

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wycroft,
23 Brooky Hill,
HEREFORD.

(Phone: 2094)

6th April, 1967.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be held on

FRIDAY, the 21st APRIL at 7 p.m. (PROMPT)

in Eignbrook Church Halls, Hereford, as usual.

Following the business meeting there will be a programme of talks and readings, and another of those splendid films of Herefordshire, something like that shown last October by Mr. Godfrey Davies. At approximately 8 o'clock this programme will be interrupted for light refreshments, served by some of the lady members. Please see the note further on (in "Notes and News") about a coach tour which we hope to arrange for the second week in May. Here also will be found advance details of this year's KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE, to be held in June at LLANBEDR-PAINSCASTLE in Radnorshire - and of the SPECIAL AUTUMN SERVICE (October) in WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

For the convenience of those who cannot attend, I append a copy of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

Yours sincerely,


(C. T. O. Prosser)

Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

Please particularly note that the Meeting is timed to start at 7 p.m. PROMPT -- if it can be started on time then it can end by or before 9.30, despite the fact that a varied and interesting programme has been arranged, ending with a very pleasing film.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1966

The Annual Meeting was held in Eignbrook Church Halls on Friday, 29th April, with about 80 members present: as usual some had come long distances - the furthest from Aberdovey, Bristol, and Birmingham. Others from Radnorshire, Breconshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. As the President was unable to be present, through illness and infirmity, the Chair was taken by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths (a Vice President). Mrs. Wright was re-elected as President, and it was agreed (on the proposition of Mr. E. F. Jelfs, Birmingham) that a letter and flowers be sent to her. The Vice-Presidents were all re-elected, with the addition of Col. E. P. Awdry of Chippenham. The Officials and Committee were then elected - no change and no additions. Letters from Langley Burrell re the Service to be held there in July, and about the Kilvert Memorial tablet to be erected there were then read, and some details of preliminary arrangements were given. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J.D. Worsey) spoke about the Balance Sheet, on which he was congratulated and the Assistant Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. Peters) was thanked for her work regarding the subscriptions coming in for the Langley Burrell tablet fund. The Rev. David Lockwood (Vicar of Hanley Swan, Worcs.) then read his paper on "Why I am a Kilvertian" - something that was very well received by all members present. After the adjournment for refreshments (very kindly provided by the President and other lady members) there were readings from the Diary by our Breconshire member, Mr. D. J. H. Lewis of Llysven; these had been specially selected so that they dealt with the Builth area; and was followed by suggestions of a proposed coach tour to visit this district, and a vote was taken as to date and times: this was so popular that nearly all seats on the coach were taken and paid for immediately... some further details of what turned out to be a most pleasant occasion will be found in "Notes & News". Mr. J. D. Worsey then read the letters which were written in 1870 by the Rev. R. L. Venables, and in 1879 by the Rev. R.F. Kilvert (and of which we now have photostat copies for sale to members) and this was followed by Canon Leatherbarrow (Martley, Worcs.) telling of his visit to Hardenhuish and suggesting that thought be given to a memorial to Francis Kilvert being placed there. We then heard a most interesting account from Miss Mantle (Clyro School)

on the research that she and Miss K. Powell (Clyro) had done on houses and places of the Diary in their district, especially in tracing out those that had long since disappeared. The final item was a tape recording of the B.B.C. broadcast "Kilvert of Clyro" that most of us missed, for it was broadcast on Sunday afternoon, June 27th 1965...the afternoon of the Centenary Service at Clyro. Votes of thanks to Mr. Godfrey Davies for making it possible for us to hear this, and also to all those who had contributed to such a successful evening brought proceedings to a close.

The Annual Commemoration Service was held on Sunday, 3rd July at LANGLEY BURRELL, the first such service to be held in Wiltshire, although such a service was envisaged when the Society was formed, back in 1948. This first service was a very special occasion, for the tablet in the church porch, giving a history of the ancient church of St. Peter, set out around a plan of the church, and with wording below forming a memorial to the Rev. Francis Kilvert was unveiled by Dr. William Plomer and dedicated by the Rector (the Rev. E. H. Waddleton), who conducted the service. The lessons were read by Mr. Daniel Awdry, the M.P. for the Chippenham division, and by Dr. William Plomer, D.Litt. The address was given by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths, and can be summed up with Dr. Plomer's own words - "Perhaps the best we have ever had." The day was a perfect one as far as the weather was concerned. The lovely old church was filled with almost 300 people, very many extra seats having been provided. The floral decorations were superb, and everything seemed to go off so well. Two motor coaches made the journey from Hereford, bringing between 60 and 70 members, among them a number from Hay and Clyro. Loudspeakers in the churchyard were provided for those unable to get in the church. After the service there was tea in the Village Hall (for which we have to thank the Langley Burrell Church Committee) followed by presentation of prizes in the annual essay competition for the local school children (by Dr. Plomer, who afterwards delighted the large company assembled in the nearby cricket ground with readings from the Diary). Some notes on this splendid day in Wiltshire can be found further on in these pages.

The weekend of October 8th-9th was a memorable one, for on the Saturday evening a large company of members assembled in the usual hall at Eignbrook (Hereford) to mark the occasion of my 10 years as Hon. Secretary to the Kilvert Society and to present my wife and me with some most unexpected and splendid gifts, and on the following day was the SPECIAL AUTUMN SERVICE at Monnington-on-Wye. A number of distant members spent the weekend in Hereford in order to be present at both events. One of these has sent me his notes on the Monnington service: these will be found under "Notes & News" as will be my account of the "presentation evening" and our thanks to our friends over this. The service of thanksgiving and commemoration at Monnington-on-Wye turned out to be as successful as any other of the many such events that we have arranged. The weather was on our side---a lovely autumn day. The small church was packed with people - it usually seats but 80, but another 80 chairs brought in and placed in every available space and corner had doubled its capacity. Loudspeakers outside catered for the few in the porch who could not find a seat inside. The nearby farmyard was full of cars, plus the motorcoach that had brought the local members and some of the distant ones spending the weekend in Hereford. Some further notes about this most enjoyable occasion will be found under those from our member - in the pages that follow.

