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22nd September 1972

Dear Member,

The June newsletter gave the date and place of this year's Autumn Service ST. HARMON in Radnorshire, where the Rev. Francis Kilvert was Vicar in 1876 and 1877... on SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER at 3 o'clock; it was also announced during the service at Langley Burrell in June. It will be a somewhat belated 21st Anniversary Service (postponed from 1971 as the Rev. D.A.E. Jones retired during the year; it was he who conducted the first ever Kilvert Commemoration Service at St Harmon--in 1950; when the litany desk and book, which form the Kilvert memorial at St Harmon, was unveiled and dedicated). The second service was in 1954.....though it hardly seems 18 years since we were last there!!

This year's service will be conducted by the Rev. C.J. Colebrook who is Vicar of St Harmon (and also of Nantmel and Llanwrthwl)--he and Mrs Colebrook are members of the Kilvert Society. Mr Colebrook has decided to have the same simple type of service as at Langley Burrell, Moccas, and Hay-on-Wye. Most members appear to like it.

The ADDRESS will be given by the Rev. D. Brian James of Talybont-on-Usk, the Rector of Llanfeugan, Llandoetty and Llansantffraed, all in Breconshire. Mr and Mrs James are both members of the Society. It will be remembered that in 1967 the Commemoration Service was at Llanbedr-Paincastle, where the Rev. Brian James was then Vicar and conducted that service. Mr James is no stranger to Commemoration Services for Henry Vaughan (the Silurist) was buried at Llansantffraed and from time to time a commemoration Service for him is held there.

The READINGS will be by the Rev. T. Hevin Williams--Minister of Sychmant Presbyterian Church in the parish of St Harmon; and by Mr Gordon Pugh of Pantydwr representing Nantgwyn Baptist Church, also in the parish of St Harmon; it is nice to think that the pattern of the 1950 service is thus being followed, when representatives of Free Churches in the parish similarly took part. The Society will make a little gift to each church to mark the occasion. The Act of Remembrance will be by the Rev. D.T.W. Price of Shrewsbury and Lampeter, a Vice-President of the Society. Mr Price similarly took part in the Commemoration Service at Hay-on-Wye last year, and gave the ADDRESS at the Autumn Service at Moccas; on July 22nd he was ordained in St David's Cathedral.

During the Service the ALMS BOX WALL SAFE (given to the church to mark this 21st Anniversary Service) will be dedicated; similar wall-safes have been given to the churches at Bredwardine and at Clyro on similar occasions. A new visitors book is also being given to the church at St. Harmon.

After the Service there will be TEA for all who require it.....in the HALL at PANTYDWR; this is most kindly being provided by the ladies of St Harmon Church and organized by Mrs Colebrook. The charge will be 25p per head. We hope to be able to arrange for an informal 'Social Hour' after tea, with some readings, talks etc. and maybe even a song. Dr William Plomer will be with us on October 8th and we shall hope that he will consent to participate in this hour after tea, we all greatly regretted his inability to come to the June service in Wiltshire and will therefore be doubly glad to have him among us at St Harmon. PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS MORE THAN A MILE ON TO PANTYDWR FROM ST HARMON. There are some notes further on in this newsletter about the district around St Harmon and their Diary references.

The usual MOTOR-COACH will run from HEREFORD, leaving the TOWN HALL in St Owen Street at 10-30 a.m. (prompt). It will be a coach of Canyon Travel Ltd. and the fare will be 60p per person (this includes gratuities). Seats can be booked with Wyeval Ltd. Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford (or with the Hon. Secretary). Please book early and it will be greatly appreciated if seats are paid for when booked. A HALT WILL BE MADE AT A SUITABLE SPOT TO EAT THE PICNIC LUNCH WHICH ALL SHOULD BRING WITH THEM. The coach will travel via Clyro, Bulth Wells and Rhayader to St Harmon; but return via Abbey Cwmhir, Cross Gates, Kington and Eardisley--a lovely round trip with much of interest en route.

Yours sincerely,

Charles T.O. Prosser

THE LAST CHANCE...this will be the last opportunity to give a REMINDER to those who have not yet paid their 1972 subscription (or are in arrears with subscriptions). WHY NOT DO IT NOW? To Mrs Peters please; unless ordering booklets and/or Christmas cards, or otherwise writing to the Hon. Secretary--when postage can be saved by sending subscriptions too---for handing on to Mrs Peters.

BUT WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT RECEIPTS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT NEWSLETTER (MARCH) WILL BE HELD BACK TO COME WITH THEM.....JUST AS RECEIPTS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID SINCE JUNE ARE GOING OUT WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

FINALLY--a note for those members coming to ST HARMON on October 8th.....Mrs Peters will be wearing a small RED disc in the lapel of her coat; and she will have her notebook in which to record payment of subscriptions!! (The Hon. Sec'y will wear a similar small disc, but a YELLOW one). Some of the Committee will have a few of each of our publications to sell (at tea-time) and a small selection of Christmas cards too.

NOTES AND NEWS (by the Hon. Secretary--with contributions from MEMBERS)

SATURDAY....7th OCTOBER 1972.....another WALK over the RADNOR HILLS

The WALK that was arranged for the day before the Autumn Service at MOCCAS last year was so successful that many expressed their hopes that something similar could happen again this October. (There is a report on last year's walk in the April newsletter of 1972 (p.4) when we walked 'Across the moors to the Rocks of Aberedw').

