SUNDAY SERVICES.

Bere Regis.
Church Services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Holy Communion, Jan. 4, midday.
" " " 18, 8-30 p.m.
Jan. 1—Circumcision, Service, 9 a.m.
" " 6—Epiphany, " 11 a.m.

December 31, 1902.

VICAR’S LETTER.

My dear friends,

Before you receive this number of the Magazine we shall be in the New Year, for which I ask you to accept the assurance of my warmest good wishes.

It is impossible that 1903 will be so memorable as the year which, as I write, is closing. Certainly it will not witness another Coronation; a Coronation would always give a very distinctive mark to a year, but that of King Edward VII. will live in our memories as that following the longest, and the most glorious of the reign of British Sovereigns,—a period marked on the one hand by the greatest development of democracy and freedom, and not less by ever growing sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the throne, founded not merely on tradition but on assured conviction.

Then again the establishment of Peace in South Africa is a cause for the deepest thankfulness. A year ago every form of enjoyment was more or less marred by the thought that we were engaged, in a no doubt necessary, but still unnatural strife, that every day’s telegrams might bring tidings of bloodshed of our own countrymen or of the enemy. When is all this to stop? we kept asking, and no answer was forthcoming. By the mercy of God, the struggle has been closed, and we pray and trust that happier relations than have yet been experienced are in store for the two races in South Africa, who in truth can have none but common interests.

Then there is the Education Act, now part of the law of the land. Here this will affect us chiefly in the changes needed in the management of the Schools, which we shall probably understand better in a month’s time. As the new Act is displeasing to extremists on both sides, it probably is a statesmanlike measure which aims at dealing with facts rather than satisfying logical theories. We trust that while it will secure a good practical and Christian training for the children generally, it will be administered with regard for the feelings of those Non-conformists whose traditions incline them to a different system.

In the death of Arabella Temple the Church sustains a loss she can ill bear. His life was a witness for religion of a very exceptional kind. It was not merely from his extraordinary energy and earnestness of character; but he had a remarkable power of inspiring those who were brought into relations with him with something of his own intense conviction; though not exactly a brilliant scholar or speaker, he had noble intellectual gifts which gave point to his deep religious earnestness, and his strenuous career was a speaking picture of what comes of heart-whole devotion to the service of his Master and ours. It will be a hard thing to find an adequate successor. While we may take courage from our Lord’s own words—“It is expedient for you that I go away,” we must pray that a right judgment will be given to those with whom the choice lies.

Your faithful friend and minister,

W. E. H. SOTHERBY.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

On December 19, a well-attended meeting in connection with the S.P.G. was held in the Hall, and an interesting Address delivered by the Rev. T. E. Fox, who, in describing the bush life of New South Wales, showed what difficulties are encountered by the clergy who provide the settlers with the ministrations of religion. The collection, at the meeting and in Church the next Sunday, realized £3 6s. 10d., which together with a previous collection and the results of a Missionary Sale in the summer, enabled us to send to the S.P.G. a sum of £18 1s. 6d. for the year.

The next Missionary Work-Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8th.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

We have to thank many friends for their assistance in the decoration of the Church for the Christmas Festival; especially Mrs. Radclyffe, Mr. Bedford and Mrs. Jesty for a supply of evergreens. The weather was exceptionally fine and mild and the Congregations were good.

We hope this next year to carry out the projected improvements in the Church Organ. We have about £50 in hand; the Vicar is willing to add to this, and we hope other friends of the Church will do their part so as to secure an instrument worthy of the Church.


BURYAL.—Dec. 11, Ann Clench, aged 82.
KINGSTON.

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

HOLY COMMUNION:
January 4th, at midday.
,, 18th, at 8-30 a.m.

In future there will be an Offertory for Church Expenses at the Evening Service on the 1st Sunday in every month. This will give those who are unable to attend the Morning Service an opportunity of contributing towards the expenses of the Church.

The offertory at the Evening Service on the 5th Sunday in the month will be discontinued.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Holly this year is abundant and the Church was prettily decorated in consequence. The attendance at the Services was good, especially in the evening when there was a very large congregation. Our thanks are due to all those who kindly helped with the decorations.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY.

Thanks to the kindness of the Vicar who gave £1, and the S.P.C K. who made a grant of £2, a number of new books have been procured for the library. As soon as they have been covered they will be issued to the children.

CHURCH MATTING.

New matting has been purchased out of the proceeds of the Jumble Sale, and was put down in the aisles for Christmas Day. The old matting had done duty for over twenty years and badly needed replacing.

BOYS' CLASSES.

Twenty boys have joined the Toymaking Classes at the Parsonage and seem to enjoy the work. Some of them already show considerable promise.

BAPTISM.—Nov. 30, Arthur John, son of John and Annie Jane White.