THE PARISH CHURCH OF BERE REGIS

WITH S. NICHOLAS WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
Parish Church of St. John Baptist
BERE REGIS,
DORSET.

Vicar and Rural Dean: THE REV. R. C. HERRING, R.D.
Reader: MR. W. LLEWELLIN, M.A., O.B.E.

Churchwardens:
Mr. R. Smith, Heath View.
Mr. F. Marsh, Southbrook.
Mr. P. Minterne, Egdon Close, Deputy Warden.

Sidesmen:
Messrs. P. Pitfield, E. Rawbone,
H. Pitfield, C. Berry, B. Talbot, F. Pitfield, M. Barnes & R. Barnes.

Secretary and Treasurer P.C.C.: Mr. C. Berry, Sitterton, Bere Regis.

Parish Clerk: Mr. E. Rawbone
Verger: Mr. E. Rawbone

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. Sheppard, The Nottings.
Brigadier H. de B. Lipscomb, The Old Parsonage.

Treasurer:
Mr. F. I. H. Burgess, Muston.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion 2nd Sunday, 9.30 a.m.
Sunday School 2.30 p.m.
Evensong 3.15 p.m.
THE issue of our Parish Magazine has been unavoidably later than usual and in this respect we are in good company. We hope that we shall be more normal in future. But the future of the Magazine must be reviewed as it has been run at a loss for some time. In this respect we are in company with the Diocesan Gazette and for financial reasons the issue of the Gazette in future will be only quarterly instead of monthly. Our own Magazine has an almost unique record. Except for a short period during the War it has been issued for nearly 100 years. Doubtless its quality has varied much from time to time but it does reach many homes and forms a link between them and the Parish Church.

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In recording the past it may not be out of place to set out some facts regarding our Church Clock and Bells. If either ceases to function things seem to go wrong, as we depend so much on both. Our clock is rather unique because it has no face but by its chimes most of the village and those beyond regulate their daily lives—including our local bus service. We do not know the age of the present clock but its predecessor was made by the village blacksmith at Puddletown about the year 1730 and is now in Dorchester Museum. Our clock is wound up every evening of the year by Mr. Woolfries and it requires considerable physical strength to do it.

Of our bells the oldest and lightest bears the following inscription: ‘Although I am small I be heard above them all. A.L. I.P. C.W. Anno Domini 1656.’ The first pair of initials are those of the churchwardens at the time. The 5th bell is the next oldest and was the gift of Mary Dyet in 1698.

The ringing of church bells is part of the rhythm of country life, and in the past it has not only been a means of calling the faithful to their Parish Church but also to mark the great events in our nation’s history—victories on land and sea—the sad and happy events in the reigns of Kings and Queens. We at Bere Regis still maintain the old custom of ringing the Curfew during winter months, and what is still more rare the ringing of what is known as the Sermon bell. This is rung one hour before Mattins and Evensong and it was originally rung only before those services in church which included a sermon. It may or may not have been a warning but until less than 100 years ago it was usual for a sermon to last anything up to an hour and a half and was always read! Most Parish Churches had an hour glass on the pulpit and there is still one at Bloxworth but we do not imagine that the Rector uses it!
Our present ringers include many young beginners and we hope the time will never come for our bells to fail. We owe much to our ringers and only recently the Vicar had a note saying ‘It gives me great pleasure to listen to the bells ringing on a Sunday’... and we all agree with that.

Unfortunately the Tower at S. Nicholas is not safe enough to have the bells rung but they are occasionally chimed. They are older than those at the Parish Church. Four of them are dated 1660 and the youngest 1749.

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THE Parish Church children and those of S. Nicholas Sunday School met for their annual outing at Swanage in perfect weather and had a thoroughly happy day.

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THE dates of our Harvest Thanksgiving have been altered. On Sunday, September 27th it will be at S. Nicholas and on the following Sunday at the Parish Church.

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Register

Holy Baptism

July 26th. Kevin Leon, son of Ian and Eileen Hewitt.
At S. Nicholas, July 26th. Trevor James, son of James Alfred and Pamela Rita Middleton.

Burials

June 9th. Rebecca Penny, aged 85.
June 13th. Daisy Gladys Stickly, aged 58.
June 29th. Janet Dulcima Ridley Thompson, aged 55.
July 8th. At S. Nicholas, Sydney Wellstead, aged 75.
July 15th. Florence Mary Joyce, aged 82.
August 1st. William Charles Toms, aged 45.
August 4th. Amy Henrietta Broome, aged 82.
August 5th. Emily Standfield, aged 82.