

WMW DIARY 1899

Sunday 1st January

Ring in the New Year. High Mass 1030, Incense as usual.

Sharpley comes to pay rent £720 in very good mood, quite joky. Buy Marcella of Polly for £35.

..... In afternoon walk over to Hawerby to take Austrian briar to Lowry (*Hawerby parish priest*) . In evening entertainment in school room after the Rector's feed a great success, very uncomfortable weather.

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Frost, roads very slippery. **Walk down to Thoresby and go to Grimsby for Sessions, Parkinson, Doughty, Brooks, Bannister, Cordeaux present, sit until 3pm. – a man gets 3 months for stealing a hen.** Come back to Thoresby with Parkinson and walk back, pass Parsons en route to Ball at Grimsby. Nose bleeds, very tired and hungry, not having had anything.

Lovely spring morning, - Maggie goes to Croxby, hounds meet there. I on Marcella go round by Job's Lane taking dogs. **In afternoon go to Yon End, no snowdrops taken at present. Johnson comes to value things etc. Plant 50 larch at Petterhills.**

..... **Busy all morning writing bill cheques, letters etc. Put down port wine. In afternoon plant lime and half dozen spruce at ugly gaps near road, also 25 larch at Peterhills with Maggie.** Wilson comes from New Clee for dinner. Go to Fagan's at 8.30 play cards etc. Hard white frost, clear starlit night.

Mass 8 with hymns, lights and incense in honour of Epiphany. Baroness taken to Louth, must be fired, most unfortunate. Plant at Petterhills, 100 now in.

Very warm, hot fuggy morning, Maggie goes to **Welbeck** field, I on Marcella accompany her as far as Barnoldby, Dr Fawcett comes to see Polly and rather annoys folk generally. **Holland** (*their gardener*) **very grumpy and has to be reprimanded.** Balderstone comes to lunch and stays afternoon. Binbrook Band in evening.

Spring-like day. Up to Mass **and Housel.** Take long walk with Rector round by Harry B's in afternoon,

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..... **Go to Lincoln to Guild's meeting at Palace and lunch with the Bishop who looked more saintly than ever, so hospitable and good.**

Magnificent morning. Maggie and Parsons go to Hull for pantomime. Go on Marcella and leave note on Harry B's. Tom Wright comes to lunch. Plant trees at Petterhills, 150 now total in. Go to Fagan's after dinner, Custance's (*Binbrook priest*) there, show stuff for blue chasuble for Lent.

Parsons and I go to Louth, George driving 'Marcella'. Meet Balderstone there and lunch at King's Head, Parsons going on to concert at Barkwith. **See Mr Ingoldby and pay my mortgage on Aunt Polly's money.** Get Punch bound, pay Miss Fieldhouse's bills also Parker's. Return in rain at 3pm.

Wind rain sunshine and hurricane. No Mattins. **Go to Rector and settle about income tax at last. Go to Yon End and get wet in furious shower coming back. 'Baroness' fired in afternoon, Greswell coming to perform the operation, glad it's done. G. very talkative as usual.** Furious hurricane at night.

Calm dull morning. Parsons brought back from Kelstern where he spent night, goes off almost at once to Thoresby en route to Barnetby for concert, 3rd night in succession. Plant 50 trees in Petterhills, rabbits been at them.

..... Hounds meet at Hawerby X-rds, Maggie goes. I go round by Boswell and back by Kelstern through Coates Grange to have a look at new stables built by Mackerill as he says new ones must be built at 'Yon End'. In afternoon meet Parsons with Cloe at station, he goes off again for music at Binbrook.

Chilly morning, attend Mass 8, pours with rain after Mattins. Evensong 6 followed by Mission Service wh I don't attend.

Extraordinary day, bright sun, thunder and furious showers coming over very black like April wind etc., Move henhouse and get hens all together. School inspector comes. Plant 25 trees Petterhills, very disagreeable. Ettie goes off to Mirfield to stay with Fred Ellis's.

..... In afternoon Maggie and I plant 35 trees at Petterhills = total 360 up to now. Begin to put old bricks into yard, Hen enclosed in wire. Pay Holland 2/9 for new spade.

Very damp and hot after frost, put 41 trees in Petterhills with Maggie, so avoid Dr Fawcett and Greswell's man, both who come during absence, In afternoon walk through deep mud and plough to Binbrook for Chrysanthemum cuttings which I procure in spite of the polite absence of Woodie or his wife, especially polite as I told them I was coming. Wind gets up towards evening. Maggie and Parsons at Tom Wright's party and arrive home about 1am, very drunk.

..... In afternoon trimming gooseberries and currants until 4.30, turns chilly, bright light evening till long after 5,

..... Plant with Maggie, 40 trees at Petterhills, brings number to 340, Balderstone comes for the evening. Parsons rabbiting with him most of the day. New causeway and road being made down at stables, great improvement. In evening have **planchet and sceance**, very amusing, not very serious.

Tremendous wind. Parsons and Balderstone go off to Hull in morning to see pantomime. Rector returns from Town. **Go down to trim gooseberries at Yon End, find snowdrops have been stolen for first time this year, must have been day before by tracks spoilt by rain.** Tremendous downpour between 2-3 like thunder shower. Go down to berry garden again after tea, getting very light at night.

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Chilly northeast wind, **up 6.30 and off to catch snowdrop stealers in vain, Go with Maggie to Petterhills, plant 40 trees,** go again to gooseberry garden lunch time, nothing.

Slight sprinkling of snow, gorgeous skies all day with terrific clouds, go down on bicycle to Thoresby, first time bicycle out in 1899, and on to Sessions, nothing very exciting on the job, get boots and pay sundry bills. On returning go down to see snowdrop stealer and notice some dug up, wait until late hour, on return find Bobby (*ie policeman*) in the house and hear of Maggie's escapade catching the man in the very act and following up to Hell Firs very excited. At last.

Up to Mass very hard frost gorgeous day, quite cloudless whole day, sun quite hot, finish trimming gooseberry garden. **Maggie out hunting, meet at Waltham. She quite the heroine after above escapade.** Go down to Thoresby on Marcella to get something at Broughton's. **Return by Grainsby, find two bobbies waiting for me, having caught the man at Waltham, found heaps of snowdrops in his house. Champagne in the evening and general jubilation.**

..... Plant historic snowdrops, Go on bicycle to Ormesby (sic) to enquire after Mrs Casswell who is very unwell, see Mrs Davy there. Plant with Maggie 40 trees.....

Very chilly, east wind. **Maggie and I to down to Thoresby in cart, en route to Grimsby, see Mr Parkinson on train, go to Police Court see the old snowdrop stealer Webb of Waltham who gets two months hard labour, Bennett and Haigh on bench.** Return by 2.10 and meet Parsons at Thoresby. Plant 30 trees.

..... Decorations of Xmas all taken down and burnt. **Plant 25 trees and prepare holes for the rest which Maggie finishes in afternoon, total 500 all finished for this year.** Ride in afternoon round by Boswell and Kelstern, return through Scallows woods, read, slumber and take whisky. Aconites out at last.

..... Discuss our Sunday Fund and address from Bishop letter. Walk uphill with Rector in afternoon.

Damp and disagreeable. Attend Mattins, trim apple trees etc at Yon End. Dennis Custance comes and rabbits with Parsons. Start for workhouse on bicycle but gave it up too bad. **Go with Ettie to Stock Furlong and get half doz good larches.** Cook away at brother's wedding. Boissier calls in afternoon.

..... At Mattins. Prot. Memorial comes which infuriates me much. Plant larches from Stock Furlong in gaps near Chapel, 8 altogether. Trim two apple trees Yon End. **Ride with Maggie round by Ashby and pay Bacon's bill then on up to Hell Firs, and tip boy and maid who helped Maggie in pursuit of snowdrop stealer.** Parsons goes to tea with Nainby at Thorganby.

Wednesday 1st February

..... After letters come in go down to Yon End and trim apple trees and yews on 'Top Path' etc/ In afternoon take primulas up for altar Candlemas decorations. No snowdrops out which is remarkable. The cook returns, **Maltby (Binbrook builder? Firm still on go in 1966 -) comes about new sanitary arrangements about time.**

Candlemas day Mass 8 hymns with incense, very nice little congregation, all candles lighted. Go with Maggie to Yon End and cut out some sycamores etc out of shrubbery. Ride round by Ravendale where I pay bill to Jackson's.

Snow which soon melts under bright sun. Bacon comes on business. Cut down ash and sycamore in shrubberies near road 'Yon End'.

Hard frost slippery. Busy at Yon End, shew Parsons how to manipulate censer. Cut up trees I felled the day before. Go down to Thoresby with Maggie with Chloe to catch the 2.25 train via Louth to Donington on Bain, driven from there 8 miles to Belchford see Domenichetta at the church, also his curate Bailey, and then on to the rectory tea and dinner etc.

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Very chilly indeed, blowing hard SE Domenichetta drives me to meet the 11.43 train to Donington station, pass Southwold hounds in full cry.

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.....Snowdrops out at last, very late. Lovely lilies of valley in greenhouse.

..... With Holland make out seed list. Ride round by Ormsby and take flowers to Mrs Casswell, and back round by Louth, comes on to rain cats and dogs and get regularly wet through. Tom Wright appears, Parsons returns midday train, off to Binbrook at night. Go to Yon End with Maggie and see the foreman and condole with him.

