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, G. DREW,
H. PITFIELD, C. BERRY, A. TOOP, J. PARSONS.

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays, 9.30 a.m.
Sunday School 2.30 p.m.
Evensong 7.15 p.m.
ALTHOUGH the New Year has by now started on its way to form history which is likely to be memorable it is not too late to welcome new readers and to part with regret with the few who have left us.

As far as the life of our Parish Church is concerned we can look back over the past year and see much cause for satisfaction. Financially there has been a distinct improvement in collections and the Visitors’ Box we believe has beaten all records or nearly so. If only we could rely on a regular system of contributing towards the cost of maintaining our church we should never have cause for any worry. If each churchman and churchwoman would set apart a weekly sum regularly it would be a great help.

As far as congregations are concerned they vary in an extraordinary way but we can’t help noticing that even those who claim to be devoted churchpeople are so frequently not to be seen sometimes even for weeks. There is one point about our congregations—it is always easy to see who is there and who is not!

At S. Nicholas, too, we can report a very definite improvement in the financial situation but to decide on the best hour for Evensong on Sundays is an insoluble problem.

Every one who faces a New Year does so with a mixture of hopes and fears. If we were to look only on the outward and worldly things there is little doubt that fears would predominate—rumours of wars and world wide unrest and our own personal anxieties and uncertainties. The Christian, however, looks through and beyond the temporal scene. In the back of his mind lies the teaching summed up in such New Testament phrases as ‘Look up for the hour of your redemption draweth nigh.’

At last we have the sad duty of bidding farewell to Miss Percy in her capacity as Secretary and Treasurer after very many years of faithful and devoted service. In her place we are extremely fortunate in having Mr. Berry who has most kindly agreed to accept office. We hope to say more about Miss Percy’s years of service in our next issue.

It is known to most of us that the Parish Church boiler has collapsed after more than 30 years’ service and we have been most fortunate in getting a new one installed in a remarkably short time. For some years past the church heating has been in the charge of Mr. Lewis Joyce but as he has moved some distance from the church he has felt that he must give up this work. We are very grateful to him for his past services and welcome Mr. Rawbone in his place. Any system of heating a building of the size of the Parish Church is difficult—much depends on weather and wind but we may be quite certain that Mr. Rawbone’s well known energy will not be spared.
THE Churchyard paths have now been regravelled and therefore much improved.

THE Parish Church choir under the leadership of Miss Smith raised over £9 carol singing at Christmas. This sum has gone to the hospital for blind native children at Palamcottah.

Considering the appalling weather we do congratulate Miss Smith and the choir on this splendid result.

Of events in the near future may we remind readers that the Confirmation at the Parish Church is on Sunday, March 15th at 6 p.m. This will be the first occasion that the present Lord Bishop of Salisbury visits our Parish Church.

We hope to have our ‘Thursday evenings in Lent’ as we have done for many years and we ask that those evenings may be kept as free as possible of other engagements.

Looking further ahead it is not too soon to announce that on Sunday, May 31st these will be a special service at 3 o’clock in the Parish Church in preparation for the Coronation on the following Tuesday. We hope also to have a similar service at S. Nicholas in the evening.

MAY our final words be of real gratitude to the many kind folk who have willingly given their time in many ways—those who care for the War Memorial—dust the Church and in other ways have been so kind. We trust that during the present year we may rely on their kind and voluntary help.