

Extracts from the diary of Grace Mackarness

1891

Charles Mackarness, Vicar of St Martin's on the Hill, Scarborough, and his wife Grace had four children by 1891: Margot aged 9, Hugh (7), Elfie (5) and Cuthbert (1). Entries in June suggest Grace had a miscarriage with some lingering complications; her next child, Guy, was not born until 1893.



Tuesday 6 January

Margot & Hugh went out in the garden & enjoyed themselves with the snow ... Mr Duthie (S Barnabas, Pimlico, formerly in Ceylon) came, & preached at Evensong – 7.30 – for the Ceylon Mission.

Friday 9 January

Matins. I gave Margot & Hugh their Scripture lesson as usual. I had Baby down, & the other 3 went out in the garden with their spades & made a snow castle ... I had an amusing letter from Mr King Salter in praise of Charlie's speech at the University dinner last night.

Monday 12 January

The thaw had begun & it was warmer. My dear husband left for London by the 10.45 train. I took Margot to see Mr Browne Mason but he did not do anything to her teeth ... Charlie telegraphed to tell me of his safe arrival in London ... Dr Magee of Peterborough was appointed Archbishop of York.

Tuesday 13 January

A lovely sunshiny day ... The study chimney was swept. In the afternoon I paid a few calls, & then went to a tea party at Mrs Heimbürger's: music, & I sang 2 songs ... Acting at the Lodge in the evening which was very good. I helped with the music. Margot was rather bedded: she slept with me.

Saturday 17 January

My dear Charlie came safely home by the 7.35: it was great joy to get him back again.

Tuesday 20 January

After the children went upstairs in the afternoon I hurried off to the Rummage Sale at Pirie & Oar's Auction Room in Castle Road. There was a crowd round the door & I had a great struggle to get in. From 3 to 6.30 I helped sell, & then came home, tea-less and grubby handed.

Thursday 22 January

Baby slept a great part of the morning, but I had him in the nursery before luncheon: he had linseed poultices on as he was very stuffy at his chest.

Saturday 24 January

Matins at 8.30. Dr Taylor came to see the children & ordered a mixture for them all & Elfie & Baby to have poultices on their backs, so that Elfie did not come down again after the morning.

Monday 26 January

Evensong, and then went up to the nursery: Laura had a headache, so I undressed Baby, Elfie, & Hughie. I could not stay to undress Margot as I went to S. Paul's Cocoa House to the Miss Woodells' Mothers' Meeting: some 70 or so present: it was an interesting sight.

Saturday 14 February

Mr Harland, from Sandsend near Whitby, came to see Charlie about the curacy: I received him – for Charlie - & had some little talk, & then he went away, coming back rather before 2 o'clock. I think he seems decidedly likely.

Sunday 15 February

Mr Swayne came to luncheon. He told us that Emily Drake is engaged to Mr Walker, partner in the Brewery, & belonging to the same sect – not baptised!

Thursday 12 March

More snow early, but it cleared up & turned out fine & bright. Hugh had a grant time digging in the snow in the garden, but Margot did not feel well & stayed in.

Saturday 14 March

Evensong, during which Charlie dedicated a new window just put in in memory of Mr Bodley's mother. Humphrey has measles – poor little dear.

Tuesday 17 March

Charlie & I went to York by the 10.45 train for the Enthronement of Archbishop Magee. Some rain. We called at the Deanery to ask & found a ticket for the Choir for me. Luncheon at a nice Coffee Restaurant. We separated at the Minster gate, as Charlie went with the procession. I got a good seat in the Choir in full view of the throne (though I couldn't see what went on at the altar) ... Baby had a fall out of his cot, but is – I trust – not really hurt.

Saturday 21 March

I went to try & find out the truth of a girl's story, but could not find the place she was lodging ... our precious Baby had bronchitis, & we had Dr Taylor for him. He was very anxious about him, though he did not tell me how ill he thought him till afterwards.

