

The writer of this letter appears to be Jane Meynell née Young, 1822-92, younger sister of Mary Anne Mackarness. (According to ancestry.co.uk, their mother Sibella Young née Fleming died in 1823 when the girls were small, so it's not clear who the 'Mother' receiving this letter was.)

Fauls.

Monday [no date or envelope]

My darling Mother,

I fear you will think me very troublesome about my Buttys, but I think we shall not do better than secure Mary Oakden, as I feel I know her, & of course would gladly take an interest in her poor girl, so if you really think she would suit us, & is trustworthy in every way (as she will have the care of everything) would you please get her direction from Zillah, & post the inclosed. I cannot recollect the name of the people at Derby with whom she is, who took Beeland's business. I feel sure she & Oakley our man, will make a match of it, but that will probably come off whoever we have, & Henry wants him to get married. I hope you have better accounts of dear Mr Watts Russell **, it is terribly cold again, with a terrific wind & snow storms, I am never warm but under the duvet in bed! & long more than ever to be a dormus! - Yesterday it was awful, we could neither open or shut the front door. The A.D.*** has just brought up such a queer man to see the house**** with a red wig, a still redder nose, & black splodshes on his face, he lives somewhere nr. Shrewsbury, & is going to build a house on the top of a hill, & is dreadfully vulgar, with the buttons all off his coat & a clergyman, but I'm thankful he is not near us, the A.D. does get hold of such queer creatures. I am writing in a hurry, so excuse this messy letter, with dearest love to you all & many kisses to my darling Johnny. I am ever yr. most loving*

Jenny

*Jenny's husband, the Rev. Henry Meynell, was the first incumbent of Fauls Church (consecrated 1856).

**Jesse Watts Russell, squire of Ilam Hall in Staffordshire. Mary Anne's husband the Rev. George Mackarness, later Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, was Vicar of Ilam. 'Mother' may have lived or been staying with them.

***Probably Archdeacon John Allen of Salop 1810-1886, also Vicar of Prees, the driving force behind the building of Fauls church and vicarage.

**** 'the house' – the newly built Fauls Parsonage?

Faults.

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