These Autumn meetings are good opportunities to arrange such a walk; for there are members staying in the neighbourhood for the Sunday Service who would never otherwise join in on a walk. HERE THEREFORE ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER ----- CARS MEET NEAR THE BASKERVILLE ARMS AT CLYRO at 11 o'clock. Each to bring their own picnic lunch and tea. We will then all proceed along the main road to LLOWES (2 miles) Here we can stop for a few minutes, maybe some will not have seen the MEMORIAL SUNDIAL beside the path to the church door, nor the church where the 1974 Commemoration Service is to be held, and anyone a little late arriving at Clyro can catch up. Then proceeding up the narrow road past Moity and Llwyn-pen-deri to the highest point of the road over the Begwns; here we shall be 1209 feet up, and magnificent views if the day is 'right' (the grid reference here is 162/443). Here is ample room to park many cars, and the walk to the highest point of the Begwns (1361 feet) is easy but rewarding and should take up just enough time for it to be lunch-time when we get back to the cars. Lunch over, the suggestion is that we move on (by car) down to Painscastle and along through Rhosgoch and up to Bryngwyn Church (at nearly 1,200 ft. it is the second highest church in all Wales; our 1961 Commemoration Service was held there). Just beyond the church--higher still--is another vast natural car park; and from it a path to the top of Bryngwyn Hill--a grand viewpoint at 1,527 feet. There and back will be little more than two miles, but it will surely be tea-time when we get back to the cars again!!

Every effort will be made to arrange an alternative programme if the day is not nice enough for hill walks; for it is a tradition that we turn up at the rendezvous "wet or fine".....but we are surely due for an "Indian summer" in early October?

SOME NOTES ON ST HARMON--AND ROUNDABOUT

Surely every member knows by now where to find St Harmon on a map? Some 3 to 4 miles out of Rhayader, on the B.4518 road, which goes on to Llanidloes in Montgomeryshire. Indeed, St Harmon is only just inside Radnorshire; it is a very big parish, extending to the Montgomery border at Tylwch (where Kilvert 'Jumped the boundary brook, out of South Wales into North Wales'...Vol.3 p.293). Sheet 128 (Montgomery & Llandrindod Wells) is the map to get, in the 1" O.S. series, with this the Diary really "comes to life". Pantydwr and Nantgwyn and Sychnant are all in what Kilvert called "the upper part" of St Harmon parish; it is all a countryside so well worth exploring--and on to Llanidloes too; where, as Kilvert did, you will no doubt visit the ancient church of St Idloes by the Severn in its upper reaches. The railway is no more, so it will all have to be by car (or on foot, as Kilvert did!) St Harmon station was almost alongside the church, with another station at Pantydwr, a mile and a half up the line. Space forbids much more in this vein; so perhaps a few notes on what we hope to do with the motor-coach from Hereford may help those with cars too, if they come with time to spare in which to explore the district a little. After the journey up the Wye Valley to Builth Wells we proceed to Newbridge-on-Wye, where--on the opposite bank--Llysdinam can be seen. A house often visited by Kilvert after the Venables family moved there from Clyro. A few more miles takes one on to Doldowlodd; here, by taking a minor road to the right (for Nantmel) for a mile or so--one comes to the little church at Hysfa, scene of all that is described on pages 105 to 112 in Vol.1 of the Diary. (Please see next item re the certificate for its use). Rhayader is soon reached, either by returning to Doldowlodd or going on out to the Nantmel road, and there turning left for Rhayader; if by this route you may glimpse Llwynbarried across to your right as you approach the main road. We hope to go on beyond Rhayader for 3 miles before doubling back to it and then taking the road for St Harmon; just as far along the main road to Aberystwyth as Abermarteg (from here motorists can get to St Harmon via Kilvert's "sweet vale of Marteg" but a coach must return to Rhayader). From Abermarteg one can almost see Bwlch Gwynne and Glyn Gwy--those who have read the St Harmon articles in LOOKING BACKWARDS will want to know where they lie. All of great interest to

SOME NOTES ON ST HARMON--AND ROUNDABOUT contd....

"Kilvertians"...as is Rhayader itself for this is where Kilvert lived during his time as Vicar of St Harmon. After tea at Pantydwr our coach for Hereford will return via Abbey Cwmhir, and halt in order that those places which Kilvert visited and wrote about in the Diary (Vol.1-p.113) can be seen, the Hall, the Church, the inn with its unusual sign, and the scanty remains of what was once the largest abbey in Wales; the arcade from which can be seen as part of the parish church at Llanidloes..

THE HYSFA CERTIFICATE

The Rev. C.J.Colebrook who will conduct the ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SERVICE at St Harmon, is Vicar of Nantmel (with Hysfa); Llanwrthwl and St Harmon. When discussing various matters with him I mentioned that when a party of members visited the little church at Hysfa one day last year we noticed that the framed certificate of the Bishop of St Davids, giving authority for its use as a place of worship etc (in 1871) was badly in need of renovation. The outcome of this conversation was that the Society has had it cleaned up and re-backed etc--with the addition of a typed notice in a space below the actual certificate; this plainly sets out the wording of the somewhat faded certificate and also gives the reasons for the Society being interested in it; the Diary reference (pp.105-112 in Vol.1) of the events that Kilvert records, and the fact that Francis Kilvert was present at the laying of its foundation stone.

We hope to visit this little church on our way from Hereford with the coach and see the renovated certificate back where it has been for over 100 years. No doubt it will be visited by other members too, during the weekend.

