

# THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Rev. Francis Kilvert,  
his work, his diary and the countryside he loved.

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The Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn

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MAY 1989.

Dear Member,

After last year's smaller attendance at the A.G.M. it is gratifying to report that this year's event drew a full house. I recognised members from the South Coast, Cornwall, North Wales, Yorkshire as well as others who had not had occasion to travel so far. Apologies were received from Mr. & Mrs. Ball (Swindon), Mr. Bolton (Warwick), Mr. Burton (Congleton), Mr. B. Butcher (Hereford), Mr. & Mrs. Comyn (London), Rev. D. Copeland (Chippenham), Mr. Philip Dawson (Newton Abbot), Mr. Guy Dearlove (Monmouth), Miss M. Edwards (Much Marcle), Mrs. Fitzgerald (Moorhampton), Miss K. Goodwin (Bath), Mr. H. Gregg (London), Rev. N. Hall (Abbey Cwmhir), Mr. & Mrs. F. Hooper (Sussex), Mrs. Hawtin (Ledbury), Rev. and Mrs. E. Jelfs (Birmingham), Mr. R. Livsey, M.P. (Brecon), Rev. D. Johnson (Birkenhead), Rev. and Mrs. Lockwood (Llowses), Miss Luckhurst (London), Dr. Newsholme (Bredwardine), Mrs. Ottaway (Hereford), Mr. W. Palmer (Dartford), Mrs. R. Payne (Langley Burrell), Mr. Strickson (York), Miss Agatha Thomas (Llandrindod Wells), Mr. L. Trott (West Midlands).

Arising from the Minutes, it was hoped that a service in conjunction with the Barnes Society could be arranged in 1990.

The Chairman's draft Constitution was discussed, various additions and amendments proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the revised draft should be presented at the next A.G.M. and then ratified.

The Chairman reported on the Radio 4 and Radio Wales programmes on Kilvert; on the Clyro Festival, the Walks and the Services; and on the list prepared by Mr. Friar of Tapes held in Hereford Reference Library. He regretted that owing to lack of support the Study Day arranged for May 20th. had to be cancelled, but raised the suggestions of a residential weekend and of short tours; and drew attention to the publication of the "Cornish Holiday" at the end of June.

Rev. J. Day reported on the Walks in Wiltshire - one would be held on September 2nd. in the Lacock-Bowood area. Mr. Clew suggested a competition for school children on the life and work of Kilvert. This was warmly received. A letter from Rev. W. Paterson regarding the Blakemere Festival was read, and it was agreed that the Committee should deal with it.

The Chairman paid tribute to those who had contributed articles for the newsletters, and asked the company to stand in tribute to Mr. Robin Tanner, Mrs. Lloyd, Canon Leatherbarrow and other members who had died during the past year.

The Hon. Treasurer, in presenting the financial report, stated that the Society was in a very healthy position. Questions were asked regarding the amounts of the donations given by the Society, and names of societies worthy of support were put forward. The Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Auditor were warmly thanked for their work.

The Officers of the Society were re-elected en bloc, and the Rev. J. Day and Messrs. Friar, Watts and White elected to the Committee.

Mr. Davies presented the Archivist's Report and was warmly thanked.

Mr. Marshall (Hon. Publications Manager) spoke of rising prices in printing, and the necessity of revision. A new list of publications was being prepared.

Business over, and the sumptuous refreshments supplied by Cafe Ascari consumed, the company assembled for the illustrated lecture by Rev. D. Tipper on the Hereford-Hay-Brecon Railway. He spoke of the rivalry between railway companies, of the three railway stations at Hereford (no wonder Kilvert disliked the city, having to dash from one end of it to the other); slides of the various stations en route were shown, and links with Kilvert described - all done in that lively, racy style that members have come to enjoy so much. The Society once again is most indebted to Mr. Tipper.

The Walk the following day attracted 49 members. Mr. R.I. Morgan was once again the admirable leader, and managed the fleet of cars with great skill. A picnic lunch was eaten on the high ground above Erwood, offering a beautiful view of the Wye far below. The sun shone for the walk up a green track to the top of Aberedw rocks. The ornithologists were delighted to record larks, swallows, meadow pipits and no fewer than 5 buzzards, and the botanists record cowslips, primroses, lady's smock and hawthorn in bloom. The walkers expressed their thanks to Mr. Morgan, and the great majority then proceeded to the Burnt House where Mr. & Mrs. Stutz had laid on an excellent tea.

DRAYCOTT CERNE - The service will take place on Sunday, June 25th. at 3. 00 p.m. by kind permission of Canon J. Poarch. The preacher will be the Rev. D. Blair-Brown, and the Remembrancer the Rev. B.E. Richards - both these gentlemen are members of the Society. A coach will leave Hereford Town Hall at 12. 15 p.m. Bookings to me, please.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO CAPEL-Y-FFIN - Saturday, August 26th. at 2. 30 p.m. The sermon at Evensong will be given by our Chairman.

Yours sincerely,

E.J.C. West

Hon. Secretary.

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#### OBITUARY

We regret to record the deaths of the following members:-

Mrs. S. Wragg (Glasbury), a member since 1967.

