BERE REGIS & WINTERBORNE KINGSTON

APRIL, 1921.

BERE REGIS CHURCH

BERE.

Sunday Services.

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.

Saints' Days.

Kingston.

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.

PARISH MAGAZINE.
The Vicar desires to thank the Parishioners for their generous Easter Offering which amounted to more than £14 0s. 0d.

Bere Regis Vicarage,
March 17th, 1921.

My dear Friends,

Owing to the Easter holidays my letter to you must go to the printer’s earlier than usual. I cannot do more, therefore, than wish you all a happy Eastertide. I see that a Bill is to be introduced in the House of Lords making Easter a fixed Sunday, i.e., the second Sunday in April. I believe that if such a Bill became law it would be a great convenience to us, and I cannot see that there is any strong ecclesiastical objection to it. This year Easter comes early, which means that the school year which ends on March 31st has two Easters in it, and this in many cases has curtailed the Easter holidays. If Easter Sunday was fixed on the second Sunday in April we should have no difficulties of this sort.

Those of you who attend Sunday morning service regularly at 11 o’clock will have noticed that the attendance at this service is very poor. There are, of course, many reasons to be given why this service is poorly attended. It is never difficult to find excuses. But I cannot help feeling that the real reason for people not attending Morning Service is simply because it does not appeal to them. The question then arises whether some other form of service ought not to be tried, a form that appeals more strongly to the present generation. On this subject I should like to hear the views of the Parochial Church Council. Personally, I should be sorry to see the regular service of Morning Prayer done away with. To my mind it has great possibilities if only they can be developed. It should be, I believe, a service wherein instruction plays a large part, and the preacher at this service should be able to feel that his congregation are ready and willing to hear what he has to say on the great truths of Christianity and the Bible. It is for this reason that lately I have been taking a course of sermons on the Apostles’ Creed. Such instructional courses are not to the taste of everybody. But I know that there are a quite number of people in the parish who are anxious and willing to hear what I may call the orthodox Christian point of view, whether they agree with it or not. It is a great thing to have a definite time once a week when we assemble and meet together to show that we believe in God, not only with our heart and soul but also with our mind. And though public debates in Church are inadvisable it is often possible to discuss a disputed point with the parson afterwards in ordinary conversation. No one expects a preacher to be omniscient or to make no mistakes in preaching. When the great Lexicographer, Sam Johnson, was asked by lady why a certain word was omitted from his dictionary he replied “Ignorance, madam, sheer ignorance.” And I am afraid this is the only excuse we, who are called upon to preach, can often give for our deficiencies. Still, we know very well that if we don’t make the attempt at setting forth our Christian Faith in all probability no one else will try, and that “the man who never makes mistakes will never make anything else.” So I hope that our morning congregation will improve, and that it will become more and more like the congregation that S. Paul preached to at Berea. They, we are told, “were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.” (Acts xvii.11). Personally, I can imagine few things more enjoyable than preaching to a congregation who are prepared to listen and follow out an argument, deciding for themselves afterwards whether it is a valid one.

I am afraid I have written at length on this subject and hardly left time to deal with other important matters. I think it will be best to write on such things as the Parochial Church Council and the Boy Scouts’ under different headings in this Magazine, and to close by subscribing myself

Yours very sincerely,

R. C. V. HODGE.

THANKS

are due to Mrs. F. Jesty, Miss Hookey, Mrs. Robins, Mr. Lock, for gifts of papers to the Boys’ Club. Also to Mr. G. Watson for a donation of £3 to the same club, and to an anonymous donor of £1 “for the use of the Vicar.”

BURIAL

March 24th—Elizabeth Jane Hawkins, aged 40
LANTERN SERVICES AT HYDE.

