THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Congratulations to all on the wonderful result of the Garden Party achieved in spite of the most awful weather. An all time record of £157. I was most impressed with the way all difficulties were taken in their stride and with the cheerfulness and optimism that was shown by all. Our thanks also to the village in general who supported their Parish Church so nobly and came out in such large numbers in spite of the streaming rain. The full accounts appear on a later page and they make very good reading.

My warm thanks to all those who by their efforts produced such a wonderful result and also to Messrs. Goulds Ltd., of Dorchester, through whose help the delightful Dress Show was made possible. I hope perhaps some of our readers will remember this kindness when they go shopping in Dorchester.

Winterbourne Kingston Church has recently been graced with a pair of very beautiful red curtains for the Sanctuary. These were the gift of Brigadier and Mrs. Lipscombe, and were given to the Church as a parting present on their removal to Marnhull.

We are most grateful to them for their kindness on this and many other occasions. The curtains add a real bit of colour and warmth to the old Church and will be for a very long time a happy reminder of their donors.

 Shortly, publicity material in connection with the Village Evangelists Mission to this parish will be available. I shall be most grateful for any help you can give in displaying it as prominently as possible, and giving the Mission as much publicity as possible - We want everyone to know about it in good time. Full details will, I hope, be available in time for the September issue of the magazine.

Finally, grateful thanks to Mrs. Tadman who organised and carried through almost single handed, the draw for the oil painting so kindly given to the Lighting Fund. She has now handed over to the Church Treasurer a cheque for no less than £15 - a wonderful result and a wonderful effort.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter,
remains intact, and is carved with bands of intersecting semi-
circular arches, and six and seven pointed stars within circles.
The existing pedestal and base are not original, but were added in
1875, and the form of the original base can be seen from an old
engraving.

In about the year 1140, when the pointed or Gothic arch had
just been introduced, three arches were cut in the south wall of the
nave and a south aisle added. This south aisle was narrower than
the present one, its east end was one bay shorter, and its west end
was in line with the back of the original nave, that is, just west
of the present south door. These three nave arches still exist, and
can be dated fairly accurately, as they are Transitional Norman
work, built in a period when the pointed arch had been introduced,
but when traditional Norman mouldings and carvings were still being
used. It is often thought that this arcade and aisle were built at
the expense of King John, but this cannot be so, as the work must
have been carried out some sixty years previous to the beginning of
John’s reign (1199-1216). In some of King John’s letters close and
patent, “our chapel of Bere” is mentioned, but this refers to his
private chapel which always formed part of his group of houses,
wherever they were built.

The piers of the south arcade are circular, on square bases,
and the capitals are ornamented with carvings of heads. One head
is crowned and bearded, and three others appear to represent
sufferers from “headache” and “toothache”. On one of the capitals
is carved an animal which is thought to be a representation of the
Medieval sport of bear-baiting, and it is this and the crowned head
which have given rise to the supposition that the work is associated
with King John. Over the arches on the nave side is a continuous
moulding decorated with the Norman type nail-head pattern,
following the outline of the arches.

Shortly after the addition of the south aisle, three more
arches were cut on the north side of the nave, and a similar aisle
added, of the same length as the original south aisle, extending to
the tower where the organ now stands. These three arches still
exist and appear to be somewhat later in date than those on the
south side, as the Norman carving and moulding had been discarded
by the time they were built, although the shape of the arches and
piers are similar. Some of the corbel stones which supported the
original north aisle roof can still be seen above the arcade in this
aisle.

There is another possible explanation of the plainness of the
north arcade as compared with the south. In some early German churches
the same thing occurs, and is due to the allocation of the south side to
men and the north to women in an age when men liked to accentuate
their greater importance. Segregation of men and women in churches
was usual in England until the nineteenth century, and at Bere, from old
churchwardens' accounts, where details of pew rents are given, it can
be seen that men and boys were seated on the south side of the church,
and women and girls on the north. Could it be that this custom still
survives at Bere, where, for the children's service the boys have always
sat on the south side, and the girls on the north?

(to be continued) F. P. Pitfield.

BERE REGIS CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

RECEIPTS

Donations:
Messrs. Goulds 1. 10. 0.
Anon 5. 0. 0.
Mr. J. Strang 3. 0. 0.
Mr. Toop 2. 0. 0.
Mr. Griffin Snr. 1. 0. 0.
Mr. G. Griffin 10. 0. 0.

13. 0. 0.

Stalls:
White Elephant 9. 3. 0.
Roll-a-penny 7. 1. 1.
Mothers' Union 14. 7. 9.
Teas 5. 14. 4.
Draw Table 27. 5. 6.
Toys 3. 5. 2.
Ice Cream 15. 8.
Produce 11. 4. 0.
Orangery 7. 12. 0.
Hoop-la 15. 6.
Cakes and Sweets 11. 5. 3.
Treasure Hunt 2. 0. 6.
Groceries 20. 19. 4.
Door 4. 7. 6.
Tombola 13. 9. 0.
Bowling 1. 19. 10.
Buttonholes 1. 3. 0.

£165. 3. 1.

EXPENSES

Prize 10. 0.
Hire of Hall 2. 10. 0.
Printing 4. 10. 3.
Balance 157. 12. 10.
being profit £165. 3. 1.

THE DORSET ASSOCIATION FOR THE WELFARE
OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

The amount of £8. 18. 1½d. was collected in Bere Regis,
the total for the Purbeck District being £125. 8. 8d. Mrs. Lys
would like to thank the collectors and those who contributed to
this total.