WILL ANYONE OFFER TO HELP?

Those who see the above-mentioned certificate will note that the typed notice referred to has been beautifully done...on an I.B.M.typewriter. But I had to get an old friend in Hereford to do this, someone not a member and who really knows nothing of Kilvert or the Diary. For there was NO RESPONSE to my appeal (in a newsletter quite recently) for offers of help with such things. Similarly I had to get another non-member to do the inscription that is pasted in the front of the visitors book to be given to the church at St Harmon. Now I am sure that among our members we have people who could do such things as inscriptions, and others who have access to an I.B.M. machine; and others who can do a bit of typing or duplicating. I do not mean masses of it; but just little things that are uneconomical to get done in the usual manner. There is a project on foot to ask certain hotels that are mentioned in Kilvert's Diary if they would like a small framed notice setting out what is written in the Diary about themselves...and to provide churches with Kilvert associations with something similar for their porches. Perhaps there are members with skills to do such things who would like to think that their handiwork is thus made use of? ANY OFFERS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED...(by the Hon.Sec.)

AN ADDRESSING MACHINE

The Committee recently sanctioned the purchase of an ADDRESSING MACHINE at a cost of around £30 (with accessories)...this would be a tremendous help, primarily with the newsletters to well over 600 members three times a year; and in other ways too. But after a demonstration I decided against the particular machine that we had in mind, results were not clear; so these newsletters are once more being posted in handwritten envelopes. We have now heard of another type of machine, which will cost around £40 (total). But there is no rush to buy one now; for the next newsletters go out in March. MEANWHILE, HAVE ANY OF OUR MEMBERS EXPERIENCE OF ANY ADDRESSING MACHINE AT AROUND ABOVE-MENTIONED PRICES? Your advice etc would be welcomed (by the Hon.Secretary, please)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Quite good advance publicity has already been given to the fact that the 1973 COMMEMORATION SERVICE is to be in BRECON CATHEDRAL...on the 24th of June; we shall hope that this will result in a really large congregation, Knowing so long in advance will probably help some of our members to arrange their holidays etc. so that they can be at Brecon next June...maybe some will take a holiday in that area to include that weekend?

The 1974 Commemoration Service is also fixed, all except the actual date--and that will most likely be much as usual, end of June or very early July. It is to be at LLOWES in Radnorshire, by kind invitation of the Rev.T.J.Lewis--who is in charge of Clyro (with Bettws); Llowes, and Glasbury (All Saints); and is Rural Dean of Hay. A valued member and a Vice-President of the Society. The last such service at Llowes was in 1960, the first in 1953. But the Llowes service that I remember best of all is the November one in 1954 when the sundial (to mark the close connection of the Rev.Francis Kilvert with church and parish during his years at nearby Clyro) was dedicated by the late Dr Glyn Simon, then Bishop of Swansea & Brecon, later to become Bishop of Llandaff and Archbishop of Wales; it was a remarkable day for mid-November; sunny, warm and clear--with a grand view of the Black Mountains across the valley of the Wye from the church porch. Llowes will, of course, be for ever associated with our late past-President the Rev.D.J.Lane Griffiths.

THE CLYRO FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

It was good to hear that as a result of this first venture at such an event over £100 was raised...perhaps this will inspire the good folk of Clyro and District to repeat this festival next year? If they do it may perhaps be possible to have flower arrangements to illustrate passages from KILVERT'S DIARY (as at Langley Burrell in the Sept. of 1970?). It may then be possible for the Society to make a gift or gifts for those judged to be the best...if not those in the church then perhaps elsewhere nearby, as in Langley House adjoining Langley Burrell church.

By a coincidence the Hon.Sec. was piloting a coach load of members of Hereford Geographical & Historical Society around that part of the "Kilvert Country" on the Saturday of the flower festival weekend, and they were delighted to find Clyro church looking so beautiful. Similarly a lady from London way, visiting the district for the first time--drawn to it after reading KILVERT'S DIARY--was very pleased to be in Clyro church just at that time; there she picked up one of our pink leaflets, wrote to me for further details and is now a K.S.member.

JUNE 25th at LANGLEY BURRELL

A day to be remembered...the second KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE to be held there (the first was in 1966, when our former President, the late Rev.D.J.Lane Griffiths, gave the ADDRESS and the handsome bronze tablet in the church porch was unveiled by Dr William Plomer and dedicated by the Rector of Langley Burrell, it gives a history of the church--a fitting memorial to the Rev Francis Kilvert in one of the churches he loved, and where he was his father's curate for a total of some six years or so).

The highlight of this year at Langley Burrell was that giving the ADDRESS for the first time at any Commemoration Service was a KILVERT...and none other than Canon R.W. Kilvert, grandson of the Diarist's brother Edward Newton Kilvert (often 'Perch' in the Diary) and therefore a great-grandson of the Rev. Robert Kilvert..Rector of Langley Burrell for so many years last century. In the congregation was Mrs Kilvert, and their son--John Robert Francis.

