

IMPORTANT NOTICE - - - postal deliveries sometimes seem to be very "haywire" these days, most especially so with letters such as this, posted in bulk for franking at 3d each. Some of the letters posted last October took up to THREE WEEKS to reach members, in one case less than 50 miles from Hereford. It is even suspected that some members did not get theirs at all. This batch will be posted either the day that they are dated, or at latest the following day. Please note how long this takes to get to you, and report any undue delay to the Hon. Secretary so that complaints can be made to the postal authorities if necessary to do so.

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THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wycroft,  
23 Broomy Hill,  
Hereford.

(Phone : 2094)

12th April, 1968.

Dear Member,

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING will be held on FRIDAY, the 26th APRIL 1968 at 7 p.m. (PROMPT) -- in Eignbrook Church Hall(s) Hereford, as usual.

To many members this letter will be the first intimation of the sad news of the death of our President Emeritus (Mrs. L.R.K. Wright), in November, followed by that of our President (the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths) in February; two grievous losses to us all. Notices and appreciations about both appear in following pages.

At this year's A.G.M. there will therefore not only be the usual election of officers but also the duty of electing a new President. We shall thus hope to be able to start the meeting very promptly - at 7 o'clock.

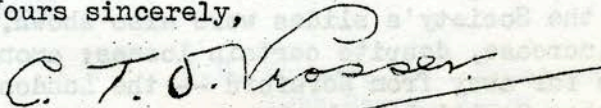
After the business meeting lady members will serve refreshments - at about 8 p.m. and this will be followed by the usual type of interesting and varied programme.

Please particularly note the announcement on a following page of a motor coach tour that has been arranged for a Saturday afternoon in May, bookings for this will be taken during the evening.

Also please note the details about this year's Commemoration Service - to be at Newbridge-on-Wye in Radnorshire on the 23rd of June. As is usual, a further newsletter will go out to all members about a fortnight before this service.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet follow.

Yours sincerely,



(C.T.O. Prosser)

Hon. Secretary, The Kilvert Society.

A number of members coming by car to the A.G.M. always use the car park at the Inn which adjoins Eignbrook Church and Church Hall (the "Horse & Groom"). This car park is quite a large one. Those members who do not know of it may be glad of this information. Church, Hall and Inn are all opposite the Victoria Eye Hospital.

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YOUR KIND ATTENTION IS ASKED FOR WITH REGARD TO THE APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TOWARDS THE MEMORIAL THAT IS SOON TO BE ERECTED TO FRANCIS KILVERT IN HIS BIRTHPLACE -- HARDENHUISH (Wiltshire); IT WILL BE FOUND ON AN INNER PAGE.

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OUR 21st ANNIVERSARY

Several members have sent in reminders that next year (1969) is the 21st Anniversary Year of the founding of the Kilvert Society (1948) and that we ought to celebrate it with "something special". Not too early to start thinking about it. Ideas to the Hon. Sec. please.



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1967

The Annual Meeting was held at Eignbrook-as usual- on Friday 26th April; the attendance figures being just about the same as for many years past. Another feature that has now become usual is the long distances which many travel to get to the Annual Meeting. Again we had members from Bristol and from Buckinghamshire, from Birmingham and from Banbury, a new member from Worcester, a number from Hay and from Clyro; and to the Hereford City members were added quite a number from various parts of Herefordshire.

A letter from the President (Mrs. L.R.K. Wright) was read; in this she told us with regret that she felt that she must resign the Presidency which she had held since 1950, as she was no longer able to attend any of the meetings. It was realised that we must accept Mrs. Wright's resignation and that a message of grateful thanks and deep regret should be sent to her. It was then proposed (by the Dean of Hereford - the Very Rev. R.P. Price) that Mrs. Wright be made President Emeritus. This suggestion was acclaimed by all and carried unanimously. The matter of a new President was then discussed. Mr. F.W. Stokoe of Hay-on-Wye proposed that the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths be asked to fill the vacancy; this proposition was seconded by Mr. H.W. Butcher. There was no other nomination, and a unanimous vote clinched the matter. Mr. Lane Griffiths accepted and expressed his pleasure in taking on the Presidency and assured us of his help in every possible direction. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J.D. Worsey) spoke briefly on the statement of accounts and was congratulated on the healthy state of the Society's finances. Vice-Presidents were all re-elected, with the addition of Commander Kyrle Pope of Homme House, Much Marcle, Hfds and Mr. E.F. Jelfs, of Moseley, Birmingham. Committee was re-elected en bloc, as were the other officials of the Society. It was then decided to have a coach tour on May 18th to Llanthony and Capel-y-Ffin and the President (Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths) read selections from the Diary concerning these places. After the break for refreshments, served by lady members, there were a series of short talks by members on various subjects of interest. The Dean of Hereford (the Very Rev. R.P. Price); Mr. E.F. Jelfs; the Rev. C.G. Challenger of Almeley, Hfds; and then Mrs. E.M. Shetliffe of Hereford read a paper on behalf of her cousin, Commander Kyrle Pope, who was unavoidably absent through a prior engagement. The final item was another fine film of Herefordshire, titled "Border County", provided and shown by committee-man Mr. Godfrey Davies. The commentary was by Harry Soan. Another very pleasant evening then ended with votes of thanks to all concerned.

