The Vicar's Letter

My dear Friends,

First of all a very Happy New Year to all our readers, may it be a year of spiritual growth and blessedness to you all.

In our Church life 1962 has been a most eventful year, and as we look back on it all our hearts should be filled with gratitude and thanks to God for all that has been attempted and successfully fulfilled. Especially I am glad to start 1963 with the knowledge that the whole of the old electric wiring in the Parish Church has been stripped out and our beautiful Church is now safe from any fire due to electrical faults for I trust many years to come. It is an added satisfaction that while we have been renewing the actual wiring we have been able to take steps to improve the actual illumination of the Church, and I feel sure that all of you will agree that the lighting is now superb in every way.

It is also a matter of much satisfaction that 1963 sees St. Nicholas with a proper system of Church heating installed and the inhabitants of Winterbourne Kingston can now feel that when they go to their Church on Sundays they are assured of a warm welcome.

The money that has had to be raised for these two ventures is considerable. Well over £1200 for the two, and it has only been possible to go forward with the Parish Church lighting and St. Nicholas heating through the energy, determination, self-sacrifice and faith of very many people. There is still a considerable amount of money to be raised but I should like at this time, the turn of the year, to say as your Vicar, how grateful I am for all your labours so far.

At the Annual meeting of the Sanctuary Guild, a report of which appears in a later page, Mrs. Tadman was elected Secretary in place of Mrs. Talbot. We give a warm welcome to our new Secretary, but in so doing I should like to say how grateful I am to Mrs. Talbot for all her help in the past. She took over the post of Secretary when the Guild was first started and has managed it so efficiently and enthusiastically since then. We owe her a debt of gratitude for sending the Sanctuary Guild off to such a fair start.

It was sad that we were denied the pleasure of hearing the Briantspuddle Singers in December, but this was due entirely to the fog which prevented the members from getting to the necessary practises. But I am glad to be able to tell you they are now coming on January 13th instead, at the 6 p.m. Service. At 3 p.m. on this
same Sunday we are to have the first Family Service and at this Service the Mothers’ Union will be present and will make a re-affirmation of the promise they took when they were first admitted members.

Perhaps you noticed in the article ‘In and around Bere Regis’ last month at the end the writer made a suggestion about any interested people meeting together occasionally during the Winter months to discuss informally the place of religion in our lives and some of the problems facing the Christian.

Will any who would be interested in forming such a group please speak to me and if there were sufficient it might be possible to start such a group even in a small way. Please think about this and let me know.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

THE BRIANTSPUDDLE SINGERS

The above group of singers will now give their postponed recital in Bere Regis Church at Evensong on Sunday, January 13th.

The recital will take the place of the Sermon, and the Service will be arranged to end at the usual time.

We look forward to welcoming the Singers to our Church.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

<table>
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<th>Jan.</th>
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<th>Miss McFall</th>
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<td>Mrs. Terry</td>
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<tr>
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A Meeting of the Guild was held in the Vicarage on Friday, 7th December, with the Vicar in the Chair. He began by thanking everyone for all they had done during the past months in adding beauty to the Church with their lovely flower arrangements. He also expressed the grateful thanks of all the Members to Mrs. Talbot for the work she has done as Secretary of the Guild since its inception. He welcomed Mrs. Tadman as the new Secretary.

One new Member joined. A rota was made out for the next six months, and can be seen in the Church Porch. If any Member has been given an inconvenient date will they please let either Mrs. Tranter or Mrs. Tadman know. Subscriptions for 1963 (1/-) may be paid to the Vicar at any time.

Readers may notice that on the rota often two names are shown against a Sunday. This is because some Members like to work in company with another. If any others of the Guild like to do the same, will they please let the Secretary know.

Will Members please remember that they are expected to attend the flowers during the ensuing week. If this is inconvenient will they please let Mrs. Tadman know.

C. T. T.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 19.

VILLAGE FIRES.

