THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

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

At the Parish Church once again we shall have the Carol Service of the Nine Lessons, but on this occasion the Lessons will be read by people representing some of the essentials of Village life. There will be a printed form of Service as usual and there will be more Carols for the congregation to sing. The Service will be recorded on tape and will again be available afterwards for invalids and the infirm to hear this beautiful Service in their own homes.

The St. Nicholas Carol Service will take place on the Sunday after Christmas at 3.15 p.m. in place of the usual Family Service there.

The midnight Communion on Christmas Eve evidently filled a much needed want and I propose to hold it again this year, with the addition of one or two Christmas hymns.

I see from a previous magazine that it is just a year since we started the Family Service which has proved so successful. I now propose to begin, as an experiment, the innovation of on the last Sunday in every month at the Parish Church and the fourth Sunday at St. Nicholas, having a shortened form of Evensong with no Sermon, and in the time so released, Community Hymn singing.

If this is to be successful it means we must have a good number of people at these Services - so tell your friends and bring them along. If you have a favourite hymn you would like sung at any of these Services, please let me know.

While talking of Hymns - St. Nicholas is changing over from the old version of Ancient and Modern Hymns to the new Revised version. The congregation there are giving Christmas presents of hymn books to the Church. Would any Bere Regis people care to join in this effort to give a Christmas present of a hymn book, price 6/-d, to their daughter Church?

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.
SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

BERE REGIS

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS. DECEMBER 22nd.

6.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE of the NINE LESSONS.
The Lessons to be read by representatives of
Village life. 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 singing 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. Mattins
12.00 noon Holy Communion

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Dec. 1st.) Advent
8th) Mrs. Tranter.
15th) Christmas Day
22nd) Mrs. J. Jesty.
25th.
29th.

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. Tadman or Mrs. Tranter would be delighted to receive them.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The Meeting on Thursday November 14th was well attended for
our first visiting Speaker for this Season - Mrs. Hondron gave us a
most helpful talk on religious Education for the very young child.

Our next meeting on December 12th at 7.30 p.m. in the W.I.
Hut will take a rather different form. We are making a special effort
to raise money for Oxfam as a Christmas gift. It is so easy to think
only of ourselves at this festive Season, but here is an opportunity for
everyone to help and give to those in greater need, so we are inviting
not only all M.U. members, but everyone who has the Welfare of other
people at heart.

There will be a Bring and Buy Stall, someone to receive gifts of
good clothing, not needing repair, and two films showing the desperate
need of the people and the work of Oxfam. Please come along and
help to make this a really worthy effort.

P.J.T.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 30

THE CHURCH (continued - 15th century work)

During the 15th century, mostly covered by the Perpendicular
period, a great deal of work was carried out, bringing the church to
basically its present state. Much of this work was carried out between
1485 and 1500, and is thought to have been due to the influence of
Cardinal Morton, who was a native of Bere Regis, having been born at
Milborne Stileham which then formed part of this parish.

In the chancel there are two very old oak chairs, which are
thought to have been made in about 1400, and there are only four other
churches in Dorset which contain any pre-Reformation stallwork.

During this century the 13th century 'lancet' side windows of the
chancel were taken out and replaced by those which still exist, and the
top of the 15th century triple lancet east window was replaced by
typical Perpendicular tracery. This top does not now exist, but can be
seen in an old engraving and a pre-1875 photograp.

The eleventh century tower over the east end of the north aisle
was taken down, except for small portions of it which still exist, and
the whole of the north aisle was rebuilt to its present width. The east
end is original, but the rest of the aisle seems to have been rebuilt
since the 15th century, and the original roof would appear to have been
a shallow double pitched roof, as a portion of it remains over the eastern
bay, beneath the later lean-to roof. The east end of this aisle was used
as Cardinal Morton's chantry chapel, and stone brackets which originally
supported carved figures still remain in the angle and reveals of the
east window. The west window is most unusual in this aisle, as,
although it has the usual Perpendicular tracery, the arch is flat sided.

The south aisle, having been rebuilt and extended during the
previous century, needed little work done, it seems, in the 15th century,
although it appears to have been necessary for some reason, to replace
the east window. This Perpendicular east window does not now exist,
but can be seen in an old photograph.