Beautiful spring day warm balmy air, tho high wind. Attend Mattins, find place for postman's shelter. In afternoon go with most of family down to Yon End, aconites a most lovely show. First crocus out, also first **pilewort**, violet also. Central African meeting under Walker in evening in School room, not exciting –

..... Dispute about George's wages, to be raised to 18/-. Ride round by Ravendale, Clickham and Scallows, very soar.(sic). Mother and I walk down to view aconites and snowdrops 'Yon End' Mother see Mrs Dobbs, fetch snowdrops for the altar and cense church. Wilson comes to tea and dinner. Read long accounts of church disputes in Parliament.

..... Walk with Rector. **Parsons' Gramophone most extraordinary.** Dennis Custance here.

..... Maggie hunting, hounds meet Ravendale X-roads, full cry through village about 1pm, **Postman's shelter comes at last, put up near chapel.** Go on bicycle to Workhouse, mud simply frightful, impossible to get back owing to block up of machinery, Twizgy Haxby gives a lift. Entertainment in schoolroom at night, Miss Ingoldby's of Louth perform, glad when it over. Parsons goes off to Thoresby concert.

..... Great fuss over the dinner party, Rector and Mrs Fagan, Mr and Mrs McSwinnny. Mother in a mood which wears off when the time comes. On the whole a success. Last night before Lent worse luck –

..... Attend Mass 8. Rector in new blue chasuble to match Grandmama Wright's frontal. Mattins and Communion at 11.15. Put twine round berry trees to keep off birds. Read evensong letters in church. Parsons away at Louth for Concert, regardless of day, most unseemly. Write to Ingoldby on question of interest due to Ladies.

..... Go to Yon End with others, get snowdrops to send away, I cut down large ash in orchard. After lunch ride, cut across from Ashby where I collide with a gatepost and hurt my knee very much. Parsons return from Louth, Gramophone in drawing-room. At Petterhills late in afternoon.

..... Cut down all the osiers in front of old House and get frightfully hot.
..... Rector comes in twice 2nd time to announce his departure for Somersetshire for the funeral of his aunt.

..... Driven down to Grainsby to see Burnham the Rector who promises to take next Friday evening service, not particularly prepossessing. In afternoon go to Stock Furlong with Maggie and get 2 larches and after tea to Petterhills.

Lowry reads Mass 8, no Mattins, Evensong and sermon (splendid) by Merrikin.

..... Maggie goes hunting to **Welbeck**. I on Marcella to Louth meeting the Southwold Hunt on top of Elkington Hill. Take my watch to Hall and sundry other things, get back about 2.30. Spend rest of afternoon clearing round young trees at Petterhills. Maggie arrives back about 6.30. Parsons new performance on gramophone.

..... Go on bicycle to Grimsby to Petty Sessions, the latter over in about ½ hour.
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Hard frost. Magnificent sun and blue sky. Spend morning at Petterhills among little trees.
..... Ettie ... to Binbrook, brings news of poor Mrs Burkinshaw's death, also of Mrs Finney. At Petterhills again after tea, lovely sunset.

Letter from Rector, £1000 left to him. Magnificent day after hard frost, clear warm and cloudless. Maggie and I ride into Grimsby rather a daring act to get Mother's present and return by the low road. Mackerill comes about the new stables. Go to Petterhills after tea, trees terribly dead. Read Parliamentary report on Bishops in the House of Lords.

..... Plant young box trees up ch. path through orchard. Send for Stones' Justices Manual, Ride round by Barton St, Hatcliffe and Gunnerby, pass Charles Burkinshaw coming from Mrs. Burkinshaw's funeral. Go to Yon End after tea. Hear of Poor Mr McSwinnery's sudden death in the morning, very shocked.
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..... **Maggie and I go to Petterhills, - Parks comes about osiers and jaws on about an hour, offers 50s per ton, £5 for work.**

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Mother's birthday. She has letters from Lou, Ted, Aunt Hargrave, Clara T. and Mrs Porter.
Champagne dinner in honour of birthday, gramophone music etc.

Very chilly morning. **Go on bicycle to Grimsby and spend from 11 till 4 in Court hearing three dreary long poaching cases in which John and Thomas Reinwicke were convicted also others.**

Wednesday 1st March.

West wind, warmer, **no rain, begin to need it very much.** Attend Mattins. Marcella goes to be shod. Spend morning and most of afternoon **at Petterhills, Maggie also in afternoon, finish 5 lines** (*presumably line of trees in a plantation, clearing out overgrowth over young trees,*) **which equals total of 40. Gorse very disagreeable to cut through,** go and view Yon End which looks wonderfully tidy.

..... **Mackerill's men come about doing up soft water tank.** (*rain/storm water tank outside kitchen door at Manor.*) At Petterhills in morning doing two lines..... Go to Petterhills again with Maggie and feel quite 'arrad' (*dialect, 'arred, = knackered*) with the old thing.

Fine spring day, dust flying in places. Ride to Louth and get watch from Hall, pay bill at Parker's. Get back about 3, go to Petterhills and stay there until about 6.30, Maggie joining me there. Do 3 lines, very tired at night, **Mackerill and me busy over the old cistern.**

..... **No water in tank, Mackerill busy doing it up.** Go to Petterhills in afternoon, only 29 more lines.

..... Walk with Rector in afternoon. Mrs Dobbs for tea.

Remarkably chilly. **Mackerill's people finish tank which has now to be left for 3 days at least.** Parsons restores my bicycle. Spend morning and after tea at Petterhills. Polly and Ettie call at Hawerby on Mrs Morcon who is unwell in bed. Charles Nainby calls in evening.

Much warmer. Attend Mattins. **Badgering going on in valley, also rabbiting, the latter makes me furious with Mr Sharpley.** Ride round by Hawerby, Ormesby back by Harry B and Top Barn. Very dry hard. At Petterhills in morning and evening.. **Very furious with Mr Sharpley after dinner. Compose horrible letters.**

..... Go down Valley instead of to Mattins, and then ride with Maggie as far as Swallow (she en route to hunt meet Pelham's Pillar), where I go on to Cabourne and Rothwell and so home. Maltby busy with Kitchen stove etc also requires decision as to Cabinet which I decide to be renovated anon. Go down to Petterhills. and get asthma therefrom.

..... **Bull lose in the garden doing havoc in morning.** Plant 3 new roses, Duchess of Bedford. Go on bike to Grimsby, roads and machine very nice and easy. Cut up **Elm** in Church field.

..... Cut up and get old elm out of road up near Church (by Desire). Go to Petterhills.

Lovely warm spring day, go to Petterhills, **Parks there cutting osiers. Mackerill comes to connect the pipes now cistern is ready for water. Baroness goes down to Thoresby in cart first time since 'firing' over 2 months.**

Ettie's birthday. Give (her) 'Treasury of Devotion'. Magnificent sermon from Custance on "There was a sore famine in the land."

..... Busy at Petterhills with Parsons, after lunch go to Workhouse on bike on return to Petterhills again.

Magnificent day. Busy at Petterhills, reduce lines to 81/2 soon finish now.

..... After Mattins and after lunch with both Maggie and Ettie finish at last the trees at Petterhills, jubilate, about sick of it. Hear of poor Mrs Lowry's death yesterday. Plant snowdrops and aconites in my spring corner.

..... Mass 8am, 'For Peace in the Church'. Mother unwell. Ride with Maggie to meet at Tows which does not come off. **Hear about Sharpley and Rabbits again in evening, most trying.**

..... **Business about rabbits and write to Sharpley about them, don't wish those in Pit touched.** Service 7.30 sermon by Hicks, Diocesan Missioner. Cut down Elderberry trees etc far end of pond.

Turned very cold. Driven down to Thoresby en route to Ely, travel with Hicks to Louth then on to Spalding where I miss Ely express, spend time fumbling around town and church. Arrive at Ely after another wait at March 4.15. Ollard and Newbolt meet me, go up to College and after tea go down into the fields to view Cathedral with sunset behind. See Canon Randolph last thing.

Attend Mass in Cathedral, sermon by Randolph. In afternoon walk with Ollard and Newbolt to Little Downham, Attend Evensong. Supper with Randolph, very good mood, tells tales. Attend compline, snow in evening, frightfully cold.

Colder than ever, Get up but too late for Mass, attend Mattins in Cathedral, and go round the grand old place with Ollard and Newbolt, Leave Ely by 10.20, get to Lincoln about 12.30. Lunch at White Hart, first day of Lincoln Races, go round Cathedral, snows hard and on arriving at Thoresby find it very deep, hard drive home.

Deep snow, walk down to Thoresby as it's necessary for me to go to Sessions. Broughton gives me lift otherwise should have missed train. Discuss new Court House and new Rota of Justices. Sit in Court with Brooks. Return by 2.10 to Thoresby and walk back, snow deeper than ever. After tea Parsons and I mend machine.

Bitterly cold, coldest day of year quite. Blazing sun however makes the bulk of snow disappear. In afternoon cut down trees near pond, and walk down valley with Maggie after tea, Church being cleaned, no services.

Frightfully cold though not quite so bad as yesterday, more snow nearly 6 inches deep. Sun very hot in middle of day, cut down trees at Yon End in afternoon.

