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“SUNG OUTSIDE THE HOME OF THE DECEASED” A NOTE ON FUNERAL HYMNS IN BALLAUGH *

William Brew, of Frowde’s Croft in Ballaugh passed away in 1949. The *Ramsey Courier* reported that ‘[t]he hymn “O God our help in ages past”, was sung outside the home of the deceased and “Abide with me” was sung in Ballaugh Church.’¹ Earlier in 1925, the *Ramsey Courier* carried a mention of the funeral of a Mrs Kinrade of Sulby Glen who was interred at Ballaugh: ‘Outside the door of her house at “Killabregga,” Mr John Killip (Clenagh) announced the hymn, “Jesu, Lover,” [...]’ At Ballaugh Old Church itself, ‘the Rector of Ballaugh conducted a service, when the hymn, “Rock of Ages,” was feelingly sung by those present.’² This was clearly a common practice at one time in Ballaugh and as ever one wonders if it took place in other parishes as well. It is interesting, however, to see that whereas Kinrade lived in Lezayre she was buried in Ballaugh and this suggests that it may have been a particular practice for people born and buried in the parish.

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REFERENCES

- Anon, “The Late Mrs Kinrade,” *Ramsey Courier* 15 May 1925, 7d.
——, “Funeral of Mr W.A. Brew,” *Ramsey Courier* 23 September 1949, 5c.



* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “Sung outside the home of the deceased.’ A Note on Funeral Hymns in Ballaugh,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* May (2017), [23]. Reproduced here with sources.

¹ “Funeral of Mr W.A. Brew,” *Ramsey Courier* 23 September 1949, 5c.

² “The Late Mrs Kinrade,” *Ramsey Courier* 15 May 1925, 7d.