

Hon. Treasurer:
J.D. Worsey,
1 Harold Street,
Hereford. Phone: 3833

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

President
DR. WILLIAM PLOMER, C.B.E., D.Litt.

Asst. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. E.G. Peters,
18 Moor Farm Lane,
Hereford
Phone 67375

Hon. Secretary:
C.T.O. Prosser,
23 Broomy Hill,
Hereford. Phone 2094

9th September, 1970

Dear Member,

The June newsletter gave brief details of the AUTUMN SERVICE - to be on SUNDAY the 27th SEPTEMBER at 3 p.m. - at ST MARY'S CHURCH, WOOTTON-BY-WOODSTOCK in OXFORDSHIRE, by kind invitation of the Rector ... The Rev. L.C. Perfect, M.A. who will conduct the service. Mr Perfect is a member of the Kilvert Society.

IT WAS IN THIS CHURCH - ON AUGUST 20th 1879 - THAT THE REV. FRANCIS KILVERT AND MISS ELIZABETH ROWLAND (of Holly Bank, Wootton) WERE MARRIED.

To be followed - alas - by his death at Bredwardine Vicarage only a few weeks afterwards ---- on September 23rd, to be exact.

The Society are making gifts to the CHURCH to commemorate this MARRIAGE ---- an item about these will be found on one of the pages in this newsletter.

The ADDRESS at this SERVICE will be given by:-

THE REV. J.M. ELPHINSTONE-FYFFE, M.A.

who is with B.B.C. TELEVISION AS PRODUCER--RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT. He is a member of the Kilvert Society and is particularly qualified to be the PREACHER at this service in Wootton Church, for he is related by marriage with the Rowland family, as is made clear in his contribution to this newsletter - on a following page.

After the SERVICE there will be TEA for all who wish to partake of it, in the Village Hall, kindly provided and served by Mrs Perfect and the ladies of Wootton. The modest charge of 3/6 per head will no doubt help some worthy cause of their choice.

Then there will be a visit to the old home of the Rowland family --- Holly Bank, by those who will gain pleasure from a visit to the house from which Mrs Kilvert was married. This is possible through the kindness of Lord John and Lady Kerr, who now live at Holly Bank. It is a mile out of the village and arrangements will be made for small parties of those wishing to make this visit. Furthermore Mr Perfect has arranged that we shall have access to Wootton Place (the old Rectory---very near to the Church) the grounds of which were laid out by Capability Brown, this visit will be by kind permission of Mrs Clutterbuck - daughter of Canon Marriot, Rector of Wootton for 40 years.

The village of Wootton is most attractive, somewhat similar to a nice Cotswold village. If the day is fine this should prove a most enjoyable afternoon and evening, and it is thought that we may see a big congregation at the SERVICE.

A motor-coach (Yeomans) will run from Hereford, leaving the Town Hall at 10-30 a.m. Fare will be 10/- each; the route will be via Ledbury, Tewkesbury and Stow-on-the-Wold and a halt will be made at a suitable spot for picnic lunch (which each should bring with them). Members and friends can be picked up almost anywhere en route, though the fare will remain the same, please give clear instructions when booking. Seats can be booked-as usual-at Wyeval Ltd., Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford; or with the Hon. Secretary. EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED FOR THIS MOST ATTRACTIVE DAY OUT---AND PAYMENT WHEN BOOKING WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

Our Hon. Treasurer (Mr J.D. Worsey) will be most pleased to receive the subscriptions of those few who have still not paid up!!

Yours sincerely,

(C.T.O. Prosser) Hon. Secretary.

GOOD NEWS---OUR PRESIDENT WILL BE AT WOOTTON AFTER ALL---SEE NOTES OVERLEAF

PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT NOTICES OVERLEAF ABOUT POSTERS and ABOUT RECEIPTS

NOTES AND NEWS....by the Hon.Secretary; with CONTRIBUTIONS from MEMBERS.

Firstly, a message from our President. Dr Plomer writes:- I would like to be allowed to put in a word of special thanks to all those who, by active help or by their presence, contributed to the proceedings at Clyro on 28 June. The Kilvert Society feels particularly indebted to Mr and Mrs Dworski for so hospitably enabling its members to visit Cae Mawr and to assemble there after the service. Perfect weather, and the lucky relevance of a number of passages of the Diary to the house and garden, made it possible to recall vividly Kilvert's presence there just a century ago. As I am kindly asked to hold forth on an occasion of that sort, and am in the habit of doing so, I fear I may be thought too fond of the sound of my own voice. What I am really fond of is the sound of Kilvert's voice, as we hear it in the Diary, I only wish we could have his voice on tape.

RECEIPTS.....and SUBSCRIPTIONS

A number of these newsletters will have the Hon.Treasurer's receipt for the members' subscriptions attached to the top corner. Please note that in future this will be done more and more, and those who pay anywhere within some weeks of a newsletter being due, will not get their receipt until with the newsletter. Thus the Society will be saved postages and the Treasurer and myself saved sending them out separately. With the threat of increased postal charges, dearer printing, and many other increases too we shall either have to economise or raise the minimum subscription. As it is, the 5/- minimum only just pays the cost of the three newsletters per year that each member receives, and we are extremely grateful to those members who pay above that minimum.

THE SERVICE AT WOOTTON

Splendid news! Dr Plomer will be there after all. At the time of the Clyro service he told me that he was so busy that he did not think there was the remotest chance of getting to Wootton in September. I accepted this (with many regrets) and have not raised the point in any way with him since, knowing full well how true it is that he is a very busy man. Then-like the bit of blue that suddenly appears in a dull sky and heralds finer weather-only a few days ago I heard that he thought he may be able to come after all. At once I wrote to Dr Plomer and asked if he really could manage it, and if so would he read one of the lessons? His reply has just come to hand, it is "yes".

DR PLOMER therefore READS THE FIRST LESSON AND THE SECOND LESSON WILL BE READ BY MR A.O.J.COCKSHUT M.A. who is G.M.Young Lecturer in Nineteenth Century English literature at Oxford University, Mr and Mrs Cockshut are members of the Kilvert Society.

