THE JOURNAL

OF THE

KILVERT SOCIETY

Issue No. 1 **February 2000**

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Revd. Francis Kilvert, his work, his diary and the country he loved

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THE JOURNAL OF THE KILVERT SOCIETY No. 1. February 2000

From the Editor:

'What's in a name? .....' (Romeo and Juliet II ii)

Members may well be astonished on opening the envelope containing what they fondly imagine to be their latest KS Newsletter only to discover therein ... The Journal of the Kilvert Society.

I hope they will not then go on to assume that the reason for the change is merely a whim of the new editor who now reveals himself as just another of those alarming new brooms, determined, in this instance, to sweep away a long-established Society institution.

Nor, worse, is it to be supposed that the change is a tiresome millennium gimmick to join all the rest dedicated to celebrating that event (a year in advance?!) with some novelty or other.

There is much more to it than that, although I must admit here that I am quite happy that the change should take place and the committee endorsed the proposal at its meeting of 21st September 1999.

The new name is intended as a tribute to Edward West under whose distinguished editorship the Newsletter had developed to such an extent that the old title, which suggested a lightweight, ephemeral communication (which it never was, even in the days of the indefatigable Oswin Prosser) was beginning to seem increasingly inappropriate – particularly with its enhanced appearance which new printing technology allows. (The new title is also a happy echo of Kilvert's own references to his notebooks as his *Journal.)*

New technology also allows us to reproduce photographs and so on more readily and since I am keen to see the new Journal as an illustrated publication I therefore now urge all contributors to include, where possible, pictures or photographs to accompany their offerings.

Another development I would like to see is a letters page, letters to the editor intended for publication, on personal reactions to items in the Journal, amplifications, disagreements, corrections possibly, grumbles even, but not too many of the latter!

So, welcome to issue number one of The Journal of The Kilvert Society! I hope members will approve of what is not so much a revolution but rather an evolution of Edward's, and Oswin's, work.

Jeff Marshall

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AGM Weekend:

Friday 28th April The AGM of the Society will take place in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, to begin at 7 p.m. The business meeting will be followed, as usual, by the buffet supper and talk. The speaker this year is Mr. Ronald Watts (NOT our Chairman!) who will talk about William Plomer's early life in Africa.

Saturday 29th April This is a rather special occasion when we shall particularly welcome our Wiltshire members, to reciprocate the warm hospitality and splendid day out we enjoyed with them at Langley Burrell and Hardenhuish, last May. Meet at the Baskerville Arms, Clyro at 10.00 a.m. where lunch will be taken after a tour of the village. In the afternoon there will be a visit to Bredwardine followed by the service at St. Andrew's and tea. All are most welcome and we hope for a good turnout. Please wear stout shoes.

June Weekend: Please note this is now 17th and 18th June:

Saturday 17th June Walk led by our secretary, Mr. Michael Sharp. Meet at the Baskerville Arms, Clyro at 12 noon.

Sunday 18th June Service at St. Cewydd's church, Disserth; officiant and preacher the Rev. Andrew Loat, Rector of Llandrindod Wells, Cefnllys and Disserth. Tea (£2.50 per head) will be provided afterwards at Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells.

September Weekend:

No firm information yet, but possibly at Condover – details in the May issue of The Journal.

Members enjoy a visit to Hardenhuish Church on May 15th 1999
(See August 1999 Newsletter)

A REMINDER FROM THE SUBSCRIPTIONS TREASURER

Just a reminder that subscriptions for 2000 became due on the 1st of January. Many members have already paid their subscriptions and are thanked as this helps our cash flow in the early part of the year.

An increasing number of members are paying their subscriptions by standing order. If you would like to use this method of payment, would you please instruct your bank to pay each 1st of January. Payment should be made to Lloyds Bank, Hereford. The sort code is 30-94-14 and our account number is 0241904. Please ask your bank to quote your name on the transfer so that we can identify your payment. It would be helpful if you could let me know when you set up a standing order so that I can note this on your membership record card.

One other request, if you find your address label is wrong, or does not include your postcode, would you please amend it and return it to me, Lawrence Jackson, at the address shown at the beginning of the Journal. Thank you.

AUTUMN WEEKEND

By Mrs. Val Dixon, (Llandrindod Wells)

Saturday 18th September, 1999

On an overcast and rainy day 36 members gathered at Llanthomas Gardens, Llanigon. This was not the Llanthomas of Kilvert's day, but the recently-built home of Mr. Dennis and his family who had kindly given permission for the Society to park, picnic and view the garden. The current Llanthomas is situated within the walled garden of the original house and commands fine views across the valley to the Begwns and the surrounding hillside. The picnic lunch was taken in a covered area thoughtfully provided by Mr. Dennis with chairs and fine picnic tables recently made with our event in mind. During a lull in the rain members strolled round the carefully-tended garden which now consists of a fine lawn, terrace with goldfish pond, large rockery, herbaceous borders, and several large fruit trees which have survived from Kilvert's time. Members then gathered for readings from the Diary, read by John Wilks, which told of Kilvert's love and unsuccessful suit for Frances (Daisy) Thomas. Everyone then set off in heavy rain to see the site of the original Llanthomas House. There was little left to show of its former grandeur, but the basements are currently being excavated to see whether they have anything still to reveal.

The party then made its way to Llanigon Church and the Thomas family graves. John Wilks gave a history of the church, and said that it was believed to be the only building within the Brecon Beacons National Park to have suffered bomb damage during the Second World War. (The windows on the west end having been blown out as a result of a nearby explosion). A rather wet and bedraggled group then went outside to see the nine Thomas graves, which had recently been rescued from the brambles by John Wilks and Colin Dixon. Under the dripping beech trees, Colin gave a brief explanation of the family relationships and answered questions. (Details of graves follow below). With the rain getting relentlessly heavier, the party made its way back to Llanthomas and thence to Cusop Dingle and the home of Kathy and John Wilks. Kathy had kindly provided delicious refreshments and a never-ending supply of tea, both of which were received with appreciation by all. Despite the weather everyone agreed it had been a most interesting day and a very successful social occasion.

Sunday 19th September, 1999

The service this time was also a memorial service for the late Edward West, and was fittingly held at St. Eigon, Llanigon, the church where Edward had played the organ during his time as a tutor at Llanthomas.

Edward plays the organ – not at Llanigon but at Bettws
Photo by Mr. David Howell, (St. Albans)

Those members travelling from the direction of Builth and Brecon met with the results of the previous day's rain when the first turn-off to Llanigon was closed in the village due to flooding! This meant a three-mile detour and a few members arrived with only minutes to spare. However there were approximately 50 members present. The service was conducted by The Rev. David Rees, Vicar of Hay with Llanigon and Capel-y-Ffin. The First Lesson was read by Mr. Elwyn Edwards of Morriston and the Second Lesson by Mr. David Howell of St. Albans. The preacher, The Rev. John Jackson from Rhosgoch, talked about the various areas in which Kilvert had lived and preached. His own calling had followed a very similar route and he was able to elaborate on many of the families and places mentioned in the Diary. (reproduced below). Tea was provided at the Baskerville Arms, Clyro, and most people adjourned there to finish off a most enjoyable weekend. Ron Watts read passages from the Diary, namely 21st March, 1871 (the earthquake), 28th April, 1876 (croquet at Llanthomas), and 3rd September 1878 (death of Lechmere Thomas of cholera at Colombo).

