THE VICAR’S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Please note the arrangements I have made for Christmas which you will find fully set out on a later page.

At the Parish Church I am repeating the very successful Carol Service of the Nine Lessons, with Lesson Readers chosen from the Congregation and Parish and with Carols for both the Choir and Congregation. As last year there will be a special printed form of Service sufficient for every person there to have a copy for himself.

If this Service proves as popular as it was last year, as I have no doubt it will, I would advise those of you who would like a good seat to get to the Church early. The Service will be recorded on "tape" and will be available afterwards for invalids or the infirm, so that they will be able to hear this beautiful Service in their own homes.

A number of people have asked me if it would be possible to have a Mid-night Christmas Communion, as so many families who have small children find it terribly difficult to get to the 8 a.m. Celebration on Christmas Day. I feel that there is a genuine difficulty in these cases, and consequently as an experiment I am proposing to have a Celebration of the Holy Communion at the Parish Church starting at 11.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve - the actual act of Communion therefore taking place on Christmas Day. I shall be glad if this can be publicised as widely as possible and I hope that those who participate in this Service will find it helpful and that it will make it possible for them to attend the 11 a.m. Service on Christmas Day as a family.

You may remember some correspondence in the Magazine concerning a suggestion for a Family Service once a month when parents and children could attend together. I asked for comments on this letter. A considerable number of people have spoken to me about it and the majority are warmly in favour of such a Service, providing that it did not follow too much the form of an ordinary Children's Service.

I have given the matter a good deal of thought and have decided to hold such a Service at 3 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday in the month, starting in January. The Service will take the form of shortened Evensong so that the Congregation should be leaving the Church at about 3.45 p.m. and I will try as far as possible, to cater for both adults and children. It will be neither specifically for adults nor children but for the family.

We are in the midst now of Christian Family Year, which is sponsored by the Mothers' Union Headquarters to bring before the
people of this Country the importance of the family. To mark this we shall hold a re-dedication of members of the Mothers' Union at a big Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 13th. This will also, of course, be the first Family Service. I hope for a full Church. More about this next month.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

MOTHERS' UNION, BERE REGIS BRANCH.

A Coach will be leaving the Royal Oak at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5th to join the Dorchester Deanery at a United Meeting at which Mrs. Tundale, the Diocesan President will be the Speaker.
The Monthly Meeting of our Branch will be held at 7.30 p.m. at the W.I. Hut on Thursday, December 13th. At this Meeting extracts from Handel's 'Messiah' will be played, including the Christmas music.

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

BERE REGIS

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, December 23rd,
6.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE OF THE NINE LESSONS.
The Lessons to be read by representatives from the Church and Parish. Printed copies of the Service, containing the names of the readers and the words of all the Carols to be sung, available for everyone.
Come and join in the old Christmas Carols.
We advise those intending to come to this Service to come early to obtain a good seat.

CHRISTMAS EVE. DECEMBER 24th.
11.45 p.m. MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY. DECEMBER 25th.
8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
11.00 a.m. MATINS,
12 noon. HOLY COMMUNION.

THE BRIANTSPUDDLE SINGERS

The above group of Singers will give a short recital of Church music in Bere Regis Church at Evensong on Sunday December 16th.
This recital will take the place of the Sermon, and the Service will be arranged to end at the usual time.

We give a very warm welcome to the Briantspuddle Singers especially as this will be the first occasion on which they have sang in the Church. We trust that many will take the opportunity of hearing them.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Dec. 2nd. ) Advent
Dec. 9th. )
Dec. 16th. )
Dec. 23rd. )
Dec. 30th. Miss McFall.

As usual no flowers will be displayed in the Sanctuary during Advent, but if anyone has flowers to spare for the Visitors' and Memorial tables, Mrs. Tranter would be delighted to receive them.
The Guild will meet in the Vicarage on Friday, December 7th at 3 p.m. to arrange the rota for 1963. Please note that we have had to change the date from that given in last month's magazine, owing to another meeting being already fixed for the original date.
Please come if you can possibly do so.