THE WOOTTON POSTERS.....VERY IMPORTANT

It is an unknown quantity as to how many people will turn up on September 27th at Wootton. It is outside the bounds of both the Hereford/Radnor and the Wiltshire "Kilvert Country"; and there is no mention of Wootton, or of the lady that Francis Kilvert married, in the Diary. No doubt many of our numerous members who live in and around London will get there, and our loyal supporters from Birmingham and that area will turn up, too. We shall take a coach load from Hereford, there are quite a few members in and around Oxford, and along the Thames. BUT WE WANT TO SEE AT LEAST 200 IN WOOTTON CHURCH THAT SUNDAY AFTERNOON; how the local people will support it is quite unknown. THIS IS WHERE POSTERS SHOULD HELP. We are having several hundred done, and one or more will be sent with this newsletter to all members who live within a very very wide circle of Oxford, in some cases as many as 6 posters will be sent. PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST TO GET THESE DISPLAYED SOMEWHERE PROMINENTLY IN YOUR TOWN OR VILLAGE. VISITORS WILL SEE THEM, BESIDES there must be many many thousands of folk who have read and enjoyed Kilvert's Diary but have no knowledge that there is a Kilvert Society; that there has ever been a Kilvert Commemoration Service or that Wootton-by-Woodstock has any connection whatsoever with Francis Kilvert. Some of these will come along if they see posters.

REMEMBER PLEASE...WE RELY ON THOSE MEMBERS RECEIVING POSTERS WITH THEIR NEWSLETTER TO GET THEM DISPLAYED TO THE BEST POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE, AND SO MAKE SURE OF A GOOD CONGREGATION AT WOOTTON ON SEPTEMBER 27th.

Please let me know if you want more or if you know someone who you think I could post some to with advantage.

THE WEDDING AT WOOTTON

We have got newspaper accounts of the homecoming of the Rev and Mrs R.F.Kilvert to Bredwardine and of the funeral so soon afterwards (as in our booklet "Looking Backwards") —and now we wonder if it is possible to get the newspaper account of the wedding at Wootton on August 20th 1879. So far all we have had found for us are the extracts from the OXFORD TIMES of August 30th 1879 and from JACKSONS OXFORD JOURNAL of August 23rd 1879. Both are brief announcements-very similar to each other-giving the names of bride and bridegroom and stating that they were married at Wootton by the Rev. R.Kilvert M.A. Rector of Langley Burrell, Wilts. father of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev.A.E. Robinson M.A. Rector of the Parish. Can any Oxfordshire member help in finding anything further? Was there a Woodstock newspaper at that time which would have a detailed account of the wedding etc. etc.? or any other Oxfordshire paper?

THE WOOTTON FUND

The June newsletter (page 3) told of what we hope to do in conjunction with the forthcoming service at Wootton-by-Woodstock--and suggested that whilst we have no intention of making any sort of appeal we do realise that there are many members who always participate in such schemes and that therefore anyone who would like to do this can send whatever sum they have in mind to either of us whose names appear on our stationery. Quite a few have done this, and we are nicely on the way towards the £50 target; and we would welcome anything from others who feel they would like to have a share in whatever is given to Wootton Church to record the marriage of Francis Kilvert and Elizabeth Rowland. The intention was to put a tablet in the porch of Wootton Church, the wording was decided on..."IN THIS CHURCH ROBERT FRANCIS KILVERT (PRIEST AND DIARIST) WAS MARRIED TO ELIZABETH ANNE ROWLAND OF HOLLY BANK WOOTTON ON THE 20th AUGUST 1879"-----cut into Portland stone and picked out in Royal Blue; to be done by a Banbury firm of monumental masons; plans have been prepared, and the faculty applied for. But we must not anticipate, perhaps it will be refused. Even if passed the approval may not arrive in time for it to be fixed ready for September 27th. This newsletter is being composed in mid-August and will then go away for production...anything can happen in the 6 weeks that lie ahead, and we must hope for the best. No doubt the flower stand for beside the altar (with engraved shield giving details) will be there ready for the big day, and if the tablet is refused then perhaps we can make it two flower stands, with different inscriptions. No doubt all will be settled long before September 27th, so please do not let the element of doubt withhold any donation you would otherwise make!!

PUBLICATIONS---NEW & OLD

The 1970 booklet---The MEMOIRS of the Rev Robert Kilvert (etc) was to have been out by midsummer, but we were badly let down by the firm who we had hoped would produce it and whilst it has been held up we have gone on with another booklet; and found a Hereford firm who is doing it for us!!

This booklet is titled "KILVERT AND THE WORDSWORTH CIRCLE" and is the result of much research by our Buckinghamshire member Mr R.I.Morgan; there is so much in it which brings in the Wordsworths, the Monkhouses, the Dews...Whitney, Brinsop, Hindwell etc.etc. and linking it all up with what we read in Kilvert's Diary. Photographs too of several of the places written about. Dr Plomer has written a short foreword for it and then to add to the interest 3 other items will appear following the main portion as above. These are:- the poem that was found in Kilvert's blotter after his death. His paraphrase of the 23rd Psalm; and the extract from an unpublished portion of the Diary which Dr Plomer read at Cae Mawr in June and which so many want copies of...."The Dawn Chorus". This booklet will be out by mid-September, price 6/- plus 6d if posted. WHY NOT ORDER YOURS NOW?

The long-promised booklet with the Rev.Robert Kilvert's MEMOIRS will go into production as the WORDSWORTH booklet is finished, and should be ready perhaps in October, most certainly in November. It will be titled "MORE CHAPTERS FROM THE KILVERT SAGA" and in addition to the MEMOIRS will also contain the childhood RECOLLECTIONS of the Diarist's sister Emily (Mrs Wyndowe) and an account of the schooldays of Augustus Hare when at Mr Kilvert's school at Hardenhuish Rectory. This will be the biggest booklet yet produced, and will be 10/- plus 1/- if posted.

THE SOLITARY OF LLANBEDR PAINSCASTLE and RADNORSHIRE LEGENDS & SUPERSTITIONS.

This booklet, printed in 1967 and all sold long before 1969 ended, has now been re-printed; and already is in substantial demand. The story of the old "Solitary" is a most interesting one. Then there are the LEGENDS & SUPERSTITIONS---compiled in 1921 from manuscripts left by Francis Kilvert.....and the third item is a previously unpublished account of a walk to the Radnorshire waterfall Craig Pwll Du from an unpublished part of Kilvert's Diary. This booklet is 5/- plus 6d if posted.

COLLECTED VERSE

The 55 poems of the Rev Francis Kilvert, they were printed privately in 1881 and only now offered for public sale. 8/6 per copy, plus 1/- for packing and postage.