The good attendance at the Lantern Services at Hyde to which I referred last month has not only continued to the end but has even improved. It is very encouraging to find that there are so many who are ready to take a considerable amount of trouble to attend these services and to have requests that they may be continued. Writing at the present moment I cannot say whether it will be possible to carry them on through the summer. The longer evenings for one thing, present a difficulty, but I hope that in any case they may be restarted in the winter. I should like to express my thanks to Colonel Roundell for the loan of the room, and for Mr. W. Sparke for taking on the responsibility of managing the lantern.

A WHITE ELEPHANT.

As I mentioned in the last number of the Magazine, there has been a good deal of correspondence in the Church papers lately over the white elephants that many parsons possess in the shape of Rectors and Vicarages too large to be kept up on the stipends of the livings. Bere Regis possesses one of these white elephants, but as we cannot get rid of it we have done the best thing and made use of it. As at the Zoo the elephants are used to amuse the children, so the Vicarage has been made use of to provide the girls and boys with a place where they can meet once a week for an evening’s amusement. I am glad to say that both clubs have fully justified their existence, and that the furniture is still intact. In the girls’ club a vast amount of latent dramatic talent has been discovered through the means of the highly popular entertainment of charades. The boys’ club on the other hand, eschews such frivolities and devotes itself mainly to the austerities of billiards. The winter session of the latter was brought to a close with a billiard handicap, the final of which proved exceedingly exciting. Bere Regis’ champion, R. Barnes, just managed to get home by a short head in front of the hope of Shitterton, R. Hann, who received a handicap of 75. We hope that this coming month will see the boys’ club in the new guise of Boy Scouts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

The Parochial Church Council’s first year of existence is now drawing to a close, and on April 6th a Parochial Church Meeting will be held to elect a new Council for the coming year. May I beg for a good attendance at this meeting, which will be at the Vicarage at 8 p.m. The Parochial Church Council, as the Parish Church Parliament has already justified its existence. I attribute its success very largely to the excellent way our Hon. Secretary, Miss Percy has carried out her duties, and I trust she will be ready to continue in this office.

PARISH CROCKERY.

Persons desiring to borrow the Parish Crockery are asked to apply in the first instance to Miss Percy, Rye Hill.

BERE REGIS DISTRICT NURSING FUND.

We have been asked to publish the receipts and expenditure of the above fund from March, 1920, to March 1921. It will be noticed that this last year, after deducting balances, rather less was received from fees and subscriptions than would meet the expense, the former amounting to £112 9s. 3½d., and the latter to £111 3s. 0d. We hope that next year the amount received in fees and subscriptions will more than balance the expenses.

March, 1920—March, 1921

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Excess of expenditure over receipts £1 6s. 5½d.

Winterborne Kingston.

My dear friends,

Lent and Easter have passed and we feel a sense of gratitude to those who have come so regularly to services and choir practices during the last month. It has no doubt entailed a certain amount of self-sacrifice on the part of both members of the choir and organist to make so many "appearances" but now that Thursday Evening Service is discontinued I hope the practice of Friday will continue to be well attended.
I was informed a few days ago that a pen of nine white leghorn hens laid nine eggs per day. All that I can say to this wonderful piece of information is that the owners are getting the best possible results from their stock.

For the month of March the attendance at Sunday School has been nine, six, fourteen, with another Sunday to finish. Can it be said that this is the best possible results for Winterbourne Kingston?

In visiting last month I have found quite a number of people who tell me that it is impossible for them to venture out and attend the Evening Service on Sunday owing to the dark. I should like to take this opportunity of announcing that Summer Time commences the first Sunday in April, and I hope the possibility of coming to, and going from the Church in daylight will add to the already increasing congregations.

Miss M. Besent has been busy reviving the Electoral Roll of the parish of Kingston, a copy of which will be found in the Church Porch. We are very grateful to Miss M. Besent for undertaking this task and for executing it so well.

Sunday, March 20th, being the Sunday before Easter, known as Palm Sunday, the Sunday School Children were presented with Palm Crosses from the Holy Land at the afternoon service. These will, I hope, be appreciated and carefully preserved.

Your sincere friend,

ARTHUR R. COLLINS.