Very cold. Grand sun which disperses the snow wonderfully in sunshine, walk with Maggie and Ettie to order flowers for Easter, see Marian Stamp. Visit drifts on Hawerby Hill cutting them out just like midwinter. Poor Mrs Fagan taken very ill towards night.

Mass 8am, Rector obviously in a very nervous state and naturally as Mrs Fagan in very bad. Cold thaw all day, no sun. Driven down to Thoresby and back en route to Grimsby to get "Valentine's Meat Juice". General commotion among the servants in the morning. General threatening of departure at **Mag (May) which were off.**

Snow practically gone. Mrs Fagan out of danger tho still very bad.

..... Cut down firs and do up Miss James' creeper, Mrs Fagan much better.

..... **Mrs Yates calls about cook who with Edith housemaid are leaving rather commotion.** Mother in a mood as a result of servants. Evensong "Way of Sorrows" 7 & 7.30pm daily. Mrs Fagan much better.

Very tempestuous. Smash up stones ch.ch on Mother's path, edifying occupation..... Poor Rector hears of General Fagan's death, his elder brother, very sudden. Mrs Fagan not quite as well.

..... Mother apparently unwell and listless. **Not at Maundy Mass as I never heard there was to be one, feel annoyed.** Parsons at Hull for his toes. Service very badly attended.

Good Friday. Miserable day. Attend Litany 8.45, Mattins and Epistle and Gospel, and sermon by Wilson. Also 3 sermons at 2.45 by ditto. . Sermon and Evensong Rector who took 3 hours at New Clee, Mother very unwell and hysterical, very uncomfortable day generally, '**Contretemps**' in evening, **housemaid and her young man.**

Saturday 1st April.

..... Flowers from Ravendale go on to Louth, cause great and righteous annoyance. Attend Mattins. Busy helping Ettie and Maggie with Church decorations, take up arums in pots, primulas and geraniums, Mother better. Beautiful cross from Mrs Jackson for Mr Jackson's grave. Write to Miss Jackson, Mrs Grundy, Sidney Cuthbert,

Easter Day. First Mass 8, 31 communicants. Mattins 10, High Mass 10.30, church looks very nice. Evensong crowded. Collections total £2 – 10- 5d

....., Parsons Ettie Maggie and Balderstone go to Market Rasen Races in waggonette and pair, eg Marcella and Baroness. Write letters and pay cheques. Take Mother's present to Foreman Dobbs, and go down Valley, Fumble about in garden and church. Foreman Elijah's daughter married, prepare for tomorrow's departure to France.

Leaves by train, travels to London, overnight ferry Newhaven-Dieppe, arriving 4.15am, then on to Arques for civil and subsequent religious marriage of his friend Meade to Mlle Dupresne, stays for a few days with his friends Galte etc, returns by ferry Dieppe- Newhaven 1.30am – 7.30am, awful passage, something happened to paddle-wheel, get to London 11.30, put the wedding in the ‘Times’ and ‘Standard’,(on loose paper in diary, handwritten note, “On Thursday April 6th at Calmont par Dieppe, Seine Supr. Charles Augustine Meade, son of Harry Meade Esq, Bradford Yorkshire, to Marie Therese Camille, eldest daughter of Monsieur Robert Dupresne, Manoir de Calmont par Dieppe,”)

Tuesday 11th April. intend to go to the Sale at Barnoldby le Beck but cannot get off partly owing to having to write letters etc, Cleaning going on, servants cautious generally –

Very chilly, hard frost, bright clear and sunny. Brocklesby steeplechases, Polly Maggie and Parsons go, write a lot of rot on the ornaments rubric, Bacon’s men very busy with churchyard fence, Fumble around garden most of day, commotion in servants quarters.

Terrible day, **Busy writing paper on “Changes made at the Reformation” most of the day. Parsons’ driven to Grimsby, I leave on bicycle about 6.30, arrive at New Clee about 7.45. Read my paper at the Men’s Meeting, find it a trifle above them. Sit and talk with Wilson, return about 12. Light goes out coming up Ashby Hill, meet Bobby 5 minutes after, such is luck.**

Another terrible day, cold and rain more or less the whole day. Horticultural lecture in evening, most interesting.

..... Ride to Louth, see Ingoldby, get back about 3.30, Marcella in very good mood. Wilson comes on his machine from New Clee for last time as he is leaving for Nunhead,

..... Mass 8, Rector in great worry at Mattins as Mrs Fagan very unwell, better later on.

.Mrs Fagan much better.

..... **Go on bicycle to Grimsby, Roads very bad going, meet Brooks boy en route. Stay at Sessions until 2.30, long case about Poaching, roads much better on return journey, settle trouble relative to my riding without light.**

..... In evening cut Miss James’ ivy, quite a business.

..... Ride bicycle round by Kelstern Slates to examine new stables there, very nice, take dogs, In afternoon ride to Kelstern and wait there for Sharpley to show him plans, find Mr Ballarchy here on return – make an appointment for Monday at Grimsby.

..... Ride to Louth in morning, **See Mr Ingoldby and settle up finally all matters connected with sale of South farm and begin again clear. See my bank book, £13 8s 2d in hand, Call at Mrs Somerton, and fetch Parsons new 21st present, gold crested ring.** The garden lecturer Smith comes in afternoon, very nice interesting man, lectures on small fruits in evening.

..... Write letters and examine with Maggie stables at ‘Yon End’, **Yews cut all round Church, makes it look so open.**

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Warm spring growing day after rain. In afternoon cycle to Grimsby to meet new Vicar and Cordeaux, about taking on Secretaryship of Spiritual Aid Society, take tea. Like new Vicar, not impressed with Cordeaux. 30 sheep come.

..... Write letters, see Elijah, and Mackerill comes about new stables, spend long time at 'Yon End'. Ride round by Swinhope and Binbrook, come back over fields from Binbrook Hill and Scallows, Clear out library preparatory to **Routout**.

Driven down to meet 9.45 to Peterborough en route to Oxford get to Oxford 5.30, go to Randolph Hotel, meet Mr and Mrs Austin, Meade there, and dine with them. See Dugmore about tomorrow's business and settle College dues at the Bursary and discuss keeping name on College books, £6 15s to College, £12 to University. Meet Ollard, comes into Hotel last thing and talks until late. Very tired, Mrs Austin Meade looking very pretty.

Degree day, breakfast with Willie Wigan, go down to Bank with Elford afterwards to Divinity Schools, great crowds of BA taking their MA, very impressive ceremony, Anson of All Souls Vice Chancellor, spend rest of day marching about with Hutton, Ollard and Meade, lunch in Senior Common Room and dine in Hall High Table, rather an experience.

Up fairly early poking about Oxford bookshops, Radcliffe etc, say good bye to Hutton and Pullen, Ollard sees me off by 12 train, get home by 8 train, great gardening lecture going on which I miss unfortunately –

..... most of morning arranging library, Parsons goes to Louth in my coat and gets very wet. Ride in afternoon round by the 'Oysters' and return by the 'Hams', **write for new pea-fowls**,
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Parsons' 21st birthday, Grand lunch, all family present bar Louie, Champagne. Walk with Ted to Petterhills.

Monday 1st May.

..... Ride to Binbrook to take boots to be mended, very curious experience returning Marcella most odd. Peacock very amusing.

..... Walk with Ted round Old House and down the Valley, he leaves in afternoon for Nottingham. Cleaning going on, magnificent old beer jug smashed at last,

..... Dining room being **May dayed**, so bike to Market Rasen and take train to Lincoln, order knickers and bike out to Brattleby take lunch with Arthur and Alice, bike back to Lincoln **take train to South Willingham** and bike from there thro' Hainton and Girsby to Kelstern and so home completing in all quite 36 miles,..... Drawing room prepared for the ordeal of **May daying**.

..... Archdeacon's visitation at Grimsby, Parsons takes George Robinson, I bike over too late for Service, am in for **long charge of Archdeacon about present troubles etc very interesting in a way**.
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..... Ride round by 'Job's Lane' and **Ravendale new road**,

..... Two peafowl arrive about lunchtime. Go to Yon End and fetch garden seats and tip Foreman Dobbs, put up barbed wire near gooseberry trees. After dinner interested with peafowl, very sleepy. Papers full of approaching 'Clergy Discipline Bill'.

Brilliant day, High Mass 10.30, prizes given away in church. **Do not attend Evensong but walk down valley to scare marauders.**

..... **Bacon begins to paint house white**, Attend Guardians meeting at Grimsby,

..... Read deal of 2nd vol of Pusey's life. Spend a long time pursuing peafowl, most trying, end successfully, ride in afternoon round by 'Job's Lane' and Cold Harbour,

..... Bike over go Market Rasen, roads very heavy and take a lot of work out of one, tried on at Trafford, get cap etc Then bike out to Brattleby, roads beautiful, get there about 1pm, stay there until 7pm, only Arthur and Alice at home, have very pleasant time discussing various things, Leave Lincoln by 7.50 train and get to Market Rasen at lighting up time 8.35, get home about 10 minutes to 10, Parsons arrive (*from London*) last thing at night.

Ascension day, Mass 8 with incense, Mattins 10.15, Mother rather unwell, House painting going on, pursue peacock which proves a most trying bird, attend Evensong and sermon, only ten people present.