During the past months a number of talks have been given to different bodies. In October I went to Coleford (Glos.) and spoke to the Forest of Dean Local History Society on Kilvert and the Diary. We have several members in that Society and two years ago my wife and I accompanied them (two coach loads) on a tour of the Bredwardine, Hay and Clyro areas. Later on in the same month I went to Moccas Rectory and spoke to the Moccas, Preston-on-Wye and Bredwardine Mothers' Union on the same subject - a delightful evening with our members the Rev. and Mrs. W. Lloyd as host and hostess.

In December the Radnorshire Society held a meeting at Clyro Court Secondary School and asked me to arrange for a speaker and slides, for they wanted the meeting to be one on Kilvert and the Diary. The Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths held them (as we know he can) for about an hour, and was followed by Mr. Knowles (Headmaster, Clyro Court School) who spoke on Clyro Court, its building and its history, and the Baskervilles who lived there in Kilvert's time. Finally the slides, which I described. The Chairman was Mr. H. R. Evans (Headmaster of Clyro Primary School) who is a member of both societies. The Radnorshire Society had invited our members to attend, and there were about fifty from each. I am glad to note that of the eight new members that we made that day no less than five were Radnorshire

folk. This was a most happy afternoon, ending with tea in the school dining room - where Kilvert so often dined with the Baskervilles. So many were glad of the opportunity to see this, and to see the HALL where in November 1870 (a wet day having caused outdoor activities to be cancelled) all played "battledore and shuttlecock". Although a school, Clyro Court is beautifully kept and must be little different to when Kilvert knew it.

In early March this year Mr. Lane Griffiths and I visited Cheltenham, and in the Porcelain Room of the Museum & Art Gallery he spoke on Kilvert, the Diary and the countryside to a goodly gathering of members of the Cotteswold Field Club, whilst I followed with brief descriptions of the slides shown. This was another successful afternoon, with the speaker in great form, holding his audience with his eloquence and knowledge and at times amusing them with his wit. This meeting had been arranged through our member Dr. Hills of Rodborough--the President of the Cotteswold Field Club, but he was - unfortunately - unable to be present, due to the serious illness of Mrs. Hills.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1966

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Balance brought forward from 1965	Subscription to Herefordshire & Radnorshire Nature Trust
114 7 9	1 1 0
	Donation to Langley Burrell Church (Kilvert Memorial Plaque Fund)
Subscriptions	25 0 0
115 4 9	Further contribution to above Fund
Collection at A.G.M.	1 7 6
5 2 6	Donation to Monnington-on-Wye Church Lychgate Repair Fund
Coach Fares to Builth & district	5 0 0
10 10 0	Donation to Monnington-on-Wye Church Funds
Coach Fares to Langley Burrell	5 0 0
30 0 0	Donation to Rev. Brian James (Rhosgoch) towards the re-decoration of his 4 churches
Coach Fares to Monnington	5 0 0
5 5 0	Donation to the Father Ignatious Memorial Fund
From sale of photographs	5 0 0
47 0 0	Donation re use of Eignbrook Hall for A.G.M.
From sale of photostat letters	3 0 0
2 17 0	Hire of crockery for A.G.M.
From Sale of the Wiltshire Courier	11 3
1 11 6	Coach to Builth & district on May 7th
From sale of "Hampshire"	10 0 0
13 6	Coaches to Langley Burrell on July 3rd.
From sale of "Ignatius the Monk"	29 15 0
13 6	Expenses of preacher at Langley Burrell
From sale of Mrs. Mallinson's booklet "A Kilvert Kinswoman"	4 0 0
12 0	P.A. equipment at Langley Burrell
	5 0 0
	Book token prizes for essay competition (Langley Burrell)
	2 7 6
	Coach to Monnington on October 9th
	4 15 0
	P.A. equipment at Monnington
	3 0 0
	Share of tea expenses at Clyro Court School on Dec. 17th
	1 0 0
	Flowers
	1 1 6
	Upkeep of Kilvert graves
	6 0 0
	Tapes & photographic material & work
	53 4 4
	50 copies of "Hampshire"
	4 2 6
	50 copies of "Ignatius the Monk"
	2 19 3
	Printing & Stationery
	49 1 2
	Duplicating
	29 15 0
	Postage & Telephone Calls
	17 16 7
	Cheque Book
	5 0
	BALANCE IN HAND
	98 14 11
<u>£373 17 6</u>	<u>£373 17 6</u>

Signed John D. Worsey
16/3/67 Hon. Treas.

Kilvert's "Lodgings" Ashbrook House in Clyro, where Kilvert spent his "seven happy years" in Clyro is FOR SALE. The Society would so much like to see someone interested in Kilvert buy it. Perhaps we could then rent a room of it for a Kilvert Museum. There is one room ideal for this, with its own front door and either is quite separate from the rest of the house or could readily be made so. It would make a good guest house, for there are 6 bedrooms. Perhaps anyone interested in buying it would write direct to the owner: Mr. J. B. Jones at Ashbrook, Clyro, via Hereford - this is the correct postal address: although Clyro is in Radnorshire this must not be put on letters or delays will occur.

"NOTES and NEWS"-- by the Hon. Secretary----- March 1967.

First of all I must thank the numerous members who have contributed to this number of "N. and N." This year there are to be three editions, the other two being in June and in October. Members generally know by now that they get a newsletter etc about ten days or so before each main event of the year: this year there are three main events and therefore three newsletters. I am therefore more than usually glad to be helped out. At the same time these various contributions from members make for variety of theme and of style and must add to the interest of these notes. Actually I have had too much for this issue, but they will all be used in one or other of the following numbers. Will contributors please note this, and please do not stop sending in anything you think to be of general interest. Held over are members accounts of visits to the Chippenham area, a most interesting item on the Diarist's "Uncle Francis"; sent in by Dr. Plomer, and I am not expecting that a good item on the Venables-Llewellyn family (with a further item on "Kilvert in Gower") by a Swansea member will find space enough this time. If it does, then there will be a further item from the same pen next time.