BRITISH LEGION

BERE REGIS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

WOMEN'S SECTION

The Annual Garden Fete will be held at White Lovington by
kind permission of the President Miss Llewellyn on August 21st
and will be opened by Lady Debenham at 3 p.m.

There will be various stalls including the work of the
Disabled Men's Industries and Cambrian Factory goods.

All money raised will be used for W.S. Benevolent Schemes.
Gifts will be welcome. Admission Free. Please support this effort.

A. L. Coles, Hon. Sec.

BERE REGIS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE 1963 CARNIVAL.

1963 was the 8th Carnival in Bere Regis, and it was the first
time the Committee sat following a Carnival when they were faced
with a loss. But only a financial loss of approximately £10 and the
meeting very soon divided its thoughts into promoting a Carnival
for the sake of e day's Spectacle and Entertainment on the one hand,
and how it could be a financial success with a profit on the other.
The former presented no problem to the Committee and many ideas were put forward for 1964, with particular interest in having more entertainment in the evening to hold the crowd and encourage more to come. As far as this year went, the Committee realised the failure of the afternoon feature, and a few administrative details, which can very easily be remedied. Their main concern however was the apparent lack of support from the local organisations in having stalls to take advantage of the crowd to make some money for themselves. In the future the Committee felt they should invite Charities from outside of the area to have the opportunity, such as St. Dunstan’s. They are also going to try and gain the support of local persons to help with the problems of the Gate, and refreshments for the performers. By increasing on this side of the day’s affairs the Committee felt it would create more of a Show atmosphere.

The latter question, finance, and this year’s loss was caused by 2 main factors. Increasing costs of production all round, there being less available for nothing as in previous years, and the numbers in attendance being down on the last 4 years which was due entirely to the weather. It may seem strange to say such a thing on a fine day, but when the weather is so settled and warm as it was the casual visitors go to the sea and stay there. It is they who have given us the high attendance figures in the better years. The Committee felt confident however that some measure of financial success can be claimed inasmuch as £90 was given away in prize money to the competitors, and £40 taken by those local organisations who had a stall. Also since the commence- ment of the Bere Regis Carnival some £700 has been given in prize money, £250 taken by local organisations, and £1000 in distributed profits.

In conclusion the Committee view the future with optimism having decided that next year’s Carnival will take place on the first Saturday in June, the 6th, 1964 and extend a sincere vote of thanks to all those people and organisations who helped, and contributed, to make this year’s Carnival a most enjoyable day.

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FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.  LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS.

ST. AIDAN  31st August.

Northumbria, which is the northern part of England, for a short time in the seventh century saw evil days, until Oswald was made king. Oswald, had been in exile on the Island of Iona, where he had been treated kindly and educated by the good monks. You will remember reading about this Island in the June magazine.

It is not surprising, therefore, that when Oswald began to put his kingdom in order, and to think about teaching the people what he had himself learnt at Iona, he sent there for a Bishop to work in Northumbria.

The Iona monks chose from amongst their number Aidan, a man of very saintly and gentle character. Aidan came, with other monks to King Oswald, and the King gave them a little island, just off the coast, and in sight of his great castle at Bamborough. It was on this island, Lindisfarne, in the year 635 that Aidan began his new work and became its Bishop. However, Aidan came to teach the people, not to live quietly in a monastery, and he travelled about, almost always on foot, as he walked along the Roman roads and the sheep-tracks on the moors, he recited the psalms or read the Scriptures, and he talked to all those whom he met, teaching the heathen and helping the Christian. Very often King Oswald would accompany Aidan as he travelled and for nearly seven years, King Oswald and Bishop Aidan vigorously worked together for the Church’s good, until Oswald was killed in battle.

Troubled times came to Northumbria again, but Aidan stayed on, until the country eventually found peace once more under King Oswy.

When after seventeen years Aidan died rather suddenly on the 31st August, 651, Northumbria had really been brought into God’s great Family.

Far away on the Lammermoors, that August night, a shepherd boy had a beautiful dream, the boy was called Cuthbert, and in the dream he saw angels, in a stream of light, bearing a soul of surpassing beauty to heaven. When he was told, that the well-known and saintly Aidan had died that very night, Cuthbert decided that he would imitate his beautiful life. He went to the monastery at Melrose and asked to be a brother - his wish was granted - and in time, because of his piety, energy and learning he was chosen to be Prior of Melrose. Cuthbert became a most famous preacher of Christ’s Gospel, and people from far and near would flock around him. Cuthbert was made Bishop of Lindisfarne after he had been Prior of that monastery for some years and so he followed in the steps of one whom he so greatly admired - Bishop Aidan.

Through gentleness and humility St. Aidan led others to Christ, and these saintly virtues can be well imitated in our day and age.

E. M. S.
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

THE ST. NICHOLAS MARKET IS TO BE HELD
ON THE 6th DECEMBER.

PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

GARDEN PARTY - 1964
PROVISIONAL DATE - SATURDAY, 30th May.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

BERE REGIS

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<th>HOLY BAPTISM</th>
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<td>May 26th.</td>
<td>Colin Michael Hansford</td>
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'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 APPOINTMENT. REPRESENTATIVE FOR AVON BEAUTY PRODUCTS.

FOR SALE: TWO 2 BURNER "COMMODORE" FLORENCE SPACE HEATERS, 50 GALLON PARAFFIN OIL TANK IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. BOTH HEATERS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY MAINTAINED AND ARE IN FIRST CLASS ORDER. WHAT OFFERS? APPLY 'THE STORES' WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON. TEL: BERE REGIS 246.