Bere Regis has suffered badly from fires on several occasions, the worst ones being in 1633, 1717 and 1788. Most of them seem to have occurred during the summer, probably due to the dry state of thatch at this time of the year. Almost all the cottages in the village were thatched until the beginning of this century.

These serious fires together with many more minor and unrecorded ones have had a lasting effect on the appearance of the village. They account for the lack of any really old buildings, apart from the Church, and for the gaps which are still apparent between the cottages on both sides of West Street.

Two early pieces of fire-fighting equipment can be seen preserved over the south door of the Church, in the porch. They are large iron hooks with chains attached, and were originally fixed to long wooden handles. They were used for pulling thatch from a burning roof to minimize the risk of a fire spreading. In the eighteenth century a type of fire-engine was used consisting of a pump mounted on a hand cart. A fire engine of this type can be seen in the County Museum at Dorchester.

A large fire occurred in 1633, and was recorded in the diary of William Whiteway of Dorchester:

"1633, Aug. 29. This day the town of Bere Regis was burnt, the most part of it to the ground, with great quantity of corn. The loss is valued at 20,000 pounds. The county sent them about £500 speedily to relieve their present want. Dorchester sent them in about £40."

The above account seems to have been slightly exaggerated, for in 1634 an order of sessions passed that the town of Bere Regis,
"Lately consumed by fire", should receive £50 from the county stock, the loss due to the fire being valued at £7,000. However, this item may refer to another fire which occurred in 1634, as appears by an old record: "There was a fire in Bere Regis in 1634, that distressed the inhabitants so that they sent a petition to the King."

There was another serious fire in 1717, when fourteen houses were destroyed, and yet another on 21 June, 1767.

(to be continued) F.P. Pitfield.

MOTHERS' UNION, BERE REGIS BRANCH

The Quarterly Corporate Communion will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, January 10th. I hope that as many as possible will be present to make a good start in the New Year.

The Winterbourne Kingston Branch have most generously invited the Bere Regis Branch to their Christmas Party which is to be held on Saturday, January 12th. The names of those who would like to accept this invitation will be taken at the Corporate Communion.

P.J.T.

IN AND AROUND BERE REGIS

by Parishioner.

During these winter days one flower in the garden gives as much pleasure as a dozen summer blooms. It is worth planning for winter colour in every garden; it is surprising how short and interesting the winter can be made to seem.

Unfortunately, much of the winter colour comes from shrubs which are often slow to establish and expensive to buy. The autumn Prunus, in a mild winter will flower from November to March with a succession of delicate pink blossom. It is very susceptible to frost but is well worth having during the less severe spells. Viburnum Frangans produces sweetly scented pink flowers until the New Year, and in January the Chinese Witch-hazel with its yellow flowers brighten the dullest winter's day. Of course, one does not need to go to the trouble and expense of shrubs. Different varieties of Heaths flower in nearly every month of the year. If one lives on acid soils the choice is wide but on chalk only three varieties will thrive but they give a mass of colour from December until well into the Spring. These are just a few of the worthwhile shrubs and plants that make winter interesting in the garden.

For the second year in succession winter has come early. It has been less cold in Bere than in parts of the surrounding countryside. The downs to the North have twice been covered with snow. In the New Forest one morning the trees were so frosted that the branches bowed under the weight and every twig glistened in the pale sunshine. Even around Poole Harbour the water froze and hundreds of birds could be seen behind the receding tide searching for food. The cold weather does give one a chance to observe at close quarters many shy creatures as they venture into the open in search of food.

COURT PROSPECT A.O.O. FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The Court will be holding a Dance at the Village Hall on Saturday, January 26th. The proceeds will be given to the Lifeboat Fund.

The Society has in the past, by voluntary efforts raised funds to present to the Royal Lifeboat Association 5 fully equipped boats. The boat "Friendly Forester" now in operational use, is stationed at Flamborough and has taken part in many rescues off the Yorkshire Coast.