Next, a message of thanks from my wife and myself to all members who sent us Christmas cards. It was lovely to receive so many kind messages of goodwill and good cheer from so many friends, but quite impossible to send to each. So please accept this message as thanks for so many kind thoughts.

And now, more thanks, and again from my wife and myself--to all our friends of the Kilvert Society for that wonderful evening of October 8th last year, and for those lovely presents. We knew nothing of it until a short time before the actual day, when we began to suspect that "something was afoot", and then we had the invitation to come to Eignbrook Hall on Saturday evening October 8th. All arrangements had been made by various members--locally and in Birmingham. The evening had been well chosen, with the Monnington service next day. The hall was packed quite full; members had come from far and near and some of the more distant members (from London and from South Wales) stayed the weekend in Hereford and were thus at both events. Mr. F.R.C. Hermon (who is Chairman of the Committee of the K.S. was Chairman for the evening. Mrs. J.M. Feisenberger had been chosen to present me with a splendid new typewriter, and my wife with a very nice cheque - she is one of the London group of members and has done much to foster its growth. Then committee member Mr. Godfrey Davies handed me a handsome leather brief case, and on behalf of members in Hay-on-Wye (for which thanks to Mr John Grant) an oak framed illuminated address was presented to me by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths and a bouquet of flowers to my wife by Mrs. M. Spinks (also of the Committee). It was all quite overwhelming, but very much appreciated all the same. Refreshments for all preceded a film of Herefordshire's black and white buildings (shown by Mr. Godfrey Davies) - a most beautiful film it is, too. The singing of "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Crimond) by the company, accompanied by Mr. H.T. Lloyd (another committee man) on the piano brought a most pleasant evening to a close. Thanks again, everyone!!!

The press took an excellent photograph during the evening and this appeared in a local paper, with a good brief account of the proceedings below it. Many members have already had a copy of this (for the Society had a batch of reprints). There are still some left: please write in if you would like one.

The illuminated address has a proud place in the entrance hall at 23 Broony Hill, and we hope that many will see it hanging there. We are always pleased for any member passing through Hereford to call and see some of the Kilvert items that we have here.

PROPOSED COACH TOUR TO LLANTHONY and CAPEL-Y-FFIN.

YHAUT80

At last year's A.G.M. we arranged a coach tour to the Builth district (after listening to readings from the Diary--all relating to that area) and this took place about a fortnight afterwards. We had a grand afternoon and evening, visited a number of the places that had come into the readings, had an excellent tea in Builth Wells, and a lovely run back to Hereford down the Upper Wye Valley. Suggestions were then made that this year something similar should be done, and so it is that at the A.G.M. on April 21st we shall seek to fix up a tour to Llanthony and Capel-y-Ffin in the Black Mountains---- after hearing the reading about Francis Kilvert's walks over to these places from Clyro. The proposed date for this is Thursday, the 11th of May. Please come prepared to give your names (and five shillings) to our Hon. Asst. Treasurer (Mrs. E. Peters). We shall start from Hereford at 2 p.m. Efforts are being made to fix up for tea at Llanthony Abbey Hotel, but if this is not possible we shall each have to take a picnic tea: if this has to be done we can go to the Monastery at Capel-y-Ffin where we can have a picnic spot in the open or shelter inside if weather conditions are not suitable for outdoors...please see next item. Perhaps Saturday afternoons may be more popular than Thursdays, but the road up the valley to Capel-y-Ffin is so very narrow that we must only take a coach there on a day that is likely to have the least traffic, and for this reason Thursdays are more suitable.

The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust... When the Kilvert Society saw that it had been decided to restore the tomb of Father Ignatius and to erect over it a suitable covering which will serve as a memorial to him (his tomb is in the choir of the Monastery Church at Capel-y-Ffin) it was decided that £5 should be donated from funds to this cause. In fact, this was exactly what was said should be done when the matter of the state of his tomb was raised at a K.S. meeting some two years or so ago. FATHER IGNATIUS IS ONE OF THE MANY REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF THE DIARY----AND KILVERT IS NOW LOOKED ON AS THE ONLY EYE-WITNESS OF THE BUILDING OF THE MONASTERY WHO HAS LEFT A WRITTEN RECORD OF WHAT HE SAW. A charming letter of thanks came from Mr. W.I. Davies, who is Secretary of the Trust and (I believe) lives at the Monastery. I told him of our thoughts of a visit there in May, and we are invited to go there to see what has been done and what they hope to do, as well as for a picnic (as above) if we so wish. I think that I ought to quote from the appeal letter from the Trust, so that any member who wishes to subscribe to it can do so. It mentions that Father Ignatius in his lifetime had many friends among Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Free Churchmen, as well as in the Salvation Army, and that the annual pilgrimage to his grave each August shows that he is still remembered affectionately by Christians of varying confessions. It goes on to state that it is intended that church and tomb shall remain permanently accessible to the public and that it is hoped that a collection of "Ignatiana" shall be on view to visitors, and appeals for further relics of him. The address for these and for donations is The F.I. Men. Trust, The Monastery, Capel-y-Ffin, Llanthony, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.

Postcard size engravings of the Monastery can be obtained from me at 6d each; also informative leaflets at 4d. Please send a stamped envelope if ordering either. There is also a booklet about Father Ignatius...see list of booklets available (on another page).

