The Parish Church of Bere Regis

With St. Nicholas

Winterbourne

Kingston
THE VICAR’S LETTER

My dear friends,

I apologise for the fact that the magazine is a little late this month, but I have held it up for a week so that I could say a few words concerning the Reunion Service before it became too much past history.

It was a real pleasure to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Herring on their visit to their old home and we do thank them for coming. A great many people came to the Service in Church and then into the Vicarage garden after, where they had the opportunity of greeting their old Vicar.

Rain had been forecast for the afternoon and evening but though there was a cold wind, the weather turned out moderately kind and a large number of old friends took the opportunity of renewing their acquaintance.

The Church looked most beautiful and I do want to thank those ladies who arranged the lovely flowers for the occasion, and also the ladies of the Church Council who provided the refreshments afterwards.

Altogether it was a most happy occasion that will be remembered for a long time to come.

It is some time now since Mr. F. Pitfield commenced his series of articles on the Church and parish which have been of such great interest to us all. He has now reached the actual building of the Church itself. In order that the history of the development of the Church may be more fully understood Mr. Pitfield has prepared a series of plans and sketches of the Church in its various stages which have been bound together in the form of a booklet.

These booklets are obtainable from Mr. Pitfield at the cost of 1/-d each, and will add greatly to the interest of the articles. I daresay a number of you will wish to have a copy. I am most grateful to Mr. Pitfield, as I am sure you are also, for all the trouble to which he goes to tell us of our wonderful heritage.

The Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party went off most successfully and we are most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor for the use of their garden though they were away on holiday. Many thanks to all the helpers through whose efforts more than £80 was raised, a remarkable result for such a small village.

By the time you read this the Bere Regis Garden Party will also be over. As I write this it is pouring with rain! We must
just hope for a fine day, but whatever the weather my warm thanks in advance to all our helpers.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

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**DUSTERS FOR JULY**

Mrs. Tadman.

**CENOTAPH FOR JULY**

Mrs. Lys.

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**SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD**

A meeting of the Guild was held in the Vicarage on Wednesday, 22nd May, with the Vicar in the Chair. Thirteen members were present. The Vicar thanked all members for their help during the past six months, and said that many visitors to the Church commented with appreciation on the beauty of the flower arrangements.

A rota was made out for the next six months, which can be seen in the Church porch.

C. T. T.

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<td>July 7th</td>
<td>Miss E. Lys.</td>
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**HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 25.**

**THE CHURCH.** (11th century work)

The Church has been altered and added to many times during its long history, and as Mediaeval builders always built in the then current style of architecture, and availed themselves of new materials and methods of construction, it is possible for us to-day to readily deduce to what period of architecture each portion of the building belongs. Bearing in mind that each addition or alteration resulted in a still complete building, its appearance at various dates can be ascertained.

A study of other Mediaeval Churches, especially in the same locality, gives useful pointers as to the probable appearance of those parts of the Church which formerly existed, but which have since disappeared. The development of Bere Regis Church is particularly interesting, as it contains examples of all of the Mediaeval styles of Architecture - Norman, Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular, as well as a small amount of Tudor, and these periods of architectural style roughly correspond to the eleventh and twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries respectively.

A small Church probably existed on the same site in Saxon times, but there is no direct evidence of this. There was certainly a Church here, however, at the time of the Domesday survey in 1085, and this building was the nucleus from which the present Church has developed, although very little of this original work now remains. The Church at this time consisted basically of a rectangle on plan, the width of the present nave, and in length from the present chancel arch to the front of the rear blocks of pews. The outline of the upper part of the eastern gable of this original nave can still be quite clearly seen above the present chancel roof.

At the east end there was probably an apse (a semi-circular projection) as in many Norman Churches, and part of the jamb of the opening and one of the arch voussoirs can still be seen just to the south of the present chancel arch.

There is evidence that this original building had a tower over a compartment off the nave, where the organ now stands, and this was the usual position for a tower in a small Norman Church. Canford Magna Church, for example, still retains its Norman tower which is in just this position. Evidence of this tower can be seen in the solid portion of wall alongside the pulpit and the setback in the nave wall adjoining it. Corresponding with this setback is a straight vertical joint in the external masonry above the north aisle roof, which is partially concealed by a rainwater pipe. In the Middle Ages no part of a building was demolished during alteration work if it could possibly be incorporated in the new work, even though a straight joint might result, so that it seems that this small portion of the old tower walling was retained when the nave clerestory windows were formed in about 1500. There is also a very old corbel stone above the organ arch, and its presence would have been necessary to support the nave roof at its junction with the tower wall, the rest of the nave roof having been supported directly by the tops of the nave walls. This corbel, fixing as it does the eaves level of the original nave, corresponds as far as can be seen with the level of the old gable coping visible above the chancel roof.

