THE VICAR’S LETTER

My dear Friends,

What a thrilling and encouraging time Easter was for us all. There were greatly increased numbers of Communicants both at Bere Regis and Winterbourne Kingston and congregations were exceptionally good at all the Services in both villages, but especially the 11 a.m. Service at Bere Regis, when the Church was just about full.

The decorations too were quite beautiful and I do want to say how very grateful I am to all those who so kindly gave flowers and the many people who gave up so much time in placing the flowers in position and making our Churches look so charming.

I am also most grateful to the anonymous donor of a most beautiful rug to Bere Regis Church. It is to be kept in a readily accessible place to be used to give warmth and comfort in case of illness during the times of Service.

As we are publishing this month the Easter Lily lists, which take up a large amount of space, I dare not write any more in my letter except to say may God bless those who were Confirmed by the Bishop of Sherborne at the most inspiring Service on March 27th.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

SCHOOL NEWS.

Susan Legg was one of two Dorset children to win a 1961 National Essay Competition Certificate sponsored by the Council for Visual Education. The subject was, "A Church I like" and Susan wrote about Bere Regis Church.

The Football team recently entered the Six-a-side football rally at Wimborne and have also played matches against Lulworth and Puddletown Schools.

About 70 children from Morden Affpuddle and Bere Regis Schools thoroughly enjoyed a Country Dance Party held at the School one Friday evening.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 11.

ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD A.D. 410 - 1066.

In the evening of March 18th, in the year A.D. 978, the young King Edward (the Martyr) was brutally murdered at Corfe Gate, a gap in the Purbeck hills which was later to become the site of the well-known castle. He was hunting in the neighbourhood and had decided to visit his step-mother Queen Elfrida who was staying at her house nearby. He was about to drink a cup of wine he had been offered
while still mounted on his horse at the entrance of the house, when he was stabbed and received a wound from which he soon died. It is said that he was dragged by the stirrup for some distance when his horse took fright and fled. His body was hidden for sometime at a nearby cottage and was later buried in a humble grave at Wareham. Subsequently his body was borne in great state to Shaftesbury Abbey and placed in a tomb which became a shrine for pilgrims from near and far.

It is not known for certain whether Elfrida was implicated in Edward's murder, as he was a hot tempered man especially towards his servants, and may have had many enemies. However, as his death resulted in the throne coming to Elfrida's own son, Ethelred, she certainly gained by it and consequently suspicion fell heavily on her.

In order to escape from the suspicious glances and whisperings of Corfe, she came to live in seclusion here at Bere for a while, and is said to have eventually become a nun and lived a humble life of atonement. As Edward had been a young king, Elfrida as queen mother was the virtual ruler of the country and seems to have been entitled to use any Crown property as her own. Bere at this time was one of the Royal Manors, and the house or group of buildings Elfrida used would very probably have stood in what is now Court Green.

The pipe rolls of King John's reign (1199-1216) make no mention of actually building his houses at Bere, but refer only to repairs, alterations and additions, and this seems to indicate that the buildings existed before his time, and could have basically been those which Elfrida used some 226 years previously.

An incident which must have occurred here is the beating Ethelred received from his mother Elfrida when he reproached her for the death of his half-brother Edward. She used large wax candles to administer the beating, nothing more suitable being readily available. The Saxon Chronicle, recording this incident, states: “Wherefor Ethelred ever hated wax candles, and would have none burnt before him all the days of his life.”

F.P. Pitfield.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Pamela Marsh the daughter of our Peoples Warden on her marriage to Arthur Collis, and to
Edwin Rawbone, our Parish Clerk on his marriage to Mrs. Battrick. We wish them every happiness for the future.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS DATE
TUESDAY, MAY 15th. 10.30 - 12 noon at Summerrods COFFEE MORNING (Bring and Buy Produce Stall) in AID OF BERE REGIS CHURCH RE-WIRING FUND.
have to spoil it for the majority by littering gateways and hedgerows with bottles, tins and paper, and it seems that no amount of publicity will make them mend their ways.

As one looks around the country one sees a slow but steady change in the livestock population. Hens have nearly all gone indoors, pigs are following them and now it seems that beef animals are going in also. More sheep and cows are spending the winter indoors and one begins to wonder where it is all leading.

It is nearly the cricket season and although it is cold at the moment one hopes that better weather is around the corner.