THE KILVERT MEMORIAL AT LANGLEY BURRELL... Several members who have visited the Chippenham district since last July and seen the plaque in the porch of Langley Burrell church for the first time have expressed their pleasure at it, and commented on what a fine piece of work it is. This reminds me that the financial side of it has not yet been published, and I am sure that members generally, and especially those who subscribed to it, will be interested in the figures. Total cost of the plaque (fixed) was £46. The faculty and other expenses came to £8.5.0, making a total of £54.5.0. This was met by a contribution of £26.7.6 from the Society's funds plus £27.17.6 in personal contributions from members and friends generally and including that subscribed in and around Langley Burrell.

The diamond shaped bronze tablet, mounted on oak reads "In memory of the Rev. R.F. Kilvert, M.A. The Diarist. Curate of this parish 1863-64 and 1872-76. Born at Hardenhuish 3rd December 1840, died Bredwardine 23rd September 1879. 'He being dead yet speaketh!'

Great credit is due to the Rev. K.J.L. Greenslade, the Curate for his design, and to him and to the Rector (the Rev. E.H. Waddleton) for getting it sanctioned and erected in such good time.

OBITUARY

With deep regret the death of quite a few members has to be reported, in some cases it is the natural course of events in a Society that has been going on as long as we have, but with several this is certainly not the case. Here is the list:-

Both Mr. and Mrs. E.W.R. Newman of Mainstone, Bishops Castle, Shropshire - Mrs. Newman in April and Mr. Newman in August. They were both founder-members and rarely missed any event of the K.S. Mr. Newman was a Vice-President for many years: he read a lesson at the Clifford Service of 1963. Those of us who go walking the Kilvert Country knew then best of all for they almost always turned out, dead on time at any rendezvous, and although of latter years Mrs. Newman had not been able to walk much she delighted to come, sit in the car and chat to anyone else not walking that day.

The sudden death of Bishop Newnham Davis last July came as a great shock, and most especially to all those who heard him preach at the Clyro Centenary Service of 1965 (he also preached at the Clyro service of 1958). He was but 63 and had only just moved to Sussex, to become Assistant Bishop of Chichester. My wife and I will always remember the jolly evening we had here with him, Mrs. Newnham Davis, Dr. Plomer and other friends the evening before the 1965 service. He was a Vice-President of the Society.

Somewhere about this time, too, the death occurred of The Hon. Mrs. Miller, a London member who joined after a visit to the Hay district. Those who attended the gatherings of the London area members will have met her.

In August we lost another Vice-President...Mrs. G. Pitcairn of Woking, Surrey. She was the widow of Capt. J. E. Pitcairn, R.N. - a son of Kilvert's sister Dora. He had been a V.P. up to the time of his death in 1957 and was a founder-member.

In October we lost a member in very sad circumstances. Miss L.K. Pratt was coming up from her home in the Cotswolds (near Nailsworth) to attend our "presentation evening" on the 8th when she met with a fatal accident at a cross-roads near Ross-on-Wye. We were glad we were not told of this until the evening was over, for she was a long-standing friend of the family as well as a K.S. member.

In January Mr. Milward died...he was a retired farmer from Llowes in Radnorshire (and churchwarden there for a number of years) and had lived near Hereford in recent years.

Then in February Miss K.M. Sturt of Uley Lodge, Glos. passed peacefully away, aged 86. The party who went to Uley some years ago at the invitation of Mrs. Olivia Williams (daughter of Kilvert's niece, "The Monk") called on Miss Sturt, too, and the happy hour we spent there will long be remembered. Some of us have called since, too, and enjoyed more of her reminiscences of the "Kilvert Country" of years past.

February also saw the death of another founder-member-- Mrs. M.J. Palmer of Leonminster, Herefordshire. She was 93 and had been confined to her bed for some time. A staunch churchwoman and in earlier years a keen supporter of the K.S. Her last attendance was at the Bredwardine service of 1956, when, after the service we took the coach back to Hereford via the Golden Valley making several calls en route. I well remember her delight in the stop at Hardwick church, for there she was married. She also told us that for some years she lived at Whitehall on Clyro hill. Kilvert found Whitehall ruinous--"sad, silent and lonely" were his words, and this is how it is today again, but in between it was renovated and lived in.

The 1967 Kilvert Commemoration Service - It was first announced in the newsletter of April last year that this is to be held at LLANBEDR-PAINSCASTLE in Radnorshire, following a kind invitation from the Rev. Brian James of The Rectory, Rhosgoch. The date and the preacher can now be given. It is to be on Sunday afternoon the 25th of JUNE at 3.15 and the Preacher is to be the Rev. Colin Cuttall (a member of the K.S.) who is Vicar of All-Hallows-by-the-Tower, the famous London church known all over the world as the Toc. H. church. Mr. Cuttall visited the Bredwardine-Hay-Clyro district some eighteen months or so ago and in May he hopes to get a few days off mid-week and come down again, when I shall go with him around the Llanbedr country, and to the haunts of the Rev. John Price, the "Solitary" of Llanbedr who Kilvert visited in the summer of 1872 (see pages 223-231 of Vol.2). Llanbedr church is beautifully situated, deep in the Radnorshire "Kilvert Country" some 6 miles or so over the hills from Clyro. I feel sure that this service will be a very popular one and that we shall see a big congregation at Llanbedr on June 25th.

In 1967 there is to be a SPECIAL AUTUMN SERVICE, too, in WORCESTER CATHEDRAL. This follows the suggestion of our Founder-Member (and Vice-President) the Very Rev. Hedley Burrows (formerly Dean of Hereford) for, as he pointed out, Worcester is the scene of the events so vividly described by Kilvert in Volume One (December 1870). The Dean of Worcester immediately accepted the idea of such a service, and it is to be on October 15th at 2.30 p.m. The preacher will be the Very Rev. Hedley Burrows.