(to be continued)  

F. P. Pitfield.

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**BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION**

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Thursday July 11th - and will be the Quarterly Corporate Communion at 7.30 p.m. in the Church.
This will be the last Meeting before the break for the Summer and I hope that all members will try and be present.

The Summer Outing will this year be to Exmouth and will take place on Tuesday, July 30th. I shall be glad to have the names of all who would like to go on the Outing as soon as possible. P. J. T.

BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

After a very successful talk in June, with a good attendance, we look forward to hearing on July 16th Miss Habershon telling us about “Wedding Customs in Other Lands”. The competition is a Floral Spray for the Bride’s Mother and the social time is an Identification Parade - members are asked to bring a photograph of themselves as a child.

The hostesses for July are Mrs. Day, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Harding and Mrs. J. Percy. All visitors will be welcome.

The Garden Party will be held on Thursday, 1st August at Doddings at 3.00 p.m. A bus will leave the crossroads at 2.50. If it is wet we will meet in the W. I. Hut.

One more reminder - the W. I. Flower Show takes place on Saturday, August 17th. Entries in classes are open to Bere Regis W. I. members and their immediate families, and it is hoped that all classes will be well supported. Schedules are available from Miss Miller.

IN AND AROUND BERÉ REGIS

by Parishioner

Half the year has gone and still we are looking for the wonderful summer which was supposed to follow the cold winter. We still complain about our climate but really we know it well enough by now and should be prepared for whatever comes.

Much haymaking remains to be done in July and although this is late for Dorset in the Northern part of the Country this is the normal time. Little, if any, of the corn seems likely to be ripe till August and the delay due to the bad weather in late June may not be serious.

By tradition farmers are supposed to be unprogressive but nowadays seldom a week passes without some new idea. Many fail to stand the test of time but if they do it is surprising how quickly they are adopted. Ideas which seemed outrageous a few years ago are now commonplace. One such idea now receiving much attention is the feeding of beef animals on a mixture containing mainly rolled barley. They never see a blade of grass or any hay. These animals produce a good carcass at a young age and have the size of joint which is in demand to-day.

Already people are fattening beef cattle in large numbers under one roof. In the U. S. A., where specialization is carried to the last degree thousands of cattle are brought into mechanized feeding yards where they are fed by one or two men.

Ewes are wintered indoors on some farms and cows spend less and less time out of doors. With the shortage of land in England perhaps we should keep all our stock in buildings on poor land leaving the good land to grow crops.

July is a month for the flowers of the riverside. Cornfields have been sprayed, grassland mown or copped and roadsides trimmed and there are few places where wild flowers can grow un molested. But in damp places and by streams, water mint, willow herb, meadow-sweet and loosestrife lend colour to the July landscape.

BERÉ REGIS FLORAL GROUP

There will be no indoor meeting of the Group in July. Instead, an afternoon outing has been arranged for Tuesday, July 16th. (Not July 9th as originally planned) to Forde Abbey, near Chard.

There are acres of lovely grounds and gardens to wander in, making a perfect setting for the fine old house, which was once part of a monastery founded in the 12th century.

The coach will leave Bere Regis at 2 p.m. Fares will be 4/6 each plus 2/6 entrance fee, and teas can be obtained in the grounds at 2/6 a head.

If there are still members who have not already given in their names, or who would like to bring friends, will they please get in touch immediately with Mrs. Sharman. Tel: Bere Regis 210.

There will be no Floral Meeting in August, the next date being September 10th, and will be in the form of a Practice Meeting.

P. Lloyd.
Hon. Asst. Sec.

BERÉ REGIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Annual Garden Party will be held at the Cedars, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. G. Griffen, on SATURDAY, JULY 13th, at 3 p.m., when it will be opened by MRS. C. BRALEY, of Broadstone. Chairman: Rev. P. Tranter.

VARIOUS STALLS, GAMES AND COMPETITIONS. Teas will be available, Lemonade, etc.
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

The final meeting of the Mothers' Union before the Summer break will be held on Wednesday, July 10th, when there will be a Corporate Communion in the Church at 3 p.m. I do hope that as many as possible will try and be present on this occasion.

The Summer Outing will this year be to Exmouth and will take place on Tuesday, July 30th. May I have the names of all who would like to go on this Outing as soon as possible.

P. J. T.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS - LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS

ST. SWITHUN, 15th JULY.

SAINT SWITHUN, it appears, was born near Winchester about the year 800. He studied at the Old Monastery there and in later years became its prior. King Egbert, who was the King of the West Saxons, chose Swithun to be the guardian of his son Ethelwulf. The King needed someone who could be trusted to look after his son, and it was in Swithun that he found the right kind of friend. After Ethelwulf succeeded to the throne, Swithun was appointed to be Bishop of Winchester, and it was he who guided the King, especially in religious matters. As you can imagine, Swithun became highly respected, and the ordinary people were attracted by his great humility. He was Bishop of Winchester from the year 852 until his death in 862. He used to journey about on foot, often when it was dark and sometimes he even insisted on travelling barefooted. The influence of Swithun on the life of this country during the ninth century must have been great, and it is thought that possibly through him King Ethelwulf was led in the year 855, according to an ancient chronicle, to grant 'the tenth part of his land over all his kingdom by charter for the glory of God and his own eternal salvation', this was surely a great act of giving.