Members and friends arriving for the service were greeted by pealing bells from the ancient tower; and the church was soon very full; many extra chairs had been brought from Chippenham and most of them were in use by the time the service commenced. The Rector (the Rev. E.H.Waddleton) gave a warm welcome to all present (and, as usual, they had come from near and far), and thanked the Society for the oak bookcase (for hymn and prayer books) which was given to mark the occasion of this second service held there; it was later formally handed over by the Hon.Treasurer (Mr J.D.Worsey) supported by the Hon.Secretary; and dedicated by the Rev.E.H.Waddleton. Other outstanding features were that the READINGS were by the incumbents of the neighbouring parishes of Hardenhuish and Kington Langley (the Rev.R.J.Thomas and the Rev.D.G.Gardner respectively)---parishes so closely connected with Francis Kilvert's forbears; and the delightful singing of the anthem by the children's choir, a credit to Mr Bryan Gale, the organist---whose playing delighted the congregation too. Another outstanding feature of this Commemoration Service was the Act of Remembrance by our Worcestershire member and Vice-President, the Rev.David Lockwood, in this church so dear to Francis Kilvert; a church beautifully decorated with a profusion of flowers by local ladies.

Space forbids the giving of Canon Kilvert's ADDRESS in full, and there was so much in it that will interest so many of our members that, rather than give some extracts here, it has been decided to have copies of it made available at a small charge; a note about this (and about those of other years that are also available) will be found on another page. But perhaps there are just one or two passages from Canon Kilvert's ADDRESS that should be quoted here, if only for the benefit of those who do not send for the whole of it. With regard to the Diary he said "Never, I would venture to say, in the history of English Literature, have words written purely as a private record, been so sensitively presented to a wider public as the words of Francis Kilvert by Dr William Plomer. Neither can I remember a response to the publication of such a record being as natural and spontaneous as that which has borne fruit in the formation of this society". ...and about the Society he said "In paying tribute to him I am a sufficiently new vice-president to pay my tribute to this Society and its Officers for all that it has done not only for Francis Kilvert but also in providing tangible gifts for the parishes in which he served--as we have seen in our service today".

AFTER THE SERVICE

Many went off immediately to the Village Hall for the TEA which the local ladies had so kindly provided, a sumptuous spread, home-made too!! Those who had written in for tickets for Langley House, walked the short distance there, to be most kindly received by Major C.R.L.Scott-Ashe, his brother Mr A.L.Scott and others of the family; to be shown some of the main rooms and to revel in the atmosphere of Kilvert's time, for so much is just as when Kilvert visited there as the guest of his kinsman-Squire Ashe, and his daughters; our hosts cannot know how much pleasure they gave to so many. It was extremely kind of them to allow their house to be so invaded. After a stroll round the delightful lawns and grounds all made their way to the Hall to join the others at tea. Tea over, most stayed on for what, for want of a better term, is known as a "social Hour"

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After apologies and good wishes from Dr Plomer and others had been read out it was time for Canon Kilvert to present the prizes (book tokens) to the six children of Langley Burrell School who were the winners in the children's competition that the Society had sponsored most years since the first such event at Clyro in 1965; and how delightfully he did it too!! He followed on by telling us much about his sister's vehicle, plans, troubles, route etc. connected with her world tour then just starting, the company listened with rapt attention; many also saw the green leather book with R.F.K. stamped in gold on the cover and Mrs Crichton's water colour of Clyro Church as fresh as ever and the names of the many subscribers from Clyro and district written inside. An obviously treasured possession which Canon Kilvert had so kindly brought along for us to see. The next item was something completely different; and from one of our young members too...Adrian James of Corsham, a sixth-former at a well known grammar school in Bath; I had heard of his talk on Kilvert and the Diary to an adult audience in the early part of this year, something which had caused much favourable comment in his school magazine--and therefore invited him to speak now. He chose as his subject "Kilvert and the Seasons" and proceeded to what can only be termed a masterly exposition of it. How splendid it was to hear such a young member with such a knowledge of and care for the Diary (please see footnote). By a happy chance Maxwell Fraser (our member Mrs Phillips) was at hand to thank him; she rose to the occasion at a minute's notice as one would hope for from such a well known authoress. After a local member, Mrs Heather Tanner of Kington Langley had told us something of her investigations about the Mausoleum where Walter Coleman was buried (the remains of which can still be traced within the grounds of Mr and Mrs Tanner's House) and the as yet unsolved mystery of his body's removal and re-burial; a fascinating subject of great interest to many-- all concerned with the days happy events were warmly thanked both by Canon Kilvert and by Mr J.D.Worsey. So ended a most pleasant time in the Wiltshire end of the "Kilvert Country"

Note: ... from a tape recording, supplemented by his notes, "Kilvert and the Seasons" will shortly be available for members to buy at a small fee. With some reluctance Mr Adrian James agreed for this to be done. Ten pence each should cover costs of typing etc. plus a stamp for postage please.

FROM FAR AND NEAR --- no account of our Annual Service is complete without a note about distant members present (although someone from far away is always sure to be left out!!!) June 25th at Langley Burrell was no exception...many London and Home Counties members; and from Eastbourne on the South Coast to Swansea on the Welsh coast. Birmingham and the Midlands was well represented. Several from Brecon and on the coach from Hereford members from all over the county, and several Radnorshire members too. We got to Langley Burrell early enough to go for a run round--under the guidance of Mr J.A.Payne of the Old Brewery House---alongside Maud Heaths Causeway, past Kelloways Church and Mill; through East Tytherton with a glance at the Moravian settlement and in particular the school which Kilvert's mother attended when a child; up Wick Hill to note the Maud Heath column; then along Derry Hill and on to Sandy Lane, passing Bowood en route and with Spye Park away to our left before we got to Bacock; time only allowed a slow drive round this delightful little place before the final run to Chippenham and on to Langley Burrell--just in time to secure our seats for the service. Mr Payne's help was invaluable and we all felt very grateful to him for giving us his time in this way.