Not for many years have we had two services in the same year until last year when it was Langley Burrell and then Monnington-on-Wye (apart from the weekday evening service at Eignbrook after the A.G.M. of 1964 which was in honour of Mrs. Wright) for we have to go back to 1954 to find this; in that year the summer service was at St Harnon, and was followed by one at Llowes, on a beautiful November day, when the Bishop of Swansea & Brecon dedicated the sundial which commemorates Kilvert's close connection with Llowes during his years at nearby Clyro. We have been extremely fortunate in fine weather; the only wet day in 19 years of Kilvert services being in 1963..at Clifford, and even then it cleared up as we came out of the church!!!

Kilvert's Diary for two worthy members---- When the Committee heard that the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths had loaned his set of the Diary to a student, that she had taken them with her to Thailand or some such place, and that he hoped to get them back "some day" as she had promised-- it was decided that we must give him another set- something that all members will heartily approve of, I am sure!!!

It was then suggested that Mr. J. D. Worsey might be given a set, too, as a little mark of appreciation for his services as Hon. Treasurer since 1952. The response was unanimous, as all would expect it to be.

Both sets were given suitable inscriptions (done by Mr. W. H. Ellis) and have now been handed over. The letters of thanks received from both tell of the pleasure that these little gifts have given them.

Those members who were not at the October service at Monnington-on-Wye may like to know the details of the little historical note that appeared at the end of the service sheet that day. It read - "The Rev. Francis Kilvert's sister Thermuthis (Thersie) married the Rev. W.R. Smith (only son of Mr. T.F. Smith of Broadway, Woms.) For some years they lived in Bath, for Mr. Smith was Principal of Bath Proprietary College from 1860 to 1874, when he became Rector of Monnington-on-Wye--where he died in 1889 when but 58. His widow eventually married again (becoming Mrs. Valentine) and was 83 when she died in 1922. During Francis Kilvert's two years as Vicar of Bredwardine he was a frequent visitor to Monnington, for it is little more than 2 miles (walking) via Monnington Walk, the Scar Woods, and Brobury. The last of the four children of the Smiths--Mrs Essex Hope, a Vice President of the Kilvert Society--died in September 1964, and with her the family died out."

VISITORS BOOKS FOR KILVERT CHURCHES---- We feel that since Monnington-on-Wye church and lych-gate have been so splendidly restored, and with the publicity given to it through the "Friends of Friendless Churches", and perhaps to some extent, too, through having had a Kilvert Service there, more visitors than ever before might be expected. We therefore decided to give a VISITORS BOOK to the church, for there is not one there. A nice book was bought and Mr.W.H. Ellis did a very pleasing inscription for it: this recorded the fact that the K.S. had given it after the service of October 9th and a service sheet of that occasion was also inserted in it. This visitors book has recently been handed over to the Rector (the Rev. Jones-Evans) at Letton Rectory (where he lives at present) where it was found that he was just back home from Hereford Eye Hospital after quite a serious operation. I hear that he is making steady progress and I am sure that all members (especially those who were at Monnington last October) will wish to join in wishing him a speedy and a perfect recovery.

Following this gift of a Visitors Book to Monnington we heard that at Bredwardine Church theirs was quite full and it has therefore been decided to give them a new one. The Vicar (the Rev. W. Lloyd) has gladly accepted and we hope to hand it over very shortly. A further decision has also been made...that the Society shall give a Visitors Book to any of the churches where a Kilvert Service has been held - we now await requests!!!

MONNINGTON-ON-WYE..... a distant member's impressions.

The entry in Kilvert's Diary dated the 23rd April 1876 reads:- "I like a Sunday at Monnington, it is so calm and so serene". On Sunday the 9th October 1966 the tranquillity was there, but it was enlivened by an unwonted animation. Long before three o'clock members of the Society, and quite a few local folk too, had gathered for a special service to give thanks for the restoration of the church and lych-gate. It is interesting to note that in the Ninth Annual Report of the "Friends of Friendless Churches", covering the twelve months ended the 30th June 1966, it was stated:- "We may take heart from Monnington-on-Wye where the repair of the 1680 lych-gate has been completed during the year, setting the seal on what the Society has done for that unique Caroline church. At Brobury, a mile or so further up the river, where the chancel of the medieval church survives in a rather parlous state, we have however been able to do no more than keep the vegetation at bay."

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G.J.T. Jones-Evans, A.L.C.D., who is one of our members, and a splendid address was given by our Treasurer, Mr. J.D. Worsey, B.A. (he is a Diocesan Reader) in which he specially dwelled on the picture of Monnington - with its trees and its peace - that Kilvert has left for us. The lessons were read by our Honorary Secretary, Mr. Prosser, and by his predecessor, Mr. W.H. Ellis. The act of thanksgiving and commemoration was made by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths, T.D., B.A., and, as always, matched the spirit and eloquence of Francis Kilvert in a most moving way. One very happy feature of the service was that the decorations for the Harvest Festival, held the previous Friday, still adorned the church.

Outside, after the service, while looking across the meadows one thought of a former Rector and churchwarden floating into the church in a boat during the floods of February 1852. One thought also of the building of the body of the church on to the medieval tower, with its unusually deep battlements crossed with arrow slits, during the troubled days of 1679.

After admiring the renovated lych-gate we went into the Court House where Owen Glendower's daughter lived, and we are very grateful to the Bulmer family for allowing us to do so. There, like Kilvert, we admired the carving, which he had seen when he visited Farmer James, the churchwarden.

Major and Mrs. Phillips very kindly entertained us to tea at the Chase House, which was formerly the Rectory, and special thanks are due to them and to Mr. and Mrs. Pearson-Gregory and to the other members of the parish for their hospitality, and the great deal of work it entailed.

Whilst in the former Rectory, one inevitably thought of Thersie and of William Smith and of brother Frank. On emerging into the keen air, one was conscious of the Wye lurking in the distance and of Monnington Walk and its associations. The population has probably shrunk since Kilvert's day, and there is still no shop, post office, public house, school, or village hall. But the spirit of the place, which so attracted him, is much the same and it is in this sense of the continuity of the values for which he stood that made the occasion memorable.