J.D.T.

IN AND AROUND BERE REGIS

by Parishioner.

I suppose we shall remember 1962 as a cold but relatively dry year. So far rainfall has been average or below and, with the exception of the last week of April, the weather was cold until June. Even after then warm days were the exception rather than the rule. The extraordinary thing was that this weather produced a record grain harvest, though in early July the crops looked well below average.

I notices some of the migrant birds having arrived late in the Spring departed earlier than usual and missed some of the best weather which came in October.

This month will be long remembered by farmers for the growth of grass which took place and for the ease of seed bed cultivations. The winter corn went in well and the acreage of winter wheat is well above average. Wheat, we are told, will pay well if we enter the Common Market but as far as this year is concerned, prices have been at a very low ebb and are likely to remain so.

November has brought gales, rain, ice and snow but in between
there have been one or two pleasant days and thrushes and robins sang as though it were early Spring.

Bird populations are always changing. This year I have noticed more sparrow hawks, and Bullfinches continue to increase, and the fascinating Grey Wagtail is now a common sight near the stream.

The Partridge suffered severely during the war years and just afterwards but in recent years it has made steady gains and this year has seen a further increase in its number. Due to the cold May and the lack of insect food the early broods of many birds suffered greatly while later broods thrived.

The by-election has brought politics right to the fore in South Dorset and has given us a chance to consider and discuss many of the important issues facing us to-day.

It seems that there could well be a desire for discussion, on an informal basis, on the place of religion in our lives. We live in an ever-changing world and man's knowledge increases year by year. Our minds are for ever probing more deeply for the truth.

If there were enough people interested it would be worth meeting occasionally during the winter months to discuss some of the problems which confront us.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 18.

VICARS OF BERE REGIS (continued)

Thomas Basket. Instituted 23 January 1663, died 1665
Robert Frampton. Instituted 4 December 1665, resigned 1666.
Lewis White. Instituted 23 October 1666, died 1667.
Edmund Strange. Instituted 10 May 1675, buried 13 July 1678.
John Ouchterlony. Instituted 1 January 1679, resigned 1698.
William Abell. Instituted 13 May 1699, died 22 April 1701.
William Hockin. Instituted 7 July 1701, died 1710.
John Wills. Instituted 19 April 1711, resigned 1725.
Henry Fisher. Instituted 19 November 1725, died 20 June 1773, aged 90. He was vicar of Bere for almost 48 years, and during this time he made a table from a yew tree which is reputed to have grown in the churchyard, and which is still in use in the vestry. Its legs are shaped like those of a horse and it bears the inscription "HF v dedit dedicat q." There is a small brass memorial to him on the north wall of the north aisle depicting a skull and hour-glass and inscribed "Verbum non amplius - Fisher". The same device and motto appeared on a wing of Balliol College, Oxford, the building of which he financed, and which afterwards became known as "Fisher's buildings". The inscription, translated, reads: "The Word and no more - Fisher".

Thomas Williams. Instituted 4 December 1773, resigned 1817.
John Carrington Ley. Instituted 1818, died 24 September 1864, aged 76. He was born 25 October 1788, and his grave is in the north part of the churchyard.
Francis Warre. Instituted 1865, resigned 1876.
John Frere Langford. Instituted 1876, resigned 31 October 1886.
William Farrer. Instituted 4 December 1886, resigned 1899.
Walter Edward Hamilton Soetheby. Instituted 1899.
R. C. V. Hodge. Instituted 1919, resigned 1921.
Percy Wolryche Taylor. Instituted 1921, died 23 October 1935.
He was born 4 June 1862, and his grave is in the cemetery.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN AID OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

HEATING FUND

CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

W.I. HALL, FRIDAY - 21st DECEMBER, 1962 - at 7.30 p.m.

CHAMPION PRIZE - A TURKEY

Many other prizes

If anyone requires transport from Bere Regis will they please contact the Vicar, and arrangements will be made.

Gifts of prizes will be acceptable.

