CHURCH SERVICES.

BERE REGIS.—Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Easter Day, Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and at Morning Service; April 20th, at 8 a.m.

In Holy Week there will be Service on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, at 11.45, and on Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.; on Good Friday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

KINGSTON.—Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Holy Communion—Easter Day, at 8 a.m. and at Morning Service; April 13th and 27th, at 8 a.m., and April 20th at Morning Service.

The Services on Good Friday will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Notice will be given of other Services.

OFFERTORY ACCOUNT.

| Jan. 5—Offertory | 6 8 |
| " 19 | 3 1 |
| Feb. 2 | 18 7 |
| " 16 | 4 9 |
| Mar. 2 | 13 10 |
| " 16 | 6 6 |
| Thank Offerings | 2 0 |

LADY-DAY VESTRIES.

The Bere Regis and Kingston Vestries were both held on Thursday, the 20th of March, the meeting at Kingston being at 4 o'clock, and that at Bere at 6.30.

The following elections and nominations were made to the various offices:

Bere Regis: Guardians—Mr. Burt and Mr. Johnson.
Overseers—Mr. Bemister, Mr. Janes, and Mr. T. Miller.
Waywarden—Mr. Tozer.

Kingston: Guardian—Mr. Little.
Overseers—Mr. Kent and Mr. Stacey.
Waywarden—Mr. Kent.

COAL.

The first payments to the Coal Club will be taken on Monday, the 14th of April.

Owing to the high price of coal (which will, so far as can be judged at present, not be much, if at all, less next winter) it will be necessary to enforce the rules strictly, and not admit to the benefits of the Club those who do not pay regularly every mouth, beginning on April 14th.

We ventured last month to express a hope that the price of coal would go down, and that we should be able to carry on the Club on the same terms as usual. We still hope to be able to do so. At any rate, the members may be assured that the Managers will do the best they can in their interests.

The ups and downs of the Coal Market are mysterious things to the outside public. Only within the last few weeks there has been a terrible upset of all trades, especially in the North of England, caused by a strike of the coal miners. Fortunately, the dispute was soon settled; but it was calculated that, even in the short time that it lasted, as many as 200,000 "hands" were thrown out of work owing to the want of coal to keep the necessary fires and furnaces going in iron and steel and glass and other factories. This would mean a loss of at least £300,000 to the workpeople thus deprived of their work, and a proportionate loss in trade profits to the employers. Coal was being hawked about the streets in London in small quantities at the rate of 2s. a cwt., and
people bought it under the fear that it was sure to be dearer still in a
day or two. It is the poorest in such a case who suffer most, as they
can only buy small amounts—and these were at the rate of 40s. a ton,
while a ton was 27s. It doesn't seem fair! The first thought in the
face of such a calamity as a coal strike is indignation at the stupidity of
the coal owners and workers in not being able to settle their differ-
ences like sensible men, without putting the whole country to incon-
vienience and discomfort, and, in many cases, positive distress. The
second thought is that it is always easier to manage other people's
business than our own, and the third perhaps is one of thankfulness
that the strike did not take place earlier in the winter.

We cannot pretend to understand the rights of such disputes be-
tween capital and labour—each case has its own complications. There
is always something to be said on both sides. The miners in this case
are to have a rise of wages of 10 per cent. If it is true, as stated in the
Times by one who writes with authority, that an advance of 10 per
cent. in wages only means on an average 1 4th. per ton to the workmen,
the question which puzzles us is, Why does it at the same time mean
that the public have to pay 2, 3, or 4 shillings a ton extra? Into whose
pockets does the difference go? Is it that when wages are higher the
men work less time, and the supply is lessened, and so dearer? or do
the extra shillings go to enrich the owners and coal merchants? We
cannot tell.

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THE WINTER 1889-90.

