Bere Regis
AND
Winterborne Kingston
Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1899.

Dorchester:
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Church Services.

BERE REGIS.—Sundays and Christmas Day, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Holy Communion, December 3rd, at Morning Service.

December 17th, at 8-30 a.m.

" " Christmas Day, at 8-30 a.m., and at

Morning Service.

Advent Services, Thursdays, at 7-30 p.m.

Children’s Service, December 31st, at 2-30 p.m.

OFFERTORY.

The Collections on November 5th, for the Church Music and
Warming Funds, were as follows:—

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Mr. Radclyffe and Mr. F. Radclyffe have each contributed £1 since
the collection, so that the deficiency at the end of the Church year—
Easter—will, it is hoped, not be large.

THE WAR FUND.

At Kingston, Collections for the Lord Mayor’s Fund were made at
Church on Sunday, and £1 15s. 11d. was collected in the Morning, and
£1 10s. 1d. at the Evening Service—Total, £3 6s. 6d. At Bere
Regis it was thought that a larger sum would be forthcoming if a
house-to-house collection were made, and apparently with good reason.
All seemed glad to contribute, and all do not go to Church, and also
Collection Sundays are proverbially wet. The amount collected will
be published next month. The money will be given to the Funds
‘For the Soldiers and Sailors disabled by wounds,—for their benefit
after they leave the Service,’ and ‘For the Wives and Children separated
from their Husbands and Fathers by the exigencies of the War.’

THE MAGAZINE.

We hope and believe it will be ‘good hearing’ to all our readers that
‘the Magazine’ will be carried on by the new Vicar. Will all
contributors be as kind, as they always have been, in paying their
subscriptions, early in the year.

THE NEW VICAR.

The Rev. Walter E. H. Sotheby, Vicar of St. Barnabas, South
Lambeth, has been nominated by the Master and Fellows of Balliol
College, as Vicar of Bere Regis and Winterborne Kingston, and has
accepted the Cure.

THE RURAL DEAN.

The Bishop has appointed the Rev. F. E. Freeman, Vicar of
Puddletown, to be Rural Dean in succession to the Rev. W. Farrer,
who has held the office since October, 1893. Previously the Rev. G. L.
Nash, Vicar of Tolpuddle, had been Rural Dean since 1859.
KINGSTON SCHOOL.

Mr. Hawksley examined Kingston School in Religious Knowledge on the 17th of November, and has since sent us the following excellent report:

"Great pains have evidently been taken with this School. The Standard is high. The answers have been carefully and in most cases, accurately given. The writing in the Upper Standards is very good."

Mr. Farrer has been obliged to ask the Subscribers to pay their contributions now instead of, as usual, at the close of the School year. There was a deficit of £24 at the end of the last School year, and for the present there is no money to go on with. The Staff has now been reduced considerably to correspond to the reduction in the number of Children on the books, and by the end of the School year it is hoped that the adverse Balance will be less than last year, and that by April 30th, 1901, a balance in hand will re-appear.

PARISH CHARITIES.

It may be well to have in print, in a form easily accessible, a short account of the Parish Charities.

The Charities are four in number, but only three of them afford the Parish any annual income.

1 — The oldest Charity bears the name of Bernard Mitchell, and dates from the year 1646. It consists of "an Annuity or Rent Charge of twenty shillings, issuing out of the King's Head Inn in Weymouth." The money was given for the benefit of the "poor of the parish."

In the year 1836 the Charity Commissioners reported that there were no existing Trustees legally qualified to receive, &c., this Annuity, and they therefore "empowered the resident Minister and the Churchwardens, for the time being, to receive the money, and "to apply the same according to the purposes of the Charitable Donation."

For many years the Bernard Mitchell money has been given to the Coal Club, as being the fairest and least invidious way of dealing with the money. In former days this money, as well as the Poor's Stock money was spent on half-peck loaves, which were given away at the Church to those "considered by the Parish Officers to be most in need."

2.—The Jane Williams' Charity. Jane Williams was the widow of the Rev. Thomas Williams, who was Vicar of Bere Regis from 1773 to 1818. She died December 28, 1830, and, in addition to a legacy to be paid annually to the Vicar of Bere Regis, she left £350 invested in the Funds, "to permit and suffer the Vicar of Bere Regis to receive and take the Interest dividends upon this Special trust,—that he shall distribute, or cause to be distributed, . . . . between Christmas-Day and January 1st in every year," to and amongst two men and two women, poor inhabitants of Bere Regis, of the Established Church, to be selected from those whom he shall consider the most deserving, &c. A book, in the care of the Vicar, records the names of the four recipients of Mrs. Williams' Benefaction for every year since 1830.
3.—The Williams’ Charity gives us the Boys’ School and Master’s House, and pays a sum of about £18 a year towards the Master’s Salary, and also provides Clothing, and formerly Schooling, for the so-called ‘Charity’ boys. This Charity was given by Mr. Thomas Williams in 1719.

The Rev. Henry Fisher, Vicar of Bere Regis, 1727—73, gave £100 to the Charity Funds; and in 1813 the Rev. Thomas Williams, Vicar, gave £100 “for the benefit of the Schoolmaster.” The Trust is administered according to the will, “by four persons of the blood and alliance of Thomas Williams inhabiting in the County of Dorset.” The Vicar of Bere Regis is also, by the expressed desire of the Founder of the Charity, a Trustee.

In 1823 Mr. Hawker, the Schoolmaster, received £10 per annum salary, and “took other children for whom he was paid.”

Latterly, owing to poverty, the Trustees have only been able to clothe four boys instead of six, and as some expensive repairs have latterly been necessary at the Schoolhouse, they may find it difficult for a few years to keep up their usual payments to the school funds.

4.—Poor’s Stock. In “Hutchins” there is a list given of “Charitable Benefactions to the Hundred of Bere Regis, as returned to Parliament in the year 1786.” There are 7 sums of £10, 8 of £5, 1 of £2 10s., and 1 of £2, the ‘use’ or interest of which was in most cases ordered to be distributed to the Poor yearly on Good Friday, Christmas Eve, St. Thomas’, or St. James’ Day—or in some cases “at the discretion of the Churchwardens and Overseers.” The total of these sums was £114 10s. In the year 1769, on the 5th of April, the sum of £110 was, for security and convenience, handed over by the Churchwardens and Overseers to Thomas Erle Drax, Esq., who gave his bond that he, and his Heirs would pay at the rate of “four pounds by the Hundred by the year of good and lawful money of Great Britain, &c.” For many years this Charity has lapsed. Mr. Warre wrote to the Charity Commissioners about it in 1868, and was told that “a bond debt on account of which nothing has been paid, and which has not been acknowledged for 20 years, is barred by the Statute of Limitations, and its payment, if resisted, could not be enforced.

Until 1837, £4 10s. a year was paid. The Parish Officers then, it is alleged, “outset it against Cottage rents which they held for the use of the poor.” These Cottages became delapidated, and some were “taken down”—and when the Cottage arrangement came to an end, if it ever existed, the payments of the Poor Stock money did likewise.

In 1769 Miss Barbara Skinner left by Will £200 “to the dissenting poor,” to be disposed of at the discretion of her executors. A note says that this sum is “said to have been distributed.” If any remains, it is, as “Dorsetshire” says of the ‘Williams’ Charities,’ for “those interested” to see if they can get hold of it.