For Teenagers and All-ages - a Social - including Dancing -

will be held on THURSDAY - 3rd JANUARY, 1963.

In the W.I. Hall
from - 7.30 p.m. to 10.15 p.m.

Admission - including refreshments - 1/3d.
ST. NICHOLAS.

On the 6th December, we remember St. Nicholas, the patron saint of our Church, here at Winterbourne Kingston.

In the early Church it was the custom to read the legends of saints on their days, so that their lives might be imitated. These records were usually written by eye-witnesses, and although some were lost, doubtless efforts were made to recover the stories from memory. During the course of time a 'legend' became connected with the acts of saints, and although not historically accounted for, these legends portray the essential truths about the saints.

Nicholas we are told, was born of rich parents, who died when he was only a boy. In spite of all his wealth he did not live in a large house and spend money on himself, but he lived in humble lodgings and used his money to make other people happy. And when only a boy he began to love the Lord Jesus very much and wanted to be like Him and to go about doing good and making others happy. There are many stories about the kind things that Nicholas did. He was especially fond of children and often did his good deeds at night, when people were asleep, so that no one would know that he had done them. Over any pawn-broker's shop can be seen the sign of three golden balls, these balls represent the golden gifts that Nicholas gave to three daughters of a poor man, who without a dowry would have been unable to marry.

Soon after his ordination he went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, during the voyage home there was a storm, and the power of Nicholas over wind and waves was observed. On his return he was made Bishop of Myra. Everyone in the town knew Nicholas, with his broad smiling face and long white beard. One winter day, about three weeks before Christmas, when he was a very old man he died on the 6th December and because the children were so grieved at his passing, the mothers of Myra began to give their children gifts, which they put into their stockings or shoes, and St. Nicholas has gone on making children happy from that day to this. We can easily understand how the practice of giving presents in a mysterious manner, especially to children, grew up, and in some countries, such as Holland, gifts are given on the 6th December. These customs that sprang up around St. Nicholas Day, were transferred, at least in England, to Christmas Day. His name became shortened by very little children into 'Claus' and because he was such a kind man was called Saint or Santa, and so we get Santa Claus.

Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, children, young girls, the poor and outcast.

This fourth century Bishop of Myra is said to have been at the Council of Nicea in 325. Many centuries ago, the people who lived here thought fit to honour this Saint by dedicating the Church in his name and we in our turn and generation honour the name and memory of Saint Nicholas.

E.M. Sheppard.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Parish Council, appreciation was expressed to the Bere Regis and District Branch of the British Legion, for bearing the cost of repair to the fencing at the War Memorial in the village.

The Council decided to support a letter from the Women's Institute, asking the Bere Regis and District Motor Services if it would be possible for the Blandford bus to be parked at Sheep Market Hill as hitherto.

As well as other matters dealt with, it was agreed to write to the County Surveyor concerning the accidents which have become more prevalent at the Bridge in North Street.

E.M. Sheppard. Clerk.

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHRISTMAS DAY. December 25th.
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion with Hymns and Address.

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY. December 30th.
3.15 p.m. Family Carol Service.

Come as a family to join in and enjoy the old Christmas Carols at this special Service of Lessons and Carols.

MOTHERS' UNION
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON BRANCH.

A Coach will be leaving the Reading Room at 1.45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5th, to join the Dorchester Deanery at a united meeting at which Mrs. Tundale, the Diocesan President, will be the speaker.
The monthly meeting of our Branch will be held at 2.45 on Wednesday December 12th, in the Reading Room.
At this meeting extracts from Handel's 'Messiah' will be played including the Christmas music.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM.

October 28th. Amanda Jane Beasley.
            Michael Ray Cox.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

November 4th. Laurence Martin Burgess.

'SMALL ADS'.

(2/6 for every three lines).

LADIES HAIRDRESSING by QUALIFIED STYLIST.
MRS. SOLDAN, 'MERRYDOWN', SITTERTON, BERE REGIS 308.
RING BEFORE 9.30 a.m. FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT.
REPRESENTATIVE FOR AVON BEAUTY PRODUCTS.