Canon J. Leatherbarrow (Malvern), a Vice President of the Society, who had been a member since 1961, and had preached at two of the Society's services.

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### Introduction to "Sid's Talks"

The following extracts were taken from "The Hereford Times" to be used in the Radio 4 broadcast on Kilvert last September. Unfortunately it was not found possible for their inclusion.

Our archivist, Mr. Godfrey Davies, wrote a biographical sketch of Mr. Sid Wright in our June 1981 newsletter. As newer members will not have that copy in their possession, it may be useful to state that in 1948 Mr. Wright owned a green-grocer's shop in Eign Street, Hereford, and advertised his goods in the local newspaper. But he was a man of very many interests, he had a lively, racy style and his talks still make for enjoyable reading - nearly 40 years after his death.

### SID'S TALKS

#### January 1948

- 17th. First priority is food production, so let's start off with Seed Potatoes. Targets are 1500 tons, purchases 1250 tons, sales 1200 tons.... I have had a lot of enquiries regarding my recent note about a Kilvert Society. My idea is for all those who are interested to meet together to consider the form of a Kilvert Society. Much could be done, organising Walks, pilgrimages to Kilvert's favourite haunts, making coloured cine film and arranging for periodical Kilvert Sundays..... Just received, a large shipment of gladioli corms, top size. Arran Pilot and Sharpe's Express first early seed potatoes 4/- a peck, including hessian bag.
- 24th. For one top line this week must be about Kilvert. A small committee has been set up to examine 3 things - a Commemoration Service, to collect money to fix a memorial tablet to his memory in Clyro Church and a Society to be formed. Kilvert once walked over the little Mountain where the Radnorshire War Agriculture Committee are doing fine work reclaiming these uplands, and grow thereon excellent crops of Seed Potatoes and we are the agents for the sale of these excellent certified Welsh seed.

#### March

- 27th. We are talking about forming a Kilvert Society. William Plomer is very keen on the project maturing. A Commemoration Service will be held at Bredwardine on July 18th. Buses will be running, teas provided and Mr. Plomer will give a Tea Table Talk. ....Our own position regarding Seed Potatoes is as follows:- purchases 1700 tons, sales 1675 tons.

#### June

- 26th. These are times of plenty, for we have large supplies of strawberries, cherries, gooseberries, new potatoes, cucumbers, salads. Fresh and smoked fish, and remember, as I heard a lady say to her friend the other day, "I save enough at Wright's to keep my meter going". ....Here are a few reminders about arrangements for the Kilvert meetings - Saturday, 17th. July, Town Hall, a public meeting re the forming of a Kilvert Society; Sunday, 18th. July, service at Bredwardine.

#### July

- 31st. In 1940 we made over a million sales, the first 6 months of this year 510, 561, so we have a chance once again of reaching the 1940 figure..... What a great time we had at the Saturday meeting. The Dean, the Very Rev. Hedley Burrows, who was co-founder with Mr. Wright of the Kilvert Society, in good form in the chair, and my old heart beat 19 to the dozen as he developed his joke about the way I mixed him up with the Seed Potatoes in Sid's Talks. The Sunday Service was the crowning event..... ...I would remind Fruit Growers we are forward buyers of Damsons, Plums, Pears and Apples.....A farmer came into my office last week, a severe look

on his face, "I've come to complain about the Seed Potatoes you supplied me with last year". I got ready for the fray. He continued, "Yes, I'd 30 cwt. of Early Eclipse off you. I've just dug 'em up and loaded 'em into 4 wagons at Moorhampton Station". His face relaxed, eyes twinkled as he said, "19 tons an acre! Can you beat it?" I can't, but I'll be pleased to give a guinea to the first user of our seed who can exceed this excellent record.....Professor Bartlett is to preach at the Kilvert service at Clyro next July. I found him to be a charming personality and I'll be telling you more about him later on.....It's the flush time for fresh herrings and good rich kippers that'll save your fat ration. Largest selection of top size Dutch bulbs in the county, and now's the time to plant them.

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KILVERT FOLK ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO  
by Sidney Ball (Swindon)

I have bought a copy of the "Royal Blue Book" for 1889. This "Fashionable Directory" was published regularly last century by Gardiner's of London "under the immediate Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen". The Blue Book lists people in the West End of London, including those living in the country, but having also a London address. There are also sections on the Royal Households, the Government and Officialdom. As my Blue Book was published exactly one hundred years ago, members will no doubt be interested in some of the Kilvertian associations then - just ten years after Francis Kilvert's death.

Firstly, Kilvert's Mr. and Mrs. Venables. Although it is shown that their chief residence was "Llyednam, Newbridge-on-Wye" they have a London home, 67, Curzon Street, Mayfair. In Kilvert's time Mr. and Mrs. Venables were at 62, Warwick Square, where Francis breakfasted and dined with them. (Vol. 3, pages 43 + 44). But see who have moved into Warwick Square, to No. 57, in 1889 - Mrs. Venables's brother, Lt. Col. Richard Pearson and his wife Laura. Col. Pearson is also listed at 4, Whitehall Place, Police HQ, where he is senior Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

In Kilvert's time the Pearsons were at 3, Hobart Place, where the diarist stayed (Vol. 1. page 25). Next door was The Hon. Flora Macdonald, "the Maid of Honour". In 1889 she is at 17, Victoria Square. Kilvert thought the Hon. Flora "rather loud and not over refined" (Vol. 1. page 25). But Queen Victoria thought highly of her, for by 1889, the Hon. Flora has been promoted to a "Woman of the Bedchamber" - this in the section on the Royal Household. And in this section also we see the name of the Poet Laureate, Lord Tennyson, whom Kilvert mentioned several times.