Some notes re the above (by the Hon. Sec.) - There are two schools of thought on Owen Glendower, one as above and the other (to which I subscribe) is that it was at the other (and lesser known) Herefordshire Monnington that his daughter lived and where he probably died. This is Monnington in the parish of Vowchurch in the Golden Valley, just a large farmhouse (Monnington Court) built on the foundations of something very old, and one or two cottages - Chapel Cottage being the name of one of these: it is tucked away in a little valley of its own, under the hill, and must surely have been well hidden away in Glendower's times when the countryside was so much more wooded than today. Please note.. our Welsh members will not use the name Owen Glendower, for he should be referred to correctly - as Owain Glyndwr.

A JANE AUSTEN COMMEMORATION

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, and at Chawton, near Alton in Hampshire, where she lived from 1809 until shortly before her death in July 1817, a five day programme of events - from 14th to 18th July (the date of her death) inclusive - has been arranged to commemorate the occasion. It was in Chawton that Jane Austen wrote or prepared for publication her six great novels. There are, no doubt, many Kilvert Society members who would be interested to have details of this special commemorative event and I have therefore offered to put the Commemoration programme in every envelope going out to members living within a reasonable distance of Chawton. Those who do not receive one but who would like to do so are invited to write direct to our Hampshire member, Mrs. Anne Mallinson, who is Hon. Secretary of the Commemoration Committee, and also the originator of the idea. Her address is: Flat 1, The Vokes, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire. A stamped addressed envelope would be much appreciated.

MRS. KILVERT'S GRAVE AT BREDWARDINE -- No doubt many visitors to Bredwardine Churchyard have commented on the poor appearance of the memorial cross on Mrs. Kilvert's grave in the newer burial ground, especially compared to that on the Diarist's grave now that it has been so well restored. Several attempts have been made to grow weed smothering plants inside the kerbing on her grave, but without any success. The Committee therefore decided a few months ago that Mrs. Kilvert's memorial should be renovated. A quotation was obtained from the Hereford firm of sculptors who have done work for us several times previously, accepted, and the work was completed a few weeks ago. It has been properly cleaned and the leaded lettering attended to and when this had been done was seen to be in splendid condition. At the same time the earth inside the kerbing was replaced with squared stones. The whole thing now compares well with that on the grave of the Rev. Francis Kilvert. Total cost was £29, which was paid out of funds. It is hoped that members visiting Bredwardine will make a point of seeking it out -- it is in the far corner (from the little gate) of the new burial ground, across the grassy lane from the old one where the Diarist lies.

THREE KILVERT CLERGYMEN - a contribution from Dr. William Plomer.

When the diarist's grandfather, Francis Kilvert, died in 1817 he left 6 sons and one daughter. The eldest, Francis, was then 24; Robert, the diarist's father, was 13, and the youngest, Edward, only 10. Also in 1817, this Francis Kilvert was ordained by the then Bishop of Bath and Wells. After his own death it was said that he had found himself "the guardian and instructor of his orphan brothers, two of whom survive and cherish a grateful remembrance of his parental counsels and constant solicitude for their welfare." These two were the Rev. Robert Kilvert, rector of Langley Burrell and father of the diarist, and the Rev. Edward Kilvert, who was a chaplain in the service of the East India Company, and died unmarried in 1867. Both Francis and Robert Kilvert, like many clergymen of their time, kept private schools - Robert at Hardenhuish, and Francis at Claverton Lodge, near Bath, from 1837 until his death in 1863.

Hon. Sec's note There are two large books of drawings, done around 1830 to 1845 or thereabouts, by the Rev. Edward Kilvert. In them are scenes around Bath and Chippenham, in and around Oxford, in North and South Wales (including some interesting ones of Monmouth, Abergavenny and Brecon) and many done in India, among these are interesting ones of soldiers of the East India Company and also of Indian characters. All are very well done. Many members have seen these and we are always glad to show them to any who call.

We all very much hope that Dr. Plomer will be able to get to Llanbedr-Painscastle in June, but so much depends on how things go with the Aldeburgh (Suffolk) Festival, which goes on up to June 23rd. He has been closely associated with this event for a number of years. We must all keep our fingers crossed and hope that he might make it!!!

The "Daily Telegraph" of January 26th gave a nice write-up about his new book of poems. I will quote it:

William Plomer's "Taste and Remember" (Cape, 18/-) has an ironic tone, though some of his poems are truly compassionate. He writes more of other people than himself, so his book contains a number of character sketches-- the ageing Mrs. Middleditch, the half-recluse, the money man, and so on. Some of the poems are delicately drawn scenes, rather in the manner of John Betjeman, but with more warmth. Everywhere the sheer, poetic skill is a delight.

I cannot end these few items about Dr. Plomer without telling members that it is through him that we have our first Japanese member!!!! He is Professor Eliche Sano of Tokyo.

Some months ago a member sent me a copy of a well known woman's magazine, and with it a note drawing my attention to an article in it which told of a girl's boarding school from near London moving to Wales at the outbreak of the last war. As I read I found that it was to Llanthomas (and also to nearby Tregoyd) that the school came, and that the writer had given a fascinating account of her schooldays there, with references to Kilvert's visits to Llanthomas, and ending with a lament that when she visited the area years later she found that the house had disappeared. This article was by Constance Linton, and I decided to write to her c/o the offices of the magazine. This I did, sending her a Kilvert Society leaflet. The result

was that Mrs. Linton joined us. I also asked her to either give permission to reproduce her article, or to write one specially for these "Notes and News". This she has done, and I am sure that members generally will very much like what she has written. Mrs. Linton lives at Cranbrook in Kent. Perhaps I should add that her allusion to the likeness of Mr. Sandys Thomas to the youngest of Daisy's brothers (his father, as Mrs. Linton rightly assumes) comes from her possession of one of the photographs of the Llanthomas family group (taken in 1872) that is among the collection of photographs available to members.