The major part of the work carried out in this century was
confined to the last quarter of it (1475-1500) when the old nave roof was taken down, the nave walls were built up above the aisle roofs with clerestory windows incorporated, the present nave roof was built at the new higher level, and the present tower added at the west end.

The tower remains unchanged since this time, and is built in three stages externally in chequered ashlar and flintwork, with battlemented and pinnacled top. The brown ferruginous stone used in the top stage, gives the tower its distinctive appearance and colouring. The stair turret is on the north west corner, and there are buttresses on each face near the angles, which terminate as attached pinnacles in the upper stage. There is a pierced stone belfry window on each face, and a large west window over a four centre arched west doorway. There is a canopied niche on each side of the west window externally, and these originally contained carved figures which have since disappeared. The high arch between the tower and the nave is typical of the period, with panelled soffite and reveals, but the apex is oddly off centre for some unaccountable reason.

(to be continued) F. P. Pitfield.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

13th. School Carol Service 6.30 p.m.
22nd. Parish Church Carol Service of the Nine Lessons 6.00 p.m.

1964 May 30th. St. Nicholas Garden Party
June 6th. Bere Regis Carnival
June 27th. Bere Regis Church Garden Party

BERE REGIS AND DISTRICT BRITISH LEGION

WOMEN'S SECTION

The Annual Garden Fete will be held at White Lovington on July 15th 1964, by kind permission of the President. A. L. Coles, Hon. Sec.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

Dec. 1st. 11.00 a.m. Messrs. F. Lys and F. Nash
               6.00 p.m. Messrs. D. Gibbs and L. Bartlett.
Dec. 8th. 11.00 a.m. Mr. S. Endacott and Col. A. Barne
               6.00 p.m. Messrs. P. House and H. Pitfield.
15th. 11.00 a.m. Brig. D. Tadman and Mr. F. Lys
               6.00 p.m. Messrs. R. Barnes and M. Barnes.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The Annual General Meeting of the Floral Group will take place on Tuesday December 10th at 2.30 p.m. in the Drax Hall. Please come along at the usual time as this is really quite an important meeting and the more fully representative of members it is, the better.

P. Lloyd. Hon. Asst. Sec.

SUNFLOWER GUILD

Boxes held by members of the Sunflower Guild of the Church of England Children’s Society were opened on October 24th and the sum of £7. 12. Od. realised.

On the children's behalf may I thank members very sincerely for their splendid effort.

Each day of the week three or four more children are taken into the Society’s care, including cripples, spastics, diabetics as well as the healthy ones so you will see that the need is still great.

I should be glad to hear of new members at any time.

J. A. Drew. Hon. Sec.

HONOURS LIST

In response to several requests, we print the following 'potted' version of a Sermon preached by the Vicar at All Saints-tide.

"I see in my daily newspaper this week that a certain Member of Parliament, who sits for a safe seat, has been made a Baron so that the consequent vacancy in the Constituency can be filled by Lord Hailsham who is soon to become Mr. Quintin Hogg.

What a gross mis-use of the honours list this is. But not surprising I suppose when one thinks of how Knighthoods are these days showered on Jockeys, actors, cricketers, footballers and such like. And if on such people why not on Boxers - All-in Wrestlers, Shove halfpenny Champions or the leading Marble exponent for that matter.

And what about the 'pop' singers. I am informed on reliable authority that we already have Screaming Lord Sutch, why not then Sir Cliff Richards or Sir Adam Faith or Dame Helen Shapiro, or Lord Beatle...
and Lady Bird Beatle and Sir Black Beatle:

Some of the names in the Honours List have recognition for their service to the nation as a whole. All honour to them. But on the whole the modern tendency is to give titles and honours to people who are either just doing the job they are paid to do, such as Civil Servants, or who for some reason or other happen to be in the public eye.

I would suggest, to counteract all this, we have a separate class of honours for - honourable people. The unselfish, the kindly, the generous, the loving, upright, the thoughtful, those who give their lives in service without pay or recognition.