LOOKING BACKWARDS

This booklet contains so much that augments what we read in Kilvert's Diary (about Mrs Kilvert, the wedding, honeymoon and homecoming to Bredwardine, the parishioners' welcome, presents and speeches...then his death and funeral). There is also a history of the Society and accounts of some of the outstanding Commemoration Services. The lively talk (or lecture) by Dr Plomer at the inauguration of the Society in 1948 is also included---in full. MUCH ELSE. All this (with photographs) for 7/6 plus 6d if posted.

STOCKISTS OF THESE BOOKLETS (AND CHRISTMAS CARDS) ARE:-

HEREFORD The Pierpoint Gallery, Church Street and The Book & Card Centre, 55 Eign Street

WORCESTER The S.P.C.K. Book Shop, High Street

CHIPPENHAM The China Bowl, Market Place.

LLANDRINDOD WELLS The Book Shop, Temple Street

HAY-ON-WYE H.R. Grant and Son, Castle Street

CLYRO The Post Office (Miss Tong - Bridge Stores)

SELBORNE, HANTS The Book Shop and Post Office

No doubt that there will be stockists in other towns etc in due course.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

TWO MORE DESIGNS NOW ENABLE MEMBERS TO BUY FIVE DIFFERENT CARDS

The newest designs are:-

BREDWARDINE CHURCH --- an exquisite drawing done by our good Wiltshire member Robin Tanner.

CLYRO VILLAGE --- As Francis Kilvert knew it (shows the Church, Kilvert's "lodgings" and the Baskerville Arms). A very nice drawing by a Herefordshire artist.

the other three cards are:-

HARDENHUISH CHURCH and LANGLEY BURRELL CHURCH --- Another of Robin Tanner's masterpieces, these two churches of the Wiltshire "Kilvert Country" are drawn side-by-side in the open halves of a Victorian locket.

CLYRO CHURCH in 1865 --- A reproduction of the drawing done by the Diarist's sister Thersie, in his first year as "Curate of Clyro".

KILVERT'S VICARAGE, BREDWARDINE --- from the bridge over the Wye.

ALL CARDS HAVE THE SAME SIMPLE GREETING (SUITABLE FOR ALL)

"With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year"

Packets of 5 for 4/6. Packets of 10 for 8/6. (Postage 6d on either)

All with envelopes...and can be assorted or exactly as ordered.

EVERY MEMBER SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE A SAMPLE PACKET.....THEY ARE READY NOW
from 23 Broomy Hill, Hereford or from stockists as listed above.

THE REV. JOHN ELPHINSTONE-FYFFE

It is to be hoped that many members saw the Kilvert programme on TELEVISION (B.B.C.1) late in the evening of June 9th. It was a pity that the newsletter of June 12th could not have been brought out a week earlier, and thus let all members know in advance about what turned out to be a very good programme set in the Wiltshire "Kilvert Country". A number of members-from different parts of the country-have written to me praising it, the only complaint was that it was much too short. Mr Elphinstone-Fyffe was, of course, the producer, and I would refer you to page 8 of the June newsletter for what Dr Plomer has to say about him as such. We look forward to hearing him from the pulpit of the Parish Church at Wootton-by-Woodstock on September 27th and are glad that he accepted the invitation to write about that Kilvert Programme on T/V for this newsletter. Here is the first part of his contribution. We shall all look forward to the next.

DISCOVERING KILVERT. 1. Preparations

I can hardly believe it, but for five years I lived and worked four miles from Hardenhuish, Kilvert's birthplace; Nonsuch House, where Etty lived, was just outside the district where I was priest-in-charge, I knew it well as "the house with the beech-hedge"; and I was deeply interested in local history. All this was in 1940-45 when the Diary was being published and becoming world famous; and yet I knew nothing of Francis Kilvert and his Diary. What an admission! What I missed!

However, since 1968, I have been making up for this. In that year a friend introduced me to the "Selections"; I decided at once that Kilvert must somehow be presented through television. My interest was vastly increased by the discovery that he had married my wife's great-aunt - he was, in fact, "a relative" however tenuous and brief the relationship!

My idea for a programme about Kilvert was accepted by the Religious Department of BBC Television, and in January '69 with the trepidation one should properly have when approaching a great man, I wrote to Dr Plomer and asked for his approval and help; his reply was immediate, charming, reassuring and co-operative, just what I would expect from him - now that I know him. We were not, however, able to meet at once because I was deeply involved in other programmes, but when we had lunch together in June he was encouraging about all that I proposed, and, just as important he and I and my assistant Jennifer White began to become friends.

In the meantime I had read the Diary carefully and come to the conclusions - first, with the money and time available it would be possible to film in only one location; I knew Wiltshire well, and it was natural that a personal interest directed my choice, though I also knew that many people would be disappointed; some day, perhaps, there will be another film about "The Curate of Clyro". Secondly, it would not be possible to have the part of Kilvert and his wife represented by actors; I was sad about this since, in my mind, I had already cast a particular actor who could have been made up to look exactly like the diarist; his wife, too, a well-known actress, could have been "made down" to appear as Elizabeth, reading the diaries (and quietly censoring them in the days of her widowhood) I say "made down" because this actress is outstandingly beautiful and Kilvert's bride, on her wedding day, was described to me by my wife's aunt as "radiant - but not beautiful". However, that actress is a dear and charming person, and that is how Elizabeth Rowland is known to my wife's family.

contd.....

So the programme had to be re-planned. First, I went down to Wiltshire; I was delighted to find how many of the original locations remained exactly as Francis Kilvert must have known them. It was equally interesting to see how totally some of Kilvert's country had changed; the contrast between 1870 and 1970 really hits you if you stand in, say, Chippenham railway station, hearing in your mind his words "tumbling into the station in the slip carriage - how delicious to get into the country again, the sweet damp air and the scent of the beanfields..." - and at that moment the Paddington-Temple Meads diesel comes hooting and reeking down the line. So the programme had to become not only a discovery of the man himself, but also an exercise, "compare and contrast Kilvert's world of 1870 with ours of 1970". This led to the most happy result of all; there could only be one person to do this, and that was William Plomer himself. I went to see him at Jonathan Cape's in Bedford Square and at once he most courteously consented to take part in the programme, and to carry the major part of it himself. How we went about the actual filming I'd like to tell you in a later Newsletter, if the patient Oswin Prosser can grant me the space.

