Parish Church of St. John Baptist
BERE REGIS,
DORSET.

Vicar and Rural Dean : THE REV. R. C. HERRING.
Churchwardens :
Mr. R. SMITH, Heath View.
Mr. F. MARSH, Southbrook.
Mr. P. MINTERNE, Egdon Close, Deputy Warden.

Sidesmen :
Messrs. P. PITFIELD, E. RAWBONE, K. WOOLFRIES
H. PITFIELD, J. JOYCE, A. TOOP, A. COTTERELL

Secretary and Treasurer P.C.C. : MISS PERCY, Rye Hill.

Parish Clerk : MR. J. BATTRICK.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion ... 8 a.m. and 2nd Sunday after Matins.
Matins ... 11. a.m.
Children's Service ... 2.30 p.m.
Evensong ... 6 p.m.

St. Nicholas
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON.

Churchwardens :
Mr. F. BURGESS, Muston Farm.
Mr. SHEPPARD.

Clerk : MR. HATHAWAY.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays, 9.30 a.m.
Sunday School 2.30 p.m.
Children's Service 1st Sunday, 3.15 p.m.
Evensong 3.15 p.m.
HE New Year will be well on its way by the time these lines appear but it is not too late for us to remember that it may be a year bound to be so big with destiny not only for ourselves but indeed for the world. We should be unimaginative if we are to cross its threshold without a more than ordinarily large measure of thoughtfulness and even of trepidation. It seems that it may indeed prove a year which will be the most decisive in human history so great are the issues affecting all that we understand by Christian civilization which may have to be determined one way or the other before its close. It is indeed a time for serious thinking but not for undue pessimism. There is a virtue which we find repeatedly commended in the New Testament and which may be said to be one of the characteristic marks of the Christian character. It is called 'sober mindedness' and expresses that self controlled restraint and reverent caution which is never really absent from the thinking of the truly religious man. S. Paul reminded the early Christians that they were called upon to fight not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places. These surely are very apt words for the present day and we trust that the rulers of the darkness of the world today will be overcome without fighting taking place in the realms of flesh and blood. The early Christian Church overcame the forces of heathen Rome by their unflinching loyalty to their Faith. This seems to be the call to all Christian folk today.

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THERE is a feeling in some quarters that the holding of the Festival of Britain is somewhat incongruous and that the spending of vast quantities of money and labour might be used to far greater advantage in other directions. This is understandable unless we keep in mind the real purpose of the Festival and remember that it is not intended to be an occasion for boosting international trade. We may perhaps repeat what we wrote a few months ago when we said that its true purpose is to promote the spiritual life of our country—its history both religious and secular and its arts, such as music and drama and all those things which are essentially English. We said too that the Church in England has done more than anything else to mould and guide the arts and thoughts which make up the English character. The lighter side of the Festival—its Fun Fairs and Amusements Parks—are necessary in order to raise funds to meet the vast expenses of the Festival but are by no means the main features.
CHRISTMAS was well observed at both churches and the Parish Church choir gave a first rate recital of carols and also a selection from *The Messiah*. The attendance at the carol service at S. Nicholas on New Year’s Eve was disappointing—especially to those who had spent so much time in preparation. The weather that evening was exceptionally cold and this was probably the reason for so few attending.

Miss Smith’s carol singers raised over £12 which is divided between the Choir Fund and the Sunday School.

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LENT is very early this year, Ash Wednesday being on Feb. 7th. The services on that day will be:

Parish Church—Holy Communion 8 a.m.
S. Nicholas—Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.
S. Nicholas—Service 3 p.m.
Parish Church—Evening Service 7 p.m.

At the Parish Church there will be the usual Lent Service each Thursday evening at 7 o’clock.