BERE REGIS & WINTERBORNE KINGSTON

FEBRUARY, 1920.

Bere Regis Church


Every Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
11 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon (except 3rd Sunday).
6 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

1st Sunday in Month:
12 a.m. Holy Communion.

Daily Services at times announced in Church each Sunday.

Every Sunday
Evensong and Sermon ... 3 p.m.

Third Sunday
Mattins, Sermon and Holy Communion ... 11 a.m.

Saints' Days.

Parish Magazine.
My dear Friends,

I do not know if any of you have ever been stung by a wasp. At any rate you know what a wasp looks like. Seen on a map this parish is rather like a wasp. You have the larger portion Bere Regis, joined on to a smaller portion Winterborne Kingston, by two miles of road which corresponds to the wasp's slender waist. Then you have several hamlets stretching out in different directions but attached to the main body of the parish in the same way as the wasp has its legs and wings attached to its body. And our problem is like that of the wasp with its body; to see that every part of the whole parish, whether it is Bere Regis or Kingston or some hamlet further afield is properly looked after and nourished.

Now for the present, I am afraid that it is impossible for me to do more than I am doing to provide services, &c. I do not consider that the present arrangement which means curtailed services is an ideal one but it is the best that I can do under the circumstances. Of one thing I feel convinced, that it is better to have fewer services on a Sunday and those carried out reverently and without haste than for me to spend my time on Sunday in rushing from place to place in order to fit in services at different Churches. After all services do not exist merely to benefit those who attend them. They are the offering of prayer and worship to God by the whole parish. That offering must be made with dignity if it is to be a worthy one. The Church of England has adopted as her ideal those words of S. Paul which you will find quoted in one of the prefaces of the Prayer Book, “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

Later on when things are more normal I have great hopes that it may be possible to make other arrangements. At present there is no disguising the fact that things are not normal. Take the question of the payment of the Clergy's stipends alone. There is a common idea that Vicars who, like myself, derive their stipends largely from tithe have benefited by the war.

Such is not the case at any rate in Bere Regis. At the beginning of January when the firm that collects the tithes for me gave me a statement of my account, I found that the sums the firm had paid out for me in rates, taxes and curate's stipend exceeded the sum collected in tithes by £25. For example, from Winterborne Kingston I received £11 in tithes but against that had to be placed the fact that I paid as curate's stipend £38. In addition, a day or two later I had a demand for £10 for the Income Tax to be paid on the stipend and a sum of £24 has to be paid to the Queen Anne's Bounty Commissioners by me on entering into the living. It means that I receive no money at all by way stipend until the first 10 1/2 months of my time here have elapsed. After that, if, as I hope, Kingston becomes a separate parish or some other arrangement can be made, my stipend will amount to £344 or less after paying insurance premiums for fire and dilapidations, rates and taxes. Now as everyone knows the sovereign to-day is not worth as much as ten shillings before the war so that my stipend will be worth less than £170 in pre-war days. Before the war £170 was the usual curate's stipend. So I have to keep up this large Vicarage and garden on a stipend proportionately smaller than that of a curate in 1913 and for the first 10 1/2 months I receive no stipend at all. I tell you these facts not because I wish to complain about them. I am quite content with my life and with living in your midst. Only I think it fair to you to let you know how matters stand so that you being reasonable people may realise that it is not possible for the Vicar to help financially in various parochial schemes to so great an extent as he has done in the past.

Since I started writing this letter I have heard a very pleasant sound, the Church bells. They were being tested by those who were responsible for rehanging them and I hope it will only be a short time now before we have our peal at work. I feel sure we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have taken part in the work.

The next piece of work I want to see carried out is the repair of the Church clock. I have fixed February 4th, provisionally as the day for the bells to be re dedicated but I cannot speak with certainty at this date because of the floor the belfry cannot be finished until the clock repairers have been to see it.

Just in the same way I have not found it possible to complete a list of Lenten Services in time for this letter. But I would ask all to remember that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, when there will be Services as follows:—
Bere Regis—8 a.m. Holy Communion.
11-15 a.m. Morning Prayer.
8 p.m. Evensong and Address.
Winterborne Kingston—
6 p.m. Evensong and Address.
Yours sincerely,
R. C. V. HODGE.

N.B.—February 15th—Quinquagesima Sunday
No service at 11 a.m. in Bere Regis Church.
Winterborne Kingston—
11 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Communion.
3 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

CHURCH TOWER RESTORATION FUND.
September 15th—December 31st, 1919.

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| Collections in Church—
  October 19th    | 2 | 4 | 11|
  November 16th   | 1 | 7 | 7 |
  December 21st   | 2 | 0 | 10|

£14 2 11

COAL CLUB, 1919.
Balance Brought Forward ... 16 6
Mrs. Davis ... 10 0
A Friend ... 1 0 0
A Friend ... 10 0
Mrs. Radcliffe ... 1 10 0
Major Radcliffe ... 5 0 0
A. Forsyth, Esq. ... 5 0 0
Rev. R. C. V. Hodge ... 1 0 0
Capt. R. E. Erle-Drax ... 1 1 0
Members Subscriptions ... 20 4 0
Mr. Bemister ... 1 13 4

£38 4 10

Dec. 19th—14 Tons 17 Cwts.
Coal at 51/6 ... 38 4 10

BAPTISM.
Jan. 4th—Frederick Charles Miller.

MARRIAGE.
Jan. 3rd—George Edwin Hirst and Amelia May Sansom.

BURIAL.

CHOIR BOYS’ ATTENDANCE
for the quarter ending December 31st, 1919.
Maximum possible 23.
1 Charles Minterne ... 23
2 Kenneth Jewell ... 22
3 R. Toop ... 21
4 J. Hann ... 19
5 W. Cowling ... 17
6 F. Hann ... 13
7 S. Shears ... 10
8 M. Barnes * ... 10
* M. Barnes joined the Choir after the beginning of the last quarter.

R. C. V. H.

JUMBLE SALE AND CONCERT.
Thanks to the energy of its indefatigable Hon. Secretary the fund for the District Nurse has received in January a considerable augmentation. On Saturday, January 10th, Mrs. Lys and her helpers held in the Drax Hall what they called a Jumble Sale but what I should have called an Exhibition of how to furnish a house at low cost as there seemed to be every-
thing conceivable or sale from kettles to ladies' hats. The consequence was that there were many bargains to be snapped up. I got one of them myself, a cake, which I am glad to say is still going very strong. Thanks to the many friends who sent gifts the sale showed a profit of £23 0s. 8d.

In the evening the Sale gave place to an entertainment. It provided what might be called an English bill of fare, of recitations, songs, instrumental music flavoured by the sauce piquante of Signor Orlando Bertolini's conjuring entertainment. Personally the trick that impressed me most was the way he produced three fresh eggs out of an empty hat. At least he said they were fresh and as I did not eat them I have no reason for doubting his word. Anyway I felt that in an egg-laying competition he could give my hens fifty yards start and a beating. The evening concluded with a play, I cannot remember its title, describing the adventures of a neurotic author who went into a nursing home for a rest cure. He got the cure all right and the rest neither did nor does matter. When all were so good what need to particularise? The result of the concert was that a further sum of £11 17s. 0d. was raised for the Fund, making a total for the day of £34 17s. 8d.

I think we have every cause to congratulate those who undertook the work of organising the sale and concert on this excellent result and at the same time our warmest thanks are due to those who by gifts or personal help rendered such a result possible.

R. C. V. H.