THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

I am most grateful to Mrs. Jesty and Mrs. Benjafield for their kindness in arranging such a successful Coffee Morning at Doddings while I was away on holiday. The profit came to over £16, which was a most excellent result and a very welcome addition to the Lighting Fund.

We are also greatly indebted to Mrs. Talbot who has presented the same fund with a most generous cheque of £25 in memory of her husband Mr. Basil Talbot. This cheque will be used to finance the lighting of a certain part of the Church which I shall be arranging with Mrs. Talbot later, so that there will be a definite part of the lighting dedicated to his memory.

At the time of writing work on the new electrical installation has not yet commenced either at the Parish Church or at St. Nicholas, but I sincerely hope it will be on its way before I write the letter for next month's magazine.

We send our very warm sympathy this month to Mrs. Roffey on the death of her husband, and to Miss Hookey on the death of her sister Fidelia.

Major Roffey was a regular member of the congregation when he was well enough, but was kept away during recent months. He combatted a long and trying illness with great courage and cheerfulness, retaining his interest in life right up to the end. The large number of his fellow Officers and friends who came to his Memorial Service, some of whom came from a great distance, is a sufficient tribute to the high esteem in which he was held.

Miss Fidelia Hookey had been bed-ridden for 40 years and had been devotedly nursed for a great many years by her sister, Miss Mabel Hookey. Towards the end she was completely blind, not even being able to distinguish between light and darkness and in addition was extremely deaf.

She never complained and was only happy in the knowledge that her sister was by her side. She died peacefully in her sleep.

Death is indeed a sad time for those who are left but it is glorious for those who have left the imperfections of the body behind and have gone to the perfectness of the life in heaven.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.
BERE REGIS AND DISTRICT BRITISH LEGION

This year has followed the pattern of those in the Immediate past with no outstanding comments to make. Our membership has been maintained which is most encouraging, with a vote of thanks to all those who see to this.

The one disappointment this year was the poor attendance of the Earl Haig Memorial Service at Bovingdon. I must place this on record as I feel it is the one time in the year when we in Dorset can get together to acknowledge our aims and obligations, at the same time remembering our founder who gave us the job to do which we are indeed doing.

This Autumn we have the following events which I would like you to note in your diaries.

The Annual General Meeting which will be held in the Drax Hall Bere Regis, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday October 3rd. This meeting will be most important, one I feel sure with some new ideas to be put forward by some members for the future of the Branch. We will also see the array of certificates we now have framed and kept permanently hung in the lower room.

On Sunday, October 7th, the committee have arranged a coach trip, firstly to Sandhurst for the parade and then a trip to London with a commentary around the City and West End. The cost, about £1 inclusive of lunch. Names of the members and wives should be sent now to Mr. Hewitt, of those wishing to go.

The remembrance Service will be at Bloxworth this year at 3 p.m. A bus will be arranged as usual. In the evening we are invited to the Congregational Chapel for a Service at 6 p.m.

Looking farther ahead I feel confident the committee will be considering another Dinner at Christmas, and this year a Bumper Whist Drive.

To summarise then:-

Wednesday, October 3rd, at 8 p.m. Annual General Meeting. Sunday, October 7th, Sandhurst Parade with Lunch and Tour of London.

Sunday, November 11th. Remembrance Service at Bloxworth at 3 p.m. Bere Regis Congregational Chapel at 6 p.m.

T. W. Jesty.
Chairman.

BERE REGIS EVENING INSTITUTE

The evening Woodwork Classes have begun at the Old Boys School. Fees for 1962-63 session -

Students under 18 5/- per term.
Adults 15/- per term of 12 lessons.

Organiser.
F. Marsh, Southbrook.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

October 7th. Harvest Festival Mrs. Tranter.
October 14th. Mrs. Roffey.
October 21st. Mrs. Lys.
October 28th. Mrs. Benjafield.

J. D. T.

BERE REGIS AND DISTRICT BRITISH LEGION

WOMEN'S SECTION.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Chair was taken by Mrs. Keeping. An interesting talk was given by Mr. Stickland on 'Famous Dorset Personalities', followed by coloured slides showing houses and places connected with the personalities.

The Competition was won by Mrs. Caldicott of Briantspuddle.

Audrey Lys.
Assist. Hon. Sec.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The next meeting of the B.R.W.I. will be on Tuesday, October 16th at 7 p.m. when the Singer Sewing Machine Company will be giving a demonstration on their models. All visitors are cordially invited to join members for this meeting.

B. Griffin. President.
MOTHERS' UNION, BERE REGIS BRANCH.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11th. Quarterly Corporate Communion 7.30 p.m. I hope all members will make an effort to be present at the first meeting of the Autumn Session.