Extract from the *Hereford Times* – 23.9.99

Kilvert lovers brave the rain

Pouring rain failed to dampen the spirits of members of the Kilvert Society who gathered for their autumn meeting. The Kilvert Society strives to keep alive the memory and Diary of Rev. Francis Kilvert, a Victorian curate who penned his observations of life in the country in the 1870s. His journal is read and enjoyed all over the world and gives a fascinating insight into life in Victorian rural England. Mr. and Mrs. Brian Dennis, of Llanthomas Gardens, Llanigon, invited the Society to enjoy their extensive and beautiful gardens. In Kilvert's time these were the kitchen gardens of Llanthomas House, home of his first real love, Daisy Thomas. The site of the original Llanthomas House, St. Eigon's church, Llanigon and Daisy's grave were visited by members and during the afternoon appropriate portions of the Diary were read aloud by Mr. John Wilks, the Society's treasurer.

On the Sunday, an Evensong commemoration service for Francis Kilvert combined with a memorial service for Edward West, a faithful member for many years and one time secretary of the society; Mr. West died recently. Rev. David Rees, vicar of Llanigon conducted the service and the preacher was the Rev. John Jackson of Rhosgoch.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the *Hereford Times*)

THE ADDRESS
given by the Rev. John Jackson, Rhosgoch, at the autumn service

I knew nothing of the Rev. Francis Kilvert until I watched the BBC series of programmes based on his diaries thirty or so years ago. I became very interested and bought the paperback *Penguin* book which had the photograph of the actor who took the part of Kilvert on the front cover, Timothy Davies, with a backdrop of the countryside that was to become part of my life many years later. I have since been presented with a much nicer hardback version of the diary.

It was whilst reading the paperback that I came to realize that I was living in the very centre of the countryside that was a part of Kilvert's early ministry.

Let us refer to his diary:

Tuesday 20th January 1874. Visited John and Hannah Hatherall. Hannah was telling me about an execution. Two young men of Bremhill named Powney saw the mother of the murderer striding across the fields to be in time to see her son hung.

After serving a three-and-a-half year curacy in the south-east of London I became vicar of Bremhill with Foxham in Wiltshire. There were still Hatheralls and Powneys in the parish. Indeed I used to pick up an Elizabeth Powney and three other children in a small hamlet, then two others at East Tytherton on my way to Foxham Church Sunday School every Sunday afternoon, weighing down my little Renault 4.

East Tytherton figures in Kilvert's Diary.

Friday 5th February 1875. My mother tells us that when she was a little child of three or four years old she was sent every morning with a nurse from her father's house at Langley Fitzurse to the village school kept by Dame Fairlamb at the Pound, Langley Burrell, in the cottages where old blind Thomas Jefferies lived and died. My mother was not allowed to play with the village children but when school was over she was taken home by the nurse. Dame Fairlamb was one of the real old fashioned dames, severe and respectable with rod and spectacles. Afterwards my mother went to the Moravian school at East Tytherton daily on a donkey which she urged forward by rattling a bunch of keys in his ear.

The complex of buildings at East Tytherton were still there in my days, the school, the teacher's house, the minister's house and the church. The only part retained by the Moravians was the church, the minister coming in from Swindon for services. I was asked to preach there at their anniversary service one year; it was the only service that I have attended where there were two sermons, one preached by a Moravian bishop, the other by myself.

Turning our attention to Foxham, we have a mention in the diary;

Wednesday 9th June 1875. Foxham seems to be in a sad state ecclesiastically. .... Mrs. Peglin told us that the Curate, Mr. Rivett-Carnac, who walks about in a cassock, was attacked one day by their gander which tore a grievous rent in his 'petticoats'. He said he should tell his friends what a 'ferocious house guardian' Mrs. Peglin kept. 'Perhaps, Sir', suggested the old lady slyly, 'the gander was excited by some peculiarity in the dress'.

I don't know whether there was any connection, but there was a family named Peglar there in my days. I confined my wearing of a cassock to inside the church.

On the 6th, 7th and 8th of August 1874 Kilvert makes mention of receiving a wild strange unhappy note from Susan Strange about her daughter Fanny who caused her great distress because of her lying and stealing and how the girl was whipped severely on 'her naked bottom' in his presence. It would seem that the family lived at Langley Burrell, but I had a family of the same name in Foxham and when on the 30th morning of the month I said, at Mattins, the 144th Psalm, the words 'Save me and deliver me from the hand of strange children' had a particular urgency about them in my mind.

Other names that Kilvert mentions are the Awdrys and the Goughs. Both of these names in my time were the names of local solicitors.

Francis, as we know, was twice curate to his father, the Rev. Robert Kilvert, at Hardenhuish (called locally Harnish) and at Langley Burrell. I used to pass the parish church of Hardenuish every week on my way to Bath were I did a weekly stint as a marriage guidance counsellor, and Bath is mentioned a number of times in the diary.

Francis Kilvert mentions the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and the news of the Battle of Rorke's Drift received by them at a dinner at Hay Castle on 11th February 1879. Coming from a military family and being a student of military history I have studied accounts of both battles.

Still in Wiltshire he mentions a visit to Bowood Park. Bowood House and Park were in the parish next to mine, Derry Hill, but I visited Bowood House on a number of occasions. I was shown over the large mansion by the Marquis of

Lansdowne and during our tour he pointed to a portrait of his grandmother on a landing on the stairs. 'I was terrified of her' he said. 'I remember that she always had a dew-drop on the end of her nose!' I replied, 'the artist was kind, he has left it off.' When they had an open day on the estate, the Marquis kindly arranged for my family and me to have a strawberry tea away from the crowds on a private patio. On another visit, this time to his elder son, the Earl of Shelburne, was the only time I have ever been served Earl Grey tea in splendid porcelain by a footman in livery. It is one of the privileges of our profession to have that sort of tea and on other occasions to drink very strong tea from a chipped enamel mug in a cottage. I have to admit that the latter is more my cup of tea, I do not care for Earl Grey tea.

When I first went to Bremhill the churchyard was all overgrown and I announced that I intended making a start on clearing it one Saturday and would like volunteers. I toiled all day, alone, with a scythe, being asked by a passing elderly parishioner where I had learned how to use one. 'When I was fifteen and working on a farm' I replied. The next year it seemed that I had shamed the parishioners into joining me. One of the volunteers was the aforementioned Earl, who had just married and bought back land and a house formerly sold by his family and in my parish. The Earl had brought along a sit-on mower. I looked up to see his lordship filling the petrol tank, whilst smoking one of his French cigarettes. 'That is not a very wise thing to do!' I said. 'What?' he asked. 'Filling a petrol tank and smoking a cigarette,' I replied. 'Oh! I didn't think' he said, quickly placing the cigarette on a nearby tombstone. 'I prefer my parishioners to be dead before they are cremated!' I said. He grinned.