ACROSS THE MOORS TO THE ROCKS OF ABEREDW

This was the walk that we organised at the request of Radnorshire Community Council (advance details of it were in the June newsletter). Almost a dozen cars turned up at Clyro at 11 a.m. on Sunday the 12th July and others came direct to the parking place high up beyond Llanbwehllyn lake; so that there were 17 cars and out of them between 50 and 60 people emerged to do the walk. The day was just right, fine and bright, good visibility but not too warm. Among the party were several ornithologists and several botanists; a few birds of the moors were seen, but not much was expected in this "off" time of the year in that connection. The botanists were more fortunate and made several "finds" the most exciting being some fine specimens of stags horn moss, rare enough in that locality to be recorded. Mr J.L. Fox of Hereford spoke on the work of the Herefordshire & Radnorshire Nature Trust and when we got to Aberedw Rocks he delighted the company with his reading of Kilvert's poem "The Rocks of Aberedw". Picnic lunch before we set off and tea when we arrived back at the parking place were both thoroughly enjoyed. Among the company were a number from far afield. Two cars of our stalwarts from Birmingham; others from Worcester and from Shropshire, Oxfordshire members staying in Mid-Wales, and a Surrey member who was on his way home from North Wales joined us just in time to do the walk. Among the Radnorshire contingent were Mr and Mrs W. Boddy of Llwynbarried Hall (new members-just joined) and following their kind invitation for a party of members to visit their home (of which we read on pages 104/114 of Volume One of the Diary) the next walk was fixed up there and then....on September 6th-from Llwynbarried over the hills to Abbey Cwmhir, just as Kilvert and his host did on April 22nd 1870. Once again this is something arranged for a date which makes it impossible for this newsletter to give details in advance, but no doubt all those present "will spread the news" and again there will be a goodly party turn up. An account of this event will appear in the next newsletter.

CLYRO--THE JUNE SERVICE

If the letters received from "satisfied customers" are to be the yardstick by which the events at Clyro on Sunday the 28th of June are to be judged, then it was all a great success. The congregation at the Commemoration Service was the biggest for very many years, with the exception of the "Centenary Service" at Clyro in 1965; then there were around 500, this year about 400. To quote from some of the letters received..."the weather was excellent"...the singing, especially of some of Kilvert's favourite hymns, was most enjoyable"...many were so very glad that we had 'Pilgrims of the Night' - and it went so well....another said "How good to have yet another new preacher, taking another different line, and he none other than the Dean of Hereford; and what a fine address he gave". "Two such distinguished members reading the lessons - Mr John Sparrow, and our President," and then "How good to have the 'Act of Remembrance' revived" and "with what clarity Mr Price gave it". Other appreciations were of the Vicar of Clyro conducting the service - and of Mr H.R. Evans of Clyro School at the organ, this will be the fifth time he has played for us at a Commemoration Service.

The builders had made an excellent job of sinking the alms box safe into the wall, and the Anthony brothers an equally good job of the hymn book shelves; the Vicar dedicated them with some well chosen words. The service drew to a close and the people poured out of Church and across to the Village Hall for tea ---nearly overwhelming the caterer from Hay, but all managed to satisfy the inner man! As usual members and friends came from far and near---a number from London, among them some who have been many times to different churches for the Annual Service and for the Autumn Service; even more from Birmingham (but then they are a bit nearer than London!) a number from Swansea, and here again some who always come, wherever the service might be; this time some from Manchester who have not been for several years; some from Sussex; some from Hampshire; several from Bristol and one in particular from beyond Bristol who always comes unless illness prevents; Wiltshire members and

Shropshire members; Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire. The usual coach from Hereford and many Herefordshire cars; Radnorshire and Breconshire in plenty, and at least one faithful from Merioneth — and may I be forgiven by those who came a long way to Clyro that Sunday and have not been mentioned!! Two of these have just come to mind...a Yorkshire member all the way from Sheffield staying the weekend in Clyro, and along with him a member from Kent who has been several times before. Worcestershire, of course.....both City and County; others from Bath and from Somerset. All these, and then the local members and their friends, and folk generally from a wide circle around Clyro had packed the pews in church and the many chairs brought in to augment them.

Tea over the next move was to Cae Mawr — where many were both astonished and delighted with the view from the lawns and terraces, it is so little higher than Clyro village and yet the vista of the Black Mountains across the valley of the Wye has to be seen to be believed, and it was exceptionally good on this clear bright evening; the sort of scene that Kilvert loved and which he has described so well here and there in the Diary. The beautiful trees up the drive and around the house were greatly admired, and the huge cedar on the lawn especially so. The first event was to present the children of Clyro School who were prizewinners in the art and essay competition, with their prizes. Their work was on view on tables under the verandah at Cae Mawr, and was much admired; they had worked under the supervision of Mr H.R.Evans (Headmaster) and Miss M.Mantle (Assistant Mistress) and the prizes, (book tokens) were given by the Society. There were so many good entries that the judge (Mr.D.J.H.Lewis, Headmaster of Llandefalle School in Breconshire—and a K.S. member) recommended extra prizes; these the Society willingly gave and the following children qualified for prizes. Seniors: Audrey Williams, Tony Herdman, Gail Price, Derek Keeble, Heather Nicholls, and Sarah Bishop. Juniors: Cheryl Lloyd, Lynda Price, Jane Herdman, Fiona Nicholls, and Mark Dworski. Most of these children came to receive their prizes from Dr Plomer; and Mr Evans and Miss Mantle received them for the ones who could not come through illness. Dr Plomer congratulated all the children on their excellent and painstaking entries. Then the large company present moved over to the lawn where Kilvert so often joined the Morrells and their friends at croquet, to hear Dr Plomer read a number of extracts from the Diary, most of them dealing with Caemawr in the time of the Diarist and ending with a portion of the typescript of an original notebook, hitherto unknown---part of a long account of the illness of Mr Venables' mare "Gipsy" when Kilvert would sit up nights with the men treating her and going home very early one morning entranced with the "dawn chorus" of the birds---this piece was especially well received and many requests have come in for copies of it; a note regarding this will be found in the item headed "Publications" ---there is also a note elsewhere in this newsletter about the ADDRESS given at Clyro by the Dean of Hereford. A vote of thanks to Dr Plomer was proposed by the Rev D.N.Lockwood (Hanley Swan, Worcs)-who spoke of the pleasure that he gave by his readings from the Diary, which we had all come to look for, following the Annual Service; this was received with hearty applause and Dr Plomer ended the evening with thanks to Mr and Mrs Dworski for so kindly allowing us the use of their delightful grounds at Cae Mawr. Thus another highly successful "Kilvert Sunday" came to a close.