The Annual Service was on Sunday 25th June at Llanbedr-Painscastle in Radnorshire, the special preacher being the Rev. Colin Cuttall, Vicar of All-Hallows-by-the-Tower (London); the attendance was excellent, Dr. Plomer delighted a large company after tea with readings from the Diary and otherwise; and everything went off very well indeed. A detailed report was circulated in the October newsletter.

The other big event of 1967 was the service in Worcester Cathedral on Oct. 15th a full report on this will be found further on in this newsletter.

Shortly after this a very pleasant evening was spent in Clyro Parish Room when slides of Kilvert and other interests were shown by various members and light refreshments were served. There was a good company present and among these were local members and friends, a number from Hereford and from other places in the county, and some from far afield ... Birmingham, Bucks, etc. Special interest was taken in Miss Mantle's local slides, and in those from further afield shown by Mr. R.I. Morgan of Chalfont St. Peter and by Mr. C.B. Ottaway of Preston-on-Wye. Some of the Society's slides were also shown. Membership of the Society is still on the increase, despite certain losses; among the new members are a number more who live far away from Hereford - the London and Birmingham areas, Yorkshire, etc. and another Scottish member.

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Members present at the A.G.M. on April 29th 1966 will remember Miss Mantle, who teaches at Clyro County Primary School, telling us of how she and Miss K. Powell had spent many hours - sometimes with friends assisting - plotting where houses mentioned in the Diary once stood, although they are now no more. They also found some of the places that Kilvert mentions but whose names are not used today. The children at Clyro School have become interested too (we remember what splendid essays they wrote for the competition at the time of the Centenary Service at Clyro in 1965). These children have now made a sort of super scrap book, titled "Our book on Kilvert" and in this are essays, photographs, coloured sketches of their school, the church, and Ashbrook. There are accounts of what they had seen in the school records; of the ages at which pupils came to school, of from where they came; of their parents' occupations; and a number of details that correspond with what we can read in the Diary. It is a splendid effort. Members will be pleased to know that this book will be brought to the forthcoming A.G.M. and will be available for those interested to peruse.



THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts Year ended 31st December, 1967

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>£.ss. d.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>
Balance brought forward from 1966	98.14.11	Subscription to Herefordshire & Radnorshire Nature Trust	1. 1. 0
Subscriptions and Donations	211. 1. 7	Donation to Llanigon Church Roof Restoration Fund	5. 0. 0
Collection at Annual General Meeting	3.10. 3	Donation to Llanbedr-Painscastle Church Funds	5. 0. 0
Coach Fares & Tea Charges - Llanthony & Capel-y-Ffin	22.12. 0	Donation to Worcester Cathedral Funds	5. 0. 0
Coach Fares to Llanbedr-Painscastle	11.19. 0	Donation re use of Eignbrook Hall for A.G.M.	3. 0. 0
Coach Fares to Worcester	14.10. 0	Cost of refreshments for A.G.M.	2.18. 6
From sale of "The Solitary" etc.	46. 0. 0	Coach etc. to Llanthony & Capel-y-Ffin on May 18th	10.17. 0
From sale of magazines (Hampshire, Wiltshire etc.)	1. 8. 6	Cost of teas at Llanthony	10. 9. 0
From sale of "Ignatius the Monk"	1. 5. 6	Coach to Llanbedr-Painscastle on June 25th	9.10. 0
From sale of photographs	3. 7. 0	Expenses of preacher at Llanbedr-Painscastle	5. 0. 0
Surplus from Clyro gathering	6. 0	P.A. equipment at Llanbedr-Painscastle	5. 5. 0
		Book token prizes for essay competition at Llanbedr-Painscastle	2. 6. 9
		Coaches to Worcester on Oct.15th	16.15. 0
		Amount outstanding re Worcester Cathedral Service	1.18. 6
		Renovation of Mrs.Kilvert's grave	29. 0. 0
		Upkeep of Kilvert graves	6. 0. 0
		4 Visitors' Books @ £2.10s. +	
		1 Altar Book @ £2. 5s.	12. 5. 0
		2 Presentation sets of the Diary	10.10. 0
		3 Copies of Diary Index	15. 0
		Bulk purchase of booklet, "The Solitary of Llanbedr-Painscastle etc."	47. 5. 6
		Photographic material & work	16. 3.10
		Donation in memory of Mrs. L.R.K. Wright	2. 2. 0
		Hospital flowers & hospitality	2. 1. 6
		Advertising	1.10. 0
		Printing & Stationery	36. 7. 4
		Duplicating	56. 5. 5
		Postage & Telephone Calls	22.12.10
		Cheque Book	5. 0
		<u>Balance in Hand</u>	<u>87.10. 7</u>
	<u>£ 414.14. 9</u>		<u>£ 414.14. 9</u>

J.D. Worsey, Hon. Treasurer  
12th March, 1968.

MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS

Some little time ago a member suggested that a list of members should be published - names and addresses - so that they could get in touch with one another if they so wished. Comments on this suggestion would be appreciated..

Another member has suggested that there should be small badges made available for buttonholes or similar, maybe something similar to Rotary Club badges. Perhaps just a simple badge made up of the letters "K.S.". The idea being that fellow members should recognize it and perhaps start a conversation. Comments invited on this also -- to the Hon. Sec. please.

LECTURE AT CARDIFF

One of our South Wales members was due to talk to Cardiff Business and Professional Women's Club in November - on Kilvert and the Diary. We had hoped to have had a report of the occasion but did not have one sent on after all. No doubt there was a good company present.



"NOTES and NEWS" - by the Hon. Secretary; with contributions  
from a number of members ..... March, 1968.

#### Dr. Plomer

What a pleasure it must have given all of us to have seen Dr. Plomer's name in the New Year's Honours List ... as a Commander of the British Empire. Congratulations .. from us all.

Further on in this newsletter are details of the visit to Homme House, Much Marcle on Saturday afternoon, May 11th. At the forthcoming A.G.M. SOsome extracts from the Diary, centring on Homme House and the Rev. Andrew Pope, will be read by Mr. J.D. Worsey.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Firstly, Mrs. Prosser and I must once again thank all those who so kindly sent us Christmas cards; they seem to get more each year, and it is quite impossible to send individual thanks or to send a card to each ourselves. It is lovely to receive so many from kind friends and we do appreciate it.

CARDS FOR SALE - it was thought that by now there could have been an announcement about Kilvert Christmas Cards for 1968; but there have been further "snags" and it will now be not until the June newsletter that a definite statement can be made as to the position. There is still hope, however, that in the June newsletter there will be details of what is available, prices, etc.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

The issue of the new list of photographs has been held up because of additions now about to be made to it. When it becomes available - quite soon now - there will be considerably more than 100 on the list. Among them will be a group of the clergy and others outside Bryngwyn Church in 1961, in the group are to be seen Dean Hedley Burrows and our late President, the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths; and Mrs. Wright. Another photograph - taken at Worcester last October - shows the Dean and our late President standing together. Yet another, taken at Clyro, has both our late President and Mrs. Wright, the late Bishop Newnham Davis and the Vicar of Clyro, taken alongside Dr. Plomer, Alderman Tudor Watkins, M.P. and officials of the Society. Photographs taken at Langley Burrell in 1966, with the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths and Dr Plomer are now in the series. All these will no doubt be extremely popular; as also will be such as Maesllwch Castle, and the railway stations at Newbridge-on-Wye and at Hereford (Barton) all taken either 100 years ago or approaching this. The new list will be costly to produce, as it will have explanations and Diary references, and it is suggested that those sending for it should enclose 1/- in stamps towards costs and postage.

Among the photographs on the original list the best sellers have been those of the Venables, the Bevans, the Crichtons and the Dews - most of them taken around 1870. Perhaps the best seller of them all has been the group of the Thomas family, all 13 of them, taken at the front door of Llanthomas in 1872, there is so much to be said about this photograph (and of that with the family coach, and the one of the house itself) that a batch of foolscap sheets has been produced. These have notes on each member of the family, on the house, on the family coach, the obituary notice ex a local newspaper when "Daisy" died in 1928, and much else of interest. One of these sheets will be sent to any member who sends a stamped addressed envelope to the Hon. Sec. for same. They are of much interest to those not buying the photographs. The cost of the photographs are but 1/- each (size about 5 by 3½ in B and W only). B and W enlargements at very reasonable prices.

#### SLIDES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Our Buckinghamshire member - Mr. R.I. Morgan - has had slides made of the batch of photographs that he bought when the Society first offered them to members. We hope to be able to show these at the A.G.M. on April 26th. Not only will they be of general interest but they will also let those present see what can be acquired in the way of photographs of the folk of the Diary etc. These slides will be in black & white, as are the photographs.

#### VISITORS BOOKS FOR CHURCHES

Following the Society's policy of offering a VISITORS BOOK to any church in which a KILVERT SERVICE has been held - there is now such a book (suitably inscribed by Mr. W.H. Ellis, and with some printed matter on the Service and re the Society in the end pages) in the churches at Bredwardine, Monnington-on-Wye and Llanigon, and one will be offered to Newbridge-on-Wye this year. Llanbedr-Painscastle already had one prior to the service there last June, but wanted an Altar Book, this we gave in lieu.



## OBITUARIES and APPRECIATIONS

The past few months have brought two severe losses to the Society in the deaths of our President-Emeritus, Mrs. L.R.K. Wright and of her successor as President, the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths.

