | 14    | 0  | 0 |
| Collection at A.G.M.              | 2     | 15 | 0 | Hire of Taxi to Bryngwyn                   | 3     | 5  | 0 |
| Sale of Kilvert Photo             | 2     | 6  |   | Relaying Service at Bryngwyn               | 3     | 10 | 0 |
| Coach Fares to Bryngwyn           | 14    | 0  | 0 | Donation to Painscastle Baptist Eisteddfod | 1     | 1  | 0 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Upkeep of Kilvert Graves                   | 6     | 0  | 0 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Recording Tapes & Additions to Film        | 13    | 8  | 0 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Extra Copies of "Now & Then"               | 2     | 1  | 0 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Printing and Advertising                   | 20    | 1  | 7 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Duplicating                                | 5     | 17 | 0 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Postages and Phone Calls                   | 6     | 13 | 3 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Cheque Book                                |       | 4  | 0 |
|                                   |       |    |   | Balance in Hand                            | 27    | 11 | 9 |
|                                   | £ 105 | 17 | 7 |  | £ 105 | 17 | 7 |

John D. Worsey  
Hon. Treasurer.  
12.4.62.

Audited and found correct  
H. Butcher. 19.4.62.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE ... THIS YEAR WE GO AGAIN TO CLYRO (by kind invitation of the Rev. T. J. Lewis, the Vicar, who is a Member of the Kilvert Society). He will conduct the Service. This will be on Sunday, the 15th JULY, at 3.15 p.m. The special preacher will be Professor The Rev. W. Moelwyn Merchant, M.A., D.Litt. of the University of Exeter: he is a Member of the Kilvert Society and was previously at Cardiff University. We have to thank Mr. William Plomer for introducing Professor The Rev. Merchant to us as a member and as our preacher at Clyro. The usual detailed notice about the Clyro service will be sent out (as always) about 12 days beforehand.



#### NOTES and NEWS

Members visiting Bredwardine Churchyard will now see what is generally considered to be a big improvement to the memorial to the Rev. R. F. Kilvert on his grave. The paving stones were broken, and part of the chains surrounding the grave had been taken away by some person and was of a style impossible to replace. This was reported to Mrs. Essex Hope (his niece and next-of-kin) for her advice and consent to alter, a suggestion being made that the chains should be replaced by kerbing. No doubt a fund would have been opened for this purpose, but Mrs. Hope decided to defray the whole of the considerable cost herself. The memorial cross has been to the sculptors yard in Hereford and has been very thoroughly cleaned and the lettering re-cut and re-leaded. A neat stone kerb now surrounds the grave, and new paving stones have been laid both inside and outside of this kerb. Mrs. Hope is also about to invest a sum of money which will bring in sufficient to pay for the annual upkeep of the grave: this will then relieve the Society of the financial outgoing in that direction, unless something needing additional expense arises in any year.

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On Tuesday, 24th December, 1878, the Diary records the death of little David Davies, the son of the shepherd at the Weston, Bredwardine, and then in the following pages we read of the funeral of "Little Davie" in a snowstorm on Christmas Day - a very moving story and one that Dean Hedley Burrows brought into his address at the Kilvert Service at Bredwardine in 1948, when he dedicated the memorial seat. Later we read of Mrs. Davies consulting Kilvert about putting a little cross on his grave. And on 17th February, 1879, we read of Kilvert's verses on "Little Davie" being printed in the "Hereford Times". Members have at different times searched Bredwardine churchyard for that little cross, but failed to find it and it had become the general opinion that none had been erected after all. It has now been found, quite close to Kilvert's grave, but broken and almost buried, although the inscription is still quite legible. Several have suggested that it should be repaired and renovated "in memory of all the children that Kilvert loved" and already money has come in for this purpose. It has therefore been decided that a "LITTLE DAVIE MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUND" BE OPENED FOR ANY OTHER MEMBERS WISHING TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THIS TO DO SO; QUITE A FEW POUNDS WILL BE NEEDED, AND ANY SURPLUS WILL BE GIVEN TO BREDWARDINE CHURCH FUNDS. PLEASE SEND EITHER TO THE HON. SEC. OR TO MR. J. D. WORSEY (HON. TREAS.) at 1, Harold Street, Hereford, clearly marking purpose of what is sent. The verses composed by Kilvert have been copied from a "Hereford Times" of February 8th, 1879 (by Mr. H. W. Butcher) and are now circulated; this will no doubt interest many of our members.

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NOW THAT THE NEW EDITIONS OF "KILVERT'S DIARY" ARE AVAILABLE IT IS FELT THAT THERE ARE PROBABLY SURPLUS COPIES OF THE OLDER EDITION AVAILABLE. IF ANY MEMBER HAS EITHER COMPLETE SETS OR ODD VOLUMES FOR DISPOSAL PLEASE INFORM THE HON. SEC. (STATING PRICE) AND ARRANGEMENTS WILL THEN BE MADE TO SELL THEM TO OTHER MEMBERS IN NEED OF SETS OR ODD VOLUMES. THERE ARE BUYERS WAITING.