This boat which cost £30,000 is nearing the end of its operational life.

It is the intention of the Society to provide a new boat at a cost of £40,000, the amount to be raised wholly by voluntary donations.

Will members, friends and the general public kindly do their best to patronize our Dance. Admission 2/6.

A.E. Barnes, Secretary.

SWEEPINGS

If you think politics are easy, try sitting on the fence while keeping one ear to the ground.

Some men grow under responsibility, others only swell.
What terrifies me is that they always speak of a doctor "practising".

It's not how old you are but how you are old - (Marie Dressler)

Reproved for calling his employer "Mr. 'Arrison", a Cockney protested "Well, if a hairtch and a hay, two hars, and a hi and a hess, a ho and a hen don't spell 'Arrison, wot does?"

A New York detective agency that specializes in tracing missing persons has been employed by more than 70,000 wives to find their husbands, but only 15 husbands to find their wives. - (Freilia Foster)

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WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

The St. Nicholas Market was opened by Mrs. J. B. Jesty, who was introduced by the Vicar. Mrs. Jesty commented on the well laden stalls and congratulated the Church Workers, and wished the Market a success both socially and financially. A box of chocolates was presented to her by Miss Sylvia House.

We were delighted to have the support of Members of other denominations in the village, as well as that of good friends who came from Bere Regis and Marnhull.

Stallholders and helpers were -
- Mothers' Union - Mrs. Tranter, Mrs. S. Miller, Mrs. Foot.
- New - Miss Robertson, Mrs. Sheppard, Mrs. Thrush.
- Cakes - Mrs. O. Hooper, Mrs. Murray.
- Produce - Mrs. E. Legg, Mrs. Rolls, Mrs. E. Vincent.
- Children's - Mrs. S. Langdown, Mrs. Symes.
- One shilling - Mr. and Mrs. P. House, Miss S. Rolls.
- Sixpenny - Miss Sylvia House, Miss Margaret Vincent, Miss Margaret Dash.
- Christmas Tree and Tubs - Mrs. D. Bentley, Mrs. D. Legg.
- Treasure Hunt - Mrs. Edwards.
- Competition - Mrs. Dash. Competition Table - Mr. Simpson.
- Tea - Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Hushtags.
- Door - Mr. Sheppard.

The Chairman of the organizing committee was the Revd. P. Tranter.

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Secretary/Treasurer - Miss Sheppard.
The Chairman and Committee are grateful for the support of many helpers and buyers.
This was an excellent effort towards the Heating Fund and more comfort for the worshipping congregation as well as the preservation of the Church fabric.

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET - 7th DECEMBER, 1962.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

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December 8th Paid to Bank £64. 5. 8.

E. M. S.

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WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. Minister: REV. LESLIE S. CARTER.

Services Sunday evening 6 p.m. Holy Communion last Sunday in the month after Evening Service. Women's Guild, 2nd and 4th Wednesday
in the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Rev. Leslie Carter officiated on November 21st in Blandford at the marriage of Miss S. Biles and Mr. W. Baker. The church presented Miss Biles with a decorated set of Pyrex dishes, and the Women Guild a flower bowl on this happy occasion. Miss Biles is a very loyal supporter of both Church and the Women's Guild. At our Bring and Buy Sale recently the sum of £4.0.0d. was raised for Guild Funds.

There will not be a service at Kingston Church on December 23rd as members will be joining with Blandford in their Christmas Service.

F. Lane.

MOTHERS' UNION
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON BRANCH.

The Quarterly Corporate Communion will be held in the Church at 2.45 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9th. I hope that we may make a good start in the New Year and that as many as possible will be present.

The Mothers' Union Party is to be held in the evening of Saturday January 12th in the W.I. Hut. Will all members be sure to keep this date free.

P.J.T.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM
November 25th. Kevin Peter Davidge.
December 2nd. John Royston-Poore.

'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.