My next parishes were on Salisbury Plain. On his way to the Isle of Wight with his mother and her maid and his sister Dora he writes on Tuesday 9th June 1874

The Wiltshire Downs and Salisbury Plain were white and glaring with drought and chalk dust in the scorching blinding sun.

Kilvert's Diary contains references to Salisbury Catherdral. My next parish was in Salisbury and I preached in the cathedral on a couple of occasions. He mentions the shooting of two peregrine falcons there, a thing not allowed in our day. I remember going to look at the peregrines' nest on the tower at the base of the tall spire.

Returning to Foxham reminds me how things have changed since Kilvert walked in that area. The RAF base at Lyneham was close by. I wonder what he would have made of the huge Hercules transport planes that flew over the village. Once, when our clergy chapter was being entertained at the airbase I asked the CO whether it was really necessary for them to fly low over the church on a Sunday. I had to pause until they had gone over in order to make myself heard. 'I'm sorry, but we have a very busy schedule to keep, which often means we have to fly seven days in the week,' he answered. The RAF chaplain then cheered me up no end, when he said, 'Well John, they are about 200 feet above you when they come over your church and are nearest to their stalling speed!'

So we pass from Wiltshire and move to Wales. He writes a great deal about Clyro and district. About this parish and his beloved Daisy Thomas. Again he and I move over the same ground, for from Salisbury I moved to become priest-in-charge of Bryngwyn, Newchurch, Llanbedr Painscastle and Llanddewi Fach.

Wednesday 16th March 1870. Faint sunshine on Bryngwyn Hill and a cold cheery gleam of water from the great peat bog below on the edge of which stands the grey cluster of buildings and the tall dark yew of Llanshifr.

In the same year on Friday 14th October he writes about the two Michaelmasses *that they may be able to make some puddings and pancakes against Bryngwyn and Clyro Feasts.* He writes of the differences between Hetty Gore and Mainwaring who was teacher at Rhosgoch in his entry for 14th April 1871. He writes about Llanbedr and the Solitary, The Rev. John Price. My predecessor in the Painscastle group, the Rev. Peter Ralph-Bowman, wrote to me after he had retired to Salisbury asking for permission to have his ashes buried beside the Solitary's grave in Llanbedr churchyard, which is where they were placed, but a few years past.

Kilvert wrote in May 1870 of visits to Newchurch and of Emmeline, the curate's daughter keeping school in the absence of her father and elder sister.

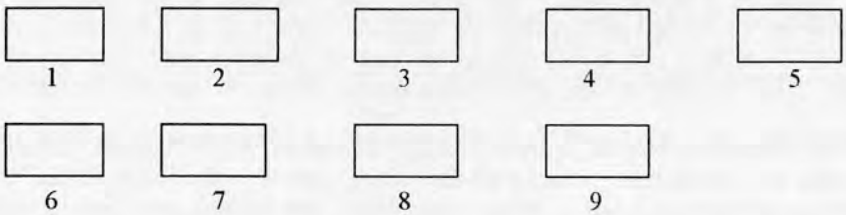
Pretty Emeline in a russet brown stuff dress and her long fair curls was keeping school bravely with an austere look in her severe beautiful face.

Then on Tuesday 5th September 1871 he writes of another visit to Newchurch

The day was lovely and I went over to Newchurch ... The little lonely tree bowed on the mountain brow, and below lay the tiny village deep in the valley among the trees embosoming the little church with its blue spire and Emmeline's grave.

I remember a holiday with my family some little while after we had watched the BBC series about the Rev. Francis Kilvert, when we stopped in Clyro, went into the church and looked at his plaque, visited his lodgings and the Venables' old vicarage. We walked up the hill towards what was to become my final incumbency years ahead. No Begwns Bluff's houses then, just a hedgerow-bordered lane. Little did I know then how closely I was to follow that Victorian clergyman from place to place. In two centuries two servants of God on the same earthly pathways trod.

THE THOMAS GRAVES IN LLANIGON CHURCHYARD
(when looking towards St.Eigon Church)
By Mr. Colin Dixon *(Llandrindod Wells)*



1. **Edith Burnham Thomas** daughter of The Rev. W. Jones Thomas, died December 12th 1920 aged 71: also **Frances Eleanor Jane Thomas,** youngest daughter of The Rev. W.J. Thomas, died December 18th 1928 aged 76: also **Charlotte Alice Thomas**, died 16th January 1933.

2. **Ann** Widow of The Rev. John Jones of Hereford, daughter of Edmund Pateshall of Allensmore Court Herefordshire, died at Llanthomas January 6th 1865 aged 81.

3. **Ann Elizabeth,** beloved wife of The Rev. William Jones Thomas, daughter of The Rev. John Jones of Hereford, born May 12th 1812, died at Llanthomas June 17th 1884: also **The Rev. William Jones Thomas** of Llanthomas, for 27 years Vicar of this Parish 3rd son of David Thomas of Welfield, Radnorshire, born December 4th 1811, died February 6th 1886

4. **Mary Elizabeth,** eldest daughter of The Rev. William Jones Thomas, born February 4th 1844, died at Llanthomas June 1st 1886

5. **William Jones Thomas,** Col. of The S.Wales Borderers 3rd Batt., ADC to Queen Victoria, eldest son of the late Rev. W.J. Thomas of Llanthomas, born December 12th 1839, died September 24th 1909: also **Grace Catherine Anne Thomas,** 2nd daughter of Rev. W. Jones Thomas, born October 26th 1846, died July 6th 1909.

6. **Walter Cross Buchanon,** born 16th May 1839, died 3rd December 1923, youngest son of the late John Cross Buchanon of The Moss and Auchentoshan, Dunbarton: also **Amy** his wife, died 17th August 1938:

7. **Walter Sandys Thomas,** youngest son of the Rev. W. Jones Thomas of Llanthomas, born 10th November 1853, died 25th February 1901: also his wife **Violet Alice,** died 5th January 1949: also of **Menie Ethel Knight,** died 11th August 1955: also of **Leonard Cross Buchanon,** died 16th September 1959 aged 83

8. **Edward Lechmere Thomas,** born 23rd January 1878, died 16th December 1892, son of the late Edward Lechmere Thomas of Lindoola, Ceylon and of Llanthomas and stepson of Edward Dumaresq Thomas: also **Edward Dumeresq Thomas** 2nd son of the late David Thomas of Watton House Brecon, died 1st March 1911 aged 66: Also of Nina Dumaresq Thomas, died February 19th 1932 aged 75

9. **Catherine Holcombe,** widow of The Rev. Essex Holcombe MA, Incumbent of Llanganten and Llangynog Breconshire, son of the Rev. John Holcombe Rector of Cosheston Pembrokeshire, eldest daughter of David Thomas of Welfield, Radnorshire, born 17th May 1813, died 23rd February 1900: also of **Mary Annabette Stackhouse Holcombe,** youngest daughter of the late Rev. Essex Holcombe, died 2nd September 1933 aged 79

BOOK REVIEW
David Lockwood reviews a new book which, he says, members will 'revel in':

WESSEX*: a Literary Pilgrimage.* Peter Tolhurst. Black Dog Books, Norwich. Price £19.95

The very title conjures up Thomas Hardy and his presence rightly looms magnificently in this book which is a literary view of Dorset and its environs. The county is rich in writers, some born there, others dwelt there, many visited and Tolhurst's research is more than thorough. For instance, there is a small country house which I love near Wilton. Whenever I am anyway near, I make a detour in order to pass it: it is Netherhampton House. I knew that Sir Henry Newbolt once lived there, but from this book I learnt that Virginia Woolf, with her father and sister spent many summers there. I learnt too that Edward Thomas before embarking for France visited it. Edith Olivier, who originally alerted me to the house, was frequently entertained there – so it is a very literary house.

