CHURCH SERVICES.

BREX REGIS.

Sunday Services: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION:

November 2, midday.

Nov. 1—All Saints’ Day.

Nov. 30—St. Andrew’s.

The Advent Season begins on November 30th. It is earnestly hoped that our people will turn their thoughts to the need of preparation for Christ which is so beautifully set forth in the Special Advent Services.

HARVEST FESTIVAL.

At the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, held on October 22nd, when an admirable sermon was preached by the late Vicar, the Rev. W. Farrer, who was most heartily welcomed, the Offertory realized £15 15s. 4d. for the Dorset County Hospital. The Church was beautifully decorated by many willing hands.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

The Education question is once again very much to the fore, and is arousing very varied feelings throughout the country. You know a Bill has been brought in by the Government, and is now before Parliament, and we naturally ask ourselves how is it likely to affect us here? But first, let us think for a moment the necessity of and the merits of the Bill itself.

(1) We naturally ask, why is there any necessity for a fresh Education Bill? Well, there are two reasons; first, if we are to carry on the education we already give, we want in many places increased income. Here for instance the 4-penny voluntary rate which produces about £30 is not enough. Improvements in the School structure and furniture are sorely needed, and as it is we can only get on by some of us paying a great deal more than our share. It is not fair to expect the Vicar of the parish, whose net official income is less than £100 a year, to pay three times his proper share towards the school funds. We want a larger income, and the Bill proposes to help the (so-called) Voluntary Schools as well as the Board Schools out of the local rates.

Then, further, there is a general feeling abroad that English education is inferior to that given in the Schools of the people on the Continent, and that it ought to be improved. Whether there is any likelihood of improved education being given in country villages is, I think very doubtful; children will not be better taught unless they stay longer at school and attend more regularly, neither of which changes seem at all practicable in country villages. And naturally we rather resent an increase in rates the benefit of which will be felt chiefly in the towns, and in the country districts in the near neighbourhood of the towns. But we welcome the Bill as a move in the right direction.

(2) But next I must say a word about that part of the Bill which has provoked most opposition, viz., the demand on the part of the Church of England that we should not be robbed of our privilege of giving definite Church Teaching to the children of Church people in the schools which are to be aided by the local rates. Churchmen demand this on the ground (i) that we believe a large portion of the people wish their children’s character as well as their intellects to be trained, and with a view to this that they should be taught the Catechism; and (ii) these schools have been built and largely maintained for the express purpose that in addition to the secular teaching, Church teaching may also be given, there being also perfect freedom for those parents who dislike the Catechism to withdraw their children from that part of the work. Now, surely, it is astounding that such a clamour should be raised against this portion of the Bill. You would think that what we are asking for was some great material advantage over Nonconformists which would deprive them of their rightful inheritance. Now it is my belief that the Church gains very little in the way of adherents by having its schools in the very limited way that is possible, under its control. I have had some experience of parishes where there are Church Day Schools and where there are only Board Schools. I think the Church gains very little, even if it wished to do so, in a party sense, from keeping up the Church Schools. The children leave school too early and are far too soon scattered for the Church teaching given in the schools to bring children over from the Chapel to the Church. But we feel two things (i) it adds enormously to the Clergyman’s interest in his parish to have right of entry at all times into the school, and to be able to give the scholars, where it is not objected to by the parents, that sort of religious teaching which we feel is by far the most serviceable and practical: and (ii) that the maintenance of Church teaching keeps up a high standard of religious teaching in all schools, denominational and undenominational alike, by which the whole community largely benefits, even in places where the Church teaching cannot be given. We should be entirely willing that the Chapel people should have facilities for teaching their children during the hour of religious instruction; we should welcome them heartily; but we cannot, unless we are driven to it, forego the right to give Church teaching in the regular school course to the children of those parents who are willing that they should receive it. And further, we see no way by which this right can be preserved, except that in those schools where the buildings belong to the Church and have been secured by Trust-deed, the Church managers should continue as heretofore to have the appointment of at least the Head Teacher. In one-school districts, where it is demanded, we would gladly see one or more of the Assistant Teachers recruited from the Chapel people. Why should Nonconformists ask for more than this?

How the people of England really look at the matter we cannot tell; honestly we believe that the majority agree with us, and honestly we think that only by denominational teaching being preserved can religion be fairly taught, and the inestimable privilege of the religious character of public education be secured to the country. But I say again we would give every opportunity to those who differ from us to give religious teaching in the way which commends itself to them. Any way “May God defend the right!” We trust this great decision in His hands.

I am, your faithful friend,

W. E. H. SOTHEBY.
**Women's Missionary Association.**

The first Work-Meeting will be held in the Hall on Thursday, Nov. 6th from 2 to 4. Many workers are not able to come as early as 2 o'clock but they are equally welcome if they come any time before 3. It is hoped that those who cannot attend the work meetings will take a collecting box, or do some work at home for the Annual Sale. Boxes and work can be had from Mrs. Sotheby.

**Band of Hope.**

An Opening Meeting was held in the Hall on Wednesday, October 22nd. The Girls assembled at 5 o'clock, and the time passed quickly in games and dancing till 6-30, when the Boys came and all joined for the hymn and prayers. Mrs. Sotheby then addressed a few words to the members reminding them of the real purpose of a Band of Hope, and how we are helped to keep our Temperance resolutions by having interesting occupations and healthy amusements. This season the boys would have instruction in toy-making and weaving, and the girls would (it was hoped) finish the banner for the Branch. Mrs. Sotheby offered prizes for the best accounts of what had been said. After the address the girls were dismissed, and the boys played games till 8 o'clock. The next meeting will be—for Boys on Tuesday, November 4th, from 6-15 to 7-45, and on Saturday, 8th, for Girls, from 2-30 to 4.

**Carving Class and Night School.**

A Carving Class, conducted by Mr. Parsons, of Dewlish, is held at the Vicarage on Tuesdays, at 7 p.m. Fourteen pupils have already joined. Evening Classes are also held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

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**Kingston.**

**Church Services.**

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

**Holy Communion:**

Nov. 2nd, at midday.  
" 16th, at 8-30 a.m.

**Evening Continuation Classes.**

Mr. Berry has 10 boys this winter for these classes and is teaching Gardening, Commercial Geography and Arithmetic.

**Toy Making.**

We hope to begin these classes on Thursday, November 13th.

**Jumble Sale.**

The date of this Sale will be announced shortly

**Coronation Accounts.**

It has been decided to put aside the £2 balance towards the purchase of a Hand-bier for the parish, and subscriptions towards this object are to be invited.

**Reading Room.**

At a general meeting held last month, the original annual members were appointed on the Committee. Mr. Tuck was elected chairman, Mr. Thorne, treasurer, and Mr. J. E. Berry was again elected secretary. Mr. Newman gave some sets of games for the use of the members.

It would be very much to the advantage of the room if more of the adult members of the Parish would take an interest in it. Mr. Newman and Mr. Keynes have promised annual subscriptions of 5/-

**Burials:** October 18th, Joseph Ricketts, aged 51 years.