THE SCHOOL THAT WAS LLANTHOMAS

My parents read Kilvert's Diary soon after its publication. I was nine years old at the time, and it sounded to me more interesting than the books they generally read, for part of it was about Llanthomas where I was at school. It fascinated me to hear about other people who had lived in the same house long ago.

I do not remember our arrival at Llanthomas - gas-masks on our backs, in the autumn of 1939. We were the juniors; the senior girls lived at Lord Hereford's Tregoyd - mentioned, though not apparently visited by Kilvert. Tregoyd had been taken on a lease, earlier in the year, by a far-sighted headmistress. But it could not house the entire school, so Mr. Sandys Thomas (son, I imagine of the youngest of Daisy's brothers, and remarkably like him in appearance) agreed to let Llanthomas to take the younger children.

Before the war ended I had lived in both houses. Each had a distinct character of its own. Tregoyd was a mansion, Llanthomas a family house. We became its family - thirty little girls, where in Kilvert's day there had lived "a nice family...one of the nicest families I ever saw." I think he would have liked us, too.

We certainly liked Llanthomas. We found it new and intriguing. I doubt if any of us had met acetylene gas before, which took the place of electric light. At night, the matrons took round hurricane lamps which threw long shadows on the landing and down the passages - a good background to our ghost stories!

I remember the whole layout of the house, and the various rooms with their particular light and feel and smell. We brought to them noise, laughter, piano practice, dancing and morning and evening prayers - all things which had been there before. All sorts of details stand out in my mind, like the slim bannisters on the gracious front stairs, the panelling of the doors, the feel of their handles and the Chinese-patterned wall-paper in the room where I had measles. I cannot help wondering which was Kilvert's room when he spent a night at Llanthomas in March 1873.

Strangely - or perhaps not - I remember no lessons, though we certainly did then. We went for wonderful walks, and rides which were more wonderful, because on a horse we travelled further and had a better view. The wife of a local farmer taught us riding and would arrive at Llanthomas with a string of horses. Sometimes we went up through Llanigon village and into the hills behind, riding freely through farms and orchards. I used to be thrilled by a deserted cottage up there - another perhaps of the "hovels" Kilvert so often visited during his villaging round Clyro. It appeared to have tumbled down many years earlier, and to have been left in ruins on the hillside as though no-one noticed. In summer we went out in the evenings, fording the Wye west of Hay, and riding up the Clyro side.

We never visited Hay during termtime - unless with our parents. But in 1940 enemy bombing was at its height, and many of us stayed at school in the summer holidays; then we would sometimes cross the bridge over the Dgedi, as Kilvert did on his way to call on Daisy Thomas' father, and walk in crocodile to Hay, for shopping.

We went to Mattins each Sunday at Llanigon church, and spent long afternoons playing in the stream, the shrubbery or on the lawn - the croquet lawn, no doubt - at Llanthomas. On Bank Holidays there would be an expedition - up the Wen Allt was a favourite. One looked out on this little mountain from the front windows of Llanthomas, and climbing it seems to have been traditional. Kilvert refers to it as "the dear old Wen Allt", and records Daisy as saying, "I should never get tired of it". He alludes, a little tantalisingly, to a picnic there in 1869, "when I first began to know her and love her."

If, as Kilvert says, Daisy went to the top of the Wen Allt, she must, like him, have been a good walker. He obviously walked as often for pleasure as for necessity. We did too. Though now we have both cars and petrol, I am sure one still sees this countryside best on foot.

The diary records some bad winters - notably 1878-9 and Kilvert's descriptions bring back the magic sight of frozen streams and waterfalls, of icicles more than a foot long. Winter walks round Tregoyd and Llanthomas were like journeys into fairy-land. There were some summer marvels; there is an entry July 1872, "The foxgloves were wonderful. They grew on both sides of the lane, multitudes, multitudes in long and deep array." So they did round Tregoyd. In the war they were wanted for their medicinal properties and we were sent out to gather them.

Dominating all Kilvert's descriptions of the country, is what he calls, "the glorious presence of the mountains." On Whit Monday 1871, he writes,

"There is no company like the grand solemn beautiful hills. They fascinate and grow upon us and one had a feeling and a love for them which one has for nothing else."

Repeatedly he records what can perhaps best be described as their 'mood'. Living near those mountains this was a very real thing - as real in 1940 as in 1870. War raged all over the world, but in this small area there seemed always peace and security.

It was the same when I returned years later - grown up and married. The area seemed to have shrunk, as places do when one has known them in childhood. I went to Llanthomas. The gates were there, the drive and something at one end. But the house I knew, unlike the hovel on the hills, had been systematically removed. It had vanished so completely that I wondered if I or anyone else had really ever lived there at all.

CONSTANCE LINTON. February 1967.

Kilvert on Television? --- Towards the end of November a member sent me a cutting from a certain newspaper. It was headed "Bennett's Weekly" and was all about Alan Bennett's series "On the Margin", then appearing on BBC-2, but what worried our member was the paragraph right at the end of the article which said that Bennett is planning (in conjunction with Patrick Garland) to do a dramatisation of Kilvert's Diary and ending with these words--- "HE (KILVERT) WAS VERY FOND OF LITTLE GIRLS, WITHOUT REALISING WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT." This remark, and the leering face of Bennett under it, and the information that he had quite recently done a sketch about "Kafka's underpants" prompted our member to write to me and ask if I thought that anything could be done to stop something that seemed as if it would be in very bad taste and which would very much sadden the many thousands of folk who have derived so much pleasure from reading Kilvert's Diary - in addition to giving totally wrong impressions. Just then a Worcestershire member phoned me on much the same lines. Now BBC-2 is not received around here (except under exceptional circumstances) and I therefore asked members living in other areas to report to me on Alan Bennett's programme titled "On the Margin" which was then on BBC-2 on Sunday evenings, with a view to forming an opinion of what sort of a show he does put on. A Buckinghamshire member did this and his report can best be summed up with two of the words he used to describe it..."SMUT" and "MUCK"... and he ended his letter by saying that he felt sure that Bennett would present Kilvert as a "most comical character", and added that Bennett specialises in taking off mincing clergymen, scoutmasters, and the like. A Surrey member who sent in a somewhat similar report probably wrote very wisely when he said that nothing must be done to give it publicity, for that is just what the Bennetts of this world want - protests and publicity are what they thrive on. Another member suggested that I wrote to Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the Secretary of the National Viewers and Listeners Association - which is fighting a "Clean up T/V" campaign. Not with any hope of stopping some dreadful programme about Kilvert being televised but to help in their long-term fight against this sort of thing. I have offered to put their leaflets in every envelope sent out with these newsletters, and no doubt the package of them will arrive in time to do this: Please give Mrs. Whitehouse your support. If any member has a useful suggestion to make that might help to combat Bennett's proposed programme on Kilvert, please let me have it.