But No: It wouldn’t do, for these are the very ones who would hate it most, and would be horrified at the thought of being rewarded just because they tried to be decent and good.

But these are the ones we honour at this All Saints’ tide. Just these very ones. Their names are forgotten, if they were ever known. They did their Christian duty, lived Christian lives as best they knew how.

Those who with no publicity agent made the world a richer and better place for all who came after. Those who have hastened the coming of the Kingdom of God.

And the final wonder of it all is that we have it in our power to be such Saints as those. Unsung - unheralded, no titles, no publicity, no fame, no gimmicks. Just Christian folk doing our Christian duty in whatever state it may please God to call us.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.

LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS.

SAINT IGNATIUS - BISHOP AND MARTYR. 17th December.

One of the Saints whom we remember especially in December is Ignatius of Antioch. He lived during a period about which little is known regarding the Christian Church. We do know, however, that he was Bishop of Antioch at the beginning of the second century and that because of being a Christian he was taken a prisoner.

As he made his last journey from Antioch to Rome, jostled along by a small band of Roman soldiers without any mercy or consideration for his years, Saint Ignatius was met at various points by representatives of the Churches in Asia Minor who came to greet him and to pay their respects as he journeyed towards his martyrdom at Rome. This gave him an opportunity of writing a number of letters, seven in all, to the Churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles and Rome, also to those members of the Churches of Philadelphia and Smyrna and to Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. These letters have given valuable insight into the problems which faced a leader in the days of the early Church. In these letters Saint Ignatius urged the need for unity and harmony, and in one gave the example of the harmony to be found in a choir singing together in unison. He also gave a clear statement on the existence of the three orders - bishops, priests and deacons, as we know them in our Church today.

His letters also show the reverence felt by those members of the early Church for the Eucharist and the real important part the Church and its Sacraments had in the life of this Christian martyr.

Just a week before Christmas Eve, 17th December, is the day of his commemoration.

SAINT WENCESLAS

Saint Wenceslas was born in 908, the elder son of King Wratislas of Bohemia. At the age of 18 he succeeded his father as King.

Saint Wenceslas devoted himself to Christianise his kingdom, but he met opposition, and it was his own brother who opposed his policy, which was one of peace, justice and protection for the poor.

In the year 936 Wenceslas was murdered by his brother, at the door of a Church to which he had come, to attend a service.

This good Saint is chiefly remembered for his kindly deeds of mercy and the story of one such deed is recalled in the well known Carol we sing at Christmastide.

Perhaps when we sing this Carol we shall spare a thought for the Saints, who by their lives followed the Star of Bethlehem, and worshipped the Christ-Child treading in his footsteps.

E.M.S.

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WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION.

A very happy meeting was held on November 13th, quite a good number being there. We had no need of a visiting speaker, as Mrs. Bentley, our Secretary and Treasurer, gave a most praiseworthy talk on her holiday with her family at an M.U. holiday Home at Burnham on Sea. I’m sure after hearing her description of the wonderful time they all had, many others would like to do the same another year, and she will be pleased to give anyone details.

Next month our speaker will be Mrs. Gooch whom you all love and enjoy, so do make a point of keeping the day clear.

As we were unable to have our usual Bring and Buy Stall at the Garden Meeting will you all try and bring something to this meeting to help the funds.

P.J.T.

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FINAL REMINDER  ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET - ST. NICHOLAS DAY.
FRIDAY - 6th DECEMBER - 6.30 p.m.

W. L. HALL.
CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

W. I. HALL - WEDNESDAY - 18th DECEMBER - at 7.30 p.m.

CHAMPION PRIZE - A TURKEY.

Many other prizes.

Church Heating and Restoration Fund.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY - 29th December.

3.15 p.m. Family Carol Service.

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS.

MARRIAGE

October 12th. Brian Peter Upshall and Stella Lucy Stevens.

October 19th. Donald George Edwin Thorne and Angela Mary MacDonald.

HOLY BAPTISM

October 27th. Steven John Hollinshead.

BURIAL

October 19th. Mary Jane Langdown, aged 83.

'SMALL ADS'

(2/6 for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING BY QUALIFIED STYLIST. MRS. LAMB, '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.