MISS MAYHEW---AN OXFORD QUERY

A new member living in Africa has just written to say - "what a treasure I have found in Kilvert's Diary, once I started it everything was neglected, what a perfectly lovely piece of writing it is. I had to share its beauty, and often its humour, with the family and every now and then made everyone stop while I 'broadcast'; one part I found particularly interesting was his visit to Oxford to see his friend Mayhew, who lived at St.Margarets and had two little girls. I attended a small private school in Natal-at Hillcrest-named St.Margarets. This school was run by a Miss Mayhew who came from Oxford and I wonder now whether she was one of the two little girls Kilvert speaks of. Unfortunately she returned to England to retire at the end of my first term, but she made a lasting impression on me despite the short time I knew her. The school was run very much on the lines of an Anglican Diocesan School "

Any answers to this query would be welcomed; for members of the Society would be interested, as well as having information to pass on to our member in Africa..... please write to 23 Broomy Hill, Hereford.

The index to Kilvert's Diary gives a number of references to the Rev.A.L.Mayhew and family, most of them in Vol.3. but one in Vol.2. p.156, there it mentions him as one of the owners of the TIMES; living near Rochester with his wife and two children. In Vol.3 (pp.308-322) Kilvert visits the Mayhews at their new home in Bradmore Road, Oxford, and here we read of the two little girls. Later on in Vol. 3 (pp.399-400) the Mayhews visit Kilvert at Bredwardine and there is a description of several walks, one of them to Arthurs Stone on Bredwardine Hill; and another to Monnington via Brodbury Scar

Pages 23 & 24 of "Looking Backwards" tell how Francis Kilvert met Elizabeth Rowland... on a tour to Paris with a mutual friend, the Rev.A.L.Mayhew...Chaplain of Wadham College Oxford.

THE CLYRO BARNES

The result of the Public Enquiry—held at Hay in March has just been announced in a letter from the Welsh Office. It is obvious that the whole matter has been carefully weighed up, and the fact that Clyro is about to be designated a Conservation Area has been much in their minds, but it is said that they have been allowed to get into such a state that they can do no other than allow demolition. The report ends with a note to say that "any redevelopment of the site should have due regard to the importance and prominent position of the site in the village, and that any new buildings - incorporating the stone walls of the existing barns if practicable—should reflect the general character of the existing nearby development in overall design and use of materials. In the light of this, the local planning authority have been asked to consider the desirability of dealing with the necessary planning application on the basis of detailed plans and drawings rather than in outline form". The local newspaper had a somewhat garbled version of the matter as it now stands, how garbled can be judged from the letter that I sent to it in protest (not yet appeared, it may or may not be printed!!)

It reads:- THE CLYRO BARNES

Sir,

Why cannot people who send in reports to newspapers get their facts right? On page 7 of your issue dated August 15th 1970 there is an item headed CLYRO CONTRACTOR CAN DEMOLISH ANCIENT BARNES.

The errors are these:- The barns in question date back to about the year 1700 (so the experts say, and I am prepared to take their word for it). The Rev. Francis Kilvert was in Clyro from 1865 to 1872.

Why then say that the barns "are of the Kilvert era?"

Then again, you reiterate the statement that the barns had some association with the Diarist. Nothing of the sort, as has already been stated several times (by us). The

Kilvert Society joined the other objectors to their demolition BECAUSE THEY ARE PART OF THE CLYRO SCENE THAT KILVERT KNEW---THE SAME CLYRO SCENE THAT PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO SEE. Finally, your item seems to want to convey the idea that the Kilvert Society were the only objectors. The facts are (once again) that long after many influential bodies (such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) had sent in their protests the Kilvert Society were approached and asked to join in with the other protestors. THIS ACTUALLY WAS ONLY TWO DAYS before the final day for protests to be lodged, prior to that the Society knew nothing about the barns or that any protests were being made.

Good luck to Mr Price, he is carrying on a service that is vital in an agricultural area; but we still say it is a pity that he does not adapt the barns to his use instead of demolishing them. The S.P.A.B. say this could have been done, and more cheaply than demolition and rebuilding. It is a pity that it is not more widely known that the S.P.A.B. are prepared to give free advice, and in certain instances free plans, in such cases.

Yours etc. C.T.O. Prosser, Hon. Sec'y Kilvert Society.

WILTSHIRE MEMBERS' IMPRESSIONS OF THE BREDWARDINE AREA

This was not our first visit to Bredwardine; some years ago, a little ashamed as members of the Diary of our ignorance of the locality, and a little jealous of the space allotted to it when we were greedy for more about our own, we had halted there on our way to Pembrokeshire, and had been touched and delighted. But it is the second time that really crystallises: this April, when we went to make drawings for the Kilvert Society's Christmas card, Bredwardine became part of our permanent experience.

It was the time for local elections, and the familiar names were posted up long before (as it seemed to us) we were due to reach Hay, Clyro, Bredwardine, for they are large parishes, once much more thickly populated. The "drift from the land" (general: we had noted it recently in Ireland) is sad, but has the advantage of leaving increasingly rare genuine country - deep, winding, narrow lanes bordered with unraped Spring flowers; stretches of pylonless green pasture with grazing cattle ("slow-cows on road" a notice board warned). Herefordshire still preserves too, the dying art of hedging, and clears away the trimmings instead of leaving unsightly heaps to choke new growth. Even ponds in farm and roadside have been spared filling-in with dumped building waste, and altogether much of this beautiful undulating country must have changed little since Kilvert's day.

We approached Bredwardine from the bridge over the Wye. Strategically commanding the opposite steep bank and the bend of the river - literally strategically, for it stands on the site of the former castle - is the elegant white vicarage with its wavy "Gothick" parapet. Behind is the church.

Beside the lane two men were carefully weaving a close diagonal network of hazel, fine basketwork rather than hedging. The daffodils along the drive, planted by local children, were coming into bloom almost visibly now that the air had at last lost its edge, and the churchyard was thickly scattered with three kinds of violet - white, purple

scented, and dog violets, blue, pink and lilac - with primroses, celandines and royal blue lungwort.

There is nothing specially remarkable about the church except without, the tympanum over the "devil's door" on the north wall, with its goblins (handiwork of the sculptor of Kilpeck's corbel table?) and the courses of Norman masonry below it, and within, two maimed crusaders and a plain hemispherical Norman font of conglomerate stone. Kilpeck has one like it, and Madley an enormous specimen, all interesting in that though they seem peculiar to the locality the stone is not local. What distinguishes Bredwardine church is its beautiful situation, on a rise among rises and hollows. To the south is another promontory, the outer bailey of the castle; it may be that the churchyard wall marks the line of the inner bailey.

