My dear Friends,

If nothing else about the Village Evangelists Mission is remembered, there is one thing that I am pretty certain will become part of the history of the parish, and that is the most extraordinary torchlight procession at the end of the Harvest Festival and concluding Service of the Mission.

In the drenching rain practically the whole of the enormous congregation followed the clergy and choir out of the Church to make an act of witness through the village street, singing hymns as they went, lit by the flickering light of the torches carried by 20 men of the Church.

To be part of this procession was a thrilling and wonderful experience and no wonder that at the end many eyes were wet as well as clothes.

I have had many expressions of gratitude to Mr. Isitt for his deep and thoughtful message, which was something not emotional and transient but telling and lasting, and so many have said how helped and strengthened they have been in their faith and Christian outlook.

I feel sure that the message of the Mission will remain with us for a long time to come. I also hope that the many books that were sold during the course of the Mission will be carefully read and treasured.

How good to see such an influx of new boys to the Church Choir. They all have excellent young voices and in due course will be a real help in leading the Service. May I ask all parents of Choir boys for their help in ensuring a regular attendance both on Sundays and at practices. The co-operation of parents is absolutely invaluable when one is trying to run a choir, and now we have such a collection of little angels we should very much like to keep them!

A preliminary note about Confirmation. In the new year - in March - there is to be a Confirmation Service in Bere Regis Church. Towards the end of this year I shall be asking for the names of those who would like to offer themselves for Confirmation.

In the meantime I would ask you all to have this in your minds, especially if you are in touch of young people over the age of 12 years.

What a splendid occasion it was when the Bishop of
Salisbury preached in our Church. He won the hearts of everybody with his unassuming friendliness and his sermon will be remembered for a long time to come.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

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MOTHERS' UNION, BERÉ REGIS BRANCH

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th, being the second Thursday in the month.
Meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Women's Institute Hut.

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH.

Weather permitting, this year the two minutes Silence will be kept at the War Memorial. Service will commence there at 10.50 a.m.

Immediately after the Silence a shortened form of Mattins will be completed in the Church.

If the weather is inclement the Service will start in the Church at 10.50 a.m.

Evensong will be sung at 6 p.m. After the second Lesson the Vicar will read the names of those on the Roll of Honour.

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

FLAG DAY

The good total of £10, 5s. 3d. was raised towards the above Society, and this sum has been sent to their Headquarters.

Mrs. Tranter would like to thank the Collectors for their help and all those who gave so generously.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

As a young man Edward Rudolf was a Sunday School teacher in a South London Parish, keenly interested in social and religious work amongst young people. He had a great love for children. He came face to face with much suffering, hardship and deprivation. He recalled too, that nearly 1900 years before, a family suffered much and had nowhere for their Child to be born except in a stable.

That Child born in obscurity, whose birthday we celebrate at this season, was the Saviour of the world. He showed great love and reverence for children and committed them to the care of His Church. But the Church had neglected much of this side of its work and young Rudolf recaptured a vision which the Church had lost. So 1881 was a milestone in the Church's history. It was the year when the Society was born through the work of an obscure visionary.

As in past years, so now, this work is only possible because countless men and women have actively and voluntarily given of their lives and their money and by visiting the children in the homes and seeing the work for themselves,

WE ARE THE INSTRUMENTS THROUGH WHICH CHRIST WORKS FOR HIS LITTLE ONES.

As we kneel before the Infant Jesus and offer our gifts shall we not also offer a prayer for His children who are deprived of a normal home and commit ourselves individually and corporately, for the work of the Church and its Largest Family. THE CHILD NEEDS YOU.

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HARVEST FESTIVAL GOODS

The goods from the Parish Church were taken to the Christmas Homes at Wareham and the goods from St. Nicholas to the Castleman Home, Blandford.

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VILLAGE CALENDAR

1963
Nov., 7th. Bere Regis Whist Drive in aid of Poppy Day Fund
Dec. 13th. School Carol Service, 6.30 p.m.
Dec. 22nd. Parish Church Carol Service of the Nine Lessons 6.00 p.m.

1964
June 27th. Bere Regis Church Garden Party.

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SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

November 3rd. Mrs. Barne.
November 10th. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.
November 17th. Mrs. Barne.
November 24th. Mrs. Barne.

There will be a Meeting of the Sanctuary Flower Guild in the Vicarage on Wednesday, November 27th at 3 o'clock. It is hoped all members, and any who wish to join, will attend.
BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The next activity of the Floral Group will be the Annual Christmas Fair, to be held on Tuesday, November 12th in the Drax Hall at 7 p.m.

Admission will be free to all, but there will be a small charge for light refreshments.

The various Stalls and Sideshows will include Christmas Decorations, Cakes and Sweets, Tombola and a Grand Christmas Raffle, for which prizes have already been promised, such as a brace of pheasants, a basket of fruit, various drinks, chocolates, cake, etc.

It is hoped that after the inspiring and fascinating demonstration given in October by Mrs. Hoggett, as many members as possible will be able to make something to sell on the Christmas Decorations Stall, something small will be just as acceptable as a larger, more elaborate arrangement.

Gifts of cakes and confectionery will also be appreciated, as will bottles of any kind for Tombola. Mrs. Lys and Mrs. Tadman can receive gifts for the latter any time now, or alternatively, cash to buy further bottles before the day.

The Hall will be open from 3 p.m. on the 12th, when gifts will be much appreciated, otherwise please bring in the evening.

The Committee hopes that everyone will help in some way to make this a really successful Fair and that all members and their friends will come along during the evening. Don’t forget the time: 7 o’clock on Tuesday, November 12th.