MISS KILVERT

The item headed "A KILVERT ADVENTURE" in the June newsletter told of Miss Muriel Kilvert's impending world tour with her converted A.F.S.fire-tender, starting in Canada, at first accompanied by her niece Susan. Then Canon Kilvert told us more of his sister and his daughter--after tea at Langley Burrell.

I would also refer members to the item headed "WORLDWIDE" which immediately precedes "A KILVERT ADVENTURE" in that newsletter. This refers to the amazing response to the four page article on KILVERTS COUNTRY in the April number of IN BRITAIN. Enquiries and requests for more information have come in from all over the world; several new members overseas have resulted; and several sets of the 3 volumes of the Diary have been sold. Airmails are still coming in; one from Australia and another from the West Indies as I write these notes.

One enquiry came from Nova Scotia, followed by an order for the 3 volumes; after posting them I sent an airmail saying that they would be arriving in due course and also giving the information that I had passed this Nova Scotian address on to Miss Kilvert just before she started out, and that she might decide to call on them, especially if anywhere near her route. In due course I had an airmail back--to tell me (with obvious delight) that Miss Kilvert and Susan had indeed called, spent the evening with them and the night in PEREGRINE in their drive; something that had most certainly given our N.S. "Kilvertians" a lot of pleasure!!

ANOTHER APOLOGY TO CONTRIBUTORS

Once again several excellent contributions are held over (and some for the second time) BUT (I REPEAT) ALL WILL BE USED SOONER OR LATER. I am truly thankful to have this state of affairs, and I do ask members to keep on sending in items (both short, medium & long) for newsletters. The job of compiling newsletters, each of ten pages, three times a year-is made much easier when there are a number of articles on hand.

COMMEMORATION SERVICES (the ADDRESSES)

Typed copies of the ADDRESS given at the following KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICES are now available at 10p each (plus postage please) from the Hon. Secretary:

BREDWARDINE 1964 (June).....	Rev. B. B. Humphreys
MONNINGTON-ON-WYE 1966 (October).....	Mr J. D. Worsey, B.A.
HARDENHUISH 1968 (October).....	Canon J. S. Leatherbarrow M.A.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL 1969 (June).....	Dr Wm. Plomer C.B.E., D.Litt.
BREDWARDINE 1969 (October).....	Rev D. N. Lockwood, B.A.
HAY-ON-WYE 1971 (July).....	Canon W. E. Jones M.A.
MOCCAS 1971 (October).....	Mr D. T. W. Price, M.A.
LANGLEY BURRELL 1972 (June).....	Canon R. W. Kilvert M.A.
and ST HARMON 1972 (October).....	by..... Rev. D. Brian James, B.A. F.C.A.

will be available shortly.

Members are also reminded that in "LOOKING BACKWARDS" can be found the ADDRESS given by Dean Hedley Burrows M.A. at Bredwardine in 1948 (July); and even that by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon at the Clyro Commemoration Service of 1946---a service organised by the "parson and people" of Clyro two years prior to the formation of the Kilvert Society, an event which helped towards the formation of the Society and which set the pattern for the annual service held by the Society since its formation.

HAY PARISH MAGAZINE -OCTOBER 1879

I was pleased to receive a nice letter-many weeks ago-from Mrs M. John, the organist of Hay Parish Church (who played for us last year); for in it she told of how much she had enjoyed that service, and that she felt sure that if the weather had been kinder the gallery would have been filled as well as the nave. Mrs John also mentioned the bound volume of Hay Parish Magazines for 1879, in it there is a memorial to the Rev. R. F. Kilvert which she showed to some members after the service. With her letter Mrs John enclosed photostats of the cover of the October 1879 magazine (printed by G. Horden of Castle St.--a name that crops up numerous times in the Diary) and also of the memorial notice; it is particularly apt, and I am very glad to be able to reproduce it here.

IN MEMORIAM

"September 23rd, at the Vicarage, Bredwardine, Hereford, after a short illness, the Rev. Robert Francis Kilvert M.A. aged 38. Deeply beloved and lamented".

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the Rev. R. F. Kilvert, Vicar of Bredwardine, and formerly Curate of Clyro. During his long residence in this neighbourhood he had endeared himself to all around him by his gentle manner and exemplary life, and it was a cause of much gratification to his friends, when he was presented, some short time ago, to the living of Bredwardine. Only on the 13th ultimo he returned with his bride to the Vicarage, amid the rejoicings and congratulations of his Parishioners and with every prospect of a long and happy life before him. It is scarcely possible to realise that within fourteen days of that joyful occasion his Parishioners assembled to follow him to his last resting place. The greatest sympathy must be felt by all for his bereaved widow and parents.