The swallows are here, so too are the warblers and soon the most familiar of spring sounds, that of the cuckoo, will be heard. Even when Spring finally does come to stay this cold winter will not be easily forgotten.

J.G.


SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

May 6th. Mrs. Poore.
May 13th. Miss Stors and Miss A. Stors.
May 20th. Miss E. Lys.
May 27th. Mrs. Lys.

A meeting of the Guild will be held at the Vicarage on WEDNESDAY, June 6th, at 3 p.m. when the rota will be made out for the remaining six months of the year. It is much hoped that all present members who possibly can will attend and it would also be an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to join to come along too. We can always do with more members!

J.D.T.
BERE REGIS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE.

This year the Annual Carnival is being held on Saturday, June 2nd and I am pleased to report that arrangements are well in hand. The following are features already booked for your entertainment:

- Children's Sports
- Dancing Display by the pupils of Bere Regis School
- Gymnastic Display by members of H.M. Bosstal
- Dog Display by Blandford and District Dog Training Society
- Donkey Racing

We are hiring 10 Donkeys from the New Forest and shall arrange as many races as possible, one to be a Donkey Derby.

Three Bands have been engaged: The Weymouth Sea Cadets, Weymouth Town Band and the Dorchester T.A. Band.

Carnival Classes are the same as last year with an additional class for Fancy Dress on Horseback. Entries to Mrs. Janes, North Street, Bere Regis.

The election of Carnival Queen and her attendants are the same as last year. Three dances are being held at The Drax Hall on April 7th - 8th and May 12th. Six competitors are chosen from each of the first two, and the final judging takes place at the third.

Judges for the Carnival Queen Contest and the Carnival Classes are being kindly supplied by the Broadstone Branch of the British Legion.

P.R. Minter.

CONDOLENCES TO -

Mrs. Langdown, a devoted member of the congregation at Winterbourne Kingston, on the death of her husband. We send our sympathies to her and her children and wish them God's comfort and blessing.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in March when Mr. J. Strang, County Councillor addressed the meeting, as did also Mr. D.W. Keen, Chairman of the Blandford Rural District Council's Housing Committee, who dealt also with questions put to them by the Parishioners. The Clerk presented the Annual Report of the Council's activities during the year and reported that the Village Hall Fund now stands at £94.16.10. The Recreation Field Committee was congratulated on the tidy appearance of the Playing Field.

E.M. Sheppard, Clerk to the Council.

The following from Winterbourne Kingston were Confirmed on Tuesday, March 27th, by the Bishop of Sherborne in the Parish Church. Michael Terence Barnes, David John Vincent, Dennis Bentley, Sylvia Ellen House, Janis Portia Richards, Dilys Elizabeth Hawkes, Margaret Valerie Meakin, Margaret Vincent, Sylvia Legg, Elsie Hilda Legg, Elsie Jean Georgina Thrush, Barbara Sophia Barnes.

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON REMEMBRANCE LILIES FOR EASTER

GIVEN BY:

E.J.G. Thrush.
F. Wellstead.
Mrs. E. Legg.
Mrs. Painter.
Mrs. E. Wellstead.
Mrs. E. Vincent.
Mrs. M. Rolls.
Mrs. E.R. Legg.
Mary Bentley.
Dennis Bentley.
Mr. and Mrs. J.C.E. Terry and children.
Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Murray.

IN MEMORY OF:

Alexander Moody.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Wellstead.
Mr. and Mrs. Calder.
E.E. Painter.
Richard Painter.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Legg.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Legg.
Mr. E.R. Legg.
Jessie Kime.
Amelia F. Bentley.
Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Miller.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Parker.

A Sewing Group is now meeting to prepare for the Garden Party in June - all those who are willing and able to ply a needle of any type are invited! The day - Tuesday afternoons. The time -
FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

BERE REGIS.

MARRIAGES

HOLY BAPTISM

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

BURIALS.
April 7th. Maggie Baker, 72 years.
April 12th. Sydney James Langdown, 83 years.

SMALL ADS.
(2/6d for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING by QUALIFIED STYLIST.
MRS. SOLDAN, "MERRYDOWN", SITTERTON. BERE REGIS 308.
RING BEFORE 9.30 a.m. for APPOINTMENT.

MACALLEN FLAME GUN - FOR SALE. £4. 0. 0d. O.N.O.
APPLY TO THE VICARAGE. BERE REGIS 262.
ALSO TENNIS MARKER £2. 0. 0d. O.N.O.