Parish Magazine.

APRIL, 1905.
SUNDAY SERVICES.

BERE REGIS.

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

Thursdays in Lent, 7-30—Preachers, March 30th, Rev. R. Askew.

April 6th, Rev. J. H. Wilkinson.

,, 13th, Rev. H. C. Cooke.

Holy Week and Good Friday, each morning and evening 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

A Church Army Officer will deliver addresses in Holy Week.

Holy Communion—

April 2, mid-day.

,, 16, 8 a.m.

Easter Day 7 and 8 a.m. and midday.

LENT.

Topics for Prayer, suggested by the Bishop of Salisbury.

Fourth Week.—Prayer against indifference and forgetfulness of God; Neglect of Holy Scriptures; of the Lord's Day; of public worship; of private and family prayer; Trust in the arm of the flesh.

Fifth Week.—Prayer for the wounds in the Church's Life. Disunion, discord, unspiritual habit, indifference of very many to the spiritual death of those at home and abroad who know not God. For a blessing on the Church Congress at Weymouth, for the Bishops appointed to Southwark, Worcester, Rochester, Birmingham, Gloucester.

Sixth Week.—The thoughts, prayer, repentance of the whole time will be brought together to the Cross. Prayer for more power of the Cross among us in fervent charity; devoted sacrifice; zeal to help and serve.

LETTER FROM THE VICAR.

Dear Friends,

The event that naturally is uppermost in the minds of most of us at this moment is the death of Mrs. Erle Drax. Although Mrs. Drax had been in very weak health for some time, the end came somewhat unexpectedly. The news reached me when I was more than one thousand miles from home, so that to my sorrow I was unable to attend the funeral. It is difficult to realize that she is gone. The personality of Mrs. Erle Drax has been for the last forty years or more a dominating influence in our parish, and to think of Bere Regis apart from the Lady of the Manor seems impossible. As regards myself, to my sincere regret, it was not my privilege ever to meet Mrs. Drax, although of course I have had frequent communications with her by letter; as is well known she had lived in retirement during the last five years of her life. Canon Warre, who knew her well, writes with sincere regard for her many good and generous qualities, but also of the sadness of the circumstances of her life. Here we owe to her the munificent gift of the unique series of painted windows in the Church, as well as a large contribution towards the restoration of the fabric which was expended so wisely and so well under the guidance of Canon Warre. From time to time also she made generous gifts to the poor of the parish of clothing and food.

Mrs. Drax died at Bournemouth, on March 9th at the age of 75, and the funeral service, which was very largely attended, took place at East Morden Charborough on March 14.

REV. F. BALL.

Everyone in the parish is of one mind as regards our great loss in the departure of the Rev. F. Ball, who has given us much valuable help during the last 18 months. Mr. Ball is a friend of my own of nearly thirty years standing, and it was a great and unexpected pleasure when some two years ago he expressed his willingness to give up his living and to come to Bere Regis. He was then much out of health and hardly expected to be able again to undertake the responsibility of a parish, but thanks to rest and Dorset air, and may I also say, the cheer of Dorset friends, he now feels strong enough to accept the offer of a living in Northamptonshire from Lord Northampton, which has great attractions for him. Truly as I regret Mr. Ball's departure, I hardly see how he could do otherwise than lose him with this offer. In addition to his valuable spiritual counsel, we shall miss his playing the hymns on Sunday evening at the Club, his very efficient assistance at Church decoration, and in arranging for entertainments, but through all his invariable kindness and sympathy. More than one section of the parish have given Mr. Ball visible assurances of their regard which will be to him pleasing memorials of his short residence with us. We hope we may see him here again from time and time.

For myself I am just returned from a short but delightful visit to friends who are staying at Rome. When I think of how forty years ago I took more than a week to get to Rome, it seems wonderful now to do the journey in 40 hours. I was surprised to find that in the south of Italy the spring vegetation was hardly more advanced than it is with us. But it is a very backward season with them.

W. E. H. S.

BAPTISMS.—March 16th, Frances Evelyn, child of George and Nora M. B. Lys.

,, 19th, Hilda Mary, child of James and Martha A. Carter.

,, 26th, Elsie Mabel, child of John and Annie Rowland.
KINGSTON.

CHURCH SERVICES.

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

Holy Communion:
April 2nd at mid-day.
,, 23rd, Easter Day, at 8 a.m. and midday.

There will be service and sermon on Thursdays during Lent at 7 p.m., and on April 21st, Good Friday, the services will be the same as on Sundays.

EASTER DAY.

Many who remember the Prayer Book rule "Easter Day is the Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or next after the 21st March," have been asking why March 26th is not Easter Day as the almanacks say that the moon is full at 4-56 a.m. on March 21st. But the almanacks also say that the moon is 15 days old on March 21st. It was decided as long ago as 325 A.D. at the council of Nicaea that for the purpose of fixing the date of Easter, the moon should always be reckoned "full" on its 14th day, which this year is the 20th of March, so the prayer book rule holds good and Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon which happens next after the 21st of March. The moon is full on April 19th and Easter is April 23rd or within 48 hours of the latest possible date on which it can fall.

This rule for finding Easter was adopted by the Church of England at the council of Whitby in 664 A.D., when a dispute as to the proper date of Easter, which had long divided the Church, was finally settled.

THE WEATHER.

This time last year the floods which had made parts of the village unpassable for weeks, were only just subsiding. This year on the contrary, in spite of welcome rain in March, the Winterbourne has not broken at all above the village and is not now likely to do so. This is the second time in six years that it has not broken.

BAPTISM.—Feb. 19th, Olive Grace, daughter of George Robert and Annie Hardy.

BURIAL.—Feb. 28th Emily Arnold, aged 77 years.