A prominent Kilvertian name, which would have been in previous Blue Books, is in 1889 missing from 2, Mitre Court Buildings - Mr. George Venables. Our Chairman reminded us at the Clyro Festival tea that Mr. George Venables died a hundred years ago.

In the section of "Her Majesty's Ministry and Officers of State" we see that the President of the Board of Trade in 1889 was The Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart, M.P. Sir Michael and Lady (Lucy) Hicks Beach (country home at Netheravon, Wilts) are not in the Diary but of immense interest to us. They were the grand-parents of our President, Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn.

Do you remember on the morning of Addie Cholmeley's wedding "John Cholmeley went for a bathe with his nephew Lewin before breakfast" (Vol. 3 page 63) ? Lewin, 19 then, has become a partner in a leading firm of London Solicitors at 28, Lincoln's Inn Fields; his private address, 87, Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale. Lewin was a cousin of our Vice President's, Miss Cicely Cholmeley's parents. And Miss Cholmeley's great uncle is in the Blue Book also - a notable medical man, Dr. William Cholmeley at 63, Grosvenor Street.

Francis Kilvert used to call at 9, Wilton Crescent to see the Higginsons. They were still there in 1889, with Lady Frances's son, Lt. Gen. George Higginson, CB, listed as head of the family. Lady Frances's younger daughter, Adelaide, was



living with her husband, Owen Grant, Esq. at 9, Beaufort Gardens, South Kensington. This is the house where Mrs. Venables gave birth to her first child nineteen years earlier! (Vol. 1. page 146).

I wrote in the August 1983 Newsletter that Mr. Bewton in the Diary was really Mr. Charles Newton, brother of the Misses Newton of Bredwardine (Vol. 3. page 411). In my Blue Book he is living at 2, Montague Place, Russell Square, W.C. But now he is Sir Charles Newton, KCB., M.A., LL.D., DCL.

Not all the leading folk in Kilvert's Diary had a London address. For example, none of our Ashe, Coleman, Money-Kyrle or Baskerville folk have a "town house". Nor has that amiable Archdeacon, Lord Saye and Sele - but he is shown as a member of Brooks' Club. But Lord and Lady Hereford, Lord Radnor and Sir Joseph Bailey all have their fashionable London addresses.

Kilvert mentioned meeting Bickerton Cowper-Coles on 7th, October, 1873, (Vol. 2. page 381). The Cowper-Coles children were orphaned when still very young, Bickerton becoming head of the family when only 20. But he seems to have done well, his address in 1889 being 95, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square.

The Kilvert family attended the wedding of Teddy and Nellie Pitcairn on 4th. June, 1878 at St. Barnabas Church, Kensington (Vol. 3. page 395). The Vicar was a cousin of the Kilverts, Dr. Francis Hessey, who died a few years after the wedding. So there is another Vicar listed at St. Barnabas Vicarage. But "our cousin James Hessey, the Archdeacon of Middlesex" (Vol. 3. page 248) was still living in 1889 - at 41, Leinster Gardens, Hyde Park.

Very early in the diary, Kilvert "Dined at Mr. Crichton's, 11, Eaton Place". This on 27th. January, 1870. The Rev. W.J. Crichton is still at the same address in 1889. And his son, Henry Benyon Crichton of Clyro, is also listed at this address.

If Francis Kilvert had lived another ten years or so, he would have visited, with his wife Elizabeth, some of the houses in the Blue Book of 1889. Thus he would have renewed old friendships with folk we have also got to know well, through the pages of "Kilvert's Diary".

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SOME KILVERTIAN BYWAYS  
by Mrs. Constance Boake (Eire)

The writer of the Book of Proverbs maintained that there were four things too hard for him to understand - just as hard is the fact of the strange byways, with their coincidences, into which the study of Kilvert's Diary leads one. In Ireland we might call a byway a 'bohreen' - literally bothair - a road, with the diminutive -in- added - a little road. When I was young and living in Westport Rectory, Co. Mayo, there were two roads which might just as well have been called bohreens, so narrow were they, and still so far from even some of our less than perfect roads of today. About twenty miles of each road led in the end to one of those places of magic that crop up in every lucky childhood. They came to the long water of Doolough (the Black Lake) tucked in under the bulk of the Muilrea mountains. One road went south from Westport through the wide Erriff valley, then wound for a little along the north shore of the fiord called Killary, to turn north for a few miles through the Pass of Delphi, which the much-travelled 2nd. Marquess of Sligo named, as he thought it resembled the real one. And on a day of blue skies it does, a little. The other road brought you through scenery even lovelier, as it first travelled west along the southern shore of Clew Bay, with its hundreds of islands, and under the slopes of Croagh Patrick, the Saint's holy mountain. Of this district Thackeray wrote in his Irish Sketch Book of 1842 "Were such beauties lying upon English shores it would be a world's wonder; perhaps if it were on the Mediterranean, or the Baltic, English travellers would flock to it by hundreds". My road eventually turned south through the little village of Louisburgh, and over bogland, headed into the mountains again, to reach my enchanted lake. What picnics, what fishing, what paddling in the brown soft mountain water, what exploring up along the tumbling mountain streams!. And maybe

