Poem for today

My Father's Shakespeare

From *A Triumphant Yes* by Wendy Cope

My father must have bought it second-hand
Inscribed "To R.S.Elwyn" – who was he?
Published 1890, leather-bound,
In 1961 passed on to me,
November 6th. How old was I? Sixteen,
Doing A-level in English Lit.,
In love with Keats and getting very keen
On William Shakespeare, I was thrilled with it,
This gift, glad then, as now, to think
I had been chosen as the keeper of
My father's Shakespeare, where, in dark blue ink,
He wrote, "To Wendy Mary Cope. With love."
Love on a page, surviving death and time.
He didn't even have to make it rhyme.