CHURCH SERVICES.

BERE REGIS.

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11 a.m. 6 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION:

April 6th, midday.

", 20th, 8 a.m.

Friday, April 25th is St. Mark’s Day.

EASTER.

Easter has fallen very early this year. From the point of view of the Church we have much cause for thankfulness. A month ago we had to lament the existence of much sickness among our friends, which has happily, now for the most part, passed away, though there were still a few accustomed faces missed from the Good Friday and Easter congregations. At the beginning of Lent the weather sadly thinned the number present at the Church services, but in the later weeks and during Holy Week and Good Friday it was gratifying to see so numerous an attendance. On Good Friday the weather was superb, to be succeeded on Easter Day by a damp, raw East wind that chilled one to the bone; nevertheless, on the latter day the number of communicants, 78, was almost the same as last year, although in 1901 there were some strangers present, and this year there were, we think, very few such.

The fine old Church was very attractively decorated. The Chancel decorations, as usual, we owed to Mrs. C. Radcliffe and her daughters. But there were numerous other helpers, and a goodly supply of spring flowers. To all who so unselfishly struggled through the rain of Saturday our warmest thanks are due.

THE SCHOOLS.

A great interest of these last few days has been the appearance of the new Government Education Bill. The proposal, speaking generally, is to put all the Elementary schools in the county (or borough) under the control of a Central Committee, nominated by the County Council, who shall receive all monies and levy rates over the whole area, taking over all the expenditure of the Board Schools, and that of the Denominational Schools with the exception of the maintenance of the fabrics. In the case of the latter class of schools, this central body will nominate one third of the local managers, thus securing public control of public funds. The local managers will be responsible only for the proper maintenance of the school fabric. This seems to be a very statesman-like and practical proposal, although, of course, in so thorny a question a great many complications and difficulties in detail will arise for discussion. Almost all critics seem agreed that a weak point is, that it is to be left to the option of the County Council whether or not they will adopt the new plan, in case of their refusal the present system being allowed to continue. But it is thought that this local option principle may be abandoned as the discussion of the bill proceeds. No doubt there will be those who think the proposal too favourable to Voluntary Schools, but it must be remembered that the existing buildings belong to the present managers, and the proposal seems to offer opportunity for efficient public control of the schools.

Meanwhile, we hope that the parishioners will cheerfully pay the voluntary rate we ask for during the present month, which is the last of the school year.

REFUGEES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

On Tuesday, March 25th, a busy afternoon was spent in the Hall by about two dozen needleworkers of the parish, at the invitation of Mrs. Sotheby, who provided the materials and tea for the company. Several sewing machines, bought for the occasion, contributed to the efficiency (and the noise!) of the meeting. The garments made were for British Refugees in South Africa. At the beginning of the war 60,000 British settlers had to be received at Cape Town and Durban, driven from their homes in Northern Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, with practically nothing but the clothes they had on, having suffered terrible hardships on the journey. The Colonists treated them with the greatest generosity. Relief committees were at once organised on the wise lines of helping the Refugees to help themselves, and, so well have they responded, that all are now self-supporting, except 3,000, who are widows, orphans, sick, or incapable of work. The needs of these sufferers have been supplied, so far, by the Victoria League (since the closing of the Mansion House Relief Fund), but supplies are now nearly exhausted, and it was in response to a special appeal for more help in money or clothes, that our work-party in the Hall was held. Several workers who could not be present did some work at home, and the whole result (some 30 garments) is very satisfactory.

W.M.A.

The Monthly Missionary Work-Meeting will be held in the Hall at 2 o’clock on Thursday, April 10th.

COAL CLUB.

The first payments will be taken on Monday, April 7th. The terms will be the same as last year; payments, 10s. and 8s., not less than 6d. and not more than 2s. taken at one time.

BAPTISMS.

March 2nd, Nellie Mary, child of Walter and Annie Hewitt.


", 2nd, Bertram, child of Thomas and Rachel Boyle.


BURYALS:

January 6th, Harriet House, aged 33 years.

February 7th, Ethel Rawles, aged 2 months.

", 10th, James Hoare, aged 73 years.

March 20th, George Standfield, aged 49 years.

", 28th, Edward Morgan Aplin, aged 2 months.
KINGSTON.

CHURCH SERVICES:
Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Children's Service, 2-30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION:
April 6, at midday.
,, 20, at 8 a.m.

LENT SERVICES.
The Congregations at the Thursday Evening Services in Lent have been very good indeed, and the sermons by special preachers have been good for us all. The choir by their regular attendance have been a great help in the services.

BOYS' ALLOTMENTS.
Work has again commenced and Mr. Berry is once more undertaking the instruction. The County Council arranged for six lectures on gardening to be given to the boys, but owing to the poor attendance, they were discontinued after the fourth lecture.

THE DRY WEATHER.
Very little rain has fallen this year and we are far below our average. The "Winterbourne" has not broken, for the first time within living memory. It is to be hoped that we shall not have a water famine at the end of the summer.

EASTER-DAY.
Heavy rain had a bad effect on the attendance at the services. The Church looked very pretty, in spite of the scarcity of spring flowers. Our best thanks are due to all those who sent flowers and especially to those who helped with the decorations, as well.