The Powys brothers feature mightily and with justice and in case one thinks that one is not fully cognisant with their work, or if one's memory fails in Hardy's or other writers' case, Tolhurst always supplies a small précis where it is necessary.

It is a work full of information. Lulworth Cove known to many of us as the scene of Sergeant Troy's disappearance in *Far from the Madding Crowd* takes on another aspect when one knows that Keats made some of his last steps on English soil here. The ship carrying him and his companion Joseph Severn to Italy put in for anchorage and Keats clambered over these rocks. In 1907 Rupert Brooke climbing the same rocks lost his copy of Keats, it was swept out to sea on a current. Brooke dived in, misquoting from Diodorus Siculus, and retrieved it!

Kilvert is mentioned early on and frequently makes a one-word reappearance. But so are many others, Richard Jefferies, W.H. Hudson, Jane Austen, John Fowles, E.M. Forster, P.D. James, to mention a few. Some names I had not heard of but I most certainly mean to unearth them for myself. This is the work of an enthusiast who enthuses the reader. He is the finest bookworm.

The book is fastidiously produced, good print, many excellent photographs and reproductions.

There is a foreword by Ronald Blyth, who himself is a masterly invoker of the feel, ethos and history of place. He is remembered by us for he delighted us at the Kilvert Jubilee.

As some stone cottages in certain parts of Scotland glint with the myriads of tiny garnets embedded and make the villages alive, glittering and fascinating, so Tolhurst makes Wiltshire and Dorset almost dazzle with literary forbears.

This is a book most Kilvert readers will revel in.

September 1999

Last autumn Mrs. Veronica Powell, a life member from Devon, wrote this fascinating letter to our president:

Dear Mr. Lockwood,

I have just finished reading the story of Mother Sheppard of whom I am sure you know. It has taken me back to the Welsh Valleys and many place names I know.

This has made me feel very guilty for, having been a member of the Kilvert Society for 40 years, it has been many years since I have been in contact with anyone. Yours was the only name I knew, as it was you who conducted my sister-in-law's funeral service in Clyro Church. She, Mrs. Burney, lived in the bungalows in the village.

My husband lived as a young boy in Llanigon, and knew both the Miss Thomases, they visited the school and in the summer there was a party at Llanthomas for the village children. He remembers, when the first Miss Thomas died, his father taking her coffin from the house to the church with a horse and dray. Her grave, like Kilvert's, was lined with flowers. When her sister died she was cremated and her ashes put in her sister's grave.

When I first saw the Black Mountains in April 1945 they were covered with snow and looked very beautiful.

My mother-in-law lived then in Clyro and whilst staying with her we visited Hay where in Grant's bookshop I found and bought the abridged version of the Diary. We then spent time looking for the cottages and the names in the churchyard.

When my mother-in-law moved to Llowes we met Lane-Griffiths. It was he who persuaded us to join the Kilvert Society. Mr. Prosser was the Secretary then and we used to visit him in his cycle shop in Hereford.

My husband died in February 1996, but I still think very fondly of the Kilvert country and the Society.

What a wonderful man your last Secretary was. I would love to have met him. If only schoolteachers were like him to-day.

You are, I trust, in good health and all sounds well with the Society. It has grown very much since the days we joined.

My very best wishes for your turn of office.

Yours sincerely,

Veronica Powell

Similarly, another long-standing member, Miss Eileen Gray of Bolton, wrote to our Secretary. Part of her letter follows:

Dear Mr. Sharp,

I have been a member for over twenty years. I had not heard of Kilvert's Diary till I saw the television series in the early 1970s. After the series I borrowed the three-volume Diary from the Central Library, Bolton, one volume at a time. I

was fascinated, there was far more in reading the Diary than in the TV series. Information about the Kilvert Society was given in the library book and I wrote to Mr. Prosser, the name given. But Mr. West answered my letter telling me that Mr. Prosser had died and he had taken over as Hon. Secretary. I became a member and recall the yearly subscription was cheaper then!

I have kept up my membership because of the interesting KS newsletters, which inform about the activities of the Society at Hereford and such interesting articles written by various members including our late editor of the newsletters, Mr. E.J.C. West, who continued with the editorship after he had resigned as secretary.

I have only visited Hereford once. It was in September, 1979 the centenary of Kilvert's demise. I spent a couple of nights there, met members and I recall Mr. West introduced me to a lady who was the granddaughter of Kilvert's cousin, Elizabeth, the latter mentioned in the Diary. I visited Bredwardine and Clyro and on the last evening attended a 'do' at the Bishop's Palace (what elaborate accommodation was provided by the Church for top clerics in the last century!). The actor who played the part of Kilvert in the television series appeared dressed as Kilvert and read from the Diary, then we had refreshments in another room.

I had written a Kilvert article and submitted a copy to the editor of the Hereford Times. He liked it and published my article in the Hereford Times along with Kilvert's photo. My article was never printed in a KS newsletter, but I presume may still exist in the files of the *Hereford Times* of September, 1979. (I will follow this up – ed.)

I had occasion to write to Mr. West several times over the years, sometimes enquiring about characters in the Diary. Mr. West always answered my letters and always in longhand. I know he wrote a great many letters in his capacity as Hon. Secretary, having mentioned this to me. I also know he had not been robust in health for a few years and his last letter to me indicated his health was not improving, but he never ever flagged in his KS duties.

August 1999.

A VISIT TO WORCESTER

By Mr. Richard Vine (Warminster)

We were lucky enough to be invited to a wedding in Worcester Cathedral this July (1999). On our way up from Wiltshire I asked my wife to read me the entries relating to Maria Kilvert's death and her funeral in the Cathedral (Nov/Dec 1870) as we sped along the motorway.

We had been directed to park in the grounds of the King's School just south of the Close (or College Green). We walked out of the buildings and found ourselves at once in the Close diagonally opposite the cloister arch. Miss Kilvert's house was not as immediately obvious as I had thought it would be (*'the last house, red brick with white blinds down'*). However all was to be charmingly revealed later.

We walked across the Green, much prettier than Kilvert found it in December, through the cloister arch, which Maria Kilvert's coffin bearers *'blinded by the sweeping pall'* nearly missed. Then through the narrow dark passage and into the cloisters. From there we went up the steps into the Cathedral nave, remembering the dreadful struggle had by the coffin bearers – *'a mass of struggling men swaying to and fro, pushing and writhing and wrestling while the coffin sank and rose and sank again'*. All was however saved by the fat chief mourner, who *'rushed into the strife by an opening large'*.

We, meanwhile, walked up the nave of this glorious building and took our places in the choir stalls. Sitting next to us was a charming Canadian lady who turned out to be the wife of the Dean who was conducting the marriage service. On the day of Maria's funeral the Dean had gout and could not appear! I asked her if the Deanery was in the Close and when told it was, asked her if she knew who I meant by Francis Kilvert. 'Of course I do', she replied, "his aunt died in one of my bedrooms!" She was then able to confirm which, exactly, was the house and that Maria Kilvert had died in the room above the kitchen.

After a most beautifully sung wedding, with communion (both the bride and groom being choral scholars at Trinity, Cambridge) the Dean's wife showed us where Maria Kilvert's grave was in the cloister garth. Even on that lovely July day we could envisage the sacristan intoning the funeral service, *'whilst a crowd of people look in through the cloister windows'*.

On our way back to the gardens of the King's School for wedding photographs, we passed through this dark narrow passage and cloister arch again and went to look at the house. It is an interesting house, yes, red brick, white window frames and a conical roof with tiles. And there too, was the room above the kitchen.

A wonderful, English summer wedding day made all the more special for us by finding ourselves so unexpectedly close to our friend Francis Kilvert.

ELIZABETH KILVERT and the ROWLAND FAMILY

By Mr. Tony O'Brien (Newchurch)

John Rowland born 1816 in Oxford and, according to his granddaughter Mary Alice, studied medicine in London but returned to Oxford in his 20s and took up farming at the Manor Farm in Islip, six miles north east of Oxford city and not far from the Manor House of Palace where Edward the Confessor was born. In 1840 he married Anne Creek of a land-owning family of Steeple Aston, near Woodstock who were descended from the Prattentons of Worcester. Sometime in the 1840s the Rowlands moved to Upper Street, Islip, and bought a 340 acre farm and enjoyed the life of minor gentry. Anne now with five of her eight children born in Islip was able to afford a governess to educate them as well as a nurse and other indoor servants. With the arrival of the last of his eight children and crowded out with live-in servants John decided in 1862 to build his family a house at Wootton, a large parish two miles north west of Woodstock on the edge of Blenheim Park. The new architect designed a three-storey brickbuilt house he named 'Hollybank' which cost him £3,000, had six family bedrooms, servants' rooms, butlers' pantry and a huge conservatory. It was at Hollybank seventeen years later that Kilvert would be welcomed by his future in-laws when he courted their daughter Elizabeth Anne who at 33 years of age must have thought she had lost out in the matrimony stakes, which was to be the fate of her four sisters and her two nieces, the child bridesmaids at her wedding to Kilvert. John's five daughters spent their days on charitable visits to many of the 270 houses in Wootton occupied mainly by farm labourers, who on eleven shillings a week in 1872 downed tools for a minimum 16 shillings. John Rowland, who employed 14 men on his own three farms, fought the strike and won. When John died in 1902 aged 86 and four years after his wife Anne, Hollybank went to his only surviving son Rev. William C. Rowland, Vicar of Puriton, Somerset on condition that he split £5,000 amongst his four surviving sisters and two nieces. William was to hang on to Hollybank until 1925, but Elizabeth Kilvert and her sisters moved out in 1902 and took a long lease on a house in Eastbourne. John Rowland died 13th February 1902 leaving an estate of £14,000.

Anne Rowland wife of John and mother of Elizabeth Kilvert was born in 1815 the daughter of Thomas and Anne Creek of Steeple Aston seven miles north east of Woodstock. The mother of three sons and five daughters she was to lose two of her sons when still in their thirties. She inherited land and properties in Steeple Aston along with cash from her father and her brother Edmund. Soon after she married John Rowland in 1840 they moved to the Manor Farm, Islip, where most of her eight children were born. Her first-born son, Thomas, who died in 1871 just 30 years old was the father of Elizabeth's two young bridesmaids who were adopted by Anne and her family and spent the rest of their lives with the Rowlands, right up until both girls died unmarried. Anne died 11th October 1898 leaving an estate of £22,432.

Elizabeth Anne Rowland the third child and second daughter of John was born in Islip on 10th April 1846 and later in life would earn fame as Kilvert's 33-year-old bride at Wootton's ancient parish church. According to her niece, Mary Alice, the couple first met on a group trip to Paris in 1876 after which to Mary and her sister Jane he became 'uncle Frank'. Elizabeth was always 'aunt Lizzie'. Elizabeth and her four sisters spent some of their days and the rest of their lives on charitable works and visiting the sick and needy of Wootton in their hovels and running a Sunday school and bible class. As well as extensive gardens to tend there was also a huge Kew-gardens-type conservatory on the side of Hollybank to keep Elizabeth, a keen green fingers, from mooning over her Frank. Wednesday August 20th 1879 turned out quite wet for the wedding but she had her future father-in-law, the Rev. Robert Kilvert, conducting the service in Wootton's church of St. Mary with its 13c tower. The witnesses were Frances Kilvert then aged 33, the groom's sister and later in life an Anglican nun, and Catherine and Anne Rowland the bride's sisters. The bride's father, John Rowland, also signed. The two child bridesmaids were Jane Marian, aged nine, and Mary Alice, aged eight, the daughters of Thomas, the bride's brother, who died when the girls were still babies. Notably absent from the wedding of her adored brother was Dora, Frank's youngest sister who married James Pitcairn on July 31st and went off on three weeks honeymoon in the Lake District and returned on August 21st missing the big wedding by one day. Cutting it very fine was Frank's eldest sister Thersie and her husband, the Rev. W.R. Smith, Rector of Monnington on Wye. They had joined the Pitcairns in the Lakes on Monday August 18th, came back on the 19th presumably to Monnington and then had to make it to Wootton the following day. Elizabeth tragically had no time whatsoever to settle into her role as the vicar's wife. Married on August 20th, then off to Scotland for the honeymoon, then back to Wootton and Langley for a few days with the families and home to Bredwardine on Saturday September 13th. There was to be no time for her to tidy up the vicarage and rearrange the furniture for Kilvert took the service the following day Sunday 14th September but was unwell that evening, after which Elizabeth would have nursed him until he died nine days later on Tuesday 23rd September. So it was back to Wootton as a widow to join again her four unmarried sisters in which state all five girls would always remain.

Immediately after their father died in 1902 the four surviving daughters took a long lease on 'Redlands', 15 Hartfield Road, Eastbourne, a large three-storey bay-windowed house not far from the town centre, station and beach. Still with them were the two bridesmaids, Jane and Mary, now in their early 30s and all of them still involved in good works. When Elizabeth died on the 16th January 1911 she left an estate of £5,000 some of which was divided amongst her own and Kilvert's numerous nieces and nephews. She was denied her wish to be buried next to Kilvert 32 years after he died owing to the Newton sisters, Julia (1811/86) and Catherine (1810/96) being buried each side and tight up against him.

Rev. William Creek Rowland the third and youngest son of John born in Islip in 1854 and Elizabeth's only surviving brother who was eight years younger than her. His middle name came from his mother's maiden name. He seems to

have missed out on a university education but took theology at Wells College in 1878 and was ordained priest in 1880 at Bath and Wells. After a three-year stint as curate of Puriton, Somerset, which is 3 miles north of Bridgewater, he was appointed vicar there in 1883 which also included nearby Woolavington and a nice stipend of £640. In 1908 he was made Rural Dean of Pawlett, Somerset until he retired to 'Davnor', Broadway, Chilcompton, Bath, in 1934. He died 24th September 1938 aged 82 years, the last of John Rowland's three sons and five daughters. William was followed six months later by his wife Althea Louisa who died 19th March 1939. They had two sons and two daughters one of whom, Althea Mary, married in 1909 the Rev. William M.K. Warren, rector of Binegar, Bath, from 1929 until he retired in 1945. The second daughter, Marjorie, married Capt. George Faulkner, CB., RN. William Rowland left an estate of £11,450 which was to be divided up amongst his sons and daughters after his wife died. He gave instructions to sell Hollybank, the family home for 40 years and strangely unlike his five sisters he left nothing to his two nieces Jane and Marian, now in their late 60's and still living in Eastbourne.

Mary Sarah Rowland the oldest of Elizabeth's sisters was born in Islip in 1844 and like all Victorian middle-class young ladies devoted her life to good works. She never married and died at Redlands on 1st February 1929 aged 85. Her obituary in the local paper has her "..... for 27 years in this town and in the country parish (Wootton) thro'out her long life she took part in many benevolent activities ..." She left an estate of £7,529 most of which went to her two nieces Jane and Mary after the death of her sister Louisa who survived Mary Sarah by only a year.

Anne Prattenton Rowland the third daughter was born in Islip in 1848 and was the first of Elizabeth's four sisters to die, probably at Wootton, with evidence suggesting a date of 1892 and aged 44. Her middle name came from her mother's side who were from an old Worcester family. She was a witness at Elizabeth's wedding in 1879.

Catherine Rowland the fourth daughter born in 1849 in Islip and almost certainly another lady of leisure. She was another witness at Elizabeth's wedding. She died the 5th January 1924 aged 75 leaving £4,649 mostly divided between her two surviving sisters Mary Sarah and Louisa.

Louisa Margaret Rowland the fifth and youngest daughter who was eleven years younger than her sister Elizabeth. Born in Islip in 1857 Louisa was the last of the Rowland daughters when she died unmarried at Redlands 16th January 1930 aged 73. She left an estate of £7,423 but did not make a will.

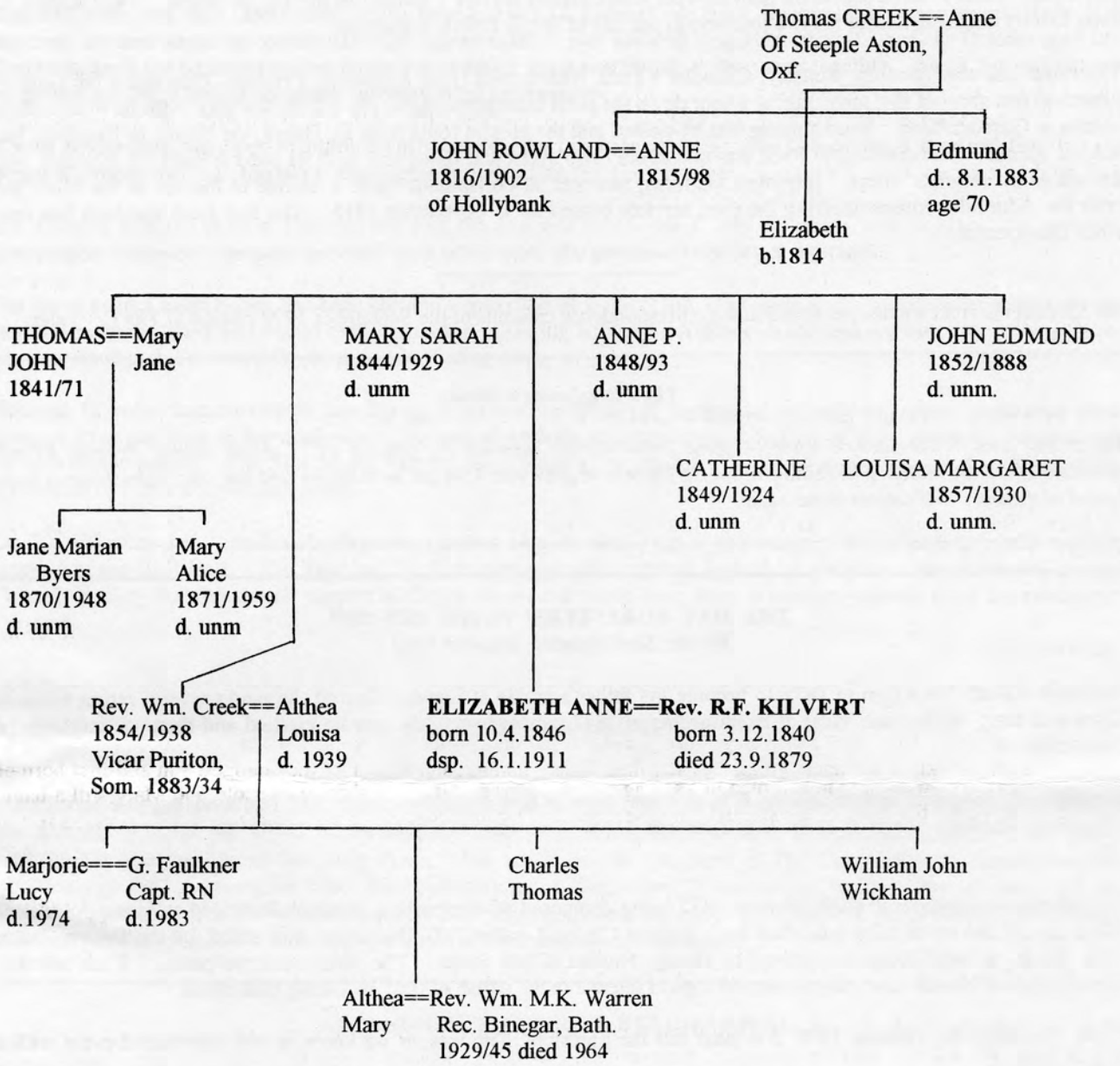
Jane Marian Byers Rowland and Mary Alice Rowland the child bridesmaids at their aunt Elizabeth's wedding to Kilvert, whom they knew as 'uncle Frank'. Their father was Thomas John Rowland, the youngest son and first born of the eight Rowland children. He had died in 1871 aged only 30 when Jane was about a year old and Mary still a baby. Sometime soon after the death of Thomas the girls were adopted by John Rowland and his daughters and spent the rest of their lives living with them right up until Elizabeth and her four sisters died off in Eastbourne in old age and, like Daisy Thomas and her four sisters, all of them unmarried. After the death of Thomas his widow Mary took as a second husband a Mr. Quant (the first Mary Quant?) but she still appeared to have no interest in Jane and Mary. However, as each of John Rowland's family died off the two girls were well provided for. It was in 1946 that Mary Alice corresponded with the Society giving the information about the meeting and courtship of their aunt and Kilvert and in 1946 she was invited to the Clyro commemoration but declined saying she was too delicate to travel at age 76.

Sometime after the death of Louisa in 1930 the last of Elizabeth Kilvert's four sisters, her two nieces, Jane and Mary, now in their 60s and left alone in the bulky, three-storyed 'Redlands' decided to stay in Eastbourne and moved just a couple of streets away to the more modest 25 Bedford Grove and when years later old age caught up with them they both died in local nursing homes, Jane Marian Byers Rowland on the 14th November 1948 aged 78 years and Mary Alice Rowland as recently as the 17th February 1959 aged 88 years.

'Redlands' in Eastbourne, where Elizabeth Kilvert spent the last nine years of her life, is these days divided into bedsits and flats and still has its name on the wrought iron gate. It is not certain at this stage where three of Elizabeth's sisters and her nieces Jane and Mary lie buried. They may have been taken back to Wootton or else buried in the Ocklynge Cemetery on the Willingdon Road which is not far from Redlands. It is doubtful that the two sons and two daughters of Elizabeth's brother, the Rev. William Rowland, had any issue as none are mentioned in the more recent family wills. It seems that Elizabeth's niece, Althea Mary Warren, had no issue and Althea's brothers, Charles Thomas and William John, were elderly and unmarried in the 1950's and Althea's sister, Marjorie, quite late in life married an elderly Capt. Faulkner, RN, then it could be that Elizabeth Kilvert's branch of the Rowland family has died out completely.

Unknown to most researchers these days is the massive increase in the cost of a copy will. Just a few months ago at Somerset House it was 75 pence. Today at its new location in High Holborn it's a swingeing £5. Nor are you any longer allowed to send down for the original will and make notes.

THE ROWLAND FAMILY OF WOOTTON (OXON)



HOW I FIRST HEARD OF KILVERT

By Mr. Jack Burrell (Bristol)

In the *Railway Magazine* for April 1940 reference was made to Kilvert's journey from Chippenham to Hay. If Kilvert left Chippenham at 8.42 a.m. and travelled via Swindon, Gloucester and Hereford, provided he made the connection at Hereford, he could have been at Hay by 1.16 p.m. In 1939, despite the opening of the Severn Tunnel in 1886, the 1870 journeys were quicker.

The golden valley line from Pontrilas to Hay also opened after Kilvert's time, but this was purely a local line with an even more infrequent service than the Hereford, Hay and Brecon.

In the *Railway Magazine* for May 1941 there was a mention of Kilvert being erroneously told at Bath that his train stopped at Chippenham, but he was carried on to Swindon.

In 1944 I was billeted in a house commandeered by the Army, at Byfleet, Surrey. Its name was 'Clyro'. Had an early Kilvert enthusiast previously occupied it?

To the Isle of Wight 1874

Mr. Colin Dixon's recent article on Sam Cowper Coles recalls Kilvert's journey to the Isle of Wight. On Tuesday 9th June Kilvert made the first of his two journeys to the Isle of Wight from Chippenham.

The route was via Salisbury, Romsey, Chandler's Ford, Bishopstoke (now Eastleigh), Fareham, then down the Gosport branch to just short of that town, taking a spur down the short branch opened in 1865 to Stokes Bay with its intermediate station at Gosport Road. Southampton was by-passed and the present route from St. Denys, via Netley to Fareham, had not yet opened. The crossing to Ryde was one of only two and a half miles and, with its good embarking facilities, was known as the families' route. Improved facilities, however, at Portsmouth led to a decline in the use of the route and with the Admiralty commandeering the pier, services ceased on 1st November 1915. The line from Fareham has long since disappeared.

Mr. Burrell also had a letter published in the correspondence columns of the September 1999 edition of *The Cricketer:*

The Ploughman's supper

Regarding Imogen Grosberg's letter (August) about the tea interval, the famous 19th Century diarist Francis Kilvert mentions a village match in Wiltshire in the 1870s where play was 1.30 pm to 6.30 pm and the only refreshments were bread and cheese and onions at the close.

THE HAY FORESTERS' FETES 1879-1889

By Mr. Karl Showler, *(Hay-on-Wye)*

Although Kilvert left Clyro in 1872 to become his father's curate at Langley Burrell, he made several return visits to Clyro and Hay; he became Vicar at Bredwardine in 1877, where two years later he married and died unexpectedly in September.

Evidence of 'Forestric' activity during Kilvert's own time in Hay and subsequently will be found in those Hay Parish Magazines that have survived at St. John's Rooms, Hay. The years available are for 1879, '80, '82, '85, '86, '88 and '89.

The Magazine commenced publication in 1875 being composed of two parts, a national illustrated religious Journal of Bible stories and moral tales published by J. Erskine Clarke, London. To this 'core' was added, by the Rector Canon W.L. Bevan, a Parish Magazine printed by George Horden, Castle Street. The whole cost two pence. Each monthly issue contained church news plus matters of topical interest in the parish of Hay, including train times.

In the first surviving volume, 1879, it is clear that the Foresters' Fete was, as we know, a well established event with a regular pattern.

The Hereford Times noted the Brothers assembled on June 2nd outside the Foresters' Hall in Lion Street with the large Banner of the Order and a Band. There was a decorated Triumphal Arch over the street and oak branches framed the entrance to the 'Lodge' above the Red Lion.

Like the Foresters' Fete in Hereford the event was washed out by rain although the morning had been beautifully fine. The Parish Magazine noted that Charlotte Mawn of Bridge Street was pushed or fell from some boarding and broke her arm. *' ... however she has since progressed favourably.'* The procession marched to the Parish Church for Divine Service, returned to their Lion Street Hall for a formal dinner and speeches before marching to a field for sports.

Even today the annual Remembrance Parade assembles in Lion Street with all the uniformed and other organisations, it marches east up Lion Street, makes a 'U' turn through St. John's place to march westwards down Market Street, High Town and Castle Street and on to St. Mary's Church. After the service a longer route via St. Mary's Road takes the modern parade back into the town to Memorial Square which in Kilvert's time was full of little houses.

In 1880 the fete was on May 24th instead of the usual Whit Monday when Mr. G. Games took the Chair at the dinner and Mr. Lilwall lent his field at Nantyglaster, that has been built over in modern times ('Lower Mead').