Mrs. Wright died on November 28th (she was born on March 31st, 1884), after a short illness; although she has suffered with acute arthritis for some years and had got about with difficulty, especially so in the last year or two. The big Clyro service of 1965 was the last function of the Society which she attended. Prior to that she had never missed either Annual Service or the A.G.M. and at both we always had some kindly and thoughtful words from her, coupled with thanks to those concerned in making the event a successful one. The late Mr. S.A. Wright (Sid to so many) was the Founder and first President of the Society; and when he died (in 1950) Mrs. Wright became President; something that gave her particular pleasure was the thought that she was carrying on where he left off. It was a happy thought on the part of Mr. Lane Griffiths (then a Vice-President) to suggest a SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING in her honour back in 1964, when she was able to attend and take part in it; this was held in Eignbrook Congregational Church in Hereford, where Mrs. Wright worshipped for more than 50 years -- and this is where the funeral service was held; the church was quite full and among the large congregation were many members of the Kilvert Society. We shall always think of her with gratitude and affection.

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Although the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths had actually been President for such a short time - made President at the A.G.M. of April 1967 - he had taken a leading part in the affairs of the Society for many years. Deputising for Mrs. Wright at meetings and taking part in the Annual Service for a long way back. His "Act of Remembrance" was a feature of every Kilvert Service since 1959; the last time being at the Worcester Cathedral service of October 15th. He lost no time in joining the Society after coming to Llowes as its Vicar in 1952, and 1953 saw the first of the several services at that church. In 1954 Mr. Lane Griffiths was the preacher at St. Harmon, and in the autumn of the same year there was the special service at Llowes, when the Bishop of Swansea & Brecon preached, and dedicated the memorial sundial in the churchyard. 1960 Llowes again, with the Rev. A.J. Goss preaching, and then in 1962 that wonderful effort at Clyro when Mr. Lane Griffiths deputised at such very short notice when sudden illness prevented the preacher turning up; and so to that lovely summer's day in 1966 when he preached at Langley Burrell, at the first Kilvert Service in Wiltshire; the lovely old church and the occasion brought out the best in him, "perhaps the best yet" said Dr. Plomer afterwards. He died on February 3rd in the County Hospital at Hereford, just a week after being taken there seriously ill following a heart attack; at his bedside was his Bible and one other book - his abridged edition of Kilvert's Diary - taken there by him in order to make notes for some future occasion (his last talk-on Kilvert- was to a woman's club in Hereford, where they eagerly awaited a return visit, but it was not to be.) The funeral was at Hereford Crematorium, the small chapel there was full to capacity, many of the mourners being members of the Society. The simple service there was just as he wished it to be, with nothing else either before or after. Had this not been so, and had there been a memorial service it would have been attended by a vast number of members and friends, who would have come from far and near to pay their last respects to a beloved President and friend. We shall miss him - always. One member summed it up so well when he said "The Society will go on, apparently, as usual, but it will never be quite the same again." There have been many letters, all with basically the same message; sympathy, a sense of loss, and gratitude. A number of these letters have been passed on to Mrs. Lane Griffiths to add to those that she has had direct from members; she is far from well, for it was her poor health which caused Mr. Lane Griffiths to retire from Llowes and come to live in Hereford some two years or so ago.

Our late President was 72; he was a native of Llanelli. A member's tribute will be found on a following page. - - - - -

### Mr. A.E. Lewis of Tarrington. Miss O.M. Stewart of Cheltenham.

With much regret the deaths of these two members is reported. Mr. Lewis was Headmaster of the Primary School at Tarrington (Hfds.) and was previously the Head of Painscastle (Rads.) school until it closed down some years ago. It will be remembered that it was Mr. Lewis who judged the essays of the Clyro schoolchildren in 1965. The funeral was at Talley in his native Carmarthenshire. Miss Stewart joined the Society in 1961 and the same year came up to the service at Bryngwyn (Rads.) -- she also attended on other occasions, and was at the lecture on Kilvert which the Rev. Lane Griffiths gave at Cheltenham Art Gallery just a year ago.

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## Diary for Sale

Mrs. Lane Griffiths offers the following for sale to members :

Volume 1 of Kilverts Diary. First edition - with photograph of Francis Kilvert.  
Marginal notes and comments by the late Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths.

"Kilverts Dagbog" .. extracts from Kilverts Diary translated into Danish by  
Miss Anne Friis of Copenhagen; Mr. Lane Griffiths assisted  
Miss Friis and this is the copy she sent him; it bears his name.

These two books will be sold to the highest bidder at the A.G.M. on April 26th.  
Offers by post will be accepted by the Hon. Sec. up to that date.

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## A tribute from Hay-on-Wye

Our founder-member and committee man Mr. F.W. Stokoe of Hay-on-Wye has sent in the following as his contribution and tribute following the death of the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths.