sitting and watching a shepherd and his dog bringing in the scattered flock from the high dark slopes above. The place was further invested with glamour for me because of my mother's tales of picnics there 'long ago when she was young!'..... on bicycles with her brothers from Louisburgh Rectory. A cherished letter from one brother later, writing en route for Gallipoli, states with longing 'Doolough will be lovely now'.

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And now I change direction completely, as it would seem, on my roads.....but bear with me! I have always been interested in the Canon Walsham How who in June 1878 so kindly offered Francis Kilvert the permanent Chaplaincy of Cannes. I realised in time, and with delight, that he must be the same Bishop Walsham How who wrote so many of the well-loved hymns that we retain in our Irish Church Hymn Book. We had twenty-one of his in the 'old' hymnbook of my youth, and kept sixteen in the revision of 1960. Notably of course, For all thy saints who from their labours rest; O my Saviour lifted; O Jesu thou art standing; This day at thy creating word; and that lovely hymn of lovely words which can never be sung with premeditation in an Irish climate...Summer suns are glowing. I also realised that the two small black Prayerbooks in our house, one with my parson Father's youthful signature in it, and the other with my parson husband's ditto...little books of Prayer called Pastor in Parochia - were written by the same Canon Walsham How. I lately obtained from the Representative Church Body Library the biography of his father, written by Frederick Douglas How immediately after his father's death in 1897. For any Kilvertian here is another 'lovely man', as we sometimes say in Ireland...a true Kilvertian himself without knowing it. He comes through as a most happy, loving, kindly soul - someone writing, again after his death, says 'unkindness to any person I never heard come from his lips'. He was an interested botanist. Children he loved, becoming known in time as 'the Children's Bishop', and his own family obviously adored him. He was a sound Churchman, but though interested in the Tractarian Movement was still anti-Pusey. He writes after reading that gentleman's Preparation for Confession 'It seems awfully presumptuous to set up one's shallow ignorant self... (the good Bishop was 72 at the time of writing, with a lifetime of experience behind him!) ...against such a man, but the 'never to smile except for children' shocked me, and I am sure that he is wrong'. W.W.H. did not care for much ritual, but there is an echo of Kilvert in a letter from his Chaplain describing him as being 'most particular about the altar linen. To celebrate at a church where the vessels were put on the altar with no proper linen always tried him greatly'. ('I was very annoyed at seeing the black bottle put on the Table again.....').

W.W.H. was born in 1823. He went to Wadham College in 1841, eighteen years before Kilvert. He achieved a Third at the age of twenty-one, one degree, to coin a word, better than Kilvert's Fourth. Being too young for ordination at twenty-one he went to Durham for a Theological Course, a place which did not in those days upset his sound C. of E. faith! He served two curacies, Kidderminster and Holy Cross, Shrewsbury. A letter records his going from the former. 'I visited several poor people yesterday evening. They all know I am going to leave, and quite pain me by their kindness'. ('The news of my leaving Clyro is spreading through the village. The people will break my heart with their affectionate lamentations'). It is from his letters that we get the best glimpses of W.W.H. His diaries were strictly confined to events, and as his son points out 'chiefly kept as a guide to his work so that he was satisfied that he was day by day doing as much as he had set himself.' He was a Rector at the age of twenty-eight, having married two years previously. Our poor R.F.K.! W.W.H. had private means, being the son of a solicitor, though with one clerical grandparent. His parish, in which he was to stay for twenty-eight years was Whittington in Shropshire, the borders of Wales and in the diocese of St. Asaph. Teaching in the parish school and pastoral visiting were always high priorities with him. Echoes again. From a delightful early letter comes another. '(My mother) would be amused to see me at dinner with a black cat on the table close to the side of my plate. It is a most unsnubbable cat.....'. ('Toby sits before the fire on the hearthrug, and now and then jumps up on my knee to be stroked'). The eventual Bishop was always a dog-lover, and when elderly often had his little black Schipperke nestling in his arms. His love of nature comes out strongly in the three hymns for the Seasons which I find in my old C. of I. hymnbook. The aforementioned summer one has, to me, very fine words. Autumn has its bending orchards and bounteous fruits....Winter remembers summer flowers, balmy hay, and golden ears but is not on a par with his best efforts.

During his tenure of Whittington W.W.H. took, for the sake of his wife's health (she was an asthmatic) occasional chaplaincies on the continent - Rome in 1865 and Cannes in 1877 - an interesting date. Another Kilvertian coincidence occurred during this visit - he met and became lifelong friends with 'the nice gentle Jean Ingelow'. (Penny Reading at Clyro on 3rd. February 1871 'I recited Jean Ingelow's Reflections'). Another of his friendships particularly interests me - that with Princess Christian, who helped the Hows with some of their charitable work. My mother was trained at the Princess Christian College in Manchester and the little book which records her c.v. has, on her obtaining her Special Certificate and badge, the signature of Helena, the Princess Christian herself, third daughter of Queen Victoria.