Tuesday 7 April

About 9 o'clock all the household but Annie & Sarah started off in an omnibus for the station, Mr Swayne seeing us off. Aunt Jue came in before we left. Marcia Legard appeared at the station & saw us off at 9.20 for Oxford. We had engaged carriages all the way & an omnibus at Birmingham so managed very comfortably. Freddie* met us at Oxford, but left by the next train. We saw the Bishop of Reading in the train & had a little talk. Alice went home. Alice went home. Charlie walked & the rest of us drove to 1 Canterbury Road. A quiet evening. Margot slept in Charlie's dressingroom.

** Charlie's younger brother Frederic, later MP for Newbury*

Wednesday 8 April

Charlie took Margot & Hugh out with him to the Museum, Keble &c, & they came back in a high state of glee.

Thursday 9 April

In the afternoon Charlie, Daisy, & I took Margot & Hughie with us to see numerous places, College chapels, halls &c, which they enjoyed immensely. I came home with the children on the tram, but Charlie & Daisy stayed to Cathedral.

Tuesday 14 April

Daisy & we two went for a long walk over Folly Bridge, by Hinksey, on to the hill, back by the Cumnor Rd, past S. Frideswide's Church & in by Osney. We were glad of chocolate at the Creamery. Mrs Dermer came to dinner. Music.

Wednesday 15 April Baby's birthday 1

We two went off by the 11.15 train to Wheatley. The Ducats' carriage was there to meet us. Arrived at the Vicarage we soon went with Mr Ducat & Mr Holmes (who also appeared) to the Church & saw the very nice window to Father's (C.) memory by various clergy, & the handsome brass put up by Mother. Mr Homes took C. & me round the park & through the Palace*.

**Presumably Cuddesdon Palace, where Charlie's father John Fielder Mackarness had lived when he was Bishop of Oxford*

Saturday 18 April

Matins. A nice warm day. Charlie had a talk with Laura & she was allowed to stay; she wept very much. The children all went in the garden. My dear Charlie went off by the 11.55 train to Chester to preach next day in the Cathedral. I went to Magdalen, but though Seymour* was out I met him in the High, & we went about together for a little. Nurse Burgess came about 2.15 & was delighted with Baby. Daisy & I went out together & ended up with tea with the Master of Pembroke & Mrs Evans, & then Cathedral, where we joined Mother.

** Grace's younger brother, Seymour Milford*

Monday 20 April

In the evening we two & Daisy dined at the Palmers' to meet Lord Selborne (to whom I was not introduced) & his daughter Lady Sophia Palmer. Very donnish party. I went in with the Warden of New who talked very nicely of Violet (who stayed with him for a concert) & Theodore & Reg. The Warrens of Magdalen spoke warmly of Seymour. Miss V Liddell & we 2 sang.

Wednesday 22 April

Matins at S Philip & S James' with Charlie. Children. Packing. Concie Butler came while the children were down, on purpose to see them. Luncheon early, & then we started for the station in two flys & left by the 1.50 for Knoyle. We had engaged carriages, except from Salisbury to Semley where we arrived by the 5.24. At Knoyle Father, Mother, Lionel, Theodore & Hup greeted us warmly. Sisters were away at a GFS* Sale of Work at Tisbury, & did not come back till between 9 & 10. Hughie slept (pro.tem.) in our room, & Margot in our dressing room.

**Girls' Friendly Society*

Thursday 23 April

Charlie had his first lesson in Golf in the afternoon.

Tuesday 5 May

Mai, Violet, & I drove to Wincombe & paid a pleasant visit to Ethel, Lilian & Harold Gordeon: Harold has just come back for a year from Ceylon – his first return after 13 years ... We were grieved to hear of the death of the Archbishop (Magee) of York of influenza & other things ...

Friday 8 May

Early luncheon, & then we left Knoyle after our happy visit, & after some time of waiting at the station left by the 12.58 for Sandhurst. R. & Nellie's brougham & a fly awaited us at Farnborough & we reached Sandhurst safely in time for tea. Nell & I went to see Father's (C) cross in the churchyard before the children came down

Saturday 9 May

Baby scalded his fingers with his hot bread & milk, poor little darling. He finally went to sleep, with scraped potato on on his fingers, & was very cheerful downstairs later.

