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.
HE beginning of a New Year is a time when a medley of thoughts come to our minds—the past brings many thoughts of the things which make life worth living when those experiences which are so essentially of Christian origin come into our lives—those words and acts of goodwill and friendship—of patience and understanding—these and so many other things which we see clearly as we look back. Of the future we can know little but we can and do ‘build castles in the air’ and trust that they may be of substantial foundation.

The temptation to look to wider horizons cannot be altogether resisted and we see how this year must be one of critical decisions on the part of those who seek to guide the nations into paths of unity and peace.

This is just where the message of Christmas echoes again—and indeed should re-echo throughout the year. Peace on earth can only come to men of goodwill. It is the lack of goodwill which is the source of almost all the unhappiness of the world. No amount of conferences and meetings between leaders of the world or in the realms of industry can bring peace, harmony and prosperity where real goodwill is lacking. Unfortunately where international relationships are concerned many of the nations have not yet heard the Christian message and that fact adds greatly to the endeavours of those who seek the goodwill which is so essential.

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THE end of the year brought the usual round of activities associated with Christmas. The S. Nicholas Fayre, organised by the Church Committee under the chairmanship of Brigadier Lipscomb, was most successful as the result of much preparation and hard work on the part of so many good helpers. The local Press has given full reports and our place now is to express great appreciation of all who gave so much time and work. The S. Nicholas Restoration Fund benefited to the extent of close on £80. The following were responsible for the stalls and competitions:—Mrs. Langdown, Mrs. Symes, Mrs. Sheppard, Mrs. D. Legg, Miss Crook, Mrs. Lipscomb, Mrs. Hooper, Mrs. F. Burgess, Mrs. H. Miller, Mrs. G. Hewitt, Mrs. Bentley, Mrs. Herring, Mrs. S. Miller, Mrs. P. House, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. E. Legg, Mrs. S. Rolls, Mrs. E. Vincent, Mrs. Stickley, Sylvia House, Frances Symes and Mr. Sheppard, Music was supplied by Mr. P. House.

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LAST month we referred to the great help given by so many voluntary workers at the Parish Church. S. Nicholas Church is equally blessed. Those who care for the Church include Mrs. S. Miller, Mrs. E. Legg, Mrs. Symes, Mrs. Bentley, Mrs. Sheppard, Miss Sheppard, Mrs. P. House, Mrs. Lipscomb, Mrs. Langdown, Mrs. Herring, Mrs. E. Vincent, Mrs. Burgess, while the good works done by Miss Sheppard as Sacristan and by Brigadier Lipscomb are ‘too numerous to mention.’
BOTH churches looked really beautiful for the Christmas Festival and on the first day of the new year the W.I. Hut at Winterbourne Kingston was the scene of a very happy party. This was mainly for the Sunday School children but others came too and all enjoyed a happy evening. Two Christmas trees were laden with gifts for the children—but there were some quite elderly children who were not forgotten. It is good to record that the Sunday School has a larger number of children on the register than ever before and we congratulate and thank Mrs. and Miss Sheppard for their untiring work in this connection.

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WE referred last month to Mr. Berry’s resignation as Secretary and Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council as the result of rather poor health. Now we have to record the resignation of Mr. Burgess who has looked after S. Nicholas finances for about 30 years. Mr. Burgess also has not been in very good health for some time and we must accept his resignation with very great appreciation for all he has done over these many years.

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THERE Annual Parochial Church Meeting at the Parish Church must be held early this year as it is necessary to appoint representatives to the Ruridecanal Conference, and this Conference elects to the Diocesan Conference. Due notice will be given of the date and in the meantime will those whose names are not on the Electoral Roll please let either the Vicar or Churchwardens know. We would also be glad to have more contributors to our Free Will Offering Fund. A supply of envelopes will be provided and this fund enables those who cannot attend church very regularly to contribute towards our annual upkeep in the way of heating, insurance and all expenditure. The Free Will envelopes are not intended to take the place of the ordinary church collections.

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THE following figures are of interest and are given in the Official Year Book of the Church of England—during the years 1954-56. Those who as Non-Conformists returned to the Church of England averaged 14,775 a year, and of these 3,480 were Roman Catholics. The official figure for those who joined the Roman Catholic Church from the Church of England is given as approximately 800. The number of baptisms in the Church of England for the same period is given as 26,771,000.

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**Register**

Holy Matrimony.
December 26th. Kenneth John Spicer and Josephine Collison.

Burial.
January 4th. Elsie Maud Hoare, aged 72.