My dear Friends,

This month, alas, we say goodbye to Mrs. Talbot who has moved from Sitterton to Newbury. Ever since I have been here in Bere Regis she has been the greatest help to me personally and to the parish at large. We shall all miss her kindness, generosity and loyalty very greatly, and her departure from the parish will leave a gap which we shall find very hard to fill. I know that every one of our readers will join with me in wishing her God speed and every happiness in her new home.

Once more we come round to the Garden Party which again, weather permitting, will be held in the so pleasant garden of Summerods through the kindness of Brigadier and Mrs. Tadman. Only those who have had such affairs in their garden know the tremendous amount of work it entails and we are very grateful to them. We are proposing to repeat some of the attractions of last year, including the Mannequin Parade, which last year so many were unable to see owing to the Drax Hall being full to overflowing. We are hoping to add a further attraction by the addition of a dress show of children's clothes modelled by some of the children of the Village. This will take place during the course of the afternoon. I think you will enjoy this and will find it a very colourful and agreeable attraction. If you, the people of Bere Regis, support the Church Garden Party this year to the same extent as you did last year in spite of the pouring rain, we shall indeed be well satisfied.

I hope you will support the Deanery Missionary Festival to be held in Bere Regis Church on Wednesday June 17th. This is a very happy "get together" of Church people from all the surrounding villages and there are refreshments after in the Drax Hall.

I gather from the powers that be that colour lights are due to be set up at the Cross at any moment now. Dare we hope that they will do something to reduce the speed of the traffic through the Village?

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held in the W. I. Hut at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday June 11th. The speaker will
be a Probation Officer. Mr. Wright, who will be telling us something of the Probation Service.

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**VILLAGE CALENDAR**

**June**
- 6th. Bere Regis Carnival
- 17th. 7.15 Bere Regis Deanery Missionary Festival in the Church
- 20th. Bere Regis Congregational Church Garden Party
- 27th. Bere Regis Church Garden Party at 'Summerods'

**July**
- 7th. Ancient Order of Foresters Skittle Championship, Recreation Ground.
- 10th. School Fete and Sale
- 15th. British Legion Garden Fete at White Lovington
- 18th. Women's Institute Summer Show

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**SCHOOL NEWS**

Nearly 30 children are taking part in a Cycling Proficiency training scheme organised by the Police.

May I express my thanks to all those persons and various organizations in the village who have given our two Overseas students from London University, Miss Adedipe of Nigeria and Miss Kennedy of the United States, such a warm welcome. I know they will take away with them many happy memories of Dorset and the warmth of their reception here.

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**BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The meeting held on April 21st was well attended, and members heard an interesting account from the Delegate to the half-yearly Council Meeting on work being done amongst young offenders both during detention and in after care. An instructive demonstration on hair styling was given by Mrs. Lamb, and a new member was the lucky model. At the meeting to be held on June 16th there will be a talk by a Policewoman of the Dorset Constabulary on her work in the Force. It is hoped that as many members and friends as possible will attend.

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**BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP**

The next meeting of our Floral Group will be on Tuesday June 9th in the Drax Hall as usual at 2.30 p.m.

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3.

Our special demonstrator will be Mrs. Aldridge of Crewkerne, who delighted us last Spring with her varied and artistic interpretation of small arrangements around the house.

This time she will be featuring "Table Arrangements".

A special reminder: if anyone can spare anything for the Plant Stall, will they please bring it along. Plants and cuttings of any kind are always welcome, and somebody will be glad to buy.

So often the Plant Stall appears to have been overlooked - but it is there, every month!

P. Lloyd, Hon. Asst. Sec.

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**RED CROSS FLAG DAY**

The total of £9. 14. 7d. was collected. Miss Lys thanks the Collectors for their help, and all those who contributed.

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**SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD**

| June 7th. | Mrs. Lys.  | Mrs. Benjafield |
| June 14th. | Mrs. Benjafield | Mrs. Lys |
| June 21st. | Mrs. Janes  | Mrs. Poore   |
| June 28th. | Mrs. Terry  | Mrs. Roffey  |

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**SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR JUNE**

| June 7th. | 11.00 a.m. Mr. S. Endacott and Col. A. Barne |
| June 14th. | 11.00 a.m. Brig. D. Tadman and Mr. R. Smith |
| June 21st. | 11.00 a.m. Mr. F. Lys and Col. A. Barne |
| June 28th. | 11.00 a.m. Mesrs. F. Marsh and S. Endacott |

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**DEANERY MISSIONARY FESTIVAL**

BERE REGIS CHURCH. 7.15 p.m. Wednesday, June 17th. Refreshments after in the Drax Hall.

