

Testimonial to W^m Curtis.

BLETSOE RECTORY,
BEDFORD.

I have great pleasure in giving a testimonial to one who has worked with me & for me for nearly 14 years. During all that time William Curtis has been my gardener & he has always done his best for my interests in the most ungrudging spirit. Our garden has for years been the admiration of all who have seen it from far or near. Curtis has never lost the freshness of his early keenness on his work; he has taken a genuine pride in the garden, & has willingly

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Given all his time to make & keep it beautiful. He had no early training, but his zeal & experience have made him capable of undertaking a certain amount of glass, & also of all forms of outdoor gardening. With a little direction he can be trusted to take charge of a large place. He has always been trustworthy, pleasant to deal with, & considerate towards the boys & lads

who have worked under him. He is also capable of taking charge of a horse & cart; he always managed my pigs excellently, & looked after my poultry. He has some little knowledge of & taste for Engineering & has been useful in dealing with a hydraulic ram wh. supplied our water. But above all Curtis is a sincerely good man, whose religion makes his life & character true & admirable.
Feb. 19, 1913. R. H. Moss.

Testimonial for William Curtis from Rev Reginald Heber Moss, Rector of Bletsoe 1899-1913, dated 1913

Vere Cottage,
West Road.
March 13. Bridport.

My dear Curtis,

I had a pleasant surprise a few days ago in the shape of a letter from Miss Katie Champion, giving me a lot of news of local interest, & enclosing a newspaper cutting of your Golden Wedding.

I wish I had known before-hand so that I might have sent you a word of greeting on the great day.

Anyhow please accept at this late hour most hearty congratulations to you both from both of us.

The cutting gave an excellent picture of you

in the belfry in which you have given such splendid & loyal service to the church for over half a century. How I should love to come over to Bletsoe & see you & any others who would still remember us, but we have no car & Dorset is further from Bletsoe than any of our former homes. I must say we have more comforts & conveniences here than ever before. This cottage is very comfortable & warm & our sitting room here is more generally admired than any previous room.

We are just a mile from Bridport & we have a bus into & out of the town every hour. We have electric light everywhere, electric cooker & heating apparatus, telephone, &c. So we are really rather spoilt old folks. Moreover we have more friends here than ever before, & the scenery is lovely, & we have the sea only a mile away.

I still take a number of Sunday services in this parish & other neighbouring churches: so we are not idle.

Of a number of my birthday letters 6 were from former parishioners of Comb.

I remember how you used always to make your first sowing of peas on Feb. 24: do you keep that up. I wonder.

Miss Katie tells me our former Rectory has got some new owners who are church people, & I know you must be pleased at that.

M^r. Moss joins me in affectionate greetings to you & your work.

Yours sincerely

R. H. Moss.

Letter to William Curtis from the Rev R H Moss on the occasion of WC's Golden Wedding, 1950