..... Attend Mattins and christening, Louie and Lewis come over for lunch. **Have another most trying peacock hunt, which ends in failure, spending 2/- and ruining clothes.**

..... Louie departs after lunch. Go down to Old House with Parsons and look about in vain for peacock, also to 'Scallows', Ride round by new road and Beesby with dogs, Go down after dinner with Parsons to Old House, no peacock.

Mass 8, very few. Walk with Rector in afternoon, sermons dreary, time the R had a change, Maggie's foal born.

General Exodus. Ettie Maggie and Parsons to London, **two maids departed for good, also boot boy Luther**, Rector and wife and son also depart latter to his tutors. **Walk to Scallows and see lost peacock which can't be caught however, also see peahens nest with 4 eggs which fox will certainly get..** Very quiet and somewhat gloomy everybody away.

..... road very bad, bike into Grimsby to Sessions, Cordeaux, Sutcliffe and Carr present, over soon after 12. Bike back at once, stop at Waltham owing to shower which does not come. Ride round by 'Oysters', Great excitement, new peacock turns up of its own accord.

..... peafowls rather trying as usual, trees coming on tho' by no means out as yet. Sheep taken away altogether.

..... Peacock (new one) disappeared again, most tiresome, Holland's sons do the lawn, after Midday dinner ride to Louth to get cheques cashed, return by low road, Utterby and Hell Firs, painting of house going on, sheep return.

..... Clean bike, ride into Grimsby calling at Haverby. Meet Phil Morcom and lunch at 'Ship', take train to Habrough, comes on to rain, ride to Ulceby can't find Melton Ross give it up and return home by Barton Street, getting very wet, wind against one.

Very 'throng' day. pc from Mag, peacock at Swinhope so walk over and after 2 hours catch it and walk back triumphant. Mother and I spend some time preparing Red hangings in Ch for Whit Sunday, flowers on altar etc. Ride round by X-roads and Swinhope Top Barn between showers, practise organ and incense church. Feed animals etc, on legs without a break from 9 till 9pm.

Whitsunday Very few for Mass, Cummins takes service, I play organ in morning, Miss E James in evening.

..... Ride round by Gunnerby and Barton Street and new road. Finish book shelves, and clean bicycle. **New housemaid comes, wh causes excitement.** See **Fanny Ladby** about her renovations, very necessary –

.....Concoct and send letter to Mme Dupresne and write to Sharpley and others, Mow half lawn, slugs very terrible, poor seeds.

..... New housemaid seems a very doubtful success, The Cook comes in the evening – 'I wonder which' – **write letters to Ollard who is ordained Deacon next Sunday.** **Mackarill comes and we examine cottage for repairs etc.** Parsons returns home from Bournemouth. Ride round by Cross Roads and Scallows,

..... Parsons and I find the shattered remains of the poor old sitting peafowl after a fortnight sitting, caught by fox. Feel very much upset. Niobe to Highflyer. Painting proceeding under favourable circumstances. New cook fair at present. Peacock furious in evening.

Bright but awfully cold. Shut up old peacock and let young one out, In afternoon walk with Niobe to old garden which looks glorious in its bright green and bluebells. Maggie and Ettie return from Bournemouth in evening. Marcella runs into barbed wire and so incapacitates herself from going to Thoresby. Illuminate henhouse to keep away foxes.

Bright but very cold, fine and dry, lovely in sun, winter out of it. Busy putting up fence to keep creatures off the barbed wire, easier said than done. **Cook continues rather failure, peafowls tiresome towards nightfall again. Painting operations continue.** Marcella's ear still unfavourable at least for bridle.

Magnificent day, quite cloudless, out in garden about 5.15

Another magnificent day, much warmer air. Clean tombs up at Church, and they wanted it. **Cook's given notice to Polly** and Maggie go to Louth, Parsons to Grimsby, I take short ride round by Scallows, George goes on to fetch Polly new horse from Barnoldby.

Magnificent day. Warm balmy and cloudless, perfectly sublime. Hear of poor Mrs Charles Alington's death, not altogether unexpected. Peacocks still cause anxiety and amusement,

..... George takes 'Thunderbolt' to be examined by Gresswell.Everything getting baked up by sun. Invitation to St John's College Gaudy on 20th June.

Thursday 1st June.

Another cloudless perfect day, getting used to them. Leave home 10am for Belchford, arrive soon after 11.30, attend High Corpus Christi Mass, and then ECU meeting in tent near Church after lunch. Boissier, Hayden, Domenichetti, Outran Marshall and others, **return in 1. 25 minutes to WN, passing Parsons going to Louth.**

..... Ride to Louth on Marcella, Parsons on bike to see Ingoldby on various money affairs, get £20 out of bank,

..... Mr Walwyn Iles comes for lunch, Mrs Alington's funeral at Swinhope at 3pm, walk over, Mr Iles goes with Mr Fagan, very hot, tremendous lot of people,

Very hot, Mother Polly and self depart very unwillingly for London, arriving a little before 3pm, frightfully hot and crowded in streets. Don't enjoy the first experience at all, tea regular failure, go to Haymarket theatre, 'Manoeuvres of Jane', very amusing, **Mother continually nearly run over –**

..... After breakfast go to the Academy and enjoy the pictures, especially McWhirter and Leader. Then go with mother to Elliott and Fry, Baker St, lunch S. James restaurant, I go to Egyptian Hall, Mother and Polly to Military Tournament Agricultural Hall. Spend about an hour in Park, very full. After dinner go to On and Off, Vaudeville.

Cooler. Go into Park and watch riders in Rotten Row, Mother and Polly ditto. Do shopping, order flax coat Nichols Piccadilly, Leave by 4.55 train very fast get to Bournemouth West about 7.40. Go to Highcliffe Hotel and get nice rooms.

Stay in Bournemouth for a week, then back to London for a night – go straight to our Hotel Golden Cross, where our rooms are already engaged, Such a lot of luggage quite alarming,

Thursday 15th June then off abroad to Reims for a couple of days, and then by train across North France through Alsace to Switzerland, Lucerne

Wednesday 28th June back by train to Paris, very smelly and nasty after lovely Switzerland.

Friday 30th June, back to London, Golden Cross. After dinner see 'Pinafore' at Savoy, - a very charming piece.

Saturday 1st July, return to Wold Newton

Wet day. **High Mass 10.30, Sheppey preaches, In evening Merrikin preaches heterodox sermon, great row ensues.**

..... Examine and enjoy garden roses, coming on apace. intended to go to Workhouse but don't go. peafowls now quite friendly.

..... bike to Grimsby and meet Mr Iles which makes me a trifle late at Sessions only Bannister myself and soon over, get back for lunch, Ettie Maggie and Parsons go to Ravendale 'at home'. **Polly Mother and self settle up accounts and nearly go mad.**

..... after lunch go to Rothwell for Guild Festival, tea and **scones**, rather terrible service in Church 7.30, I carry the Processional Cross, grand sermon by Bullock Vicar of Grimsby, get back about 9.30, Ettie and Maggie much later in their cart.

..... Go to Miss Johnson's for lunch. Miss Holdershaw and Gracie Wright there, spend most of afternoon, ride hard on bicycles. **Fearful row in evening owing to my saying I was engaged, purely imaginary, - must try not to be funny.**

Magnificent morning, very hot. Tremendous row at breakfast. Rector comes before lunch. See Mrs Fagan who seems very fragile. Go to Rectory with Ettie for tea, begin croquet, **furious thunderstorm burst quite suddenly, terrific lightning and thunder**

..... Ride to Binbrook and back to see Birkitt about hay – flies bad. **Go to berry garden with Maggie for gooseberries, and view the havoc of yesterday's storm, mud and stones washed a foot deep all over road.** get lovely wild roses and honeysuckle from Stock Furlong.

..... Mow lawn for Holland who is picking the raspberries - Attend workhouse, back by 5, Grand dinner in honour of my birthday. Play croquet afterwards.

..... Read Pusey's life and fumble around. Mother in a regular mood, very angry. Play croquet and get beaten by the Rector.

Very hot morning. Ride bike to Grimsby and catch 9.15 to Doncaster via Crowle, get there about 11.15, and walk out to Walmsworth, get there about 12.15, **find Louie and Mrs W. Burkinshaw gardening, surprise them a good bit.** **See my jolly little niece, and much taken.** Lewis comes in for lunch, tremendous thunderstorm during the meal. Leave Doncaster 7.20 Louie and Lewis both seeing me off. Arthur Jackson called while I was away.

..... 2nd most important day of Louth Agricultural Show, Ettie and Maggie drive in, Parsons and I on bikes, meet Ted at show. Lunch in tent and hear the speeches, Heneage, **Perks, Rausley.** Enjoy jumping etc, good band, don't get home till nearly 9pm, Ted returns with others, Louth very jolly with flags and decorations.

..... George and servants go to the Show, I ride round by Job's Lane return by Hawerby, performance in the Park before Mr Harneiss, Go down to berry garden with Mother and Rector, play croquet and dine with him after.

Magnificent day, No rain, not a drop. Fortunate **regular domestic row on and off the whole day, Mother in terrible mood, everyone suffering accordingly.** Ted and Parsons go to Louth, see Ingoldby. I write letters and fumble about in garden the whole day. Cousin Clara comes in the evening from London, Ettie meets her at Louth, train very late, servants rather hopeless.

