BERE REGIS.

Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Holy Communion, September 2nd, Mid-day.
16th and 30th, 8 a.m.

THE CHURCH.

It is observed that the carved wood in the Church is in need of special cleaning, which will require many hours of patient and thorough work. Any persons who are disposed to help in doing it, are requested to write their names down as “willing to help in Church Cleaning,” and send them to Mrs. Sotheby by the middle of the month.

FROM THE VICAR.

In the last number of the “Magazine” some account were given of the Passion Play at Ober Ammergau, at which we were present the last week in June. It may be of interest to our readers to hear something further of the impression which the performance left upon the mind. I have said already that there is no trace whatever of irreverence; any expectation that there would be is dissipated the very moment the first scene commences, partly by the demeanor of the chorus who chant their prologue with great solemnity, partly by the seriousness of the opening tableau,—representing the Expulsion from Paradise and the like,—partly, too, perhaps, by the fact that the Play begins at 8 a.m., at which early hour you feel it must be a serious undertaking in which you are engaged.

The first scene in the Play proper is the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, which of course soon leads up to the Cleansing of the Temple—not perhaps in itself very strikingly given—but introducing a point in the working out of the great Tragedy which is apt to escape our notice—viz., the great influence at the time in the Holy City of the Traders, who were of course deeply offended by Christ’s behaviour. All through the succeeding scenes you feel what an important part these aggrieved Traders play in bringing about the apprehension and death of Him who had disturbed their time-honoured and lucrative transactions in the Temple Courts.

Another point in connection with the offence given to the Traders is the conviction of the Priests, led by Caiaphas, whose part in the Play is a very conspicuous one, that unless Jesus is put down the ancient sacrificial system, as they had practised it, will be discredited, and that in consequence the people will fail to give them their customary respect and support.

Then, again, the development of the Judas episode is most interesting. The motive of the Jewish leaders in securing the co-operation of Judas is seen to be the need of apprehending Jesus at some quiet place and moment apart from the multitude of His followers; one of His disciples can show them where He is in the habit of going in the evening twilight; and one of the Traders is acquainted with Judas. Judas is represented as not altogether depraved, but wanting in courage; he thinks the Master’s popularity is on the wane, and wonders what will become of him in case the Master’s cause should fail; he is glad therefore to make friends with some one on the other side in the event of this happening; but at first he thinks the Priests only desire that Jesus should be put under restraint, and in this belief he is willing to guide the Priest’s band to a spot where certainly they will find Jesus.
When, however, he discovers, as he does too late, that they really purpose putting Jesus to death, Judas is filled with horror, and in his utter despair resolves on self destruction. The gradual working of the cowardly, self-deceiving spirit of this man, who had never been really weaned from covetousness, is admirably brought out.

Further—I felt I never understood the circumstances of St. Peter’s denial of his Master so well as from this representation. Peter’s presence in the entrance to the High Priest’s house is seen to be a sort of accident; the approaching fall of Jesus astounds him, and he is suddenly confronted by the fact that if the Master falls, His disciples’ plight will be still more pitiable, and the first of the disciples to be punished will be the one whom several had seen attacking the servant of the High Priest in the garden. For the moment he loses all presence of mind, though the genuineness of his sorrow and repentance is well brought out in the scene which follows the Lord’s grieved and reproachful “looking upon Peter.”

As to the representation of the Christ Himself I can say nothing. I do not know that it could be better done; it is certainly both dignified and pathetic. The actor, Anton Lang, a young man of 23, plays the part for the first time this year, and is, I think, quite equal to his predecessor. Still, there can be no doubt it is inadequate; there is an absence of the power so prominent in the Gospel narrative; and the entire omission from the discourses of the promise of the Comforter, “who is the Holy Ghost,” Who was to enable the disciples to do greater works than they had hitherto witnessed, seems to me to put the whole thing out of proportion.

To be concluded in our next.

Mr. Sotheby will be absent on September 9th and 16th. His place will be taken by the Rev. N. Cornford.

CHOIR EXCURSION.

The Choir Excursion to Bournemouth on August 2 was a great success. The day was fine, and the enjoyment unbroken. By the kindness of Mr. Hibbs, all who cared to venture themselves on the open sea—and the wind was blowing pretty fresh—were, after luncheon, treated to a cruise across the bay to Swanage. One race was run on board the steamer, and the prize was adjudged to a little girl, Maggie Farr, who distanced all the rest of the party. The return journey was somewhat slow, but, we believe, not tedious, and by 10-15 all were home safe.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.

The Sunday School had an entertainment on August 7, in some fields kindly lent by Mr. Bedford; we were able to invite the parents and the members of the Mothers’ Meeting to join in the tea. This was to have taken place on Bank Holiday, but the weather was so stormy, that postponement seemed a necessity. Next day, however, the sun shone brightly, and by some wonderful economy on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Welch, the provisions seemed as fresh and as attractive as they would have been on the day originally intended. We have to thank the authorities of the Industrial School for their capital Band.

VISIT OF THE REV. J. F. LANGFORD.

It was a great pleasure to welcome our old Vicar, Mr. Langford, when he paid us a visit the week before last. On the Sunday evening, the Church was crowded, when Mr. Langford preached an excellent and affecting Sermon on the Home Life of our Saviour.
THE FLOWER SHOW.
The Flower Show was held in very wet weather on August 23. The actual Show was most creditable, but the company was sadly lessened by the continuous rain. Something more will be said about this in our next.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.
The Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on October 4. The Preacher will be the Rev. Donald Campbell, Hon. Canon of Exeter, and Rector of Oakford, Devon.

BAPTISMS.—August 5, Elsie Nora Cox.
,, 12, Gwendolen Vera House.
,, 19, Ernest William Sinks.
,, 26, Sydney Herbert Cobb.

KINGSTON.

SUNDAY SERVICES:
11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Holy Communion, September 2nd, Mid-day.
,, 16th, 8 a.m.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.
The Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday, September 13th—Preacher: Rev. Canon Edward Chapman.

SCHOOL TREAT.

Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Mansel-Pleydell, the school children were given a treat on August 2nd. Swing boats and a merry-go-round were sent down from Whatcombe and afforded endless amusement.

Tea was provided in the Schoolroom as the weather threatened to be wet—but luckily it held fine after all.

Mr. and Mrs. Mansel-Pleydell and some of their grand-children came down to the tea, and helped afterwards to get up races for the children. Every one enjoyed themselves immensely, and the day came to an end all too soon.

BOYS' ALLOTMENTS.
The majority of the boys still show great interest in their plots, and the neatness speaks well for the attention that has been given them. Mr. Huntley has judged the plots, but has not yet published his awards.

EVENING CONTINUATION CLASSES.
These classes will commence in October. According to the present arrangement, Mrs. Berry will take Commercial History and Geography, and Mrs. Newman, Hygiene. The latter will consist of a course of lectures on water-drainage, ventilation, and food.

We hope that the attendance this year will be more numerous than it was last.

BURIAL.—August 1, William Mowlam, aged 71 years.