KILVERT'S BIRTHDAY (by Mr L. Le Quesne)

I wonder if many other members have noticed in the 'Diary' what seems at first sight to be a curious inconsistency in Kilvert's statements about his own age? It has always been accepted that Kilvert was born on December 3rd 1840, and sure enough, on December 3rd 1870, he says plainly "I am 30 years old today". On December 3rd 1871, he does not mention his age; but the same date in 1872 is recorded as his thirty-third birthday, in 1873 as his thirty-fourth, in 1874 as his thirty-fifth-after which, no entries for his birthday survive. Now, what is all this about? On the face of it, the last three entries imply that he was born in 1839, not 1840; and the existence of three consecutive entries of this sort makes it quite impossible to believe that Kilvert was just making a momentary error-he could hardly make the same accidental slip three years running! On the other hand, the statement in 1870 is completely clear and unambiguous, and the Register of Births at Somerset House confirms that he was indeed born on December 3rd, 1840. The answer, I think, must lie in the different way the entries are worded. "I am 30 years old today" can only be read one way; but when Kilvert talks of his thirty-third, thirty-fourth, and thirty-fifth birthdays, he must be reckoning inclusively-that is, he must have counted December 3rd, 1840, the actual day of his birth, as his first birthday-which indeed, I suppose in a way it was! though it seems an unusual way of counting birthdays. Thus to say that the day was his thirty-third birthday would be another way of saying (correctly) that he was 32 that day. Does anyone know if it was common in the last century to reckon birthdays in this way?

'Ashbrook House' or "Ty Dulas"? (by Mr L. Le Quesne)

(This contribution was crowded out of the June Newsletter)

Since we live in Ashbrook House, Kilvert's old lodgings at Clyro, I have been interested by the suggestion that in his time the house was known as 'Ty Dulas'-indeed, when we first moved in, we considered reverting to this name. We finally decided against it, and in fact have recently come to doubt whether the suggestion is correct; perhaps it may be worth setting out the evidence which has made me doubt it.

In the published editions of the 'Diary', Kilvert never refers to the house by name at all. But in one of the three surviving manuscript notebooks of the 'Diary', covering the period from April to June 1870, he three times refers to it as 'Ty Dulas', and there can therefore be no doubt that Kilvert himself at least sometimes used the name; what I am inclined to doubt is whether anybody else did, for I have found no other reference to it. The house appears to have been built by one Peter Chaloner, the husband of the Mrs Chaloner who appears several times in the 'Diary' as Kilvert's landlady, at some time in the 1850's, and the earliest reference to it that I have been able to discover is in the census returns for Clyro in 1861. It appears there as 'Chandlers', almost certainly a mistake for 'Chaloners', for several houses in the village were similarly named after their builders or occupiers. Ten years later, in the 1871 census, it is already "Ashbrook House"-and note that this is less than a year after Kilvert was calling it 'Ty Dulas'. Moreover the enumerator of the census of 1871 in Clyro was none other than Richard Chaloner, Mrs Chaloner's son, and it may be assumed that he, if anybody, knew the house's correct name. The other most obvious sources from which one might hope to obtain light on the subject are tombstones and the parish registers. But neither Peter Chaloner's tombstone (he died in 1860) nor the entry of his burial in the registers gives the name of the house, which may well mean that at that date it had none; and, thereafter, most inconsiderately, nobody died or was born or married in the house till Mrs Chaloner and her daughter both died in 1881; the registers then give the address as 'Ashbrook House' and as such it has apparently been known ever since.

The house then, was apparently known as 'Chaloners' in 1861, and as 'Ashbrook House' in 1871, yet in May 1870, Kilvert is referring to it as 'Ty Dulas'. Of course the name may have changed between these last two dates, but it would be strange if the house had three different names in ten years: besides, it is very unlikely that any house in Clyro would have received a Welsh Name in the 1860's. As is apparent from the 'Diary' this part of Radnorshire was already thoroughly Anglicised at that time: there are of course many farms and cottages with Welsh names in the parish, but they are all apparently older than the 19th century, with the exception of a few modern examples, Welsh having recently come into fashion again. But I cannot believe that any Clyro villager would have dreamed of calling his house 'Ty Dulas' in Kilvert's time; if anything, it is particularly unlikely that Mrs Chaloner would, for she was born in Yorkshire.

Then why should Kilvert call the house 'Ty Dulas', if it was not its real name? My guess is that it is a fancy name of Kilvert's own composition, not intended for public consumption. There is plenty of evidence in the 'Diary' that Kilvert was interested in the local Welsh place names, and enjoyed toying with the language-see, for instance, his habit of signing his poems with Welsh pen-names. I should be very surprised if he was capable of speaking Welsh-in 1870 at any rate-but he clearly knew a fair number of words; and I find it easy to imagine that it might have tickled his fancy to compose a suitable Welsh name for the house. It is even possible that it was meant to be a translation of its actual name, for 'Ty Dulas' of course, means 'Brook House' - did Kilvert, perhaps not know the Welsh for 'ash'? This, though, is guess-work. 'Brook House' would in any case be an obvious name, with the Clyro Brook flowing not merely through the garden but partly under the house. Incidentally, the origin of the house's present name is perhaps not much harder to guess, for Kilvert more than once refers to a mountain ash which at that time apparently grew beside the front gate. It is not even impossible that it was Kilvert himself, not content with imagining a Welsh name for the house, who suggested its English one to his landlady.

WHERE TO STAY IN "KILVERT COUNTRY"

The Society is compiling a list of members' recommendations. Will any member who has spent a few days at any Hotel, guest-house, farmhouse etc. anywhere in the areas concerned and would like to recommend it to others, please let the Hon. Secretary have full details.

A letter has just been received from a Merseyside member recommending some accommodation that would suit anyone wishing to stay a few days fairly near to the St Harmon district.