The Canon Walsham How of 1878 was consecrated in 1879 as Bishop of Bedford, a misleading title, as he was in reality Suffragan Bishop of East London. A tiny Kilvertian echo comes on the day he received his honorary D.D. in an unusual diary entry..... 'a perfect day, beautiful, bright and clear and Oxford looking its best'. In 1888, shortly after his wife's death, he accepted the offer of the newly-created See of Wakefield, in which he also served for nine years. Both dioceses were tough assignments, and he had his troubles, all of which he overcame with his commonsense, kindness, good humour, and many other sterling qualities. Another echo is his use of railways in his work - he quartered his diocese by rail much as Kilvert quartered his parishes on foot. He travelled more widely on the continent than just Rome and Cannes - his lifelong hobby of fly-fishing took him at least twice to Norway. In his devotion to this form of recreation there is more of an echo of Kilvert's father, rather than the diarist himself. One can't help feeling that the latter was not really keen! Of his father he recorded '..... at one-thirty the omnibus and my Father drove up to the door (Ashbrook). He went out fishing at Cabalva immediately'. R.F.K. accompanies him on many occasions, but once remarks, of an expedition to Llangorse..... 'to me the fishing was of very little consequence..... the beauty of the evening and the lake was extraordinary'. The Bishop's hobby, in later years, took him several times to Ballinahinch in Co. Galway. He had been in Ireland also as a young man on a reading tour with Arthur (Say not the struggle....) Clough as tutor. Many years later he stayed in rather more style at the Viceregal Lodge in Dublin, as a Member of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Poor. For August of 1897, after a tiring year so far, of which a tiny part had been the writing of a special hymn for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, he determined to have a happy holiday again in the West of Ireland, in a house large enough to accommodate a good many of his grown, and married, family at different times. 'His holidays', his son says, 'were always spent among mountains, rivers and lakes, and here were all three in greatest beauty'. But first the good Bishop (he had begun the endearing habit of closing his letters to his family with 'Your affectionate old father' or to his friends 'Your affectionate old Bishop' - he was feeling his seventy-four years) had to attend the Lambeth Conference of that year, which owing to extreme July heat he found exceedingly tiring. 'Rather seedy, and half-asleep all day' he records. On the day after his arrival in Co. Mayo he went out fishing with one of his sons on the lovely lake nearby.....yes, it was Doolough. Six days later he died, in the Lodge he had taken there, with some of his family, and his chaplain, around him. The funeral was arranged for two days later, at Whittington. They were twenty miles from the nearest railway station, at Westport. I have not been able to ascertain which of my lovely roads they took on that sad journey - by Aasleagh Falls and that fisherman's paradise, the Erriff river, where as a small child I was afraid that the surrounding mountain would fall on me..... or by Louisburgh, where my grandfather was in the twentieth year of his forty-five as rector there - and in under the holy mountain by the sparkling bay. Whichever way, Bishop Walsham How began his last railway journey from the station at Westport, and on the same line to Dublin which I travelled thrice and more yearly during the last war, on my way to boarding school and college.

It is astonishing how one sentence in Kilvert's Diary ('Palmer took me aside as soon as I came in and offered me from Canon Walsham How the permanent Chaplaincy at Cannes') has inveigled me into both strange places and well-worn 'bohreens' of memory. But forgetting these latter....if any Kilvertian wants an astonishingly interesting and good 'read' perhaps some ecclesiastical or other library could supply them with -

Bishop Walsham How. A Memoir - by Frederick Douglas How. First published 1898. Isbister & Co. Ltd., 15 & 16, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden.

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THE CATHEDRAL OF WORCESTER  
by Miss M.V. Noake (Worcester)

When Francis Kilvert visited Worcester on December 1st. 1870, for the funeral of his relative Miss Maria Kilvert, he came as a stranger, and was directed by a local girl to College Green, where the late Miss Kilvert, as a Canon's daughter, had lived in a house at the corner nearest the King's School. On his way round College Green, then enclosed with railings and possessing a few old elms, Kilvert noticed the Cathedral Tower, and duly commented that it was lately restored by Lord Dudley, and was a "grand rich object", though he went on to say that "its new grey sandstone was not yet weather - fretted or lichen-grown, so that it looked plain and bare".

He was probably unaware that he had come in the midst of the long period of Cathedral renovation, which had caused intense argument and dissatisfaction among the local magnates, the clergy and laity, and even the great and famous Gilbert Scott.

Kilvert, who was in the Cathedral next day for the funeral, leaves us no description of the interior: the chances are that he was so much concerned about the unseemly antics of the bearers, men of different heights who were unable to support the coffin properly, and were in frequent danger of dropping it, to look about him and note the details of the Cathedral.