And now just a brief look ahead to the Spring. By now you have probably all had your copy of the Schedule for our Spring Show, to be held on March 10th, 1964. So don’t forget to plant your bulbs in good time, and also begin thinking about the Floral decoration classes. Even if you’ve not entered before, why not try this time - there must be something you can do, and probably very well too!

P. Lloyd, Hon. Asst. Sec.

SCHOOL HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Annual Harvest Festival Service was this year conducted by the Reverend Isitt. A large number of friends and parents attended and later the children distributed their gifts to our elderly friends. I should like to thank the parents for their generosity again this year.

The children thoroughly enjoyed films of life in South Africa. These were kindly shown by Dr. Spencer Payne and they revealed something of the work of the overseas Church and the lives of the inhabitants whom it serves.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 29

THE CHURCH (continued - chancel excavations)

I feel that this series of articles on the church ought now to be interrupted in order to give some account of the discoveries made when the excavations on the South side of the Chancel were carried out at the end of August this year, (1963)

It may be remembered that in an earlier article describing the form of the original Norman church as it existed in 1100 reference was made to the small Chancel of this building, and it was conjectured that this original Chancel might have been apsidal, that is semi-circular on plan. There were various reasons for this assumption firstly, this treatment of the east end was by no means unusual in Norman churches, and secondly, it satisfactorily explained why it should have been necessary to completely rebuild the chancel during the thirteenth century in order to enlarge it. One would have expected a square chancel to have been enlarged by adding to its east end, in which case we would now have had a chancel in which two distinctly different periods would have been evident.

As the thirteenth century chancel, which basically still remains was for some reason built off centre towards the north, it was thought possible that evidence of the original foundation walling could be found just to the south of the chancel. Accordingly a trench about 2ft. 6 ins. wide was dug in this position between the east wall of the south aisle and the priests' door in the south wall of the chancel. At a depth of just over one foot below ground level these foundations began to appear in the form of large flints bound together with a mixture of chalk and clay, and showing evidence of displacement in places. This section was carefully cleaned off, measured and photographed, and a distinct curvature in the outline was apparent, the walling being 1 ft. 2 ins. beyond the face of the present wall at the south aisle end, curving in to 9½ ins. at the priests' door end. The exposure of this section seemed, therefore, to confirm the "apse theory", but it was nevertheless thought advisable to continue the trench to the east. The first section was filled in and a further trench was opened up immediately in front of the priests' door, and it was with some surprise that the old wall was found to be some 1ft. 3 ins. beyond the present wall at this point, reducing again to 8½ ins. a little further to the east. The trench was then further extended, and the end of the walling was found at a point 18 ft. 3 ins. from the south aisle wall, the last 3 feet or so projecting 1 ft. 2½ ins. from the present wall.

Upon plotting the dimensions on paper it is apparent that the original Norman chancel was approximately square, 18ft. 6 ins. long
Every house in the village will receive an envelope addressed to the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. If you support this appeal by sending what you can afford, you will have helped some of the 300 million people in the world who do not get enough to eat, and you will probably save the life of a child who would otherwise have died from hunger.

MOTHERS' UNION
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON BRANCH.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th being the second Wednesday in the month. Meeting at 2.45 p.m. in the Reading Room.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.
LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS.
SAINT CECILIA.
22nd NOVEMBER.

From the information we have, it appears that Saint Cecilia lived in Sicily during the second century. As a child she was brought up in the Christian faith and at an early age she vowed to devote the whole of her life to the service of God. Her father, compelled her to marry a young Roman noble, whose name was Valerian. Valerian was a pagan, but S. Cecilia’s influence over him was so great that he accepted her faith and in course of time converted his brother Tiberius to the same Christian Faith. They lived, however, during a period of troublous times for the Christians and both Valerian and Tiberius found themselves under arrest. They were brought before the Roman prefect and questioned by him, but they both quite fearlessly admitted that they were Christians, and because they refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, they were beheaded. After this S. Cecilia also appeared before the Roman prefect and suffered martyrdom for her faith. Her mortal remains are still preserved in the church dedicated to her at Rome - S. Cecilia in Trastevere.

S. Cecilia, whom we remember specially on the 22nd November is the patron saint of music. Celebrations in honour of her occur in various parts of the world, musical societies have called themselves after her name and her feast-day now is a feast of music, more especially of church music, which like all the other arts is a gift from God to us.

In a painting by the great artist, Raphael, S. Cecilia appears as an organist, other artists have depicted her as a singer, a composer, a violinist and a bass-violinist. In connection with the celebrations to honour the Saint in this country, in the year 1687, an 'Ode for St. Cecilia's Day' written by the poet John Dryden contained these beautiful lines:
"Orpheus could lead the savage race,
And trees uprooted left their place
Sequacious of the Lyre:
But bright Cecilia rais'd the wonder higher:
When to her Organ vocal breath was given,
An Angel heard, and straight appear'd -
Mistaking Earth for Heaven."

E.M.S.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET

ST. NICHOLAS DAY

Friday - 6th December, at 6.30 p.m. in the W. I. Hall.

Stalls, including - New Stall with attractive Christmas Presents;
White Elephant: Cakes; Toys: Produce: One Shilling; etc.,
Christmas Tree: Refreshments. Gifts will be received in the W.I.
Hall on MARKET DAY between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.
Your support will be greatly appreciated and we hope to meet you
at the Market.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE. Christmas Whist Drive - Wednesday -
18th December. More details next month. Please keep this date free.
Proceeds for St. Nicholas Church Heating and Restoration Fund.

'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
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