.....
Magnificent sun, terrifically hot. Ted leaves very early in the morning, Parsons goes to Louth and on to Lincoln. Busy reading Pusey's life 3rd vol. Too slack to go to Boissier's 'at home'.

..... Ettie and I got to SPG meeting at Beelsby, not particularly exciting,
..... **Garden lecture in evening in kitchen garden. Mother still in rather mood,**
.....

Very hot and bright, Take Polly's telegrams to Binbrook on bicycle with dogs. Busy in garden getting currants etc, sun rather trying. Poll leaves for London by Fish train. **Garden lecture by Smith on Strawberries, Rasps, and apples pears plums etc**

..... Up 6.30 helping Holland with roses. preparations for the advent of the Waltham Flower Show, Mag and self go thither on bikes, come back after ½ an hour of it and go off with Ettie to S. Margaret's festival at Hawerby, quite crowded congregation.

..... Busy getting fruit in old garden. Send of Spiritual Aid Society reports 24 in number. Begin to read Hook's life. Poll returns from London very grumpy. Mother's foot swollen up with bites.

.....
..... Mother all right.

Fine bright day, **Parsons and I ride to Market Rasen on bikes en route to Lincoln, I get upset clean off my machine by a sheep coming down Thorganby Hill, Parsons coming on behind sees the catastrophe. Just catch train at Market Rasen,** Parsons goes to his tailors, lunch White Hart. Spend some time in Probate Office, get home about 6.30.

..... Polly and Mother go to Louth, Polly's face all red with bites, goes to be prescribed to the doctor. Get currants in old garden. Ride round by X-roads, back by Top Barn, get off near Stovin's, hind shoe wrong. Tuckwell's and Fagan's come for tea.

Cloudy. In afternoon Ettie and I go to Louth to attend Mrs Robert Iles grand croquet party, quite a large and gorgeous attendance. Maggie and Parsons attend the Ravendale Bazaar which also seems to have been a good do.

..... **See Mackerill, bricks being brought for new stables, I examine new site.** (*whether this is stables at the Grange or at South Farm, the current workshop/spray store is not clear.*)

Fine and warm flies simply awful. Play croquet with 'dog' and have tea there, also Mother and Cousin Clara, Parsons meets Lady Mary Turner at **Barhath.**

Up and out 5.30, rain, go to bed again. Fine day. Holland binds roses and shews me how to do it.

..... Commotion about Harrison's cruelty to his child, most distressing.

Another magnificent day, brilliant with fleecy clouds in deep blue sky. Cousin Clara goes away to Louth with Mother Polly and Parsons en route to Bournemouth. Mag and I go to Yon End. **After lunch I go to Workhouse, take parachute (parasol?) on bike sun so terrific.** Cyril turns up about 6 – Molly Iles comes to stay. Preparing for flower show tomorrow.

Tuesday 1st August.

Tremendously hot and brilliant day. Go to Sessions at Grimsby, discussion about street at Cleethorpes, Return after lunch, Molly Iles such a hard headache cannot go to show, so Mag and Ettie go in cart, Parsons and I on bikes, New flagstaff put up near garden. 'Show' not very exciting, Binbrook contingent very great on the occasion.

Tremendously almost unbearably hot. Very busy all morning preparing various things. Iles come for lunch, eg Bobby Arthur Iles and son, Mother never appears for lunch being in a mood, somewhat incited thereto I fancy by Polly. They all go including Molly by the mail train in the evening.

.....
Mother Ettie Parsons go to Bridlington by the Mid day train, Cyril and his wife come by same train, Show Church and fumble around generally Valley Rectory etc.

..... Fumble about and get very bored in morning, afternoon Cyril and self drive to Louth, I to go to poor Cordeaux's funeral at Cemetery he being a JP, return at 4.15. Play croquet, Tom Haxby comes for dinner, play music cards etc,

..... fumble around with Cyril and his wife, **Cyril and his wife lunch at Swinhope and bring back information Mrs Alington (who has never met me) thinks I am 'a horrid little man'.** Go to Binbrook to see Maltby, Cyril and wife depart to Thoresby en route to Saltfleet. George goes for holidays.

.....
Up to Mass, **Low not High Mass partly owing to Incense prohibition, partly as I had to play organ,** Ettie being away.

..... Mackerill comes early on business.

..... Polly and Maggie go to Grimsby, I on machine, Servants have a high old time on and off throughout the whole day, and nearly drive one crazed..... Miss James comes for dinner, **Regular domestic row afterward, no bell answered.**

Magnificent day, brilliant day, Maggie goes to Saltfleet to see Cyril and wife, **I go on bike to Louth and back, have accident coming back and have to go to tailor's at Thoresby to get clothes repaired, Polly goes to Beelsby to hunt up cooks.** Alingtons call and cause excitement, play exciting games of croquet at Rectory.

.....

Magnificent day, **In morning Johnson puts up new blinds, or rather begins doing so.** (*The external blinds on the Manor?*) Try Rector's horse in valley, decide once for all it won't do. Call with Polly in afternoon at Hawerby Hall, Mrs Morcom out, Pickup's "do", don't go.**Grimsby Flower Show**

At which Holland gets 1st Melons 2nd in dahlia, Last day of housemaid, 3 cheers.

Magnificent day, **meet Mackerill and Sharpley at 'Yon End' to discuss position of stables, order Mrs Charles Smith's outhouse to be seen to.** Go to Thoresway and stay for Church, ABC and old feller and others all very pleasant. Return about 4, go out short ride, flies simply awful. Discussion as regards getting possible purchase at Horncastle. Annie Tootal and Parsons arrive about 7, prepare flowers on altar.

Mass 8. Play organ at both services and am fairly successful. Grand perfect day, flowers in garden quite gorgeous.

Busy writing letters most of morning, drizzling and rather wet for a wonder.

Perfect day as usual. Go down on bike to Thoresby, and take train to Grimsby, attend Sessions and lunch with Sutcliffes. Meet Maggie at station and go on by 2.40 to Hull. Meet Ettie in Hull and have tea, go on to Bridlington, about 6.50 in bus to Rockville Boarding House, Mother seems very well, go down to the new Spa in the evening and have music,.....

Fine day, much cooler, go on parade and quay and watch crowds, go out in boats, listen to the Band, Look into S. Anne's, have a bathe about 1pm rather late. In afternoon Mother Maggie and self take a boat and go round to Smuggler's Cave, go right inside very fine cave.

On parade in morning. Bathe about 11.30, very delightful,

..... go to Scarborough for the day,Get back by 6.15 train and go on parade, quite frosty and autumnal in evening.

..... Bathe about 10.30 then go on parade, see a good bit of Edith Porter and her friend Miss Meiers. In afternoon Mags and I go on quay and meet runaway horse, After dinner in evening Mother has curious contrempts in Cabinet and I furious about room being removed, Go to People's Palace and see a Variety Entertainment, very entertaining.

.....
Bathe 7am on sands, very terrifically hot and bright, bid farewell to Rockville. Mag leaves by 9 13 to Hull, Mother and I to Whitby via Scarborough, terrifically full. In vain try and get rooms at Hotels, Boarding Houses and Lodgings, Meet Louie and little niece at 3.40 and all go to Scarborough and get nice rooms at Pavilion Hotel. Go with Louie on Spa in evening, simply packed.

Bathe about 8.30 from Machine, new drawers very gorgeous. Louie and niece go on sands, Mother and I go to Filey and get little lodgings for next Friday after a great business. I come on by 2.13 to Hull and so on home, met 6.30 at Thoresby. Preparations going on for Missionary Do tomorrow. **Bright nights bring poachers –**

Terrifically hot, very busy preparations for Missionary Do, flowers tables food etc laid out under trees. **Archdeacon Griffin comes for lunch, very nice quite retiring kind of feller, show him church etc.** About thirty people turn up for the do, quite 20 never came at all who accepted, however Morcoms Alingtons Merrikins came, Fagan gave good introductory address, Evensong and lessons read by me, Grand dinner Rector and Balderstone besides Archdeacon present don't get to bed till quite late.

Up to Mass too late to serve, Attend Mattins likewise. Go down with Parsons and Annie to Saltfleet, Parsons got punctured and came round by train. Have lunch with Cyril Jacksons, examine old Manor House and sea which is rough and far out being low tide, get back leaving 5 to 6 and arrive about 7.35, very good.

Terrifically hot, fumble around, ride..... Marcella very fresh. Play croquet with Rector and get beaten,

Terrifically hot sun, write read and water flowers. afternoon Balderstone comes, Bike with Annie round by Cadeby Hall Autby and Thoresby, very fine Turner landscape visible on return journey. Come back by Beesby and valley. Balderstone gets off about 11.30.

Mass 8, housel. Heavy shower of rain after lunch, first of season.

Very warm and lovely. In afternoon go to Workhouse and District Council. I read shilling shocker behind **stook**. Dommenichetti appears about 7. Songs and whist after dinner, up to a late hour. Drains cleaned out, awful smell.