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The fund that was opened last year for providing a parting gift from the Society to the Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. Hedley Burrows) resulted in a total of £15-0-6. Of this, £10-0-6 was expended in producing the album of 48 photographs (all in colour) of scenes in the "Kilvert Country" (of Radnorshire, Breconshire, Herefordshire and Wiltshire) and the balance of £5 has been sent to the Dean at his new home near Winchester, for disposal as he thinks fit. Mr. Godfrey Davies was responsible for the production of the album, and a splendid job he made of it. Mr. W. H. Ellis did the titles which appear under each photograph; these, and the inscription were most beautifully lettered. The wording was "To the Very Reverend Hedley R. Burrows, M.A., Dean of Hereford, Vice-President and founder member of the Kilvert Society. The President, officers, and members of the Society present this album as a small token of their affection and esteem and in grateful appreciation of your unfailing enthusiasm, encouragement and help in promoting the interests of the Society at all times. They will fondly remember you as a great leader and friend who delighted in the Diary and the Kilvert countryside, and who, for their inspiration, drew deep lessons therefrom".

Copies of the photographs as in this album and photographs (both in colour and otherwise) of other scenes and places in the "Kilvert Country" can be obtained from Mr. G. C. Davies WYEVAL LTD., BRIDGE STREET, HEREFORD. A list of photographs available, with prices, can be sent to members writing direct to Mr. Davies.

ELSEWHERE IS RECORDED THE DEATH OF MISS HINCKESMAN, GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE REV. DAVID VAUGHAN OF NEWCHURCH (RADS.) MOST MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE OF THE FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN KILVERT AND THE VAUGHAN FAMILY. THE DIARY HAS MANY REFERENCES TO WALKS OVER THE HILLS FROM CLYRO TO VISIT THEM AT GILFACH-Y-RHEOL. A COUSIN OF THE LATE MISS HINCKESMAN HAS VERY KINDLY GIVEN THE FOLLOWING NOTES ON THE VAUGHAN FAMILY. "SARAH VAUGHAN WAS MY COUSIN'S MOTHER, MARIAN MARGARET MINE: OTHER DAUGHTERS WERE JENETTA JANE, GEORGIANNA MATILDA and EMMELINE, WHO DIED WHEN SHE WAS 16. THESE WERE THE 5 DAUGHTERS WHO DID NOT DIE AS BABIES. THEIR FATHER WAS VICAR OF NEWCHURCH AND RECTOR OF BRYNGWYN FOR MANY YEARS" - - the letter goes on to tell why the Rev. Vaughan left the Vicarage at Newchurch and went to farm at Gilfach-y-Rheol, close by. He found it impossible to buy milk for his large family, and so went farming to solve that problem.

WHEN WE GO TO CLYRO FOR THE KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE ON JULY 15th THE COLLECTION IN CHURCH WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE FUND FOR THE RESTORATION AND RE-DECORATION OF CLYRO CHURCH. THE VICAR OF CLYRO REPORTS THAT THE CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED AND WILL BE RE-OPENED ABOUT WHITSUN WITH A SPECIAL SERVICE. THE WORK THAT MUST BE DONE WILL COST £1,300 AND THEY ARE £400 SHORT OF THE TARGET. WILL THOSE MEMBERS WHO CANNOT GET TO CLYRO ON JULY 15th (AND ANY OTHERS WHO FEEL THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE NOW) KINDLY SEND THEIR DONATIONS DIRECT TO CLYRO. PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR LETTER - REV. T. J. LEWIS,  
THE VICARAGE,  
CLYRO, via HEREFORD.

CLYRO CHURCH WILL FOREVER BE LINKED WITH THE NAME OF KILVERT, SO PLEASE BE GENEROUS.



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LITTLE DAVIE

Oh, mother, on your bosom let me lay my aching head,  
Oh, mother, I am cold and tired, make me my little bed;  
I love to rest upon your breast, dear mother, as I am,  
As father gathers in his arms, and folds the helpless lamb.

I see some people all in white within a garden fair,  
With dance and song and music sweet, and I would fain be there;  
And there are many birds sit singing on the tree,  
And now I hear a gentle voice that calleth unto me.

I seem to feel upon my face the softly falling snow,  
And it is cold across the field, but I must rise and go;  
I see the men that are to bear me to my little bed,  
I hear the bell, whose muffled knell is tolling for the dead.

I know I shall not live to see the blessed Christmas day,  
For I shall die tomorrow morn - they call my soul away;  
But, mother dear, I'll come to you about the Christmas yet,  
And I shall still remember you, and you must not forget.

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We buried him at evening on the blessed Christmas Day,  
The wintry storm drove whirling white, and the deep snow  
round us lay,

With ruffled knell the burial bell tolled through the  
thickening gloom,

And faint and dim the soft sweet chime rang out his  
"Welcome Home".

All in a little, little bed we laid the child to rest  
With his father's garden fair and on his mother's breast,  
What matter though the snow fell fast on him that Christmas even,  
'Twas but the mortal form lay there, his soul had passed to  
heaven.

We thought for comfort upon Him who in the manger lay,  
Cradled within the lowly stall on that first Christmas Day;  
We knew for that Child's sweet sake our child had passed  
from pain -

We knew that when the Father called our child would rise again.  
The Shepherd Good in His fond arms had folded His dear lamb,  
"I will," he saith, "that those I love be with Me where I am".  
And safe for ever Davie rests within that better land.  
For no man now can pluck the child from out his Father's hand.

Bredwardine, Feb. 5th, 1879.

R. F. KILVERT.