THE APPEALS...ASHBROOK PLAQUE and BRECON ORGAN

About £80 is available for the new plaque for Ashbrook House, Clyro; no decision has yet been made (it had been hoped to see it finalised and up by now; but perhaps it is as well that it has not been hurried. The new owners of Ashbrook have just moved in... Mr and Mrs. W.H.Monk from Woking...and I am delighted to report that they have joined the Society) The Committee decided, by an overwhelming majority, that they would put the final decision in the hands of a small group who between them represent all the various suggestions made regarding the plaque. They are...Dr.Plomer, Mrs.J.Feisenberger; the Rev.David Lockwood and Mr L Le.Quesne; with power to add to their number. I feel confident that something that will be acceptable to all will come out of it; and maybe much sooner than would now appear.

Now, re the appeal for the restoration fund for the Bevington organ in Brecon Cathedral (the one from Hay Castle)...a cheque for £34 has been sent to Brecon regarding this. £24 of it being members' donations and £10 from the Society's funds.

OBITUARY

The deaths of the following members have to be reported, with much regret. Most of them have occurred since the last newsletter, but some previously and the news only recently reached me.

Mr.E.E.Forrester of Leckhampton, Cheltenham-----Mr & Mrs Forrester joined the Society in 1968.

Dr.J.H.Sheldon of Codsall Wood near Wolverhampton; a most distinguished member of the medical profession. Dr and Mrs Sheldon joined the Society in 1964; after 'dropping in' at the Bredwardine Commemoration Service of that year, whilst cycling around Herefordshire.

Mrs Worsfield wife of our Australian member, Mr F.W.Worsfield of Avalon in New South Wales. Both members of the Society.

Mrs M.V.Gilbert of Bishopstone, Hereford; widow of Capt. H.A.Gilbert the well known sportsman, naturalist etc. Mrs Gilbert was a Money-Kyrle, the old Herefordshire and Wiltshire family so familiar to readers of Kilvert's Diary.

and (in August) the Society lost one of its founder-members in Miss Ethel May Anthony of Clyro daughter of the late Mr Richard Anthony, wheelwright and estate carpenter - a name well known to readers of Kilvert's Diary. Miss Anthony was a teacher at Clyro School for 48 years, singing in the church choir all her life, at one time a bell-ringer, and actively taking part in all the activities of the church and the village in general. She retired from teaching in 1960...when Miss Mantle took her place at the village school. Her grandfather was Mr Henry Anthony, much mentioned in Kilvert's Diary.

DR WILLIAM PLOMER

I usually start off 'Notes and News' with something about our President; but I have on this occasion left it until the last minute before these sheets have to go away for duplicating--in the hope of having more information regarding what Dr Plomer is doing at Hartlebury Castle on Friday evening the 6th October; on his way to be with us at St Harmon on October 8th. For I am sure that some of our Worcestershire members (and maybe Birmingham and other members too) will want to go there to hear him; but I have failed to get any more information as to time, price and availability of tickets etc.etc. so must just suggest that anyone interested can no doubt get details from Hartlebury Castle; and there should be ample time to do this after these newsletters are circulated.

Some of our London members, sent me glowing accounts of Dr Plomer on "FRANCIS KILVERT AND HIS DIARY"---the Giff Edwards Memorial lecture at the Royal Society of Literature in London on Wednesday 19th July under the chairmanship of Lord Butler K.G., C.H. There was a most distinguished audience.

"THE NOBLE SPIRE OF PETERCHURCH"

This is how Kilvert writes of it in the Diary (p.263 of Vol.3---and on p.266 of the same volume he refers to it as 'the great steeple'). But after dominating the Golden Valley for so many centuries the lovely spire of this beautiful 12th Century church became unsafe and--many years ago now--had to be dismantled; and this renowned West Herefordshire valley lost its landmark. But parson and people set about collecting together the many thousands of pounds needed (an ever rising sum) and now Peterchurch has a spire again. The new one is of fibre glass, when very near the difference can be seen (though ageing will no doubt tone it to exact match) - but if Kilvert could look down from the top of Moccas Park as he did on April 22nd 1876 he would surely again use the same words that head this item.

THE ESTCOURTS

The June n/1 contained an article headed "A Wedding at Langley Burrell" (that of Emily Kilvert and "Sam" Wyndowe); culled from the report in a Wiltshire newspaper of 1865 which was found among the muniments of the Sotheron-Estcourt family of Shipton Moyne, near Tetbury, and sent to me by the Gloucestershire County Archivist. Francis Kilvert met "two Miss Estcourts from Gloucestershire" at a party at Llanthomas and played croquet "with Daisy and Miss Estcourt". I hoped for a reply to my query as to who in the Hay district were the Estcourts related; but the only response (so far) has been an interesting letter from a member living in Watford (Herts), who says....."Page 141 in the Watford Tithe Award of 1844; Thomas Grinston Bucknall Estcourt owned Oxhey Hall Farm let to James White. An Estcourt from Estcourt, Tetbury, Glos. had married into the Grinston family of St.Albans and Oxhey. Their son The Rt.Hon. Thomas Sutton Sotheron Estcourt M.P.---according to Cussans History of Herts---became Home Secretary for three months in 1859. He had married the daughter of Admiral Sotheron."

There are Estcourt and Sotheron roads in Watford and an Estcourt Road in Gloucester.

