CHURCH SERVICES.

Bere Regis.—Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Holy Communion—April 12th, at Morning Service; April 19th, at 8 a.m. Children’s Service, April 5th, at 3 p.m.

THE SCHOOLS.

The Examinations draw near. The dates are not yet fixed, but we have only four clear weeks to count upon in which to put the finishing touches to all our knowledge and acquirements. The Schools were upset by the snow just when the attendance was better than usual, and all our Schools had to close for the week for want of scholars. However, we are glad to say the children are coming well now, and we hope there may be no more interruptions before the Inspections. It deserves to be recorded as a somewhat rare event that on Tuesday, March 24th, not a single boy was absent from school. This ought to be the rule, not the exception.

CONCERTS.

We rejoice to say the Musical Society has revived under Mrs. Johnson’s energetic leadership, and a concert has been arranged for the evening of Saturday, the 4th of April. The programme is a specially attractive one, some first-raté singers having promised to take the leading parts in the “Merry men of Sherwood Forest.”

A concert is to take place at Kingston on Friday, April the 10th, a special feature of which will be handbell ringing, which is very effective. The proceeds will be given to the Church Improvement Fund.

LADY-DAY VESTRIES.

The Vestry for the purpose of nominating Overseers, &c., at Kingston was held on Thursday, the 19th of March, and the following nominations and appointments were made for the ensuing year:

Guardian—Mr. Little.
Overseers—Mr. Stacey and Mr. Parry.
Waywarden—Mr. Kent.
Assistant Overseer—Mr. Berry.

The Vestry for the same purpose was held at Bere on Monday, the 23rd, with the following result:

Guardians—Mr. Burt and Mr. Johnson.
Overseers—Mr. T. Miller and Mr. Janes.
Waywarden—Mr. Lys.

The Vestry gladly accepted Mr. Jenkins’ offer to collect the School Rate free of charge, on condition that the rates should be collected half-yearly instead of quarterly.
The great storm of Monday and Tuesday, the 9th and 10th of March, came upon us as a surprise, and a very unpleasant one. After the driest February on record—at many stations no rain at all was registered—the chances were in favour of a wet March, but no one had any idea what was in store for us. The winter of 1891 would have held its own against most winters without the March storm. Already we had had the longest and coldest winter in the last 50 years, but Devonshire and Cornwall boasted of their comparative warmth, and we in Dorset were glad to think that the frost with us was not so severe as it was in most counties; but this time the order was reversed, and Devon and Cornwall were the greatest sufferers, and Dorset seems to have had the next longest share of the storm and of the snow. It is calculated that with us the depth of snow would have been 12 or 14 inches if it had been evenly distributed over the whole surface, being equal in weight to nearly 3 inches of rain. As, however, a storm was raging while the snow fell, some fields and downs were barely covered at all, but in the lanes and roads and railway cuttings the drifts were in many places 6 or 8 feet deep, and in some as much as 15 or even 20 feet. Many roads were completely blocked, and remained impassable for many days. Even now, a fortnight since the snow fell, many of our lanes are still 3 or 4 feet deep in snow. Much inconvenience, and in some cases hardship, was caused by the cutting off of the usual supplies. Many people thought the winter was over, and had little or no coal left. In several of the villages round, and in the outlying farms and hamlets, bread ran short, and coal and meat were scarce articles even in the city of Bere Regis itself. Gangs of men were employed to open the road to Wareham, some 40 or 50 altogether being engaged on this work. It was not, however, till Friday afternoon that the road was cleared. We heard that one home-made sledge found its way to Wareham on the Friday, and tabogganing was also enjoyed by some on the steep snow slopes towards Bere Down. The Dorset discomforts pale when we think of the Devonshire disasters of that fearful night. Many lives were lost even on land, but the loss of life by shipwreck was far greater. Of the horrors of the sea on such a night landsmen can form but little notion. In France, near Calais, two railway engines were literally blown off the line. This gives some idea of the force of the wind. The Devon and Cornish coasts were strewn with wreckage, and in the Channel generally, it was one of the most awful nights ever experienced.

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THE FLOWER SHOW.

We hope to hold our third annual Flower Show this summer, and now is the time for those who wish to exhibit to begin to think about how they can do so to the best advantage. Perhaps a few hints on the subject may be helpful to some. First of all, we should recommend those who want to win prizes to study last year’s prize list, and the number of entries in the various classes. It is obvious that there is more chance of winning a prize in classes in which there are few than in those in which there are many competitors. For instance, in the class for “1 Geranium” there were only three entries, and for “3 Window Plants” only one entered. For “3 Bunches Hardy Flowers”
only three competed, although there were numbers of gardens from which three varieties of flowers might easily have been brought with every prospect of success. We would also advise those who do show flowers to make them look as nice as possible. Two or three jam-pots or tumblers in a small box, with the space between filled in with moss or leaves, make the flowers look much better than when three meagre little bunches are put on the table without any apparent connection with one another. Cardboard boxes are also easily adapted and do very well for the exhibition of dahlias or asters, &c. In the "Collection of Vegetables (4 to 8 kinds), open to Labourers only," there were only four entries, although there were 3 prizes to be won, of 6, 4, and 2 shillings. In this class, again, a great deal depends on the preparation and arrangement of the vegetables, to make them look as well as possible.

Last year there were 147 prizes given, and as many as 83 distinct names appear on the prize list. We hope the interest taken in the Show will go on increasing, and that it will help to teach some of those who do not already know it, that it is almost as easy to grow good flowers or vegetables as bad, and that it is far more satisfactory.

Mr. Cambridge, it will be remembered, offered prizes last year for the best kept and cultivated gardens, and the Committee gladly accepted his kind offer. As, however, they failed to award the prizes, owing to the difficulty of inspecting and judging gardens over so large an area, Mr. Cambridge very kindly allowed us to add the 15s. to the General receipts—a very welcome addition.

The Society's balance on last year's account was £1 9s. 11d. It was given as 9s. 11d. in the Balance Sheet printed in November, as Messrs. Carter's £1 for their prizes had not then been received. This balance has been increased by £2 17s. 9d., the sum given towards the Flower Show by the Dance Committee as mentioned in last month's Magazine. There is thus a sum of £4 7s. 8d. to start with. We hope, however, that none of our subscribers will fall off, or reduce their subscriptions under the impression that they are not wanted. We would gladly give more prizes if we could, and last year's experience proves that we must not count our gate money until we have got it.

There will probably be some few alterations in the prize list and in the rules, and all exhibitors are reminded that this year the judges will be very strict in disqualifying, which means not giving prizes to, those who have not complied with the rules. The Committee will also refuse to admit exhibits in cases where notice has not been given to the Secretary 3 days before the Show (Rule 6).

BOROUGH REGIS.

BAPTISMS.—March 1, Harry, son of Elijah and Frances Mary Hansford; March 14, Emily Eliza, daughter of George and Amelia Sarah Hall (privately).

MARRIAGE.—Feb. 28, James Poor to Alice Elizabeth Hawkins.

BIRTH.—Feb. 27, Jane Chard, aged 77 years. March 30, Emily Eliza Hall, aged 6 weeks.