P. J. T.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 16

VICARS OF BERE REGIS.

Reginald de Stoke occurs as "parson of Bere" at some time during the reign of Edward III (1327-1377)

John Belle was vicar in 1408 according to Dean Chandler's register of incitations.

Thomas Turke was vicar in 1411, also in Dean Chandler's register. Hutchins, the Dorset historian, said of him "he abjured to heresy". This was in 1414.

William Wingfield. Instituted 1534, resigned 1545.

William Vallance. Instituted 14 July, 1545. His death or resignation is unknown, but he was still vicar in 1552 when he signed the inventory of church goods.


David Woodnot. Instituted 16 Nov. 1575, died in 1592.

Thomas Bastard. Instituted 27 Jan. 1593, buried 19 April 1618. He was born at Blantford in 1568 of a family of French origin. Having been at Winchester school, he was admitted to New College Oxford on the 27th August 1586, and elected a perpetual fellow in 1588, becoming B.A. in 1590 and later M.A. He was a poet of merit who specialised in epigrams, which were often libellous, and as a result of one of them which was particularly so, was forced to resign his fellowship in 1591. He later became chaplain to Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, the Lord Treasurer of England, and through whose influence he became vicar of Bere.

Thomas Bastard had a great reputation for wit, and in 1598 a book of his epigrams was published under the title of "Chrestoleros: Seven Bookes of Epigrams written by T. B." On February 6th, 1922 an original of the first edition of "Chrestoleros" one of four or five known copies, was sold at Sotheby's for £155 to an American Book Collector.

Thomas Bastard was a keen fisherman, and was able to indulge in his favourite pastime here at Bere, which he refers to in an epigram sent to his fellow poet Sir Henry Wotton:

"Wotton, my little Beere dwells on a hill, Under whose foot the silver trout doth swim, The Trowt silver without and goold within ..... "

He always seems to have been suffering from poverty and referred to his "little family", and a wife who he described as "no great help-meet". He ended sadly in debt and insane as appears by the following extract:-

"This poet and preacher being towards his latter end crazed, and thereupon brought into debt, was at length committed to the prison in Allhallows (All Saints) parish, in Dorchester, where, dying very obscurely and in a mean condition, was buried in the churchyard belonging to that parish on 19 April, 1618, leaving behind him many memorials of his wit and drollery'.

(to be continued) F. P. Pitfield.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

The House-to-House Collection made recently in the village realised £8. 5. 9d.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

WHAT IS IT?

It is the Church's register of electors; it is in fact the list of
those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when elections take place for the Parochial Church Council and for the parish’s representatives on the Rurı–Decanal Conference. The Parochial Church Council is responsible for compiling it and keeping it up to date, so that it contains all the names of the lay members of the Church of England.

WHO IS QUALIFIED?

To be on the Roll a person must have reached the age of seventeen, to have been baptized and declare that they are a member of the Church of England. Must reside in the parish, or if not, to have habitually attended public worship in the parish for six months before enrolment, and have signed the form of application for enrolment.

WHY SHOULD I SIGN?

By doing so, you acknowledge your membership of the Church of England and you help in this way to show that England is still a Christian country. At the same time you are exercising a privilege and carrying out one of the duties of the laity. You are becoming a voting member of the Church, and so help to ensure that the Councils of the Church, to which we belong, are fully representative of its members.

The Electoral Roll at St. Nicholas is being revised. Application forms for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll may be obtained from the Church, from your magazine distributors, or from the Secretary.

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MOTHERS' UNION

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON BRANCH.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10th. Quarterly Corporate Communion 2.45 p.m.
I hope all members will make an effort to be present at the first meeting of the Autumn Session.

P.J.T.

________________________________________
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

The Imperial Service Medal and Certificate have been awarded to Mr. G. Lane, in recognition of his 38 years service at Bovington

________________________________________
Camp. Congratulations to him for having gained this honour.

________________________________________
ST. NICHOLAS MARKET

FRIDAY – 7th DECEMBER

PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FOR

YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

DEATHS

September 1st. Major Richard Stuart Roffey. 44 years.
September 14th. Fidella Kate Hooked 88 years
September 19th. Herbert Samuel James 77 years.

HOLY BAPTISM

August 19th. Christopher Charles Parsons.
LADIES HAIRDRESSING by QUALIFIED STYLIST.
MRS. SOLDAN, "MERRYDOWN", SITTERTON, BERE REGIS 308.
RING BEFORE 9.30 a.m. FOR APPOINTMENT.
REPRESENTATIVE FOR AVON BEAUTY PRODUCTS.

BRING AND BUY GARDEN PLANT SALE
IN AID OF THE AFFPUDDLE CHURCH REPAIR FUND.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd. 2.30 - 4. BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL.