

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wycroft,  
23, Broome Hill,  
HEREFORD.

(Phone 2094)

20th April, 1965.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be held on

FRIDAY, the 30th APRIL at 7 p.m. (PROMPT.)

in Eignbrook Church Hall, Hereford, as usual.

The business meeting will be followed by light refreshments, once again very kindly provided by our President (Mrs. Wright) assisted by a number of lady members. Half an hour will be given over to Vice-Presidents and members who have matters of interest to speak briefly upon and we shall then be entertained by the Kilvert film, for which we shall be indebted to our member Mr Godfrey Davies. It is several years since this film was last shewn and your Committee are of the opinion that it will be generally much appreciated this year.

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,



Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964.

The Annual Meeting was held in Eignbrook Church Hall on Thursday, 30th April: about 100 members were present. After the President (Mrs. Wright) had welcomed the members the Chair was taken, at her request, by one of our Vice-Presidents - the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths (Vicar of Llowes, Rads.) Mrs. Wright was re-elected as President - members being unanimous about this - and she was, as in other years, warmly acclaimed. Vice-Presidents, Officials and Committee were all re-elected and there then followed a succession of brief speakers: these included the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths, the Rev. T. J. Lewis of Clyro who welcomed members to his church for the 1965 service, Canon J. S. Leatherbarrow of Martley (Worcs.) who touched on Father Ignatius and his Monastery at Capel-y-Ffin and deplored its apparent disintegration. Mr. J. D. Worsey spoke on the balance sheet, and a few words from Mr Stokoe of Hay-on-Wye and from Mr. Jelfs of Birmingham brought us up to refreshment time. Mrs. Wright



and some of the lady members kindly provided and served the usual refreshments, and after the votes of thanks we moved into the nearby Eignbrook Congregational Church for a special late evening service which had been arranged in honour of both Mrs Wright and the Church where she has worshipped all her life. It was conducted by the Minister (the Rev. T. Wigley) and an eloquent address was given by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths: in this he said that "the purpose of the service was two-fold. It was a celebration of the connection between Eignbrook Congregational Church and the Kilvert Society, and a tribute of respect and gratitude to Mrs Wright - who has presided over the affairs of the Kilvert Society with grace and charm," and he ended his address by pointing out that Mrs Wright had helped to achieve the unity of the many creeds represented by the Kilvert Society. A lesson was read by Mrs. Wright's son - Mr. S. G. K. Wright - and among the hymns chosen was "Fight the good fight", the favourite hymn of the late Mr Sid Wright, our founder and first president, and husband of Mrs Wright.

The Annual Service was held on Sunday, 28th June at BREDWARDINE (Herefordshire) by kind invitation of the Rev. W. Lloyd (Priest-in-Charge). There was a very large congregation, many coming long distances as is usual for these services. The President (Mrs Wright) came with a family party and on her behalf flowers were laid on the grave of Francis Kilvert. Parties of members from London, from Birmingham and other parts of the Midlands, from Bristol and beyond, several from Hampshire, many of our Welsh members, and numbers from the surrounding counties to augment the many Herefordshire folk present. A large motor-coach from Hereford brought another local contingent. A big meadow adjoining the churchyard made a good car park and very many cars parked there. The lessons were read by Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt., and by the Rev. T. J. Lewis (Vicar of Clyro) and the address was given by the Rev. B. B. Humphreys, Rector of Fiskerton, Lincolnshire - a founder member of the Society; a long distance for him to come but his presence filled a long standing invitation and we were extremely pleased that he managed it this year. Everyone present listened intently to a splendid address that approached the subject - Kilvert - on somewhat different lines to preachers of previous years.

After tea in the Village Hall - so very kindly provided and served by Mrs Lloyd and the local ladies - the large company made their way across Bredwardine bridge (from where there are splendid views of the Wye and of Kilvert's last home - the former Bredwardine vicarage) to Brobury House, the grounds and gardens of which had been so kindly thrown open by Mr and Mrs L. J. Praill, the entry fees making a handsome contribution to Bredwardine Church Funds. Here members and friends enjoyed the riot of colour and the big show of birds in aviaries but also had the extreme pleasure of listening to Mr. Plomer reading a number of suitable extracts from the Diary whilst seated around him on a secluded lawn. The day was fine and sunny, and this greatly added to the enjoyment of another good "Kilvert Sunday". In conclusion it will be of interest to note that the total of the collections taken in Church and in Village Hall amounted to almost £35 for Bredwardine Church Funds

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During the year we have lost two of our Vice-Presidents. For on August 18th there occurred the death of Mr. H. S. Powell of Ashperton, near Ledbury, after a very short illness. He was one of the little band of founder members, and since 1948 had attended most of the Meetings and Services. He was at Bredwardine on the 28th of June and when I walked across the bridge with him to Brobury House I was not to know that so soon Mr Worsey and I would be attending his funeral at



Ashperton Church; here he had worshipped and had been churchwarden for many years. The church was quite full, for the Powells have farmed in the Ledbury area for a very long time and folk had come from far and near.

Then on September 17th Mrs. Essex Hope died at Worthing in Sussex, at the age of 84. Most members will know that she was a niece of Francis Kilvert, for her mother was his sister Thersie (Thermuthis) the wife of the Rev. W. R. Smith - Rector of Monnington-on-Wye at the same time as Kilvert was at nearby Bredwardine. She had been a member and a Vice-President for many years and had helped generously with several projects that we are all concerned with. The "Brecon and Radnor Express" printed a good notice in their columns following her death: we had a number of reprints done and anyone who would like a fuller account of Mrs Hope's activities and connections etc., is invited to send a stamped envelope to the Hon. Secretary for a reprint of this.

These seem to be the only 2 losses that we have suffered during the year. It would be appreciated if details of the death of any member could be sent to the Hon. Secretary so that it can be announced in these pages.

#### Statement of Accounts for Year ended 31st Dec. 1964

<u>Receipts</u>	£	s	d	<u>Expenses</u>	£	s	d
Balance Brought forward	55	11	7	Donation to Herefordshire & Radnorshire Nature Trust	1	1	0
Subscriptions and Donations	115	2	9	Donation to Langley Burrell Church Restoration Fund	5	0	0
Coach Fares to Bredwardine	7	4	0	Duplicating Kilvert Society Appeal for same	2	3	6
From Sale of Mrs. Mallinson's Booklet "A Kilvert Kinswoman"	3	18	0	Donation to Eignbrook Congregational Church	5	0	0
From Sale of Cakes at A.G.M.	15	2		Towards expenses of preacher at Eignbrook	2	2	0
				Sundry expenses re Eignbrook service		18	0
				Donation re use of Eignbrook Hall for A.G.M.	2	2	0
				Coach to Bredwardine on June 28th	7	15	0
				Towards expenses of preacher at Bredwardine	4	4	0
				Fixing P.A. equipment at Bredwardine	1	1	0
				Car Park Attendant at Bredwardine	1	0	0
				Upkeep of Kilvert graves	6	0	0
				Flowers for same		8	0
				Printing and Stationery	31	3	10
				Duplicating	14	0	8
				Postage and Telephone Calls	13	18	2
				Cheque Book		5	0
				Balance in Hand	84	9	4
<u>£182 11 6</u>				<u>£182 11 6</u>			

John D. Worsey  
22/3/65. Hon. Treas.



Members will be sorry to hear that our President (Mrs Wright) has been seriously ill and in hospital. She has been back home for several weeks now, and is slowly improving, but still unable to come downstairs. Some of us have visited her, in hospital and at home, and flowers were sent her on behalf of all of us.

One of our Vice-Presidents - Mr. J. C. Price of Kingsland (Herefordshire) was in Hereford Hospital for a fortnight or so prior to Christmas. He has now made a splendid recovery from a quite serious operation. Had we known, one or other of the Hereford members would have visited him - for this reason we would particularly like to know when anyone from a distance (as Mr. Price is) from Hereford is in hospital here.

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"NOTES and NEWS" by the Hon. Secretary 20th April 1965

The appeal that was sent out to all members for donations towards the £1,200 urgently needed for repairs to the parish church (St. Peter's) at Langley Burrell has brought in (so far) no less than £103. 16. 0. This has been passed on, and letters of grateful thanks have come from the good people there. They tell us that most of the money needed has been subscribed and that work has started. It would not be any surprise to hear that the actual cost will exceed the estimated £1,200 and the fund is therefore still open. Our Asst. Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. E. Peters) has dealt with all the correspondence etc connected with this matter.

One result of the publicity given to the Kilvert Society through its interest in helping the restoration fund for Langley Burrell church is a noteworthy increase in the numbers of members from that area. For very many years after the inception of the Society in 1948 we had no members at all from Wiltshire, but for several years now we have had a few, and they have now increased considerably. It is likely that at least one party of members from the Chippenham area will come up to the Clyro service in June. Among the new members from that district it is especially pleasing to welcome Major C.R.L. Scott-Ashe of Langley House. The name Ashe will be very familiar to all readers of the Diary, as will be the fact that Thermuthis Ashe was Francis Kilvert's grandmother.

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It is just possible that we may be able to organise a motor coach tour to the Chippenham district this year. This will be put up to members at the A.G.M. next week in order to get an indication of what support there is likely to be for such a trip.

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A recent issue of the Wiltshire county magazine (The Courier) has an excellent two-page article on "The Home of Francis Kilvert". From this much can be learned about Langley Burrell Rectory and there are good illustrations of different aspects of the house and one of the kitchen. All has been untouched for many years and is probably almost exactly as Kilvert knew it. It was recently sold and now awaits modernisation. It was felt that many members would like a copy of this magazine and an enquiry was made of the publishers in Swindon. With difficulty they got together the 100 copies we ordered and they have just come to hand. Members are invited to write to the Hon. Sec. for a copy of this most interesting magazine with its many features of life in



Wiltshire and Somerset. They are 2/- each and the postage will be paid by the Society. They will also be on sale at the A.G.M. and probably also at Clyro in June.

This reminds me to mention that the number of copies of Mrs. Mallinson's booklet "A Kilvert Kinswoman" steadily gets less. They are 2/6 each (price includes postage) and can be obtained from the Hon. Sec.

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Members generally will be very familiar with Kilvert's splendid description of the funeral of Maria Kilvert at Worcester Cathedral on the 2nd December 1870. She was a very wealthy woman, but left little to Francis or to his parents. On page 266 of Vol. I we find Francis bemoaning that "her beautiful prints she left to the Bishop of Worcester" - and he would obviously very much liked to have had them himself. For some 94 years they have hung in the Palace of the Bishops of Worcester (I saw them there when at Hartlebury Castle with our local Naturalist and Antiquarian Club a few years ago) but a short time ago the Bishop of Worcester decided to give them to the Kilvert Society. It was decided that we should endeavour to get them hung in Clyro church and the Vicar of Clyro and his P.C.C. were approached with this in view. We have now heard that they are accepted for hanging in the vestry of Clyro church and at the moment they are in the hands of a firm of pictureframers etc to have them cleaned and rebacked. There seems no reason why they should not be hung well before the June service there and no doubt will attract the attention of many visitors with Kilvert interests. There are 5 prints in all, typical examples of Victorian religious engravings. No doubt considered far from beautiful by today's standards, but it is surely poetic justice that at last they should be hung in Clyro, even if 95 years later than Kilvert would have wished for. A small framed notice will be hung with them, setting out their story in brief.

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The 1965 Kilvert Commemoration service is fixed for Sunday afternoon the 27th June at Clyro. This was announced in the letter sent out with details of last year's service at Bredwardine, for arrangements had to be made long in advance with our preacher at the forthcoming service. We shall look forward to again hearing the Rt. Rev. Newnham Davis: he preached at Clyro in 1962. Then he was Assistant Bishop of Coventry; now he is an Assistant Bishop of London. He is a member of the Kilvert Society and has stayed in and around Hay and walked in the "Kilvert Country". We hope that this year's "Kilvert Sunday" at Clyro will be somewhat of an outstanding one, for it is a CENTENARY. Kilvert first went to Clyro in 1865 (he was then 25 years of age). I am told that the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon will be present and will take part in the service. We are also very hopeful that Sir Michael Venables-Llewellyn (and Lady Delia) will be present. Not only is Sir Michael the Lord Lieutenant of Radnorshire but we also think of him as the grandson of Kilvert's Vicar of Clyro.. the Rev. R. L. Venables.

Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt., has every intention of being present and has kindly consented to read extracts from the Diary; this will be on the lawn at Pentwyn, by very kind permission of Lord and Lady Borwick - whose home it is. If the weather is kind to us this should be delightful. Those who were at Bredwardine last year will recall how nice it was to sit around on a lawn and listen to Mr. Plomer. Pentwyn is only a short distance from Clyro church. Between now and June we may have arranged other attractions - perhaps arrange for visits



to some other place much mentioned in the Diary: perhaps arrange a small exhibition of items associated with Kilvert and his relatives. Further news will be given in the newsletter of mid-June.

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I am grateful to those members who from time to time send me bits cut out of newspapers or magazines, or whole pages, or the complete paper or magazine--when it is about Kilvert or something closely connected. At Christmas time several members sent me a copy of the "Church Times" dated December 24th 1964; actually this was one that I had advance information about, for I had supplied the publishers with the photograph of Francis Kilvert that illustrates the part of Canon Carpenter's whole page on Church Diarists that refers to Kilvert. Shortly after this one of our London members who is at the Bank of England sent me a page out of the December issue of their magazine "The Old Lady". This proved to be an excellent review of Cape's paperback edition of Kilvert's Diary: it is titled "Days with Kilvert". Now the coincidence is that the author of it is not known to the London member who sent it to me--BUT HE IS KNOWN TO ME, for he holidays in Hereford each summer and we always manage to meet and chat. I immediately recognised that the remarks about Florence Hill had been told to him last time he was in Hereford--by my wife, who remembers her in her latter years! Then I have had sent me a page of the "Dorset Evening Echo" for January 18th 1965 with a long item titled "Wessex leaves from Francis Kilvert's Diary"---and from the Chippenham area have come recently cuttings and pages of items concerning Kilvert, the church, the old Rectory etc, etc.

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There has recently been a series of articles on the Kilvert Country of Radnorshire in the Mid-Wales newspaper - the "Express and Times Gazette", by Mr. Cynric Mytton-Davies. These have dealt with Painscastle and Llanbedr etc., and touched on the site of the cabin of the "Solitary" and the grave of Twm Tobacco. I was able to help with a photograph of the grave of the Rev. John Price (the Solitary) and with our attempts to find the grave of "Twm Tobacco". When a party of members rambled over the hills looking for it - a few years ago now - we were very near but failed to find it. The letter I then put in the Brecon and Radnor newspaper asking for information about the grave and the man brought no reply. Since Mr Mytton Davies' articles have appeared a letter has also been printed, from a reader in Aberedw, giving the precise location of the grave and the news that many who go past it drop a pebble on it; they also state that he was hung for sheep stealing and his body buried up there on top of the hills. Is this then the complete answer to Kilvert's query of the 3rd of July 1872? (see pages 223 to 229 in the second volume).

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There is no shortage of Kilvert's Diary, although it may seem so by the reluctance of some shops to stock much else but "popular" books. If any member wants either the 13/6 paperback of the abridged edition or the set of three volumes at 5 guineas, the Hon. Sec. can arrange for very prompt delivery of either. There are always a few of the 13/6 edition on hand at 23 Broomy Hill, Hereford.

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When a party of members visited the Chippenham area in about 1949 we met a lady in Hardenhuish churchyard and "talked Kilvert" with her. She told us that she was a mistress at Chippenham Grammar School and there was some subsequent correspondence, but it is many years since we last heard from Miss Morgan. But very recently one of our new Chippenham members sent me a cutting from a local newspaper. It referred to the appeal for St. Paul's Church, Langley Burrell and noted the £100 received from the Kilvert Society members and then went on to describe how Miss A. K. Morgan, former senior mistress at Chippenham Grammar School, now retired, was the previous week an honoured guest at the House of Lords for the introduction of Lord Hinton of Bankside, one of her old pupils, and in the restaurant there found herself seated next to the Chaplain of Toc H., who has succeeded the well known Rev. Tubby Clayton and as the conversation turned to Wiltshire and Chippenham it turned out that the reverend gentleman was reading Kilvert's Diary. It seems as if Miss Morgan gave him my address, for soon afterwards he wrote to me and has joined the Society. He is, of course, the Rev. Colin Cuttall, the Vicar of All-Hallows-by-the-Tower, I hope he will not mind my quoting part of the letter that he sent with his initial subscription, but it so well illustrates how the knowledge of Kilvert and the Diary is spread. He writes.... "I am an avid reader of diaries of all kinds but nothing has given me greater pleasure than the introduction to Kilvert's Diary, which was handed to me by the headmaster's wife when I was preaching at Winchester College."

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One of our London members recently wrote me as follows... "You will remember that Kilvert saw Mr Venables' portrait at the Royal Academy on the 27th May 1872. I went to Burlington House last week and asked to see the Catalogue. They were most helpful and showed it to me and consequently I learned that the portrait was painted by Lowes Cato Dickinson: they could not help further than suggesting that I go to the Witt Library - a collection of photographs of the work of European artists, housed at the Courtauld Institute of Art. There they showed me all they had, such as portraits of Kingsley, Cobden, and Dean Stanley, but no Mr Venables. They suggested I go to the National Portrait Gallery, but there I also drew a blank. What is interesting is that the quality of Lowes Dickinson's work is obviously high and he must have been an eminent member of his profession. It surely follows that Mr. Venables was no ordinary man to be able to engage a leading painter to do his portrait. I thought you might like a sample of Lowes Dickinson's work and therefore send a card of his picture of Kingsley".  
The enclosed photograph indeed indicates that it is of a fine portrait.

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Our Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. D. Worsey) suggested that we might think about giving a prize for an essay on something connected with Kilvert to be competed for by the children of Clyro Primary School. The Committee liked the idea and passed it. The Headmaster (Mr. H. R. Evans - a K. S. member) is co-operating and we hope that it will take place before we go to Clyro for the Kilvert Service in June.

Mr. Plomer and a number of members were consulted on the matter and it has been decided that the essay shall not be directly about Kilvert or the Diary but on some local subject connected with one or other. The prize or prizes are to be book tokens.

Clyro village school is where Kilvert assisted with the teaching, and where the "penny readings" were held. Its appearance today is as Kilvert knew it.

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