THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Owing to the mass of material to be included in this month's issue I must be as brief as possible.

First of all, I should like to send our deep sympathy to Mr. & Mrs. House of Winterbourne Kingston on the loss of their baby son. They have had a most trying and upsetting time, but their courage in the face of it all has been wonderful.

Secondly, in January we shall be saying good-bye to Mr. & Mrs. Endacott. Mr. Endacott has been appointed to a large new school in Weymouth, and we wish him every success. I know that both parents and children will miss him greatly. He has been a splendid Headmaster and the whole moral tone of the School at Bere Regis is a tribute to his personal character.

We shall miss them both sadly from the Church. Mrs. Endacott from the Mothers' Union and Mr. Endacott from the Church Council where he has fulfilled his duty as Secretary and Treasurer with efficiency sincerity and enthusiasm. We wish them God-speed as they go to their new home.

I dare write no more except to express the hope that very soon every one of you who read this will be a "Friend of Bere Regis Church".

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

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SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

December 6th.  ADVENT.  December 13th.  ADVENT
December 20th.  "  December 23rd.  CHRISTMAS
December 27th.  Mrs. Tadman.

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Wednesday, December 23rd. Gifts of Holly, flowers and greenery will be much appreciated, and should be delivered to the Church on the morning of Wednesday, December 23rd.

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SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 6th.  11.00 a.m.  Mr. F. Lys &  Col. A. Barne
            6.00 p.m.  Messrs. P. Mintern & J. House
13th.    11.00 a.m.  Lt. C. Mauder & Mr. F. Marsh
            6.00 p.m.  Messrs. L. Bartlett & R. Barnes
20th.    11.00 a.m.  Brig. D. Tadman & Lt. C. Mauder,
            6.00 p.m.  Messrs. D. Poore & M. Barnes.
            P. Mintern & Lt. C. Mauder.
SIDESMEN'S ROTA (continued)

   11.45 p.m. Messrs. F. Lys & J. House
   Brig. D. Tadman & Lt. C. Mauder

25th. Christmas Day
   11.00 a.m. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. R. Smith
   11.00 a.m. Col. A. Barne & Mr. F. Marsh
   6.00 p.m. Messrs. R. Barnes & L. Bartlett

N.B. Quarterly Sidesmen's meeting Monday December 14th, 8 p.m.
     at the Vicarage.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

1964

Dec. 4th. 7.00 p.m. St. Nicholas Market, Winterbourne Kingston W.I. Hut.

9th. Joint Mothers' Union Christmas Party, 7.30 p.m.
     W.I. Hut, Winterbourne Kingston.

10th. 3.00 p.m. Sanctuary Guild Meeting at the Vicarage.

14th. 8.00 p.m. Sidesmen's meeting at the Vicarage.

20th. 6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight, Bere Regis Church.

24th. Christmas Eve. 11.45 Mid-night Communion.
     Bere Regis Church.

1965

May 29th. Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party.


AUTUMN TINTS AND HINTS

I am credibly informed that this Autumn has provided us with a
wealth of colour that makes it rank with 1911 and 1940 for magnificence.
I hope therefore that you have all feasted on the beauty of this
vintage year, as on an average it would appear to happen only three
times in each of our lives.

A gloriously prolonged Summer, some sharp early frosts, an
absence of gale-force winds and St. Luke working overtime on his
programme, have all contributed to give us this wonderful season.

Most of our own Trees - ours certainly since Roman Times - have
produced the greater part of the effects that we have seen. The Oak,
a Tree of gold; Beech fiery red; Chestnut pale green and every shade
of yellow; Maple a rich yellow; delicate hued Birch and Larch red or
yellow depending on if it be from Japan or our own (and Continental)
variety. Seldom have we seen these Trees hang on to their foliage for
so long, and daily their colours have become more brilliant.

3.

The subtle blending of hues, varying between Tree and Tree, Type
and Type or contrasting with the dark of pine or holly or some other ever
green must be the envy and despair of many an artist.

I have been in the Himalayas in October, and the sight across a
deep valley of a forest of Beech or Chestnut was breath-taking - the
mountain side seemed a fire - but as one’s eye wandered along mile after
mile one realised that for all its beauty, it lacked variety and the charm
of our own country-side.

For those who wish to cage the autumn colours in their gardens,
there are many wonderful shrubs and Trees worth growing. There is a
vast range of Japanese Maples (Acre); purple, red - every shade of red -achères, orange and yellow. Most are slow growing but Acre Schwelleri
(I know no other name!) is fairly fast. Surnach (Rhus) is easy to grow
and ornamental at other times of year too. Liquid Amber, at one time
thought to be extinct as it’s foliage was only known as a fossil imprint in
coil, is now fairly common and not too expensive; is well worth a place
in the garden. In a sheltered spot it will retain it’s brilliant foliage
well into November.

There is a variety of bushes that will produce fine colouring in the
Autumn and creepers too. So look out for all these now and enrich
yourselves for the Autumns that are to follow.