Twenty years earlier, the Cathedral Architect, A.E. Perkins, had been authorised by the Chapter to carry out a scheme of renovation and improvement, very necessary after at least a century of neglect. Dean Moore Ede, in his popular history of the Cathedral, published about 1930, comments that in the eighteenth century the clergy were much more concerned about their stipends and their handsome Georgian residences than the state of ancient buildings, and anyone interested to see the state of affairs about 1850 need only go to the North choir aisle, where a small area of flooring and a couple of monuments have been deliberately left, in decay and thick whitewash, as a reminder of those days.

The Victorian era had brought a revival of the romantic spirit, and it had become fashionable to restore ancient buildings, and even, for the wealthy, to put up sham ruins.

An appeal was launched for a comparatively modest enterprise, sponsored by the Dean and Chapter, and in 1858 when the Ecclesiastical Commissioners took over the Chapter Estates, they handed over £15,000 to the fund.

(It is worthy of note that Miss Maria Kilvert gave £600 to the Cathedral Restoration Fund, and Francis feared that all her estate would go to charity, and his branch of the family would be left out, but in this he was mistaken).

It soon became clear that a very large sum was needed, and a public meeting was called, at which Lord Lyttelton was chairman, and the Earl of Dudley demanded that the laity be involved. A Joint Restoration Committee was set up, and like all large committees it produced the clashing of personalities.

Lord Dudley, fabulously wealthy from coal mines, and residing in tremendous style at Great Witley Court, offered £5000 towards the estimated £8000 for repairing the tower "because he wished for the removal of incongruous features". Although he was a munificent donor, he held strong opinions, and generally attached strings to his gifts.

In the Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society for 1978 there is a scholarly and highly detailed paper by R.B. Lockett, which shows that the renovation did not by any means proceed expeditiously or harmoniously. By the time of Kilvert's visit in 1870, Mr. Perkins the Architect had supervised the repair of the North Porch and also the Cloisters, through which the funeral procession passed on its hazardous way. A big appeal had been launched in 1864, and the famous Sir Gilbert Scott had been called in. His ideas were as elaborate and costly as Lord Dudley's, but it is owed to them that the finest materials were used, and their durability can be admired today. Lord Dudley, however, complained frequently about delays, and indeed the work proceeded slowly - Worcester was not the only place claiming the attention of the distinguished firm of Scott.



For centuries a heavy stone screen surmounted by the organ, like the one at Gloucester, had shut off the choir from the nave at Worcester. In 1865 this had been cleared away by Mr. Perkins, and the present screen of marble and metal was at least on the drawing-boards of Gilbert Scott and his men, though the Lockett paper, most thoroughly researched, indicates that it was set up in the year following Kilvert's visit, and was much modified, probably because of differences of opinion among the Joint Restoration Committee. The great reredos of coloured marble, rich gilding and semi-precious stones was in place by 1868, and this outstanding feature Kilvert must have seen.

He should certainly have come again, for changes went on for several years. New stalls and canopies were set up in 1872, and the handsome lectern, designed by Scott, appeared in 1873.

Also in 1873, the black and white marble paving in the nave, in Greek key design, was commissioned by Lord Dudley, who is said to have had it laid twice before he was satisfied. This again caused some dissent between the architects, members of the Committee, the Cathedral clergy and Lord Dudley, since the Greek key pattern was considered rather inappropriate for a Cathedral.

Kilvert was not passionately interested in music, or he might have been fascinated by the great dispute of 1875, when Lord Dudley tried to do away with the Three Choirs Festival because he objected to the Cathedral being used for a week for concerts, and to people paying for seats. He proposed to transfer the event to the Birmingham Triennial Festival, and did in fact cause a travesty of a Festival to be held at Worcester in 1875. This brought such a public outcry that it never happened again. Sir John Pakington, head of an ancient local clan, was one of those who vigorously opposed Lord Dudley over this matter.

Dr. Watkins Shaw, in his history of the Three Choirs Festival, mentions the alarm and concern felt in Hereford and Gloucester, as well as in Worcester, when Lord Dudley offered £10,000 towards the Worcester Cathedral Restoration Fund, and a guarantee to the charity of an amount equal to its annual income, conditional upon the Festivals being stopped. Sir John Pakington headed a powerful County opposition, with the result that enough subscriptions came in in response to the appeal to enable Lord Dudley's offer to be declined.

None the less, the Festival of 1875 was known thereafter as the Mock Festival. There was music by the choirs of the three Cathedrals, interwoven with the Cathedral services. There was no orchestra, no great oratorio, no world-famous soloist. Contemporary records state that Worcester shopkeepers, losing valuable trade, decorated their windows in black, and that the cabbies had black bows on their whips.

Dr. Watkins Shaw very fairly adds that there were strains of Clericalism, Tractarianism and Puritanism behind all this, and there was also reasonable criticism of the behaviour of many people during the oratorios.

Both Lord Dudley and Lord Lyttelton are commemorated by sumptuous monuments, designed by Gilbert Scott with marble effigies of J.N. Forsyth, in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral. One feels that Lord Lyttelton deserved a special tribute for his patient chairmanship of a stormy committee over many years.

The present-day appeal for the restoration of Worcester Cathedral is a very different matter. A century ago the aim was renovation of a neglected building: today, it is a question of strengthening foundations, restoring the great columns which support the tower, and making the huge building safe for at least another century, and this is going to cost not thousands but millions of pounds. And there is no parallel today to the likes of Lord Dudley.