THE SUMMER OF 1872

A Ruislip (Middx) member sent me (in July) a cutting from "The Times" of July 6th ---it was of a letter from Dorset with the above heading...it tells of how the writer of it was driven indoors on a recent evening by gale force winds, grey skies and lashing rain and sat quietly reading KILVERT'S DIARY. By chance he opened at 1872 and to his astonishment found Kilvert recording that 1872 was a dreadful year of continuous rain and cold winds. On May 1 Kilvert writes "the bitterest, blackest May I ever saw. May is usually the worst and coldest month of the year, but this year beats them all"---"a black bitter wind violent and piercing drove from the east with showers of snow". Throughout June and July Kilvert reports continuous cold and rain and floods. It is certainly odd that the centenary of these words should prove to be an equally disastrous year. It may be some consolation to know that 1873 was recorded by Kilvert as a very fine summer, excessively hot on many days.

HE LOVES THE BORDER COUNTIES

Earlier this year, when yet another from the Bristol area joined the Society a most interesting letter came with his first year's subscription. The following bits from it seen particularly well worth quoting..... "My interest in Kilvert's Diary was first stimulated by my love of the three border counties of Brecon, Radnor and Hereford. As camping and hiking figure prominently as hobbies of mine I have been able to travel widely and comparatively inexpensively. Few areas to which I have travelled provide as many happy memories as the Southern Border Marshes. The exhilaration of a wide uninterrupted landscape, the peaceful timelessness of the area and the warm tolerant hospitality in the scattered communities is difficult to rival in these islands and to me epitomises much that is best in the Britain away from the artificiality of Twentieth Century suburbia. This I feel is reflected in Kilvert's writing."

THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS

All 5 sell steadily; but there are still many members who have not yet bought any of them!!! "A peculiar state of affairs" one might say, for they add so much to what we read in Kilvert's Diary; so many things about Kilvert himself; his father; his sisters; and his friends---that one would think that everyone who reads the Diary would want to know. This is proved by the response from non-members whenever we advertise in national papers, yet many members have as yet bought none!!! Sorry to belabour this point, but there is much still to be published once we have covered costs of the present range of 5. Details and prices gladly forwarded to anyone who doesn't have a list.

KILVERT'S DIARY

---Just a reminder that the Hon. Secretary holds stocks of the latest edition of the 3 volumes, £12 plus 25p towards the cost of postage (inland); and the abridged edition (paperback) at 95p plus 13½p.

ALL PROFITS TO THE SOCIETY'S FUNDS

BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Maxwell Fraser's "Welsh Border Country" came out at the end of June. All our members will surely like it immensely---particularly so those who know something of Wales and the Border. Kilvert and the Kilvert country is featured in it, as are a number of other familiar characters---Ignatius, Traharne, W.S.Landor, etc. A book to read or to help you when planning a tour. A Batsford book at but £2.

Vincent Waite (of Bristol) is one of our newer members; his "Malvern Country" is a book with great appeal, this book completes a trilogy about English Hills which he knows so well. Mr Waite has written a number of books on a variety of subjects and is well known as a broadcaster, appearing regularly in such programmes as 'Round Britain Quiz', 'Country Questions' and 'Country Parliament'. Yet another whom we are pleased to have as a member of the Society.

Frederick Grice of Worcester is another author-member. Oxford University Press published this year, his 'Young Tom Sawbones' a story for young readers, set in Victorian times but in the north of England. This is the eighth volume by Mr. Grice to be published by O.U.P. and he has several under other imprints; he is not a professional writer, for his main responsibility is as Head of the English Department at Worcester College of Education.

What other authors have we among our members?

CHRISTMAS CARDS

There are now SEVEN different cards available...Bredwardine Vicarage; Bredwardine Church; Clyro Church in 1865; Clyro Village last century; the Wiltshire churches-Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell; Broad Street, Hay-on-Wye many years ago; and a hill farm near the Black Mountains as Kilvert knew it.

Packet of 7 assorted for 33p. plus 5p postage; or packet of 5 of any one type for 22½p plus 3½p postage. Prices include envelopes, and all cards have the same simple greeting "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year".

Why not send to the Hon. Secretary for a sample packet now? All profits for funds.

Callers (only) can buy cards and publications from:-

The Pierpoint Gallery, Church Street, Hereford, and from Miss Tong, Bridge Stores and P.O. Clyro.

STOP PRESS...NEWS FROM CANADA

News of Miss Kilvert and "Peregrine" has come to hand at the very last minute before it became impossible to get it added to this newsletter.

They (Miss Kilvert and her niece Susan) have reached Vancouver; but not without adventures. At one point 'Peregrine' stalled across two tracks of trans-Canada railway and Susan had to do 100 yards in Olympic time to flag down a passing motorist to come and tow them off!

Canon Kilvert (who gives this news) says that the September number of 'Camping' has a picture of his sister and 'Peregrine' outside her home in Suffolk.....which reminds me that recently a Swansea member sent me a cutting from the 'Commercial Motor' of June 9th. This tells of how Miss Kilvert competed against champion lorry driver Norman Singer in Norwich before the start of her world tour. THEY TIED, AND BOTH RECEIVED TROPHIES. A picture shows them with these trophies. The item ends "Miss Muriel Kilvert later left for Canada, where she will drive 'Peregrine', the fire tender, down the West Coast of the U.S.A. on the Santa Fe trail into Central America, where she will be doing research into the life of the Indians, and then into South America, later she will ship the vehicle to Calcutta and drive up through Asia and across Europe to arrive back in 18 months time." Some trip for a converted fire tender, by the time it gets back it will be celebrating its 21st Birthday!