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The Society's late President was a man of many parts and much loved by members of his own church and those of other denominations with whom he came into contact -- broadminded in his outlook on most matters. Essentially a man's man he was Chaplain to the Forces from 1925 to 1947 moving with his men to the various theatres of war in Malta and the Middle East, about which terrain he had a host of interesting anecdotes to tell. For those services he was awarded the much coveted Territorial Decoration.

While at Llowes he often combined with members of the Relief Committee of the Hay and District branch of the British Legion in pressing claims to the Ministry of Pensions on behalf of disabled exservicemen.

Becoming Vicar of Llowes in 1952 he found considerable disorganisation in parochial affairs following a period when the parish had been without a vicar. With the invaluable help of his wife, the new vicar set about re-organisation with a will; completely renovating the interior and exterior of the building and cleaning up the churchyard, being frequently seen in his shirt sleeves among the tombstones. The famous old legendary cross of St. Meilig which had weathered the storm outside in the churchyard for countless years he had brought inside, sited in the west end and suitably mounted, with a written history of its origin. A memorial sundial to Kilvert was also erected in the churchyard. The Llowes branch of the Mothers' Union - of which body Mrs. Lane Griffiths was the enrolling member - gave valuable assistance towards the provision of a new altar, altar cloth, carpets, etc. A new roof to the building appeared and the organ taken away and renovated; the interior decoration of the walls was also accomplished. By co-operation with the B.B.C. several harvest services were broadcast and also the annual Blessing of the Plough service with all its ancient ritual.

The Rev. Lane Griffiths' sermons on Kilvert Sundays will long be remembered by the members, one of them being forthcoming when he had, in an emergency, been given only two days preparation. Completely at home in the pulpit or on the platform his services were frequently in demand over a wide area of the border counties expounding the character of the Diarist and the beauty of his prose. "You will come again, won't you?" was said to him after a recent lecture - and perhaps the last he gave - in Hereford. In the Masonic world Rev. Lane Griffiths was a pastmaster of the Prince Llewellyn Lodge in Cardiff and a Past Provincial Grand Chaplain in the Eastern Division of South Wales. Since his retirement to Hereford three years ago he had undertaken much relief work in the city and county churches and pulpits.

His great gift of oratory, so often enjoyed by Kilvertians, was referred to in a short address, given by Rev. T. Ewart Evans, vicar of Lugwardine, at the funeral service. There, on a sharp frosty day with snow skirting the grounds of the Hereford Crematorium, some fifty people said farewell to a very dear friend, the bright sunshine which prevailed seeming to add a parting tribute to his memory.

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Mr. Stokoe then appended the following details of the career of our late President.  
Rev. David James Lane Griffiths

Educated at St. David's College, Lampeter, where he took his B.A. in 1922.

Ordained Deacon the same year and Priest the following year, 1923.

Curate of St. Fagan, Aberdare from 1922 to 1924 and at St. Margaret, Mountain Ash  
1924 to 1932.

Chaplain to the Forces (Territorial Army) from 1925 and Chaplain to the Forces  
1939 to 1947. Awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1942.

Organising Secretary for the Province of Wales and licensed to officiate in the  
Welsh Dioceses 1932-39 and 1947-52.

Vicar of Llowes, Radnorshire in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon 1952 to 1963.

Curate-in-Charge of All Saints, Glasbury 1964-65.

Rural Dean of Hay 1962-65.

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### VISIT TO HOMME HOUSE, MUCH MARCLE, (Herefordshire)

The Diary tells us that on September 8th 1874 Kilvert came up from Chippenham to stay the night at Much Marcle Vicarage; for next day his friend, the Rev. Andrew Pope, was being married to Miss Money Kyrle of Homme House, and he was to be the best man.

When Kilvert was Curate of Clyro, Pope was Curate of nearby Cusop - and we read much of him in the Diary (including the famous incident at Whitney-on-Wye which Kilvert heard of on "April Eve" in 1870). Later on, when Kilvert was Vicar of Bredwardine he found himself near to the Popes, for Mr. Pope had become Vicar of Preston-on-Wye with Blakemere, and the Diary tells us of many visits between them. From there they went to Delbury, near Craven Arms in Shropshire; then back to Herefordshire - to Upton Bishop near Ross-on-Wye; and lastly to Langley Burrell where the Rev. Andrew Pope was Rector from 1910 until 1920. when he retired, and subsequently lived at Ross-on-Wye.

There is an excellent account of the wedding on pages 77-78 of the third volume of the Diary; where we read that they were "all photographed grouped on the steps before the house". A copy of that photograph is among those that the Society has on sale for its members. We have this through the kindness of Commander Kyrle Pope, R.N. who now lives at Homme House, he is one of the sons of that marriage which Kilvert attended in 1874. After a distinguished career in the Royal Navy (serving in both wars) he has just been appointed High Sheriff of Herefordshire. He has recently returned from Singapore, where he has been visiting his two sons, both high-ranking naval officers. The elder a Rear Admiral and Chief of Staff in Singapore and the younger Captain of H.M.S. Eagle, Britain's largest aircraft carrier. We are proud to have Commander Kyrle Pope as a Vice-President of the Society ..... and very pleased to be able to announce that Commander and Mrs. Kyrle Pope have most kindly invited a party from the Society to visit Homme House in May. We are to see the garden and then drive through the Park to Much Marcle Church, this is a lovely church; in it is the tomb of Sir John Kyrle, one of the finest in the county, and much else of interest. Tea has been ordered at the Walwyn Arms in the village and will be at a cost of 5/- each. One of Yeoman's motor coaches is booked, and the fare will be 5/-. This visit to Homme House is to be on Saturday afternoon, May 11th, and the coach will leave the Town Hall in St. Owen Street at 2 p.m.

Our Assistant Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. E. Peters) will take bookings, and the 5/- coach fare, at the end of the break for refreshments on Friday, 26th April. This will be a circular tour, outwards via Fownhope or Woolhope and return via Ledbury, where we shall make a short stay if time permits.

### AUTUMN EVENT AT HARDENHUISH (Wiltshire) -- and an APPEAL

Many of us have long been conscious that whilst there are memorials to Francis Kilvert in each church closely associated with him in Radnorshire and in Herefordshire - and two years ago one at Langley Burrell in Wiltshire - there is nothing to his memory at Hardenhuish, his birthplace.

Canon Leatherbarrow raised this matter at a meeting some few years ago, and was promised that something should be done, if possible. Many letters have been received over the years from members and friends visiting Hardenhuish and finding nothing to mark the Kilvert connection there. All this is now to be remedied, a tablet is to be erected in the church - and at the Rectory opposite it a small plaque is to be placed alongside the door; a similar type to those seen on houses where people of note once lived, in nearby Bath. The Kilvert Society is sponsoring this project and the Rector of Hardenhuish, (the Rev. J.K. Gardiner) is giving us his full co-operation. Plans are being made for a SPECIAL AUTUMN SERVICE at HARDENHUISH at which the tablet will be dedicated; the date is to be Sunday October 13th. Further details will be given in the June newsletter.

The cost of TABLET and PLAQUE cannot total less than £50, and even then this sum is just a guess. A FUND must therefore be opened, for no doubt many of our members will want to contribute. Please send yours, whether something quite small or quite substantial, to the Assistant Hon. Treasurer - Mrs. E. Peters, 18 Moor Farm Lane, Hereford, as soon as possible. BUT DO PLEASE NOTE THAT A RECEIPT WILL NOT BE SENT UNLESS SPECIALLY REQUESTED.

The Rector of Hardenhuish will also receive contributions, please address them to the Rev. J.K. Gardiner, The Rectory, Hardenhuish, Chippenham, Wilts. He is publicising this fund locally, for we do want to think that it will be a joint effort of the Kilvert Society and the people in and around Hardenhuish.



## THE 1968 COMMEMORATION SERVICE

It was announced last year that the 1968 service is to be at Newbridge-on-Wye in Radnorshire. The date is now definitely fixed - Sunday the 23rd June.

The service will be conducted by the Vicar of Newbridge, (the Rev. A.G. Thomas) and an invitation to give the ADDRESS has gone to the Vicar of Clyro (the Rev. T.J. Lewis - one of our Vice-Presidents); he has not yet been able to definitely accept it, for he is a very busy man indeed these days ... not only is he Vicar of Clyro with Bettws and Vicar of Llowes and Glasbury (All Saints) and is Rural Dean of Hay - but as at present there is no Vicar of Hay he is involved there too! We must all hope that some of these problems will be resolved so that Mr. Lewis will preach at Newbridge on the 23rd of June. There could be nothing more fitting than that the Vicar of Clyro should give the address there. For the Rev. R.L. Venables (Vicar of Clyro from 1847 to 1873) became the first Vicar of the present church at Newbridge-on-Wye, it is a comparatively new church, replacing the "beautiful little iron Church" in which on May 7th 1876 Kilvert preached twice (Vol. 3 page 294).

It has also been announced that Sir Michael Venables-Llewelyn (grandson of the Rev. R.L. Venables) has very kindly invited all who attend this service to look around the garden at Llysdimam afterwards; we now hear that arrangements are being worked out for tea there too. This will all be most enjoyable and it is exceedingly kind of Sir Michael and all others concerned to think of such nice arrangements. The modest fee envisaged for the visit plus tea will all go to Newbridge Church, as will the collection at the service.

There will be the usual June newsletter circulated about a fortnight before the Newbridge service, with full details of all arrangements and also some articles on Llysdimam, the Venables family, Kilvert's visits to Newbridge, etc. etc..

It has now become the practice to offer prizes (book tokens) to the children of the school of the village where the annual service is being held. This year the children of Newbridge-on-Wye V.P. school are participating; the Headmaster, (Mr. V.J. Hill) will decide what they will do to qualify.

We already know that Dr. William Plomer will do his utmost to be there and we therefore hope that he will once again present the prizes to the children. He has managed to get to the annual service each year for a number of years past, despite his many engagements and involvements and it is certain that his presence is a big inspiration to us all and gives great pleasure too. I have been able to glean the following details about some of his works and some of his engagements and if anyone does not already realise how fortunate we are in having him with us each year they will do so after reading same!!

## THE PRODIGAL SON

Dr. William Plomer has been working on the libretto of the third of Benjamin Britten's "church operas". These are Curlew River, The Burning Fiery Furnace, and now The Prodigal Son. The last-named is due to be first produced in Orford Church, Suffolk, on 10th June, as part of the Aldeburgh Festival. There will be four subsequent performances there during the month, and no doubt one of them will be broadcast.

Later in the year all three of these operas will be given in the Edinburgh Festival, and the first two are to be produced in the chapel of the Palace of Versailles in May.

Also as part of the Aldeburgh Festival in June, Britten's Coronation opera, Gloriana, for which Dr. Plomer also wrote the libretto, will be performed by the Sadler's Wells Opera Company in the great new concert hall at Snape which was opened by the Queen last year.

## PUBLICATIONS

The booklet which came out just in time to be on sale during and after the tea which followed the Commemoration Service at Llanbedr-Painscastle last June has proved most successful. It is, of course The 'Solitary' of Llanbedr plus Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions. Sales have exceeded expectations, but there are still plenty left, for we had a large number done. They are 4/6 each (plus 6d postage) and can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. of the Society or from H.R. Grant and Son, Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford.

Another booklet .. much larger than the above, though we still call it a booklet .. is in course of production and will be on sale later on, perhaps by May, certainly by the time of the Newbridge service in June. It will be titled "Collected Verse" and is a collection of Kilvert's little known but highly characteristic verse. Dr. William Plomer has most kindly written an INTRODUCTION to it. The price cannot yet be settled, probably around 8/6 per copy. Look out for further announcement in the June newsletter.



WORCESTER - Sunday 15th October 1967

This was a most memorable day in the Society's history. A Kilvert Service in a Cathedral, and the pleasure of once more having our dear friend and Vice-President - Dean Hedley Burrows - to address us. It was back in 1961 that we bade farewell to him, just before he went from Hereford; he then preached at the June service at Bryngwyn - up in the Radnorshire hills - and was afterwards given an album of coloured photographs of the Kilvert Country, by Mrs. Wright on behalf of the Society. The suggestion for this service had come from Dean Burrows, for the Diarist's great-uncle, the Rev. Richard Kilvert, was a Canon of Worcester and he and his wife and their daughter Maria are all buried in the Cloister Garth. We all know Kilvert's graphic description of the scenes at the funeral of Miss Maria Kilvert in 1870. There was a large congregation - about 200 - and the whole central part of the nave seemed to be really full. Two motor-coaches came over from Hereford and members came from far and near. It is known that folk were there from London, Birmingham, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon, South Wales as well as the many from Worcestershire and from its surrounding counties. A warm welcome to the Cathedral was given by the Vice-Dean (Canon C.B. Armstrong) as Dr. Milburn (the Dean) was abroad at the time. The lessons were read by two Worcestershire clergy-members; Canon J.S. Leatherbarrow of Martley and the Rev. D.N. Lockwood of Hanley Swan. The Act of Commemoration, composed and specially adapted for the Worcester scene by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths of Hereford - President of the Society - was read by him. The Precentor (the Rev. Colin Beswick) conducted the service. Dean Burrows, speaking from the Cathedral pulpit, took as his text "Live like men who are at home in daylight". His address dealt with the Kilvert family's connections with Worcester, the parts of the Diary relevant to Worcester and in particular the funeral of Miss Kilvert; Kilvert's standing as a Diarist and also as a lover and shepherd of his people. The singing was led by the Voluntary Choir, with the cathedral organist, Mr. Christopher Robinson, at the organ. Altogether a splendid service.

Afterwards, many were seen inspecting the Cathedral; the Cloister Garth, where the Kilvert tombstone had been well cleaned up by some of the staff; and the Cloisters, along which came that funeral procession of 1870. A number took advantage of the kind offer of Canon and Mrs. W. Purcell - who now live in what was once the home of Miss Kilvert - and visited it to see what was her room, and the views across the Severn to the Malvern Hills which so impressed Francis Kilvert. Tea followed, in the fine setting of the Old Palace, adjoining the Cathedral precincts. Here Dean Hedley Burrows revealed that it was his 80th birthday that very day, and the large company greeted it with "Happy Birthday to you". He had not come direct from his home near Winchester to preach at Worcester; for on the previous day he had officiated at a wedding in Dorset, back where he was vicar many years ago. This brief account will give some idea of the happy and successful day at Worcester. From it has come quite a "crop" of new members.

#### "FOLK OF THE DIARY"

At every "Kilvert Service" there are a number among the congregation that are either the descendants of Kilvert's family, his friends, or of those folk that figure in the Diary. Last October at Worcester Cathedral, this seemed to be particularly noticeable, and it will perhaps be of interest to set down some of them. Here is a list which does not claim to be complete.