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KILVERT'S DRAYCOT  
by Sidney Ball (Swindon)

The summer service will be held in one of the most interesting villages Francis Kilvert wrote about - Draycot Cerne. Kilvert showed eager curiosity concerning the people there. Draycot Mansion was demolished in 1955, but the church of St. James is still there, where it has stood for 700 years. Inside are memorials of people Kilvert knew or learned about. From his home at Langley Burrell Rectory Francis sometimes heard the Draycot church clock striking the hours two miles away. (Vol. 3, pages 53 + 201).

Kilvert seldom used the suffix Cerne, derived from the family of that name from Cerne in Dorset. The Cernes held the manor of Draycot for nearly 200 years, paying annually £7. 6. 8d. "to the King in chief". A brass in the church of Sir Edward Cerne (died 1393) and his second wife Ellen shows them holding hands, which I suggest signifies that Ellen was an heiress.

The Cerne family ended in the fifteenth century. Soon afterwards the Long family owned Draycot. For several generations their two Wiltshire manors of South Wraxall and Draycot went together until divided in the seventeenth century between two sons of Sir Walter Long. The division was to thwart the machinations of the whom Kilvert called "the wicked Lady Long". (Vol. 2. page 405). She was Sir Walter's second wife, a daughter of Sir John Thynne, who had grand Longleat mansion built in South Wilts. (Longleat is mentioned by Kilvert, Vol. 2. pages 279 + 376).

Kilvert saw in Draycot House the fire-dogs and fender "given by King Charles I to Sir Robert (?) Long". (Vol. 2. page 396). Although Kilvert was uncertain of the name, I think he was right, for Sir Robert was a prominent Royalist. Made a baronet by Charles II in 1662, Sir Robert was Auditor of the Exchequer. There are over a dozen references to him in the diary of Samuel Pepys; he is one of only about seven people in the diaries of Pepys and Kilvert.

When Sir Robert died in 1673 the baronetcy passed to his nephew, Sir James Long, another ardent Royalist. There were six more baronets, the last being Sir James Tylney Long who died in 1805, aged eleven. This was "young Sir James" whom Kilvert said had such a grand funeral (Vol. 2, page 393). His immense wealth went to his eldest sister Catherine. Kilvert tells of the great rejoicings when she came of age and into her inheritance (Vol. 2, page 393).

But whence came the vast fortune of the Longs of Draycot? Chiefly from the family of Miss Long's paternal grandmother, Lady Emma (Child), whose brother John, Earl Tylney, died in 1784, leaving his wealth to his nephew, Sir James Long, father of Miss Long. Among properties which came to the Longs was Tylney Hall in Hampshire and magnificent Wanstead House in Essex.

Miss Long's riches brought her many suitors. She being a small woman people chanted:

"Men want but little here below  
But want that little Long"

Even the Royal Family was represented - King George III's son, the Duke of Clarence was among the host of suitors.

The rich young heiress chose William Wellesley-Pole. Francis Kilvert tells how "the scamp Wellesley" contrived his courtship (Vol. 2, pages 394 + 395). Wellesley and Catherine were married on 14th. March, 1812, at St. James's, Piccadilly (a church which Kilvert in his time knew well - Vol. 1. page 26 and Vol. 3, page 248). Some writers, including Kilvert, have thought that Catherine and Wellesley parted soon after their marriage (Vol. 2, page 395). Actually they lived together for eleven years at Wanstead House. Catherine bore three children, William, James and Victoria. The rich family must have had some period of happiness. But Long-Wellesley squandered his own and his wife's money on horses, gambling, lavish parties and much else. To raise money to pay his mounting debts, he sold Tylney Hall and other properties. The fine furniture and treasures in Wanstead House were dispersed in a month long sale which realised £41,000 - a huge sum at that time. Wanstead House was then sold to builders for demolition.

About the time that her mother, Lady Catherine Long, died in 1823, Mrs. Long-Wellesley moved with her children to Draycot. There she had to borrow money from Kilvert's grand-father (Vol. 2, page 395). How fortunate that the Draycot estate was entailed! It could not be sold, having to pass from one heir to the next. Nor could the lands at Wanstead be sold. When Catherine Long-Wellesley died in 1825, aged only 35, the estates passed in trust to her son, William, then aged twelve.

Before his wife died Long-Wellesley had a mistress, Helena Bligh, whom he married in 1828. He treated her badly, too. They parted after a few years.

The three Long-Wellesley children were brought up at Draycot by their aunts, Dorothy and Emma. They were the Miss Longs whom Kilvert said often visited old Molly Cary. (Vol. 2, page 393). When the two boys grew to manhood their father induced them to live with him. Long-Wellesley's father was a rich man but dis-owned his wayward son. In 1845 Long-Wellesley inherited the family title, Earl of Mornington. For years he subsisted on an allowance from his uncle, the great Duke of Wellington, who made this provision for the sake of the sons. When Long-Wellesley died in 1857, the Morning Chronicle reported "Redeemed by no single virtue his life has gone without a flicker of repentance". No wonder that Francis Kilvert was told, when remarking that Long-Wellesley was not buried at Draycot "he was not worth carriage". (Vol. 2. page 405).