To the west is Bredwardine Hill, and at its foot, near the Red Lion, is "The Cottage" a misnomer dating the inverted snobbery of the period:

"Tis now the lodge, the cottage, or the place!

And if a cottage, of these modern days,

Expect no more to see the straw-built shed,

But a fantastic villa in its stead!

Pride, thinly veiled in mock humility;

The name of cot, without its poverty!"

(From "Cottage Pictures" by Rev. Samuel Jackson Pratt, 1749-1814)

It is a considerable house, well capable of Miss Newton's generous hospitality. But what would she say if she could see it now? Behind its impenetrable barricade of locked and barbed-wired gate and (alas) corrugated iron fence the gables, the dull red brick, the still dignified glazing of ivied windows are just visible through the tangled shrubbery.

Bredwardine hill belongs to the days when walking was the means of locomotion: a car just fits snugly between the high green banks. Which of the very few cottages that are all remaining of Crafta Webb's hundred was Eliza Preece's, where Kilvert gave his weekly lectures? Probably one of those in ruins. With twenty-three people crammed round the fire and paraffin lamp no wonder there were fainting fits. A pity these little dwellings could not be rebuilt to discourage the modern bungalow starting to appear.

On the heights the wind was "wuthering" (I expect this back-formation is now current) and a small rain was falling, so that the expanse of hills to left and right was a flat uniformly inky colour instead of stereoscopic with light and shade. But all the more romantic and ancient was that New Stone Age barrow, Arthur's Stone, by the lonely roadside. In Kilvert's other land of Wessex, it might have been Woden's or Grim's. It is interesting to read in the Diary that even in living memory the cracked coping stone was larger and the burial chamber deeper.

The road soon returns to Bredwardine, which we left again to find Brobury Church. It is scarcely visible and practically inaccessible, but the chancel is still standing - just. Perhaps it was never well enough cared for, since robins and mice made away with the candles! (III, 366). Then vandals completed what neglect had started. The banks though were still clotted with enough primroses to write "Christ is risen" on the windowsill (III, 389).

Last place on our all-too-short pilgrimage was Moccas, that strange name whose derivation - "pig pasture" - Kilvert gives us (III, 375). The red of Moccas Court's brick is raw and mechanical, unlike the warm varied shades of the local cottages, and the herds grazing were not deer but Herefordshire cattle. But the trees, if not the same trees, were as magnificent as in Kilvert's magnificent description (III, 263) looking "as if they had been at the beginning and making of the world, and will probably see its end". Their still bare branches framed the pale tufa stone of the beautiful little Norman Church. Standing apparently in the middle of nowhere, and rounded off with its neat apse, it reminded us of the simple old chapels that serve the isolated farms and cottages of rural Provence.

Like Bredwardine church it stands on a primrose mound. Entering, we stopped short at the organ that filled the west end. This was no ordinary organ. Since the church had not been built for it, it must have been built for the church, for it exactly fitted between the two beams meeting at the roof. Its pipes, small, narrow and dainty, were painted in dark wine and pale green-grey. This was the organ played by the Rector, Sir George Cornewall, and made, probably to his order in 1872.

We stopped again at the chancel, for here, as if awaiting burial, lay the stone figure of Sir Reginald de Fresne. It is rather crude and bare, and the comic groove connecting nose and upper lip may be part of the "depressing cleaning-up" noted by Pevsner. But it is touching that to Kilvert he was the best thing in the church (the mediaeval stained glass windows are not mentioned) because Latin Fraxinus, Norman-French de Fresne are English Ash and Kilvert, though he failed to verify it, liked to think that Sir Reginald might be an ancestor.

As the Ashe papers from Langley House are now deposited with the Wiltshire archives here is further exploration we may continue at home.

Heather Tanner.

THE ORGAN—MOCCAS CHURCH

In the foregoing item Mrs Tanner refers to their visit to Moccas and when at the church how the organ had "caught their eye"....."No ordinary organ—it must have been built for the church" she says. Quite right, it was.

Last year other members (this time from East Anglia) visited Moccas and similarly noted the organ. They were so very much interested in it that upon their return to Norfolk they wrote to the makers of the Moccas organ (in Ruislip, Middlesex - and still organ building) and were rewarded with a photostat (running to two foolscap sheets) of their ledger for 1872 and for 1875 where the building of the organ is meticulously entered up, and later for regulating and for additions to it. The account is in the name of the Revd. Sir George Cornewall Bart. of Moccas Court, and all was paid by him. That for the organ states that it was 'constructed to suit the position at the West End of the Church'. The total cost was £304-12-0. The date of this entry is March 1872, but by the November of the same year there was a further bill for £16-10 for altering and regulating and fitting new parts to the bellows, damp having affected them; the bellows were then put on a platform to raise them out of the damp corner. Alterations, additions and regulating in 1875 totalled £100-5-0; and there are entries for something similar in 1878 amounting to almost £30.

Note...The Diary entry for Saturday 10th April 1875 reads..."Yesterday Bishop (the Curate of Moccas) promised to meet me at noon today at Moccas Church and show me over it...Bishop hailed me from the churchyard and from within the church came the strains of the organ. He said that Sir George Cornewall, the Rector, was playing."

KILVERT'S SHROPSHIRE ANCESTRY

Following on the most interesting illustrated talk on the above subject, given at the A.G.M. in Hereford earlier this year by our two Shrewsbury members Mrs M.T. Halford and Mr D.T.W. Price copious notes were received from Mrs Halford from which a most interesting item for this newsletter can be made. It was intended that this should be part of this particular newsletter; but due to a number of circumstances it is held over until the next---something to look forward to in a few months time.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS-LANGLEY BURRELL

News of this event has just been received; it is to be on September 17th to 20th at LANGLEY BURRELL CHURCH-and LANGLEY HOUSE (the home of Major C.R. Scott-Ashe, who has kindly given permission for this) and is being arranged by the Chippenham Floral Art Society. The Festival will portray themes from Kilvert's Diary and the programme is as follows:-

Thursday, September 17th.	8 p.m.	Opening Service
Friday, " 18th.	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Flower Festival open
	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Bell Ringing by Church Ringers
Saturday, " 19th.	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Flower Festival open
Sunday, " 20th.	11 a.m.	Harvest Service
	8 p.m.	Epilogue

We do suggest to our members living anywhere near Chippenham that they go along and support this FESTIVAL at LANGLEY BURRELL---in the church Kilvert loved and in the home of the Ashes which he knew so well.