When he was about to die, Swithun asked that he might be buried immediately outside the door of the north side of his Cathedral at Winchester, so that his grave might receive the raindrops from the roof and be trodden by the feet of passers by. It is stated that about a thousand years ago, on the 15th day of July, it was decided to remove his remains to the inside of the Cathedral, as he was now canonized as a saint, there began a heavy rain storm which continued for the next thirty-nine days and held up the removal of his remains for that length of time. Whilst this story cannot be taken as being absolutely accurate, there arose the belief, that if his day, 15th July, is wet, it will remain so more or less for the next thirty-nine days, but there is nothing to prove that this is so. Nevertheless, John Brand, an eighteenth-century antiquary wrote -

'S. Swithun's day if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St. Swithun's day if thou be fair,
For forty days 't will rain na mair.'

In country districts people say, rain falling on St. Swithun's day 'christens the apples' - thus helping the fruit to grow large, as well as improving it in taste and quality.

However, how much we think of these curious legends, which have been handed down, let us remember first and foremost Saint Swithun as a great Bishop, a faithful friend, and above all one who showed by his life and service the great Christian virtues of trustworthiness and humility.

E. M. S.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

The Vicar and members of the St. Nicholas Church Council are very grateful to Miss Robertson, for kindly making two "Stoles" for use of the Priest at St. Nicholas. One in white brocade and one in green.

The St. Nicholas Annual Garden Party was held in ideal weather at the Old Parsonage by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Taylor. The Vicar welcomed the Rural Dean, the Revd. E. W. Davies, who opened the event, thanks being expressed to him by Mr. Simpson.

The Vicar thanked Mr. and Mrs. Taylor for the use of their garden and Commander Quarry replied on their behalf.

The usual stalls and sideshows were attractively arrayed and supported. During the afternoon a display of dancing was presented by the pupils of the Bere Regis Primary School.

A profit of £82. 7. 10d. was raised for the Restoration and Heating Fund - the financial statement can be seen on the notice board in the Church Porch.

The Vicar thanked everyone for their kind help.

ST. NICHOLAS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Four children of the Sunday School, together with the writer,
attended the Diocesan Children’s Festival in the Cathedral Church at Salisbury, on the 22nd June, when the address was given by Father Martin of the Society of St. Francis. The collection was towards the cost of re-building and extending St. Francis’ School, Hooke, and in the cloisters there was a display of handicrafts from this school, whilst in the Chapter House a film strip was shown continuously of the work which the Society does.

Tea was in the grounds of the Cathedral School.

E.M.S.

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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.

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FOR SALE TWO 2 BURNER "COMMODORE" FLORENCE SPACE HEATERS 50 GALLON PARAFFIN OIL TANK IN EXCELLENT CONDITION BOTH STOVES HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY MAINTAINED AND ARE IN FIRST CLASS ORDER.

Parish Church of St. John Baptist
BERE REGIS,
DORSET.

Vicar: THE REV. PAUL TRANTER, B.A.

Churchwardens:
MR. R. SMITH, Heath View.
MR. F. MARSH, Southbrook.
MR. P. MINTERNE, Egdon Close, Deputy Warden.

Sidesmen:
MESSRS. P. PITFIELD, E. RAWBONE, LT.-COL. A. BARNE, H. PITFIELD, W. F. LYS,
M. BARNES, R. BARNES & BRIG. D. TADMAN.

Secretary and Treasurer P.C.C.: MR. S. J. ENDACOTT, Glebe Cottage, Bere Regis.

Parish Clerk and Verger: MR. E. RAWBONE.

Organist: MISS G. B. SMITH, A.T.C.L.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion . . . 8 a.m. and 2nd Sunday after Matins.
Matins . . . . . . . . . . . 11 a.m.
Children’s Service . . . 2.30 p.m.
Evensong . . . . . . . . . . . 6 p.m.
Family Service . . . . . . . . . . . 3 p.m. 2nd Sunday

St. Nicholas
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

Churchwardens:
MR. C. SHEPPARD, The Nottings.
MR. A. V. SIMPSON, The Stores.

Treasurer:
MISS SHEPPARD, The Nottings.

Organist: MRS. SHEPPARD.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion 2nd Sunday, 9.30 a.m.
Sunday School 11 a.m.
Evensong 3.15 p.m. 1st and 3rd Sunday; 7.15 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sunday
Matins 10 a.m. 4th Sunday. Family Service 3.15 p.m. 5th Sunday