James, the younger son, died before his father. William, the elder son, became Earl of Mornington. Kilvert saw the bedroom he used in Draycot House (Vol. 2, page 397). This Lord Mornington died in 1863 - he has memorials in the church. Having been able to end the entail, he left the Draycot and Wanstead estates to his paternal cousin, Earl Cowley. Provision must have been made for Lord Mornington's sister, Lady Victoria Long-Wellesley, for in 1864 she bought Bolney Lodge in Sussex. She had, later, a house near Chichester and a London address, 22, Upper Wimpole Street. She died aged nearly 80 in 1897, the last of the Longs of Draycot.

Lord Cowley, Owner of Draycot House in Kilvert's time, had been for many years an outstanding diplomat and ambassador; his son Lord Dangan, a distinguished Coldstream Guards officer, had fought in the Crimean and other campaigns.

On Tuesday, December 27th. 1870 Kilvert, skating at Draycot, saw "a distinguished company on the ice; Lady Dangan, Lord and Lady Royston and Lord George Paget all skating, also Lord and Lady Sydney...." (Vol. 1. page 287). Of this interesting sextet, Lady Dangan was the daughter-in-law of Lord and Lady Cowley, Lady Royston was their daughter. The others were house guests. Lady Sydney was Lord George Paget's sister.

On 15th. December, 1873, Kilvert saw "a lovely picture of Lady Feodora Wellesley" (Vol. 2, page 397). The name of this elder daughter of Lord and Lady Cowley was really spelt FEODOROWNA. Soon after Kilvert wrote she married the Hon. Francis Bertie in the church where our summer service will be held.

There is a memorial window in Draycot church to Kilvert's friend Charles Awdry, Rector for 24 years, who died in 1875. He was descended from the Longs of Draycot. My researches further show that after Lady Victoria Long-Wellesley died in 1897, the "representation" of the Longs of Draycot lay in the Awdry family.

I end with a descendant of the Longs who has brought us together - FRANCIS KILVERT. Yes, although he did not know it, Francis was descended from the family in which he showed so much interest. In the sixteenth century Sir Robert Long of Wraxall and Draycot married Barbara Carne of Eweny in Glamorganshire. Their daughter Anne Long married Sir Thomas Snell of Kington St. Michael. Kilvert was eighth in descent from Anne and Sir Thomas.

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FROM SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE

There is to be a flower festival at Blakemere Church, August 26th. - 28th. from 10. 00 a.m. to 6. 00 p.m. Andrew Pope was vicar here from 1873-7, and the Diary records Kilvert's visit with Pope to the church, "recently restored" (27 December 1878). The village is some 10 miles from Hereford and 3 miles from Bredwardine on the B4352 road. It would be nice if a party of K.S. members could visit the festival. The Vicar, Revd. W.L. Paterson, is a well-known member of the Society. He has given talks at A.G.M's and arranged the Society service held at Madley ("Mother" church of Blakemere, which is too small for a service to be held there).

Alice Cowper-Coles, Mr. Sidney Ball informs me, was the editor of at least two series of Old Country Dances, published by J. Curwen at 2 shillings, the second of which appeared in 1909. She was the only unmarried daughter of Capt. Cowper-Coles, and her name appears in all 3 volumes of the Diary. Her photograph album was loaned to the Society by her great-niece, and permission given for prints to be taken of her family.

Mrs. Wingfield (Glamorgan) has sent extracts from the "History of the Barry Lodge", in which Bro. Lt.Col. C.L. Venables-Llewelyn "receives the appointment of Provincial Grand Master for the Province of South Wales (Eastern Division)"; and the "sum of Five Guineas is voted from the Funds of the Lodge towards a fund to provide a wedding present to Miss Venables-Llewelyn, a daughter of the Rt. Wor. Prov. Grand Master".

For members who live too far away to attend the one-day meeting at Bredwardine on May 20th. there is an alternative venue at Langley Burrell. Mrs. Payne and Rev. D. Copeland are arranging a Walk in the area (Mrs. Payne's phone number is Chippenham 652694).

Not from correspondence, but through a visit to Bath by courtesy of our Subscriptions Treasurer and his brother, I most warmly recommend a visit to the Robin Tanner exhibition, which was being shown there in April, and which is touring the country. His etchings were a revelation to me, exquisite, haunting commemorations of natural, country scenes, and especially of flowers. They inspired me to get hold of his autobiography, "Double Harness", and that too I found most impressive. As a North Wiltshire resident, he obviously enjoyed Kilvert, and tribute is paid to the diarist. But above and beyond that lie the dedication of a teacher to his pupils and the devotion of an artist to his craft.

The Sunday Times Hay-on-Wye Festival of Literature is being held from 26th. May to 5th. June, on a very much larger scale than last year. The list of those participating is most impressive as is the range of events, exhibitions and activities. A vice-president of the Kilvert Society, Rev. D.N. Lockwood, is leading two Kilvert Walks (at £2 a time) and Mr. Timothy Davies is the producer of Not the National Company's "Measure for Measure".

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