We hope to receive a batch of leaflets from Langley Burrell, sufficient to include one with the newsletter going to all members in and around Chippenham, Bath and Bristol and maybe enough to send one to some a little further afield---Gloucestershire, Somerset etc. PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO GO ALONG TO LANGLEY BURRELL SOMETIME DURING THIS FLOWER FESTIVAL IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

CHILDHOOD AND SOCIETY 100 YEARS AGO

This is the text of a centenary lecture last year for the National Children's Home and is obtainable at 10/6 from the Home, Highbury Park, London N.5. It was given by Dr Jean S. Heywood; in it she quotes at length Kilvert's account of the walk to Mouse Castle, with the comment that "by the 1870's a new image of childhood has emerged, of an individual with rights to his own development and whose spontaneity & impulse are strengths-not wickedness". She calls the passage she quotes "a fine example of the influence of social changes and attitudes on the conditions of childhood". (Contributed by Dr Plomer)

Dr Jean Heywood has been a member of the K.S. for many years, and was one of the Manchester members present at Clyro on June 28th this year.

BIRMINGHAM MEMBERS and THE OLD SOLDIER

The following details have been sent in by one of our Birmingham members who was present at the June gathering of the Birmingham Section of the Kilvert Society at a member's house in Kings Heath.---Kilvert's "Old Soldier"...John Morgan of Clyro - is one of the most interesting characters in the Diary and many will welcome the work done by Mrs Done and will hope that she will have further success in her searchesKilvert's ability to observe and record faithfully the contemporary scene has delighted his readers since his Diaries were discovered and published. Those who tried to check the facts mentioned by him have been impressed with their impeccable accuracy, and nothing illustrates this better than an interesting bit of research carried out by one of our members, Mrs P.D.Done of 4 Mossfield Road, Birmingham. She made a study of and became an expert on old army campaign medals, and finding the old soldier John Morgan mentioned repeatedly in the Diaries decided to track him down in the official records. She hoped, and was eventually able, to identify him through one of the references in the 1st volume which reads: "The old soldier showed my brother his Peninsula medal with the Vittoria, Pyrenees and Toulouse clasps and after some talk about the Army and the Peninsula we left". After extensive probing which would have done credit to the best Scotland Yard investigator, and consulting Army lists and other official records, she eventually found that John Morgan who received that particular medal and clasps served in the Dorset Regiment (39th Foot) which he no doubt joined during one of the itinerant recruiting campaigns army units used to conduct in olden days. This most interesting account given by Mrs Done was undoubtedly the highlight of the evening, during which she and her husband received us most hospitably in their home. We are looking forward to the results of further researches of Mrs Done which may bring to light the correspondence which secured a belated pension for the old veteran.

MR VENABLES GOES TO RUSSIA

The newsletter of October 1969 gave the preface to "DOMESTIC SCENES IN RUSSIA"---the book published in 1839 which described the year spent in Russia (1837) by the Rev R.L.Venables of Clyro and Mrs Venables, visiting relatives, for Mrs Venables was a daughter of General Poltoratzsky---as can be seen by the tablet to her memory in the church at Newbridge-on-Wye. Then in the newsletter of June there followed extracts from the book itself, giving an idea of the long journeys made under very difficult conditions, visits paid, spectacles that they saw, and Mr Venables summing up of how he saw things in Russia in those far off days, and his thoughts of the future. So far all has been culled from the 1839 edition, kindly sent by a London member. But a Herefordshire member has a copy of the second edition, published in 1856, just as the Crimea War was ending, this edition has a totally different preface, in which Mr Venables sets out his thoughts on Russia at that particular time. Here then is that preface of 1856, as the third and final extract from his book.

Preface to Second Edition

The republication of the following series of letters has been suggested by the interest in all questions connected with Russia to which the events of the present time have given rise.

The Letters were written many years ago, but in the interim little change can have taken place in the manners and customs they describe. The character of the people, the principles of the government, the institutions of the country, and the relative positions of the different classes in the community remain unaltered. The book, therefore, in its descriptions of Russian life, its sketches of Russian habits and ideas, and its general picture of the social conditions of the people, will convey no incorrect impression of the existing state of things. The peculiar circumstances under which the author visited the country, his position of intimacy in private families and his constant opportunities of unreserved intercourse with Russians of the highest character and intelligence, afforded him unusual advantages in acquiring authentic information. But when he proceeded to publish his letters he found it a matter of some little difficulty and delicacy to speak of Russia with truth, and yet without any breach of confidence, and without making an ill requital for the unbounded kindness and hospitality for which he was indebted to his friends in that country.

The object of the book is not to discuss the strength or the weakness of Russia but to relate such incidents as may entertain or interest the reader, and to delineate such national and social characteristics as fell under the author's observations. At the present moment perhaps the relative positions of the landed noble and the serf may be deemed worthy of some attention. And with reference to this subject especial notice will naturally be directed to the oppressive system of the conscription-hateful to the nobles as a burdensome tax, and dreaded by the peasants as the worst of evils. Looking to the conscription and its effects we must indeed give both these classes credit for the sternest principles of self-denying patriotism if we suppose war in the abstract to be popular with them. The peasant, it is true, has a fanatical veneration for his Emperor, and the falacious cry of a Holy War

against the Infidel may make some impression on his mind. Yet the Russian serf has far more of the submissive resignation of a fatalist than of the spirit of a hero or a martyr in his character; while his master, the noble, is undoubtedly no enthusiast - on the conservative side at least - in religion or in politics. Yet the Russian is by no means destitute of national pride, and it may reasonably be assumed that the contest with foreign enemies tends to stimulate the loyalty of the people and to check and deaden internal disaffection. The longer the contest lasted the more closely perhaps would the Government and the people of Russia be united, the more powerfully would the national spirit be roused, and the more cheerfully might the country submit to the necessary sacrifices entailed by war. Yet we may judge how terribly severe those sacrifices must already be, not only from the reports which have occasionally reached us of late, but from the consideration that men, money and communications - the three first essentials of war - are three most prominent deficiencies in the wide but thinly inhabited regions of Russia. Mr Sabouroff's Letter of rural affairs, at the conclusion of this book, will furnish some interesting suggestions on this head. "Time and money" says he (in one word, capital) "are generally the very things of which landed proprietors in this country have least at their disposal." And again, "Owing to our total deficiency in the means of internal communications it sometimes happens that while in one part of the country there is a superabundance, another part is suffering from dearth". It must not be forgotten that Tamboff, the province more especially alluded to by Mr Sabouroff, is stated by him to be by comparison peculiarly fortunate in the possession of channels of communication. It is, moreover, the very province which was spoken of some years ago in our own parliament as the inexhaustible granary of Russia; and the justice of this character is to a considerable degree borne out by Mr Sabouroff's descriptions of the great fertility and abundant produce of the district.