In 1882 weather was fine on July 18th. The procession marched to the Parish Church for a sermon by Canon Bevan's Curate, J.E. Lloyd, M.A., who took as his text 1 Corinthians xvi verse 13 'Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.' They marched back to Lion Street sitting down to an excellent dinner provided by the Secretary's wife,

Mrs. Moro of the Red Lion. Mr. Crichton presided, and after the usual toasts the Foresters went to Mr. Maskell's field for athletic sports. The weather was fine and the sport good.

The next year, July 20th 1885 Canon Bevan preached and Lt. Colonel W. Jones Thomas of Llanthomas presided. The day was deemed most successful although the attendance was small due to Hay harvest. Col. Thomas said that Foresters could not be congratulated on their punctuality as he was forced to join toasts together. Mr. R.T. Griffiths, Dr. Applebee and Mr. Lawdon organised and subscribed to the sports.

Canon Bevan preached again in 1886, the service commencing at 11 o'clock. The dinner was at the Drill Hall in Lion Street and the athletics on the sports field in the Brecon Road.

Mr. Lawdon took the chair in 1888 but this year the date was September 3rd and the sports were at 'The Cricket Field'. The Brecon Volunteer Company provided their brass band; the procession starting at 9 o'clock.

For many years Canon Bevan had been seeking improvements in local life, to provide better social facilities that did not involve alcoholic drink and would encourage thrift. During Kilvert's residence in the area we find him helping at the Savings Bank and discussing the running of a reading room.

Teetotal Friendly Societies came into being, including the Order of Rechabites, a body that drew inspiration from Chapter 35 of the book of Jeremiah where the sons of Rechab, although tempted by pots of wine, refused it, maintaining an oath of abstinence. The Biblical Rechabites also refused to be urbanised but lived in tents and like so many of the Victorians did not cultivate the ground.

On 20th February 1889 the Parish Magazine reported that an adult Tent of the Order of Rechabites had held a public meeting at the Drill Hall. The Tent had 30 adult members with a junior Tent of 37 children. No doubt this teetotal Friendly Society had the special support of Canon Bevan and would have been in conflict with the more liberal-minded Foresters.

..... to be continued

HONORARY DEGREE

One of our Cardiff members has been awarded an honorary MA degree by the University of Wales for his distinguished contribution to literature. Mr. Meic Stephens founded the magazine *Poetry Wales* in 1965 and, from 1967 to 1990, was Literature Director of the Welsh Arts Council. In 1983 he edited *The Curate of Clyro*, a selection from the Diary, published by the prestigious Gregynog Press. His article on the Vaughans of The Yat, Glascwm, appeared in the Newsletter in 1987. Among his many other publications are *The Oxford Companion to the Literature of Wales* and *The Oxford Literary Guide to Britain and Ireland.* Mr. Stephens, whose ancestors, the Lloyds of Radnorshire, were famous as bonesetters, teaches in the English Department at the University of Glamorgan.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH BREDWARDINE

Our Secretary has received the following letter from Dr. G.A. Newsholme, Churchwarden, of St. Andrew's Church, Bredwardine, whose address is Yew Tree Cottage, Bredwardine, Hereford HR3 6BY.

It is almost five years since Edward West mentioned in the Newsletter that Bredwardine Church needed extensive repair to the south nave window. It seems a long time ago now. The repair was expertly carried out by craftsmen and the cost (£14,000) seemed quite justified. We are now unfortunately faced with the problem of raising about £70,000 over the next ten years.

Following the last quinquennial inspection by our architect we were advised that the church needed re-roofing with overhaul of the rainwater disposal system, an extensive refurbishment of the porch and a number of other matters; quite apart from the restoration of our (now silent) bells for which we have been trying to raise money so that they can be installed in a new steel bell-frame rather lower down in the tower. This, alone, has been estimated to cost at least £25,000.

We were advised to apply to English Heritage for help with a good chance of a grant of 90-95% but it soon became evident that, increasingly, money was in short supply. At the beginning of this financial year we were offered a grant of 60% towards re-roofing and repair of the rainwater disposal system which we have accepted, although it means that we must agree to undertake the other necessary, but not grant-aided, repairs as soon as we can.

Work on the roof is planned to start in the spring and a small committee is arranging a good many fund-raising events and applications to charitable trusts and even keeping up with the trend by making a web site on the Internet. Although

we cannot hope, by local effort, to raise more than a fraction of the money needed, I am sure that major charities look much more favourably on those who do their best to help themselves.

Individual members of the Society were very kind in helping us with the south window repair and I write in the hope that we might receive a similar response to our present need. Needless to say that no letter would go unacknowledged.

OBITUARIES

We record with regret the deaths of Mrs. M.H. Seymour of Kidderminster, a member since 1985 and Mr. and Mrs. D. Crumpton, of High Peak, Derbyshire, members since 1988. We offer our sympathy to their families and friends.

ERRATUM:

Our member Mrs. B.C. Meredith of Oswestry writes to point out an error which has occurred on page viii of *Jubilee Praise*. Mrs. Meredith is Tom Palmer's niece and great granddaughter of Edward Morgan. She has produced documentary evidence which reveals that Edward Morgan was married to one Caroline Wright and NOT Emily Evans, as stated. (It appears that the mistake arose from a sort of Chinese-Whispers effect as the information passed from Tom to Edward West to the present secretary! - ed.)

FOR SALE

i) Three-volume edition of the Diary. First illustrated edition, (1980))
) Please contact the publications manager
ii) *After Kilvert* by Lawrence LeQuesne)

PUBLICATIONS NEWS

Fred Grice's (former deputy president of the Society) excellent monograph *Francis Kilvert: Priest and Diarist* is currently being reprinted and will be available at the AGM.

This excellent booklet first appeared, in a limited edition, in 1975 and very quickly sold out. Below is Oswin Prosser's review of the new booklet as it appeared in the Newsletter of March 1976. Regrettably costs have risen somewhat since those days and the reprint will be priced £4.00 at the AGM (special opening offer) and subsequently at £4.50 or £5.00, including postage, from the Publications Manager.

Francis Kilvert: Priest and Diarist

This is the title of Mr. Grice's latest booklet. Many were sold at Newchurch, many by post already, and they will be on sale at the AGM. There are plenty more and this is something that every member should have. It has 58 pages and a total of 20 illustrations. The subject matter is most interesting, much about the Kilvert family about the Venables family and about Clyro and other places. Sections deal with Langley Burrell and with the Ashes and Meredith-Browns, with St. Harmon and with Bredwardine and with the Rowland family. It ends with *The Fate Of The Diary* and *The Appeal Of The Diary*. The latter contains many of the appreciations and analyses which have been made from time to time. Much can be learned from this booklet, it has a wide appeal and will surely be a best seller. £1.00 per copy, plus 11p (at present) if posted.

Once again a number of items have had to be held over.

Contributions for the May edition of The Journal should reach the editor as soon as possible and certainly no later than 7th April, 2000.