Wednesday 13 May

Another glorious day. Mr Youens came, and accompanied Charlie's & my duet & one of my songs ... Arthur* came from Alresford for the night. Nellie & I went to a nice little service for communicants at S Mary's – the new Church. We heard a nightingale singing beautifully on our way, & saw it too.

** Charlie's younger brother Arthur John Coleridge Mackarness, a founder of Mackarness & Lunt, Solicitors, in Petersfield. In 1891 he was 26 years old.*

Thursday 14 May

Concert in the evening at the School, Charlie & I sang 'Secret voices', & I sang 'Sonnie' * 'This work-a-day world': Charlie also sang (to fill a gap) 'The little crayfish' & (encore) 'The little pigs'.

Friday 15 May

Finished packing. The nursery party (except Margot) started in a fly for Wellington College for the 10.10 train, & we 2 & Margot followed in the brougham ... So home to Scarborough, via Oxford (where Mother (C) came to see us at the station) & Birmingham: reserved carriages at Reading & Birmingham, which was a great comfort. Some rain & colder. Safely back by the 7.55 which was late. We had Baby with us during a good part of dinner. Mr Swayne came in later. The beautiful stoles given by Mrs Artindale were awaiting Charlie. Annie was gone for her holiday.

Sunday 14 June

In the afternoon I had to retire to my room. Charlie fetched Dr Taylor who ordered me to bed. Charlie took my boys. He read to me his sermon on Gambling – very good – before he preached it.

Wednesday 24 June

A lovely day. Mrs Artindale sent me some Devonshire cream. The children all went on the sands. Katie came in. Mr Scarth came & thought well of me ... Charlie went over to Filey to preach on the occasion of the unveiling of a new window. M & H went out after tea. I had the other 2. I read to M & H & then M read to me.

Thursday 25 June

Mr Scarth came early, & said I might walk about a little in my room: he wd not come again till Saturday. I had my things on all but my dress & was up in good time ... Margot & Hughie went in a boat with Miss Levick, but Margot was sick & they had to drive home from the shore & M went to bed. Miss Levick stayed to nursery tea.

Friday 17 July

A lovely morning. Two beautifully packed boxes of splendid strawberries came from home. Father started yesterday for Strathpeffer, to try & get rid of his gout. I wrote in the garden. Charlie & Mr Vincent had a walk in the afternoon & had a fine view of the 20 big ships of the Fleet coming in. Aunt Jue, Miss Chetwynd & I had a drive & then saw the Fleet from the Esplanade: the children were up in Mrs Fox's balcony ... Fireworks, which the downstairs maids watched from the sands, & we from the garden.

Saturday 18 July

The morning turned out rather showery, so the children stayed in (& out of) the garden, & could not go to see the ships steam away.

Sunday 19 July

Margot & I went to Matins, when Charlie preached on Religious Education, the collections being for the Schools ... A diamond ring was put into the collection as a thankoffering for a friend's recovery from illness ... There was a half sovereign in the evening collection in paper on which was written 'a thankoffering for the excellent sermon on education'.

Tuesday 21 July

There was some rain in the morning, but eventually Hughie & Baby got out in the garden & Laura took Margot & Elfie for a sea water bath, which Margot enjoyed more than Elfie ... There was some very good acting at the Lodge in the evening to which we went: Charlie read 2 pieces ('The Miner's Story' & 'Goody Blake') & I sang 2 songs. (Father, mercifully, escaped a railway accident, by staying at Perth).

Wednesday 22 July**X Charlie's birthday . 41**

I went to the Celebration: we had a thanksgiving for Father's safety from the railway accident. My dear Charlie had some nice presents & letters. The children had a holiday.

Tuesday 4 August

The children went down on the sands & watched their beloved niggers.

Monday 24 August

Dr Taylor came & after an examination came to the conclusion that everything had come to an end on that first occasion.