Magnificent day with heavy clouds and thunder all around, but not at Newton. Great business in arranging for Filey and Doncaster races. Play croquet, Maggie and Annie go for bike ride with Mary Morcom and I beat Rector in croquet doubles, very pleased. Bike with Domenichetti round by Cadeby and Beesby and valley after dinner, have amusing ghost hunt, go to bed quite tired out. Very amusing evening.

Brilliant morning, hear Mrs Fagan is worse. Dr Fawcett called. Domenichetti plays croquet, reads Mattins, and leaves on bike about 12, Harvest nearly in round by Swinhope, heavy clouds gathering rain coming up, alas!

Friday 1st September

Lovely morning, 'local' showers, none at Newton. Walk with Rector in morning and discuss his arrangements. Parsons goes to Filey. Annie and I go on to Thornton,examine ruins and abbott's house, church at Thornton Curtis, grand font, take tea at 'Nag's head' at Wooton, get home about 7.15.

..... I go on Marcella to Ravendale and through new road as storm seems threatening and thunder rolling return by short cut from Ashby over the fields, get beaten by Maggie in two games of croquet,

Up to Mass,..... very poor congregation, Mrs Fagan better

Lovely brilliant day, start for Mablethorpe with Annie, but give it up, wind too strong, so just go on to Louth and get money. Afternoon beaten by Rector in croquet, also by Polly. Discuss servants and various horrors in the evening.

Terrifically hot, perhaps hottest day of the year. Drive Baroness to Thoresby and put up. **Go to Grimsby Sessions Licensing day, all refused except Billiard license Laceby.** Go on by 1.20 train to Hull go on to Filey by 5 train, get there about 6.30, walk up to 'Digs' Abbotsford, Rutland Road, Mother Louie, Lewis and child well.

Gloomy day, bathe about 7.30 from the shore, having **bathing the** tops of my own for once. **Walk round the glorious rocks, help Mother and little Loo over the stones,** In afternoon go for sail tho there was really no wind, interesting boatman.....

..... Bathe as usual 7.30, sea very chilly. go alone to Scarboro,

..... Little Loo has donkey ride, leave about 2.15 after lunch. lose small luggage, very tiresome time in Hull, dash about in handsones, Get all right to Thoresby,

..... Mrs Fagan worse again. Send off peafowl feathers to Cousin Clara, Maggie Annie and I go down to Covenham, strong stern wind, have tea with Miss Young, and then examine the two old churches, S. Bartholomew dear old place, S.Mary the most horrible example of modern restoration I have ever set eyes on.

..... Askew preaches good sermon in evening.

.....Rector comes in evening, Mrs Fagan worse,

..... Ettie goes to Thoresby in cart, Annie self and Parsons go on bikes then by train to Burgh (Ettie on to Spilsby), we bike from B- to Partney where we examine church, then on to Spilsby, examine church and fine chapel of Willoughby, then to Aswardby, viewing Sausthorpe on way, After lunch with Short's, view Aswardby Church, Langton Church, Harrington Church, Somerby church and Tennyson's house, then back by Tetford Belchford and Welton getting back 7.30pm.

..... **Harvest got practically in** except gathings over and **go off on bike to Grimsby soon after 6pm for the 'Poor Law Conference' dinner at Grimsby.** Put bike up at Corringhams, dinner music and speeches goes on to an unheard of hour, I retreat at 11 and get home 12, very dark, return with Mr Turner.

..... **Rector very troubled about Mrs Fagan and small operation,**

..... Edith Porter comes, play croquet attend Mattins. In afternoon bike with Maggie and Annie round by Beelsby to Croxby, view the lake, rain comes on, both Annie and I get punctures near Top Barn, Pours with rain on and off for rest of afternoon, Take Edith Porter back as far as Boswell, get very wet.

..... Annie and Ettie leave for Dolgelly (sic) via Grimsby, Manchester and Chester, I meet them at Grimsby station and we go together as far as Brigg, then I go off alone, have lunch, and return examining churches of Somerby, Bigby, Searby, North Kelsey on my way back, pass by Nettleton and Binbrook. So sorry Annie has gone. Rector comes to play whist.

.....

..... first real autumn day, **trouble about poachers occupy me most of the day. Catch Tom Smith in pit.** Ride round by Lambcroft to try saddle, puzzled to know what to do about new horse.

..... Ride off with George to Riby to see horse of R. Tonge's, don't really know whether it would do or not. Three Tysons call much to our astonishment, Mrs Morcom, Mary M and Mr. M also call,

Very chilly with terrific winds. Play croquet with Rector, I and Mag against him getting beaten. Mrs Fagan much better. very bad again in evening.

..... After lunch bike to Binbrook, Mother and Mag drive there, examine Harvest decorations, been their festival very beautiful. Win Maggie in croquet,

..... mend puncture on machine, walk with Mag but don't spot poachers.

..... Settle about new horse and George goes over to Riby to bargain etc, Ride out about 2.15 and get caught on Louth road in tremendous storm, wait under hedge, and then as it thunders make a dash for home. Practise organ, Rector comes in evening as also Harrison for legal advice.

Very late fro Mass, play organ, walk with Rector round by 'Canterbury Walk', ritual discussion, difficulty about Harrison.

Piles very bad, Bike to Louth and get stuff from chemist. "Ne jamais content". **Motor car comes in morning. Great excitement. New horse comes and looks a success,** telegram from Teddie about shooting rather a fuss, write to Sharpley also about Harrison,

..... Bike into Grimsby, spend morning at Sessions on Smethhurst there besides myself most of time. Sign heaps of papers. Get back about 3. Write to shooters. Ride with George to Binbrook afterwards, try new horse, rather a handful I fear, however must stick to it. Rev's Lowry, Fagan, Askew and Tom Wright for tea.

..... Ride bike to Louth and see Ingoldby, fetch medicine for Mrs Fagan, Ride with Maggie to take letters to Twizzie and Tom Haxby severally via Barton St and back by Gunnerby, sharp shower and get partly wet as usual. George takes 'Quercus' to Waltham. Finish IV and last volume of life of Pusey, begun in Lent.

..... Piles far too bad to allow of riding of any kind. **Show Rector new horse, play croquet with him and Mag, made us most irritable by beating us well.** Write letters about shooters. Cut down little pink thorn between little lawn and gravel path. Grand Michaelmas goose for dinner, the Rector never turns up.

Michaelmas Day. Very late to Mass. Fumble around but don't ride either bicycle or horse. Seamus Coates visits Parsons. In afternoon Parsons and I play Rector and get well beaten again and get in quite a fury. He takes tea – discuss throwing out garden.

..... After lunch risk it and go with Maggie on Marcella to Barnoldby le Beck, see ABC and Mary Serjeant, See Harrison, Teddie comes in the evening.

Sunday 1st October

Not up to Mass, very painful posterior. Play organ. Pours with rain from 12.30 to 7. ..

Miserable day, shooting day. Teddie, Cyril, Harry B, Coates, Tom Wright. Bike to Louth and see Dr Greswell. (*thought he was the vet.*) come back by train. After lunch go to Petterhills and see shooters. **Get about 24 head of game.** Play croquet. Have good dinner, Mother in rather a mood.

Windy and very unpropitious for sport. Sharpley, Woodie, Cyril, Teddie and Harry B, ride with Maggie in fields and round Swinhope, Mackins now at Cold Harbour.

Regular sweetsmelling silent autumn day, Remain silent and see if my condition will improve. Louie comes around 4.30, Ettie returns from Dolgelly in evening, Pictures and books from Louth. **Whole family at home again, Ettie, Polly Louie Maggie Willie Teddie Parsons, Ma.**

..... Take Mother's new matting up to Church and attend Mattins. See Rector who tells me **Ennals has been diskined** and Dr Atkinson of Grimsby has taken over. In afternoon George performs on new steed in park, rather fierce. Ted and all of us for dinner.

..... Feel very unwell. Go with Parsons and small pony to Louth and see Greswell, says I have eczema and not piles, most reassuring., get hair cut, small pony goes very bad. Flowers been got for Harvest decorations.

..... Ted goes off early and Polly and Louie going with him to Louth with Marcella (who has rather a time of it I fancy). Busy most of day helping Ettie and Maggie with decorations, Play croquet, lawn terribly damp.

..... Harvest Festival, Missa Cantata and Incense 10.30, crowded congregation in evening.

Lovely day, Maggie out cub-hunting, George also on 'Quercus'. Louie fumbling around gathering up spoil to take away, leaves soon after lunch. I bike to Louth and take train to Theddlethorpe and call on **Clive Bellairs** lately make Rector of All Saints, see him, have tea, and return.....

..... BTM still very unwell. Ride Quercus for first time properly round by Cold Harbour. **Ettie Maggie Parsons and self drive into Louth to join Cyril and his wife to view Sanger's circus, very fair especially acrobats and wild beasts elephants etc, get back before 7, lights on carriage, lovely night.**

..... Attend Mattins, preparations for Jacksons progressing, ride round by X-roads and Cold Harbour, Quercus rather wild and unmanageable. George Holland away at Hull fair, get apples down. Mrs and Miss Jackson come in evening, Rector joins us for dinner – Polly fearfully trying.

Take Mrs and Miss Jackson round garden, Church etc, show them organ, frontals, crucifix. Cyril and Mrs Cyril come for lunch, Take Cyril down to Yon End, comes on to rain cats and dogs, get bottled in the old house, come back in rain. Cyril dashes off on bike after his wife. Music and photos in evening.