The natural inference from all we know of Russia leads us to conclude that the country must already be greatly impoverished, and its resources fearfully strained by the war. Russia therefore cannot but earnestly long for peace. At the same time we must presume that, while on the one hand little sympathy is probably felt with the ambitious designs of the late Emperor, and with the aggressive policy of which the Grand Duke Constantine is now regarded as the champion; yet, on the other hand, no indifference to the national honour of Russia is likely to stain any important class or body in the community.

At the present moment prospects of peace have somewhat unexpectedly opened upon us. The great question will doubtless have been decided before these pages issue from the press. All will rejoice if the expectations now confidently entertained be realised, and if the result of the pending negotiations be peace-such a peace at least as shall secure the great ends for which we and our gallant allies have fought. All will rejoice if such terms of peace be ratified as shall prove Russia to be convinced that Europe will never permit the political abasement of the Crescent under the hypocritical pretext of exalting the Cross-that holy symbol, in sincere veneration for which we nevertheless at least equal Russia herself.. All will rejoice if such a peace shall have been secured; and if secured, it will be, with God's blessing, because we have boldly fought for it. The Russian has much of the Asiatic in his character, and he chiefly respects those who know how to make themselves respected. We shall be all the better friends with him hereafter, because he has seen that, though reluctant to draw the sword, we have been prepared to wield it when drawn-being always, whatever our alleged errors of strategy, or our temporary defects or organisation, eager to fight, and able to fight well;

Nec cauponantes bellum, sed belligerantes.

Nor is it only the terror of our naval power, or the indomitable courage of Alma, or the heroism of Inkerman, or the fearless charge of Balaclava, or the unflinching toil and sleepless guards in the trenches before Sebastopol, or the not less glorious though less fortunate defence of Kars, which will have been duly appreciated by our foes. The firm determination of the English people at home, the cordial support which the nation has invariably given to every energetic measure for pressing on the war, the undaunted attitude of the country, will not have been thrown away. Neither will Russia have failed to note the comparative ease with which the internal wealth and the unrestricted commerce of England have enabled her to meet the lavish expenditure of the war; not exhausting but displaying her vast resources. Lastly, Russia will have learned that England and France united in a common cause can fight for it side by side with all their ancient spirit; and that their enemies have nothing to hope from divided counsels or revived animosities. If these lessons have been already taught, as we trust they have, then the time is ripe for peace, and then the waste, and havoc, and bloodshed of another campaign might be spared. If not-greivous as are the calamities of war-the responsibility of its continuance, will rest on other hands than ours. We are embarked in a just quarrel, and we cannot but fight it out to the end, if we have not done so already, now when we are in every way prepared. We cannot end our great contest by an inconclusive result...We cannot assent to peace-much as we love it-on terms which would leave the risk of our being forced at no distant period to re-engage in hostilities-perhaps at a disadvantage.

contd....

"Peace is no peace if it lets the ill grow stronger,
Merely cheating destiny a very little longer;
War, with its agonies, its horrors and its crimes,
Is cheaper if discounted and taken up betimes."

God defend the right, and those who dare to claim it!
God cleanse the earth from the many ills that shame it!
Give peace in our time, but not the peace of trembling,
Won by true strength, not cowardly dissembling".

F.Lushington. Points of War

January 30th 1856. R.L.Venables

THE DEAN OF HEREFORD AT CLYRO

We hope to add the very fine ADDRESS given by the Very Rev.N.S.Rathbone M.A. --- Dean of Hereford --- at Clyro on June 28th to the growing collection of such that are now available to members; it is just a question of finding time to take it down from the tape recording that Mr Godfrey Davies made in Clyro Church that afternoon. Members may like to know what is so far available. They are:-

1964 Rev.B.B.Humphreys at Bredwardine

1965 Bishop Newnham Davis at Clyro

1968 Canon J.S.Leatherbarrow at Hardenhuish

1969 Dr Plomer at Hereford Cathedral

1969 (October) Rev.D.N.Lockwood at Bredwardine.

All 2/- each plus postage

BOOKS FOR SALE

Several different members have some interesting books that they think other members might like to buy; details follow, remittances can be sent to 23 Broomy Hill, Hereford and the books will then be posted.

Kilverts Diary, 1960 (abridged) edition, with index-hard back	£3.
Another (similar but a 1949 Book Club edition)	£2.
Up the Claerwen, by Sid Wright...autographed...1948	£4.
Hereford is Heaven by Geoffrey Bright (Batsford 1948)	£2.10.0d.
Quietest under the Sun by John Wood (Museum Press 1944)	£3.
(Rambles in Worcestershire, Shropshire and Mid-Wales)	

All these books are, of course, secondhand--in fair to good condition, all are out of print and very rarely offered for sale.

There is also a 1st edition of Volume One of Kilverts Diary, the rare copy with Kilvert's photograph as a frontispiece; has been signed by William Plomer. An exactly similar copy made 10 guineas when auctioned at Hereford Town Hall during the Society's social evening last year. What offers?

CAPEL-Y-FFIN.

Kilvert tells us (Vol.1 page 280) that Capel-y-Ffin was built as a chapel-of-ease for the district South of the Mountain, far from Llanigon Church, where people in the terrible winter storms used to be forced to keep unburied corpses for weeks in their cottages. The parishioners' troubles do not seem to have been banished completely by the building of Capel-y-Ffin. The County Historian of Breconshire says that "in 1708 there was a long dispute in the ecclesiastical court about the chapel", the Vicar, Lewis Thomas, refused to do duty there without a salary. He was reported by the parishioners, who said "sometimes a corpse remained un-interred a whole night, and children died without being baptised."

CHRISTMAS CARDS --- AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

IF EVERY MEMBER WERE TO BUY JUST ONE PACKET OF CHRISTMAS CARDS THE SOCIETY WOULD SELL MORE THIS TIME THAN EVER BEFORE. IT WILL ONLY COST YOU 5/- (UNLESS YOU WANT THE BIGGER PACKET).

THERE ARE FIVE DIFFERENT DESIGNS AVAILABLE.

PLEASE SEE ONE OF THE INNER PAGES FOR DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS AND BOOKLETS