BERE REGIS & WINTERBORNE KINGSTON

OCTOBER, 1920.

Bere Regis Church


Every Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
11 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon except 3rd Sunday.
6-30 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
11 a.m. Mattins and Sermon.
6 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

Celebrations of Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the Month after Mattins, on the 3rd Sunday at 8 a.m.

Saints' Days.

PARISH MAGAZINE.
BERE REGIS.
Bere Regis Vicarage,
September 21st, 1920.

My dear Friends,

As the harvest is now over, it is time for us to think of what our winter work is to take. I am very anxious that we should not ignore the social side of the Church's work and that we should do what we can to create a real spirit of brotherhood among the members of our congregation. Those of you who took an active part in the War know well enough that men, whether serving in Navy or Army, felt a real interest in their ship or in their battalion. It was a matter of importance to them that the unit to which they belonged should do well. They felt the strength and the influence of that spirit of work for the good of the body to which they belonged, the spirit which we call esprit de corps.

Now we do not want to lose that spirit just because we have stopped fighting. But we shall lose it unless we give it an opportunity of self-expression.

The Women's Institute movement gives such an opportunity to the Women in our villages and it rests with them to make the most of it. Now I think it is the men's turn and I am anxious to see whether something cannot be done in the way of starting a men's club. Captain R. E. Ernle Erle Drax has offered us the use of the Drax Hall for three nights a week during the winter months, and has generously offered for the first year a subscription which will cover the rent of the Hall which otherwise we should have to pay. That is to say we can start a club and if the members of it are prepared to pay in subscriptions, or to raise by concerts, etc., sufficient to cover lighting, heating and caretaker's expenses, then there is no reason why we should not go ahead. I know that in times past there have been similar clubs which have come to an end; but after all, every failure means increased experience, and in time we may hope to find the right way to manage such a club. Personally I agree with the maxim "If you never make mistakes you never make anything else" and I should like to see the club started even if funds do not allow us to carry on all through the winter.

I find that I made a mistake in last month's magazine by referring to the date of the Confirmation as Friday, November 3rd. It should, of course, be Wednesday, November 3rd. I am glad to find that a good number of candidates are coming forward. It is not too late for others to join the classes if they give in their names at once. What has especially pleased me is the way in which volunteers have come forward and offered themselves without it being necessary to try and persuade them to take the step. It is delightful to work in a parish where people understand the principle of volunteering whether with regard to help or money.

Talking of money reminds me that next month we shall be having a collection for our Diocesan Central Funds. Last year we beat all records and we were very nearly up to the total of our Parochial Assessment. This year I ask you to make a strenuous effort to beat your former record, and to see if we cannot raise the full amount required from our parish. It is not a large sum if all work together, £13 in all.

In conclusion I should like to congratulate all the Head Teachers on the improvement of attendance averages during the past year. Bere Heath School especially has distinguished itself in pulling up its attendance from 77 per cent. to over 95 per cent. I hope that parents will see that this fine performance is equalled if not beaten during the coming year.

Yours very sincerely,

R. C. V. HODGE.

HARVEST FESTIVAL.

The Harvest Festival at Bere Regis will be held on Sunday, October 4th, when Rev. W. Farrer will be preacher at both services. The collections will be given to the Dorset County Hospital. Gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables and corn will be thankfully received. We should be grateful too if the ladies of the congregation would give their customary aid in decorating the Church.

CRIMINAL TRIBES IN INDIA.

A few years ago a young Englishman, a civil servant under the Government of India, was sent to administer a district in which were large numbers of people belonging to the Criminal Tribes. Members of these tribes do no work. They specialise in various forms of stealing, and bring their children up to the same method of securing their livelihood. The consequence is that they are continually drifting in and out of prison. This young Englishman came to the conclusion that sending them to prison and then letting them out again was a mistake. For one thing it was an expensive way of dealing with them, and secondly they did not mind very much going to prison, so
that they were just as bad when they came out. By way of digression let me repeat a true story. When Armistice was signed in 1918, certain prisoners in Africa were let out of prison as an act of clemency. On being released they complained bitterly that they had been treated unfairly by Government. They had been sent to prison for so many months, they had made their arrangements for being in prison for that time and they petitioned Government that they might go back to prison and finish their sentences, instead of having their arrangements upset. It is evident from this that prison has not the same deterring effects for those races as it has for ourselves. To continue about the Criminal Tribes. This Government Official applied to Government for funds to allow him to try the experiment for six months of persuading these Criminals to stay in a settlement and learn a trade. Government at last agreed, so the next time he caught a batch of these Criminals instead of sending them to prison he talked to them like a father and persuaded them to try the experiment of settling down for a few weeks. At last they consented and at the end of the time they agreed to stay on for a little bit longer. Seeing that the experiment was a success Government appealed to the various religious bodies to carry on the work, among which was the Church of England in the Diocese of Bombay. They consented of course, and they now ask the Church at home to help with contributions towards this work. The Bishop of Bombay, my old diocese, has asked me if we in Bere Regis could make the support of one of these Criminals our missionary work, for until they can be taught a trade and learn to work they cannot support themselves. We have had a meeting on the subject and as the outcome of that meeting we are asking for monthly subscriptions from one penny upwards for this purpose. Various ladies are giving their services as collectors, and I hope that they will meet with a generous response in their monthly visits. If any families would like to take a missionary box for this purpose I hope they will communicate with me.

R. C. V. Hodges.

BAPTISMS
September 19th—Peggy Sarah Janes
" " Zena Matthews

MARRIAGES.
September 8th—John Kent and Ethel May Ford, at Kingston
" 11th—William Robert Fraser Maclean and Mary Kate Lockyer

THE PARISH MAGAZINE.
I am afraid, that after many years of useful work, the Parish Magazine will have to come to an end at the end of the year, unless some strenuous efforts are to be made to preserve it. We are badly in debt and the Magazine cannot pay its way unless we charge at least 3d. per copy instead of the usual 1d. The question resolves itself into this, whether those subscribers who pay 1d. a month are willing in future to pay 3d. The matter will be discussed at the next Parochial Church Meeting.

Winterborne Kingston.
The outstanding features of this month’s news is the sale of a large portion of Winterborne Kingston which formed part of the Whatcombe Estate. Such a sale though typical of the days in which we live always brings a good deal of sadness. It means the separation of old ties, the breaking up of old homes and the need of adaptation to new conditions of life. As an article in The Times well expresses it:

“The disturbance of old family ties, through the selling of estates still continues. The owners of the land are often not to blame for the changes, for they are no more immune from disturbance than their tenants. This fact does not make the departure less difficult or alleviate the loss to the tenants affected; the most that can be said of it is that it may be some consolation to know that the owners are sharing to the full in the general wave of change in the countryside.”

Among other losses we much regret the approaching departure of Mr. Hounsell from the parish and we should like to express the obligation we feel towards him for the way in which he has acted as correspondent of the Kingston School.