Friday 4 September**X My birthday, 35**

The day began with a thunderstorm, but it cleared & we had a fine day. I had a number of nice presents & letters: book, card, & (before) bed table from Charlie, stamp damper from the chicks, fern from Laura & Ada, & card from the other maids, amongst other things. The chicks went on the sands. Theodore & Hup spent the day at the cricket ground: Mai joined them in the afternoon, & later (after a funeral) Charlie.

Monday 7 September

A lovely bright day. Miss Levick reappeared & Margot & Hugh did lessons. Charlie & Theodore went by the 12.10 to Robin Hood's Bay & walked from there to Whitby, getting back about 6 or so. Mai & Huop went on the sands. Mai, Humphrey & I drove into the town, & Mai & I were photographed, midget ...Mai & Hup went to hear Grossmith with Katie &c: but failing to get in the 3 went to see 'Bootles' Baby'.

Cartoon of George Grossmith (comedian, writer, composer, actor, and singer) in Vanity Fair, 1888



Friday 11 September

A glorious day again. Mai, Humphrey, & I sat out in the garden & I wrote letters. In the afternoon Charlie & Humphrey went up to the Parish Church & the Castle. Mai, Margot, Hugh & I drove to the gardens at the end of the Esplanade & sat there: Mai took the children on the shore to sail their boats which she had given them: we all walked back.

Monday 14 September X Our wedding day

I took the children (with Laura) to Haydon Hare's & had them photographed again. Then all but Baby had their hair cut, & when Elfie's was done I took her & Baby home – of course driving. Mr Hill of Shrivensham (formerly curate of Wantage) came to see us & was very friendly – he was staying at Whitby. Mr McNaught came to tea & stayed so long that I got in late to Evensong.



This is probably the photograph – Margot, Hugh, Elfie and Cuthbert

Thursday 22 October

I went to the Celebration at 7.45. Some rain early, but it turned out fine. Charlie & I walked hurriedly up to the Parish Ch. For 11 o'clock service, at which the Archbp.* preached a good sermon for the East Riding Clergy Charity. Next – with Clara, who joined us – to Ch. Ch. Room where the Archbp. had addresses from Clergy, Churchwardens & Sidesmen. Then to a big public luncheon at the Grand followed by speeches. Then we 2 went home, & Charlie took Harry Giles' funeral at 4. I went to a tea at the Vicarage, where Charlie joined me later.

Home to the children. About 8.45 we started for the Mayor & Mayoress' Reception at the Grand, picking up Clara on the way. We took ages getting there, owing to the string of cabs. Heaps of people: the Maclagans had to shake hundreds of hands. Home about 11. Charlie tried to blow out the lamp wh. wd. not clip out, & it exploded. Mercifully he was not hurt.

**Presumably William MacLagan, Archbishop of York 1891-1908*

Tuesday 10 November

After tea I went over to the Church & put moss on my window: the moss had just arrived.

Wednesday 11 November

A busy day of shopping, flower arranging, & general preparation for the Archbishop's visit. He arrived by the 5.55, being met by Charlie in Mrs Artindale's carriage: he brought his man with him – a very nice man, who made himself very useful. Service was at 7.30 and the Archbishop preached a very nice sermon to a large congregation. There were a good many clergy, & all but the Bp. Of Hull robed at Mrs Harrison's. The procession came up the Church from the Narthex. The service went very well, & the Archbp. was pleased with it. The 2 clergy & Aunt Jue & Clara came to supper, & Mr Willson, a friend of Mr Thackeray's*, & Harrie & Katie came in to tea afterwards.

**curate*

Thursday 12 November

The Archbishop had tea here before leaving between 4 & 5: he was very pleasant and kind. Mr Stanbridge of Baynton arrived while we were having a tea party of ladies. He preached a good sermon in the evening but marred by tricks of manner.

Friday 13 November

Mother & I took the children out – all but Baby: we got Hughie a nice greatcoat at Rowntree's ... Dr Cox came & preached a good sermon, but took off from its goodness by referring to 'Your Vicar' in the paper he had put out &c.