The Winter, which is now, we are glad to say, drawing to a close,
will long be remembered all over Europe, and even throughout the
world, as the "Influenza" winter. Early in the autumn we heard
that a strange and very painful and depressing epidemic was affecting
certain parts of Russia. The newspapers reported that it seized
suddenly on strong men and laid them prostrate in great numbers—
that it made its appearance in a most impartial way in palaces and
cottages, in towns and villages, factories and shops, and even in the
ships. At first those who thought about it at all were content to think
they were glad they were not in Russia; but very soon we heard that
the disease was "stepping westward," and that Germany and France
were being visited by its scourge, and before long Colchester and
London were numbered among its dwelling places. Soldiers, policemen,
postmen, factory workers, labourers, officials of all kinds—lawyers,
judges, doctors, clergy, members of parliament—all classes were attacked,
and obliged to stay at home and submit to be nursed instead of doing
their work. Women and children also suffered in great numbers, but
the illness of the men was most noticed because it caused so much
delay and inconvenience in all kinds of work and business. Schools
all over the country have had to close for want of scholars. Even at
St. Paul's Cathedral the singing was conducted for some days entirely
by men's voices, as the choir school was closed on account of the
Russian pest. All thought of concerts and other meetings, both
serious and amusing, had to be abandoned among ourselves on account
of the diphtheria, which, we are sorry to say, has not yet left us; but
even if the fear of infection had not put its veto on all such gatherings,
this Russian Influenza would have thinned our audiences in a very
depressing manner. Our church has never been so empty as on one
or two of the Sunday mornings during this Lent. The only consolation
is that "we hear it is the same everywhere."

The only meeting we have heard of was an open-air one, on the
evening of Saturday, the 22nd of March, when we were invited to
listen to the tale of "Ireland's wrongs by one of her sons." We hear
rumours of an opposition shortly to be held, when “England’s rights” will be insisted on by “one of her daughters.”

Mr. Farrer’s carpentering or carving class has been well attended whenever it has been possible to hold it, but it has twice been interrupted three or four weeks by the fear of spreading diphtheria, so that the productions of the amateur carpenters will scarcely be so numerous as the year before.

The two previous winters Mr. Sweet has held a service once a week on Woodbury Hill, but that also had to be given up this winter.

Mrs. Drax and Mrs. Radclyffe have both been very kind in ministering to the comfort of the influenza and other patients. Mrs. Radclyffe opened a soup kitchen, and also gave some wine for the use of the invalids, as well as a timely contribution to the Kingston Offertory Fund; and Mrs. Drax sent a supply of wine and bovril, as well as a present of 40 rabbits for distribution in the parish. Mr. Farrer also received two presents of money, with kind letters from the donors, expressing sympathy with the sick and suffering. “Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy.”

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FOOTBALL.

Judging from the number of tournaments, cup matches, &c., which are still to be played in Dorset before the end of the season (not in connection with the D.F.A.), there seems to be no doubt that the game is gaining in popularity in the county generally. Here in Bere, however, we fear it is not quite so popular as it was. Probably the difficulty of finding time to play is the chief reason for this falling off. We are always at a disadvantage in Bere from the want of a good ground close to the village. This season the “Arabs” have had to journey to Culzean, a distance of two miles, to fight their battles, and though all have been stubbornly contested, they have only succeeded in winning one match this winter. A great many people ask, Why is this? The answer is a very simple one: There has not been a single “practice” this season. The occasional meeting and kicking about of the ball by four or five members is not practice; and without regular practice it is impossible to play well. The Secretary has had great difficulties to contend with. On many occasions—indeed, in every match but one—he has had to press into the service at the last moment anyone who could be found willing to play, owing to the failure of one or more of those who had undertaken to play to put in an appearance.

The season is not yet quite over. There are three more matches to play. “Play up, Arabs!” and try to end the season with a more satisfactory record than can be given at present—viz:

Matches won, 1; drawn, 4; lost, 6.
Goals for, 12; against, 24.

It would puzzle Mr. Gladstone himself to make out from these figures that the Bere Regis team had had a successful season. There is, however, no doubt that the game is much better understood, and better played, here now than in past years, and if we can obtain a good ground close at hand next year, we may hope to win as many matches as we have lost this year. 

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BERE REGIS.

March 9, "Received into the Church," Hilda Mabel, daughter of Edmund and Sarah Louisa Day.

MARRIAGE.—March 15, Thomas William White to Charlotte Mary Dicker, both of Milborne.

Burial.—March 18, Anne Gallop, aged 82 years.