A grand-daughter of two great-granddaughters of the Rev. R.L. & Mrs. Bevan of Hay.  
A grand-daughter of the Rev. David Vaughan of Gilfach-yr-Heol, Newchurch, Rads.  
A great-niece of Miss Frances Thomas (Daisy) of Llanthomas.  
A son of Kilvert's friend the Rev. Andrew Pope.  
A member who before marriage was a Miss Money-Kyrle.  
One of the descendants of the Lewis family of Dolbedwyn, Newchurch, Rads.  
Two descendants of the Hyde family of Bredwardine.  
Several with connections linked with Hay and with St. Harmons.

#### THE REV. DAVID LOCKWOOD IN HOSPITAL

All members will be sorry to hear that not long after taking part in the Worcester Cathedral service last October, Mr. Lockwood met with a nasty car accident and was for some time seriously ill in Worcester Royal Infirmary with severe injuries to his back. Happily, things have not turned out to be as serious as was first thought and he has been back at home some time, making very good progress, and in due course should be "quite himself" again.

All will wish to send him their best wishes for his speedy and complete recovery.



## MUSEUM PIECE

Elsewhere there is a note of the numerous descendants of the "people of the Diary" who came to last October's Worcester Cathedral service, among them a great-niece of Miss Fanny Thomas, with her from her home in Suffolk came a teapot, painted all over with flowered sprays by "Daisy".

Miss Parker very kindly gave this to the Society; at present it is at 23 Broomy Hill in Hereford, with the many other items connected with Kilvert and his friends that makes up an ever growing collection of "Kilvertiana" belonging to the Society. This teapot from Llanthomas, and all the other items, are almost always available to members; but how much nicer it would be if they were all in a little Kilvert Museum - in Clyro, in Hay, or somewhere equally suitable. Perhaps one day something like this will materialise; if it could be in the not too distant future who knows what other items would then be brought out and given to it? Items that may well be lost for ever if such a home is not found for them before very long. Has any member any ideas or suggestions on this matter? One particular member's thoughts which arose from a conversation on this very matter are perhaps worth recording -- that once a room or rooms suitable for such a museum were found what scope there might be in the provision of furniture for it as memorials to the three worthy Presidents that this Society has had since its inception in 1948. It has been suggested that when Ashbrook is sold -- this is, of course, Kilvert's "lodgings" during his seven years in Clyro -- it might be possible to come to an arrangement with the new owner to rent a room there for a Kilvert Museum. This would surely be an ideal arrangement.

Ashbrook is now in the hands of the well known estate agents Russell, Baldwin and Bright of Hereford and of Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford. Anyone interested can get full details and price from either office.

Incidentally, members generally will be interested to know that it has just been realised that Ashbrook was known as Ty Dulas when Kilvert lived there. This information is in one of the very few of the 22 original notebooks (from which Dr. Plomer extracted the material for the three volumes of Kilvert's Diary) which still exist.

## BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLANDS MEMBERS

Heavy snows and a severe 'flu epidemic raging throughout the Midlands very effectively prevented our January gathering - all arrangements having to be cancelled at the last moment - but we look forward to a renewal of our meeting - and at the same rendezvous - the house of our kind friends Mr. and Mrs. C.K. Hughes at Moor Green Lane, Moseley, Birmingham, 13, on Monday March 25th at 7.45 p.m.

Our previous "get-together" early in December took place at Quinton, in the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. Josephs - when a very pleasant evening was spent by a dozen or so members and friends. Various aspects of the Diary were shared and discussed and many most interesting points came under review. Our friend-and-member - Mr. C.E. Harvey of Edgbaston greatly interested the company with etchings and sketches by members of the Kilvert family - and by stories of his own researches in the "Kilvert Country" more than twenty years ago.

The generous hospitality of our very kind host and hostess was much appreciated before we finally brought our meeting to a close at something after ten p.m.

These gatherings are greatly looked forward to by all concerned and provide a source of happy and stimulating fellowship in renewed acquaintance with Kilvert through the pages of his very delightful Diary - of "times so near and yet so far away".

A very warm welcome to attend our meetings is extended to all Midland members and friends - we shall be pleased to include the names and addresses of any interested friends on our mailing list.

Contributed by our member (and Vice-President) Mr. E.F. Jelfs of 8 Clarence Road, Birmingham, 13. Please write to Mr. Jelfs if you would like to attend one of these meetings.

## STOP PRESS

Just as this newsletter was on the point of being put in the hands of the duplicating agency a message has come from the Vicar of Clyro (the Rev. T.J. Lewis) to say that he now knows that he will be able to give the ADDRESS at the Commemoration Service at Newbridge-on-Wye on 23rd June.

This is indeed good news, for all will surely agree that it should be that the Vicar of Clyro preaches this June at Newbridge-on-Wye.

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