1964 may well be the first of your vintage Autumns, and so you
will have two more to plan for and look forward to.

A.E.B.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

This year we are holding the Christmas party early in order to
avoid the bad weather. The Winterbourne Kingston Mothers' Union
have invited the Bere Regis Branch to join with them for this party, so
we shall go by coach over to Winterbourne Kingston for a joint party at
7.30 p.m. in the Kingston W.I. Hut on Wednesday December 9th, and
shall be looking forward to what will undoubtedly be a most happy
evening.

May I please have the names of those who would like to go
immediately.

P.J.T.

COLLECTORS ITEM

Interesting framed Sampler for sale in aid of Winterbourne
Kingston Church funds. Can be seen at the Vicarage. What offers?

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

This is a reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the Floral
Group will be held on Tuesday December 8th at 2.30 p.m. in Drax Hall.
Please do your best to come to this meeting, with ideas and suggestions, as, in addition to electing the Committee for 1965, there will be discussion and a vote taken on matters which concern every one of us.

BERE REGIS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, December 20th.
6.00 p.m. CAROLS by Candlelight. The Service of the Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by members of different Denominations.

CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, December 24th.
11.45 p.m. MID-NIGHT COMMUNION.

CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION
11.00 a.m. Mattins.
12.00 noon Holy Communion

BOXING DAY, St. Stephen, December 26th.
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 42

THE MANOR

In Saxon times and until 1259 this manor was Royal demesne, that is to say, it was held directly by the King, and administered by a bailiff. When it first became crown property is not known, but it was before A.D. 978 when Queen Elfrida retired here after the murder of her stepson King Edward the Martyr at Corfe Castle. It was still Royal demesne in 1086 when the Domesday survey was compiled, and occurs in the second of six groups of Royal demesnes, which altogether include about thirty manors in Dorset.

The manor continues to remain Royal demesne during the reign of King John (1199 - 1216), which accounts for his sixteen visits between 1204 and 1216, and King Henry III (1216 - 1272) retained it until 1259, when he granted it to Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. The manor therefore ceased to be Royal demesne as such from this date.

Simon de Montfort held many estates besides this one; he was a very powerful and influential man in both England and France, and was continually in and out of favour with the King. He married Eleanor, King Henry III's sister in 1238, and was killed at the battle of Evesham in 1265. Simon de Montfort is often considered the founder of the

English Parliament, but this is not strictly true. In fact, he used his power to force the King to alter the constitution of parliament which had hitherto been insufficiently representational. This reform became effective on 30 January 1265, when parliament consisted of 120 churchmen, 23 lay barons, 2 knights from each shire and 2 citizens from each borough.

After Simon de Montfort's death on 4 August, 1265, the manor probably reverted to the Crown until it was granted to King Henry III's brother Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs in 1269. In this same year Edmund gave a moieties (half of the rents and profits) of the manor to the Abbess of Tarrant, and this moiety was retained by the successive abbeses until the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539, a period of 270 years.

In 1293 the Abbess of Tarrant in her manor of Bere, claimed to have a moiety of a "fair, market, free warren, and the whole forest of Bere." In 1291 the Abbess's moiety in rents was valued at £16. 5s. 10d which by 1535 had increased to £29, 12s. 2d. This latter figure is arrived at by the following extract from the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535:

"Manor of Bere, worth per annum, namely in rents of assize £21. 1. 6. In demesne lands to farm at will, namely in uncertain rents, wheat, 9 quarters, 6 bushels, £2. 12s.; barley 6 quarters, 6 bushels 18s. oats 12 quarters, 16s. .......... 4. 6. 0. In pasture for 600 rams in the occupation of the abbess, per annum ............ 2.10. 0. In profits of the fairs at Wodebury, within the said manor, communibus annis ............ 2. 0. 0. In profits of courts, namely in heriots, fines, and other perquisites, communibus annis .......... -1.16. 8. £30.14. 2.

And in rents resoluto to the sheriff of Dorset, at his tourn, held at the Cross of Bere, issuing out of the aforesaid manor of Bere annually ............ -12. 0.

And in fees to Roger Gye, bailiff of the same manor of Bere annually .................. -10. 0.

£1. 2. 0.

(to be continued) F.P.P.

DISABLED DRIVERS ASSOCIATION

Would any kindly readers of this Magazine, who deal at premises where Green Shield stamps are provided, and who have no particular use for them, consider passing them on to the Disabled Drivers Association? Members of this Association have a national scheme for collecting such stamps with a view to providing some form of transport
for the disabled at their holiday centre, Ashwellthorpe Hall Norwich. The local group meets at the W.I. Hall Bere Regis on the second Sunday in each month at 3.15. The President, Miss Llewellyn or any member would gratefully accept stamps which can be spared by well-wishers for this worthwhile project.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

BOXES

The Sunflower Guild Boxes of the Children's Society yielded the splendid total of £11.14.0. this year. We were very glad to welcome some new box holders in June and will be happy at any time to have new members. Grateful thanks to all box holders for their generosity and help.