Monday 23 November

Charlie & I went to York by the 4.55 & stayed the night at the Deanery. Charlie gave an interesting lecture on Bede at the Church Institute to a small audience including Lady Emma & me: the Dean* was in the Chair. Mrs Lloyd – the Custs' only daughter – was staying at the Deanery & also their sailor son, Herbert.**

** Arthur Purey-Cust 1828-1916, Dean of York (pictured)*

***Herbert Purey-Cust 1857-1938 – later Admiral*



Sunday 29 November

Mr Fletcher, taking Bp. Blunt's* duty, died in the vestry of the Parish Church. Charlie went twice to see poor Mrs Fletcher.

**Richard Blunt 1833-1910, Bishop of Hull*

Sunday 6 December

Mr Thackeray went elsewhere to luncheon, at which I was indignant!

Saturday 12 December

Matins. Margot & Hughie went out into the garden, but Elfie stayed in for lack of boots mended! Sunday lesson. Charlie & I had a brisk walk up Oliver's Mt. & back before luncheon. At 2.30 we went to the Choir Vestry for the presentation of a testimonial of £27-3-0 to Mr. Finch, which he gave back to the Church to be used for filling one of the remaining windows with stained glass. Sleet & snow came on. I went into the town & then to tea with the Bowers. I was rather wet & didn't go to Evensong.

Monday 14 December

Rainy early but it cleared later. Dr Godfrey (in Dr Taylor's absence) came to see Elfie whose toes turn in: he thought there was nothing really wrong, but ordered warmer underclothing.

Thursday 17 December

Matins. A lovely day, & the children went out twice I shopped. Religious Examin'tn of the school after which Mr Barry came to luncheon. Shopping & calls into the afternoon. Charlie had his Communicants class. Evensong. The Dean of York came by the 5.55, & we dined early before the Grammar School Prizegiving at 8: Aunt Jue & Mr Stapleton came to dinner. The prizegiving went off very well, only the Dean's speech was much too long (though very good): music from the choir: a crammed room. Mr White & Mr Thackeray came to tea afterwards.

Friday 18 December

A fine morning. Parcel from Freddie & Amy* & a basket from Oxford arrived.

**Frederic Mackarness and his wife*

Saturday 19 December

Elfie was not well & stayed in the nightnursery all day.

Tuesday 22 December

Cards, paying household books &c. I helped in the beginning part of the decorations but did not go again. In the afternoon I went to a Sale of work at All Saints' School & then into the town for more shopping. Evensong. After Baby went to bed the other children & I went down to open the Knoyle hamper – great delight to all. I went to some good Amateur Theatricals at the Londesborough with Katie, Miss Thompson, & Lucy Thompson.

Wednesday 23 December

A busy day, doing up cards, writing &c. Charlie had to be in Church a great deal. In the afternoon I went down the town for still more shopping ... All the children & I had a stir at the Christmas pudding.

Thursday 24 December

I trudged round with a pile of cards & parcels, including a plant ... Parcels came in at various times.

Friday 25 December

Fine but very cold ... Dear Margot collapsed on to the floor before breakfast & was sick & wretched. She went to bed again after a time, & got better by degrees. I sat with her at intervals & did not go to Matins. Present & card opening on & off all day! Elfie & Baby had dinner downstairs. Mr Thackeray came to luncheon, & Aunt J. & K to tea after the Xmas tree (to which Mr Th. & Miss Levick came): we had it in the night nursery. Evensong at 5 with pretty carols. A nice quiet evening over our things.

Wednesday 30 December

After luncheon I went to help in a Rummage Sale for the Girls' Lodging House, held at Duggleby & Moody's Auction Rooms: the Hutchinsons picked me up in their fly. Terrible squash part of the time. Home by 4.40 or so, thinking it was an hour later! At 6 the choirboys arrived to have tea & spend the evening: Katie came in later to help. They left about 9.30 having much enjoyed themselves. Our chicks were there at first & were very happy.