..... Mrs and Miss Jackson go off from Thoresby Stern very bad, go on bike to Louth with Parsons, see Dr Greswell and do sundry other duties. Maggie goes out on Quercus, Rector plays croquet with Polly and dismisses his Muse. Mr Nainby in very sad way.

..... Remain rather quiet as BTM rather bitter, though very sore. **Mathew Snell** away at York. Discuss intended throwing out of railings,

.....,

Lovely Luke's summer, **Clive** Bellairs comes from Theddlethorpe, bring and take him back to station. Show him round, After lunch play croquet, Mrs Frank Sowerby comes in for afternoon tea..... Stern very much better.

..... BTM much better. Ride to Thoresby and take note to Mackerill about drains, Quercus not going over well there. In afternoon call with Ettie on the Mackins at Swinhope,

..... **Men putting out railings also business at drains.** Maggie and I both go out, in afternoon see Rector and fumble over private accounts, **also make out list of apple trees** and start for Woodie's to get names of apples, give it up as it gets late. Walk with Mother in church field and admire glorious sky, Ettie and Maggie call on **Standfords** of Elkington.

..... Ride round by Job's Lane and Hawerby, pass Miss Tysons near **Nelson monument.** (?) Gibson comes for tea and dinner, and stays till 11.30. Magnificent moon at night. BTM not quite right yet.

..... Ride on Quercus to Louth, see Gresswell, Ettie and I walk over to Hawerby see Mr Harneiss looking very well. **call on Rector about school matters on return, also incense question.**

..... **Railings pushed out near flag-pole finished.** Polly in good temper again at last after a fortnight.

..... Up in time for Mass go 'Hound's walk' with Rector, get all apples in,

..... Polly and Maggie go to London via Lincoln. I bike to Market Rasen then on to Lincoln, and see Polly and Maggie off at GNR, order Norfolk and breeches, write to CJW, lunch 'White Hart', spend some time in Cathedral, see Canon Randolph. Terrible fighting in South Africa. Get back about 5.45.

Fine day, chilly wind blowing against one biking to Grimsby to Sessions, all over about 12.30. Ride out about 3pm round by X-roads, **jumping my first hedge without coming off, near shave.**

..... very busy planting bulbs all morning, 270 **hinds** all narcissi etc in front beds, quite exhausted, dining room being cleaned, lunch in library. Ride Quercus Ravendale and on Barton Street, very disagreeable unpleasant ride, swerved round up Ravendale hill at sight of bicycle, irritating me awfully.

..... Finish 'Via Lucis' a most disagreeable uncomfortable book.

Miserable day, raining most of day, **In afternoon ride Quercus, turns round sight of dog near Lambcroft, runs away with me, will have to be sold, too much for me evidently, awfully annoyed.**

..... Parsons and I go to Thoresby and on to leave Louth where I leave him and go via Peterboro and Northampton to Oxford, change stations and on by GWR with Wigan whom I meet at station to Bletchington, drive to Kirtlington vicarage, Buckley the vicar being my host. Talk with CJW up to a very late hour.

..... In morning quite forgot as there is no service that it is a Saints day. (SS Simon and Jude in diary). See round lovely old village and church and park gorgeous in its yellows and browns. In afternoon take train into Oxford, **see Pullan (Chaplain at former College) and discuss Church troubles**, take tea with Wigan's brother. Get back with Buckley to Kirtlington about 7pm, sit and talk to very late hour.

Bike into Oxford to St Barnabas, octave of St B's dedication festival, **no incense used after the Procession and Introit,**

..... Leave Bletchington station about 11.30, CJW walks with me to station. Walk round Oxford and lunch with Playfair and see Pennell, get off..... to Paddington..... take the underground to Notting Hill Gate and walk to 47 Clarendon Road, only Mrs Austin at home. Afterwards Augustus Dupresne and come in to tea. Long talk with Meade later.

..... Go in train with Meade from Notting Hill Gate to Charing X, leave him at his work 'Sands and Co.' and walk via Westminster Abbey (look in to see lovely new altar cross), St James Park, Piccadilly. See Mrs Cyril Jackson, also Cyril. Lunch with Meade, walk again about and catch 4.15 train from Kings X in rather a stew. Very chilly on arriving at Thoresby. Family rather morose.

Wednesday 1st November. *All Saints' Day.*

Up to Mass. A fare (*sic*) show of people. Have an awful cold, result of getting violently hot catching train then turning cold. Attend Mattins, write letters, plant enormous numbers of bulbs, crocuses and tulips. Maggie hunting, Meet at Swinhope, wish I could go. Miss Marris calls for rose cuttings, **Mr Charles Nainby of Barnoldby dies about 12.30** (*full name Mr Charles Manby Nainby, a forerunner of the Milligan-Manby's of Thorganby, and a trustee along with Casswell of Nth Ormsby, of Wright's Father's will trust*), been sinking some time. Cold in head awful. Read "Wood and Garden".

Gloomy but fine and very hot. 'All Souls' but no mention thereof at Mattins. Ride out on Quercus without any adventure, very nervous however. In afternoon busy with bulbs etc Make out list of roses for ensuing year. Read war accounts.

..... Cold very bad on chest, very uncomfortable. Pours with rain after hurricane about 3. Read and finish Wood and Garden by G. Jekyll.

..... Parsons prepares fireworks and illuminations. Cold too bad to go out so Parsons goes to Mr Nainby funeral 2pm. Rector calls in afternoon, commotion about altar flowers. Furious wind comes on towards evening, no fireworks.

Missa Cantata. Collections throughout day for Widows and Orphans of Soldiers killed, total £7 16s 11d.

..... Busy planting spring bed all morning. Maggie out hunting, also Quercus. In afternoon go to Thorganby to see Miss Marriss, pass Mrs Alington en route cadging for subscriptions (to 'Widows and Orphan's). Miss M. gives me 'Celine Forestiere' rose, also William Allen and **Cheshunt lighting**. Grand display of fireworks by Parsons in the evening.

..... Very busy in garden trimming roses and creepers on house most of morning. Send off £7 17s to Mayor's fund. Ride Baroness, a great joke, so safe. War news not very reassuring.

Busy in garden most of day, attend Mattins (being Octave of All Saints'). Finish trimming back all the creepers on the house, also pear tree and weeping elm near library. Walk over about 5 o'clock to Hawerby and dine with Mr Harneis and Cecil Morcom (the latter young personage thinks a sight too much of himself). Mr Harneis very well and very quaint and amusing.

..... ride Quercus going very well, pulling a bit near home. Mother and Ettie go to Scarboro, (down to Thoresby in closed waggonette) Bike to Louth to ECU meeting, a miserable small one in Town Hall. Greswell comes to operate on Ettie's pony.

..... **Call on Rector in morning and discuss 'crises'** (*may be the dispute over the use of incense in church and enforcement action by the authorities*)- Cook goes away on her holiday.

.....

..... Cammock brings roses delayed at his place since Wednesday. In a very natural fury with him. Bring in orange trees.

.....

..... Very late down to breakfast. Plan out where shrubs are to be planted. Great excitement as Maggie and my clothes arrive from respective tailors. See Mrs Fagan out driving in brougham.

..... After sundry blow up with bike etc arrive about 11.15 at Sessions fortunately Caton Haigh was there besides Jack Sutcliffe. After business read papers at club, view handsome new candles in parish church altar. Teddie comes back in evening so see him for his birthday.

..... Maggie out hunting half the day with Quercus. Very busy with Holland planting the long bed along the path in front of the greenhouse, entirely with roses, fourteen new ones. Put in a lot of burnt ash.

.....

..... Ride Quercus round by Boswell and Kelstern, seeing Caswell (*as above in comment re Nainby*) and C. Burkinshaw. In afternoon busy digging and manuring rose trees. Ted Mag and Holland shooting. Rector calls to say goodbye. Leaving with Mrs Fagan by fish train to Peterborough en route to Brighton.

First really white frost of coming winter, very chilly. **Ride round by Swinhope and Binbrook, intend to jump but fail owing to want of pluck.** Busy in afternoon helping Holland to take up sods and plant tree in new part of garden. Parsons returns from Pate's 'coming of age'. The cook also returns from her holiday.

..... Maggie goes hunting to Stainton X-rds. **I ride out and am run away with from Cadeby gate to North Elkington, return slowly via Ormsby and Hawerby – horse refuses hedge.** Bike to

Thoresby for sundry household things, return via Ravensdale. **Teddie and Tom shooting with great results. In evening ABC Burkinshaw joins the party – gambling, I lose 3/2d in spite of great care.**

Alas not up to Mass. Play organ. Cummins takes services. Put last bulbs in and plant primroses.

..... Busy planting trees till lunch, Maggie out hunting on Quercus, meet at Wyham. Bike on awful roads to Workhouse. Teddie out shooting most of day. Prepare for going to 'Town' tomorrow.

Leave by 9.45, Teddie driving to station then on together by Lincoln joining dining car at Grantham and getting excellent lunch for 2s in train. Go straight to Waterloo, stopping to leave luggage at Golden X then by underground electric railway to City – view Ted trying on his clothes at his tailor's, See Ted off 5.5 at Waterloo, Mother and Ettie arrive from Scarboro. Go to 'Flying Colours' at Adelphi.