J.A. Drew. Hon. Sec.

FLAG DAY

Mrs. Tranter would like to thank all the Collectors and those who gave so generously in producing the excellent total of £12.3.7d. for which the Society are most grateful.

BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

The W.I. Film shown at the October Meeting was most interesting and informative. Not a few of us were surprised at the varied and useful work carried out by the W.I. Movement.

At our Meeting on December 15th we are showing another Film by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, which we are sure will attract all our members and, we hope, many friends, who will receive a very warm welcome.

I.L.M. Asst. Sec.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON CRICKET CLUB

SEASON 1964

Now that Autumn's chill has again entered our bones we toast our chilblains by the fireside and think of those wonderful days of the summer just past. Not a thought for those cold, damp weeks of early summer, but those from mid-June to late September. Those blue skies and all that sunshine. A marvellous tonic when you feel the fibrositis twitch. Thoughts of summer and sunshine, and what better than those conjured by that magic word - Cricket.

The past season was extremely pleasant, both with weather and with performance. We were also pleased to welcome three new playing members - Les Rowe, Mark Overstall, Richard Reid - and hope they will be with us for some years. The list of wins may not be too impressive, but apart from two or three occasions we gave our opponents a hard struggle, and there were a number of creditable results. The younger members continued to improve in their play, and should do so further. In catching and fielding they need to. The "Tweak" would be most pleased about this as he was a long suffering victim, and no doubt two other gentlemen would be glad to find an improvement in this sphere. The two groundsmen are exempt from such criticism on account of age and performance.

The "Boy on the Wind" should retire from football (he is now getting too old) and concentrate on cricket. He should also remember that a cricket bat is not swung as a chopper would be. No doubt that beautiful new bat will provide incentive and encouragement, and we hope that the other beauty he has pinched will also provide inspiration. Dai Twinkletoes should score many more runs when he realises that his plates are not anchored within the popping crease, and that he need not succumb to those sudden rushes of adrenalin. His good timing and judgement of length can do half the job for him. The B.D.H. executive has also done well in his first season as an opening bowler, length and direction are prime essentials, keep it up laddie.

(to be continued)

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

JUST TO REMIND YOU

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET

FRIDAY - 4th DECEMBER - 7.0 p.m. VILLAGE HALL

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS.

Many of the customs which we observe at Christmas-tide have been handed down to us from very early times.

Different countries have different customs. A Norwegian custom was to give dinner to the birds on Christmas Day. Austrian children observing a belief that the Christ-child used to pass through the village, would place a lighted candle in the window to guide Him. The Polish children when the first star appeared used to break the Christmas wafers and utter good wishes. The Christmas Tree is a German custom - it became popular in England on the marriage of Queen Victoria to German Prince Albert, and today it seems to be even more popular, almost every home has a Christmas Tree twinkling with gay coloured lights.

Christmas "Boxes" were often given the day following Christmas Day, hence the name Boxing Day.
The Patron Saint of our Church, Saint Nicholas, is linked with Santa Claus, for he was especially fond of children and often did good deeds at night so that no one would know about them. In some countries such as Holland, gifts are given on the 6th December, the day on which we commemorate our Saint.

Burning the yule log was in early days observed by the Scandinavians who burnt huge bonfires in honour of their god Thor. The use of mistletoe is also a custom brought from Scandinavia. Even in Roman days it had been the custom to deck the house with holly and evergreens at the festival of Saturnalia. It appears that eating the Christmas turkey is a modern idea.

Christmas cards became popular when the penny post was introduced - today greetings are sent and received from friends far and near. Christmas pantomimes have their origin in "mumming" or acting plays; which were paraded from house to house. Christmas "waits" were originally musicians who played wind instruments to sound the watch at night.

The carol made its appearance late in Christian History. It was a creation of the fifteenth century; and surely one of our most beautiful customs is the singing of the lovely Christmas carols, which portray in simple words and joyful music the nativity of Our Lord.

But above all, when Christmas Day comes, let us remember that it is the Birthday of Jesus. These words by Miss Phyllis Dent, may help to remind us a little more:

"When you look for Christmas presents,
Waking ere the day's begun,
Think that God's Great Christmas Present
Was His own Beloved Son."

E. M. S.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS. BERE REGIS.

HOLY BAPTISM:
October 25th. Ian Mark Preston.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

MARRIAGE:
November 14th. Peter Uwe West and Delia Diana Toop.

BURIAL:
October 31st. Richard Antony Spicer House, aged 6 months.

'SMALLADS' (2/6d for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING, by QUALIFIED STYLIST, MRS. LAMB,
'MERRYDOWN' SITTERNTON, BERE REGIS 308, RING BEFORE 9.30 am for APPOINTMENT. REPRESENTATIVE FOR AVON BEAUTY PRODUCTS.
MOTOR ASSISTED BICYCLE for sale, WHAT OFFERS? Apply Vicarage.