SERVICES.

BERE REGIS.
Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
June 1st and 2nd (Whitsun-Monday and Tuesday), at 11 a.m.
" 11th, St. Barnabas' Day, at 11 a.m.
" 24th, St. John the Baptist's Day, at 11 a.m.
" 29th, St. Peter's Day, at 11 a.m.
Holy Communion:
June 7th, at midday.
" 21st, at 8 a.m.
The Bishop of Salisbury's Visitation will be held at Wimborne, on June 16th.

VICAR'S LETTER.
June 1, 1903.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Since the issue of last month, I have travelled I do not know how many hundreds of miles, with a nephew as companion, and we greatly enjoyed our rather rapid flight to fresh woods and pastures new. There can be no greater change of scene than a journey to Italy. I have been to more distant lands where the surroundings are even less like England, but then in such cases you are generally one of a large party of English, and have a lot of attendants who make a sort of barrier between yourself and the country and its inhabitants. It is true that in many parts of Italy, such as Rome or Florence or Milan, one meets with those who speak English sufficiently, but in remote towns like Frascati and Palestrina and Orvieto and Arezzo no one can speak a word of anything but Italian, and the local colouring is apparent everywhere. Of course the great interest of Italy is that, while it is a country where real progress has been made from the conditions of half a century ago, and everywhere one observes signs of improvement in the prosperity, and apparently in the happiness, of the people,—still more it was the home of the best civilization the world knew at the commencement of our era, and for the next four or five hundred years. For instance—not to speak of the great temples and sculpture,—at Palestrina, now an unimportant country town, one is shown a magnificent mosaic pavement some 20 feet square, in perfect preservation, dating from the 1st century B.C., representing a number of scenes of life in Egypt. Again at Ravenna, a quiet out of the way place, there are churches, ugly and mean externally, but with their internal walls covered with splendid mosaic decoration, depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments and likenesses of the emperor and empress of the day, more than 1,400 years old, but in all the glory of their original brilliant colouring. Rome is being dreadfully modernised; the most modern looking and certainly effective of electric tramways contrasts strangely with the ruins of ancient temples, the catacombs of the first Christians, and the entrance to a foul dungeon in which traditionally SS. Peter and Paul were confined and which certainly is older than their day.

Then again in almost every town there are the wonderful pictures of the middle ages, so full of colour and life-likeness and vigour and devotion.

Add to these indications of the ancient greatness of the people, the radiant beauty of the natural scenery and of the vegetation,—such crops of hay as we had never seen, such roses, such cornfields, and hedges, and almost everywhere rows of mulberry trees or dwarf elms, linked together by graceful festoons of vines, the branches sometimes reaching out on all sides of the tree to which they are trained like the sprays of a coloured fountain. Italy in May, certainly, whether it is picturesque city or luxuriant country, leaves with one a series of visions long to be remembered.

Yours very faithfully,

W. E. H. SOTHEBY.

CHILDREN'S FLOWERS SHOW.

Mrs. Sotheby regrets very much that owing to her absence from home, it will not be possible to have the "Children's Flower Show" this summer. She hopes, however, to arrange for a Competition and Show of Girls' Needlework at the Missionary Meeting in August.

THE SCHOOLS.
The Schools are taken over by the County Council from the 1st of this month; the Managers being now responsible only for the upkeep of the buildings.

The Foundation Managers appointed are as follows:
Boys' School (Barrow Hill) — Rev. W. E. H. Sotheby, Messrs. G. Lys, G. Hibbs, and W. Bedford,

Mr. H. R. Jestly is appointed a manager of all three schools by the County Council, and Mr. S. E. Bemister was elected as the representative of the Parish Council.

It is quite right that while the Schools remain the property of the Church, there should be some representative of the Nonconformist portion of the population on the managing body.

So far these arrangements are made for one year, but there is no reason for supposing that they will be other than permanent.
KINGSTON.

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

HOLY COMMUNION:
June 7th, at midday.
June 21st, at 8 a.m.

THE DAY SCHOOL.
Mr. E. F. Joiner has been elected a Manager by the Parish Council.

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION.
This will be held by the Diocesan Inspector on June 11th, at 10 a.m.

BURIAL.—May 21st, Mary Jane Way, aged 62 years.