..... Take Maggie's boots to Burgess in Regent Street. Join Mother and Ettie at the National Gallery. Lunch at the Florence, very cheap, 1/6 each. Ettie and Mother go to 'Belle of New York' at the Shaftesbury – I do shopping etc get collars and leggings after much ado. Teddie arrives back from Alton about 6. We all dine at Criterion 3/6 and then go to 'King John' at 'Her Majesty's', quite the most magnificent impressive show I ever saw – Tree splendid as King John, Mrs Crow as **Elinor** and Julia Neilson as Constance, all enjoyed it tremendously.

..... Mother Ettie Ted and self all go off to Westminster Abbey, see young German princes being shown over by the Dean. Ted leaves about 11.35 for Lewes, we go on to do more shopping. Leave by 4.15, come in for the Martinmas revellers at Louth, otherwise unadventurous journey, pleasant evening.

..... Busy writing letters and general business in garden and otherwise. I bike into Grimsby and see Parker of Ellison's Bank about "Grimsby Spiritual Aid Society". In evening amusing show of new clothes,

..... very busy all day planting trees in new part of garden, quite exhausted towards evening. Parsons and Holland also busy levelling etc. Earth wonderfully dry.

Up to Mass. Cummins preaches two good sermons. Manure and prepare lily of the valley bed.

..... Busy writing long letters to Ingoldby about the deeds etc in answer to his on the subject. I plant laurels and lilacs quite exhausted in the evening. rain wanted.

..... Bike to Sessions but only stop for meeting in Justices' Rooms. Read papers at club, get back soon after 1 o'clock. In afternoon bike over to Beelsby and call on Pain (locum tenens) who was out. Parsons performing at "All Saints" bazaar at Grimsby. Send out reminders to Grimsby Spiritual Aid.

..... Ride with Maggie, I on Molly, Maggie's mare, for first time, very comfortable too after "Quercus"! Very busy with letters to Bishop etc. Planting roses and operating on new part of garden until 4.30. Lowry and Askew call and have tea. In evening beautiful new picture of Flamborough Mother given me arrives, great business in drawing room rearranging them all so as to fit in the new one, looks splendid, such an improvement to room.

..... Mass at 8, Askew of Ravensdale reading it. Ride with George on Molly at 11, and jump Middle Bottom afterwards. In afternoon Mackerill comes. Very busy in garden till tea. Go to Sowerby's dinner party Ravensdale at 7, on the whole enjoy it, return 10.30, all seedy neighbours present.

Friday 1st December

Flag up for Princess of Wales. pours with rain at last in afternoon. Bacon cutting down sycamore near kitchen garden. Risk Quercus again just round by Scallows and Top Barn,

..... Plant out all the young rose tree cuttings in burnt ash etc . After lunch Byron of Normanby comes about trying Quercus but won't offer more than £45 to my £55 so he goes, a good thing.

.....
High Mass 10.30, two nice little sermons from Cummins, he and his wife at Manor most of day. Miss James and niece for supper.

Bright morning. **Hounds meet in front of the house, Lady Victoria comes in but in vain to see Mother, great contretemps.** Ride Marcella helter skelter. In afternoon busy in garden. Janie and Nell Haxby come for tea. **Above contretemps very distressing.**

..... Roads awful, in spite of which however bike into Grimsby and dash into Court, house in mind and heat quite unconscious of the august assembly of Sub Committee of County Council. Do sundry shopping and get off about 2.15, raining and very disagreeable. Lowry never appears for dinner and a good one to boot. Trees cut down, very upsetting.

..... Hear from Wigan successful in his exams at last, very pleased. **Busy in garden clearing away remains of large elm, cut down to give space to copper beech.** **concert for Widows and Orphans in Town Hall Louth, Cummins conducting, Parsons performing. Polly Maggie and I go in waggonette. Pitch dark, nearly upset half a dozen times or more both going and coming. Parsons returns with us, darkest night he had ever been out. So says George.**

Terrible day, very dark windy and awfully cold with drizzle..... cut down old fir,

..... Clean my machine and oil it well, incline to be rusty, didn't risk ride, Quercus probably very fresh, Molly being clipped.

..... Ride Molly round by Lambcroft with George on Quercus, practise jumping afterwards. **Busy in garden after lunch, planting elderberries as undergrowth in wood near roads (!).** BTM rather bad again.

..... Discussion on 25per cent marriage in evening.

Oh so cold with deep fall of snow, so uncomfortable and freezing hard to boot. No gardening, no riding – Parsons off to Louth for artillery dinner.....

More snow, gloomy and terrible, hard frost, regularly bottled. Nothing to do but read, which I do.
In afternoon walk with Ettie to return dinnerparty call on Sowerby's.

.....wind SE with more or less snow drifting. After lunch walk down Valley and over 'Chalk Pit plat', meet Ettie on road. Parsons away at Grimsby and Louth, in evening he returns and brings bad news of Mathew's division at the war, O very distressing.

Very chilly and frosty again, wind gone into NW expect it will stay there until moon changes on Sunday, Parsons singing at North Coates, brush snow all the way up to Church. Send pc to 'dog' (*Fagan?*) about chasuble.

..... Read of reverses at war. Row a propos of "Martha Snell". In afternoon Maggie and I at spinney near the Scallows cutting up the blown down trees of last year.

Terrific frost, busy in spinney near Scallows in afternoon. more bad news from war,

Slow thaw.

Still slowly thawing, but very slape. Drive with Cummins in brougham to Grimsby, **am sworn in as Commissioner of Taxation**. Lunch with Bobbie Brooks at ordinary, do sundry shopping. Attend Guardian's meeting, and walk back, getting a lift from Twizzie Haxby.

Slight frost making it very slippy. Then another slow thaw, all snow gone and roads worn through ice. Walk down to Thoresby with Ettie and Maggie and then on to Louth with a deal of shopping etc.

.....

Up to Mass, very dark, as well the shortest day. Planting various things in new part of garden. Put up flag for S. Thomas. Parsons returns in evening. Account of volunteers enlisting.

..... Quercus also unwell with attack like Molly had, very tiresome, small pony ditto. Parsons busy getting rabbits.

Quercus practically all right. Mother very excitable.

Ted arrives about 8 o'clock AM. Mass 8, present and in time. Church fully prepared for 1st evensong of Christmas 6.30. Procession, preparation.

Christmas Day. Mass 8, rather late. High Mass 11, Marriage at 2 of Marshall and Rook. Evensong 3. Very tired as also Cummins. He comes in for our Xmas dinner. **Letters arrive about 2pm, beat record**. Church looks very pretty with white chrysanthemums and evergreens and lights.

Terrible day, snowing and raining and thawing and freezing towards the end making the road a sheet of ice. No Mass, Cummins attacked with bronchitis and leaves for Grimsby early. In afternoon walk with Teddie round Valley, shoots one rabbit,

Tremendous white frost, Hang up flag of S. John, do woodman's work most of the day in valley and garden. Ted rabbiting in Fox Cover.

..... Stroll round valley and over fields with dogs. Teddie rabbiting to no purpose.

All frost and snow quite gone.

..... ground very soft. Ride Quercus George on Molly round by Hatcliffe and Ravendale, leaving rabbits at farms and fetching coal from latter place. After dinner go to Rectory and see Cummins who is hard with bronchitis. Amusing contrempts with Cummins and Thos Wright.

..... Cummins much better, read Mass 10.15, I served. Mattins 11 sung, Evensong and splendid sermon on Stones from Ecclesiastes. just off with Ted to Church to toll out the old year and ring in the new.
Year ends in dire trouble owing to this awful war.

Notes at front and rear of diary.

S. L. O. (*Ollard*) 13 Prospect Place Hastings.

MA Expenses College £6 15s University £12, Porter and scout, £2, Senior Common Room, £4 1s, total £24 16s.

R. Parks, Water Mill House, Ulceby. (*ozier contractor?*)

John Reinecke, Thomas Reinecke, poachers, *note* conviction confirmed at Quarter Sessions.

Constable of Waltham, £1/1s for Constable Supper at Cleethorpes, Dolphin Hotel May 30th 99. (*Is this a tip for the catching of the snowdrop thief from Waltham in January, or 'settlement' of being caught biking without lights at Ashby Hill Top on April 13th, "settled" on April 18th ?*)

*A record is kept of each day's bicycle mileage and totalled, which gives a **total of 1135 miles** to Dec 5th. being mostly 18 mile return trips to Louth and Grimsby, 22 mile trips to Market Rasen, the longest 40 miles from Burgh to Spilsby and back Somerby Tetford etc,*

In loose papers scattered throughout the diary

- a note from AC Custance, the Binbrook Rector to 'Miss Wright' declining invitation (to 'Missionary Do' on 23rd August in garden) concludes "Have you read the 'Abp's decision'? I am very disappointed about it. Logically it seems to me to put us back behind the Catholic movement altogether."

Lists of fruit varieties, perhaps made as a result of garden lectures?, includes – Apples, pyramids or standards,
Lord Grosvenor
Lord Saville,
Ecklinville seedling
Warmers King
Lane's Prince Albert

Bramley Seedling
Cox's Orange Pippin (dessert)