ABBEYDORE FESTIVAL

This highly successful annual event is this year taking place from Wednesday, 27th September to Sunday 1st of October (five days as against the three days of previous years). Mr. Donald Gowing, the Founder and Artistic Director of Abbeydore Festival, tells me that among the outstanding performers appearing there are... Carlo Maria Guilini, who will be conducting the New Philharmonic Orchestra; Vladimir Ashkenazy the famous Russian Pianist, who will be giving a recital; and the full Band of the Coldstream Guards. Brochures with FULL details will be published during the second half of April and can be obtained from Mr Gowing at 16 Ogle Street, New Cavendish Street, London W.1. (stamped and addressed foolscap envelope please). The Booking Office will be open from May 1st... at Dulas Court, Pontrilas, near Hereford.

Members of the Kilvert Society have supported this Festival in goodly numbers in each previous year, and there is little doubt but that they will do the same this year --- the aim of the Festival is to assist - through high quality programmes and performances - the raising of £50,000 for the restoration of the Abbey of Dore and its emergence as a cultural centre.

We are very glad to have Mr Gowing as a member of the Kilvert Society.

BIRMINGHAM and DISTRICT MEMBERS -- I have reported a number of gatherings of the London district members during the last few years, and now the Birmingham area members have got going in the same way. I am told that their first "get-together" took place last October, when a small but enthusiastic company met at the home of Mr. and Mrs C.F. Hughes of Moseley, Birmingham. A very recent letter from Mr. E.F. Jelfs, the organiser of these gatherings, tells me that their second meeting is to be on Friday, March 31st, when Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have again very kindly invited their fellow members to their home. These notes will have gone to be duplicated before this gathering of the Birmingham area members takes place, so we must look forward to having a report of the proceedings for the June number of "Notes & News". Mr Jelfs tells me that they look forward with interest to a Paper to be given by Mrs. A.J. Stanyard, a Birmingham member well versed in the Diary and with an intimate knowledge of some aspects of the Kilvert scene. By special request, the tape recording of the commemoration address given by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths at Langley Burrell in July of last year will again be heard. They anticipate a happy, informal and instructive evening. Light refreshment at the close of the evening will be provided by their generous host and hostess. Information regarding future local meetings may be obtained from Mr. E.F. Jelfs, 8 Clarence Road, Birmingham 13. There are still a few tapes available of the very fine address given at Langley Burrell by the Rev. Lane Griffiths, with background organ music. They can be obtained either from Mr. Jelfs or from myself. The price is one guinea each.

Several of last year's new members are members of the Victorian Society, too, and arising out of this the Victorian Society put a note in their February newsletter which told of the existence of the Kilvert Society and gave my name and address as the Hon. Secretary. As a result of this we have had several more new members. (Incidentally, the Kilvert Society is now going to become a corporate member of the Victorian Society). One of these new members lives in Cornwall, and he was evidently very glad to hear about a Kilvert Society, and to join it --- for he tells me that he is very interested in anything that concerns the Hay district and the Builth district etc., and that his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Edward Lloyd was one of Mr. Bevan's curates at Hay - not very long after Kilvert's time, for he went on to become the first Vicar of Newbridge-on-Wye in 1883. His church was surely the "beautiful little iron church" in which Kilvert preached twice on Sunday, May 7th 1876 (page 294 in Volume 3) for the present church of All Saints at Newbridge-on-Wye (built by Mr. George Venables) was not opened until 1888.

Mr. Trinick very kindly sent me an old photograph of the railway station at Newbridge-on-Wye, taken in 1898, written on the back of it is the information that the train about to leave is the 3.49 for Brecon and the words DOL FAN which is perhaps the name of the engine. Can some Cambrian Railways enthusiast verify this please? Copies of this photograph are now available to members: the scene must be almost exactly as Kilvert knew it when he used this station on his visits to nearby Llysdyman.

One day perhaps we shall have similar old photographs of other stations that Kilvert used - Builth, Rhayader, St. Harmons etc. How splendid it would be to have one of Three Cocks Junction taken 80 years or so ago, with trains in.

BOOKLETS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS. The following can be obtained from the Hon. Sec:

"Memories of the Monk" - by Mrs. Anne Mallinson. 2/0 plus 6d postage. Very few are now left. Reprinting under consideration.

"The Wiltshire Courier" - the number with the two-page illustrated article "The Home of Francis Kilvert". 2/- per copy.

"Now and Then" - the number of Jonathan Cape's house magazine with the reproduction of Kilvert's dance programme from the Ball at Clifford Priory in 1872. At 1/3 by post.

"Hampshire" - the number with Mrs. Mallinson's illustrated article on Kilvert's visits to the Isle of Wight, at 2/6 per copy, plus 6d postage.

"Ignatius the Monk" (illustrated) - at 1/6 plus 4d postage. Has references to Kilvert's meetings with Ignatius and many bits of little known information.