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**THE MOTORISTS' PRAYER**

(discovered by Col. Barne)

"From domineering driving, from the vanity of power and the
infection of speed, Good Lord deliver us. From carelessness and indifference, from the demon of impatience and the tyranny of time, Good Lord deliver us. From ignorance and ungraciousness, from harsh judgment and the flood of invective, Good Lord deliver us. From inattention and monotony, from the delusion of drink and the obscurity of fatigue, Good Lord deliver us.

Grant us, O Lord, a divine courtesy to all. Awake in us an abiding care for the slowness of age and the rashness of youth. Let our vehicles become instruments of thy purpose, bringing happiness to all who travel with us and leaving no man weeping at our passing. This we beg in Christ’s name.

Amen.

BERE REGIS IN ROMAN TIMES

Some years after the Roman invasion of Britain a road was constructed from the important centre of Badbury Rings to the newly-founded market town of Dorchester (known as Dumervaria), passing in its course through the site of the later church at Winterbourne Kingston and over Bere Down. For many years the chalk uplands of Dorset and Wiltshire had been populated by native Iron Age people living in small farmsteads of five acres or so, and the same way of life continued uninterrupted throughout the Roman occupation; under the prosperous conditions of peace brought by Roman rule other farmsteads began their existence, and it is on one of these sites, which grew up alongside the road, that the excavations sponsored by Miss M. Llewellyn have been concerned.

From the evidence that has been accumulating from coins and pottery during the past two seasons, we can say that this site on the crest of the downs was occupied almost continuously between 80 and 360 A.D. We have not yet found any plan of the dwellings in which the natives lived, for these would have been merely wattle and daub structures; however, their rubbish pits and general refuse from their occupation of the site have been located, such as the remains of fires and meals, fragments of hut walls, pieces of broken pottery, nails and horseshoes.

The permanency of their occupation is shown by the impressive well which they sank 60 to 70 feet in the chalk. Numerous post-sockets of upright timber structures have also been found. Furthermore, the original Roman road now in Bagwood Coppice has been exposed with the cobble surface still fresh after its last use by Roman traffic 1600 years ago.

We have some idea of the land cultivated by the settlement.

as the lines of their field boundaries have appeared from air photographs, and the bones of animals which the inhabitants reared, such as sheep, oxen and horses, have been found. Iron was worked on the site, as the presence of both ironstone from the heathland and burnt iron slag testifies, while worked animal bones in the form of bobbins, shuttles and needles show that weaving was carried on; spinning too was an important occupation, as we see from the pottery and shale spindle-whorls discovered, weights used to give impetus to the spindles.

Although the inhabitants were native Britons, they knew the luxuries of Rome which they probably purchased from the market town of Dorchester: we have discovered numerous ornamental bronze safety pins and buckles used to fasten their clothing, rings, bracelets, decorated plaques of shale, and even bone tiddly-wink counters. A most sophisticated object was a pair of eyebrow tweezers. They used the Roman coinage extensively (one piece was minted in Rome 55 years before the invasion of Britain), and besides using their own native pottery, a very fine table ware (Samian pottery) was imported from Gaul, where it was mass-produced for the empire; later they used much of the attractive pottery made in the New Forest.

This picture could not have been drawn without the help and goodwill of many parishioners during the last two years, and I should like to express my thanks to them here. We shall be on the downs again this August, when any who wish to see the way of life of the early inhabitants of Bere Regis will be very welcome on the site.

GEOFFREY TOMS.

(We are most grateful to Mr. Toms for his most interesting article. There will be another article on the August 'dig' in next month’s magazine. Ed.)

HISTORY OF Bere Regis - 36.

THE CHURCH (19th century work - continued)

The following work was carried out when the church was restored in 1875:—

In the chancel the unstable north wall was underpinned with concrete and brickwork, and the upper part of the east window was renewed, together with the apex of the gable. At the same time the whole of the chancel roof was renewed, and it is unfortunate that no record seems to exist of its form before this date. The old organ which stood on the north side of the chancel was moved to the north aisle where the present organ stands, and the clergy stalls and one bay of choir stalls were put in.
adjoining the pulpit. More painted plaster was uncovered high up over the present pulpit, and consisted rather appropriately of a text from Haggai (chap. 1. verse 4): "Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ciel'd houses, and this house to lie waste?"

(to be continued) F.P.P.

BERE REGIS CHURCH ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

3 p.m. SATURDAY JUNE 27th.
IN THE GARDEN OF SUMMERRODS.
(by kind permission of Brigadier and Mrs. Tadman).

ATTRACTIONS

4.00 p.m. DRESS SHOW OF CHILDREN’S FASHIONS.
6.00 p.m. MANNEQUIN PARADE.

SIDESHOWS, AND COMPETITIONS. TEAS.
ICE CREAM.

STALLS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION including NEW STALL - TOMBOLA CHILDREN’S TOYS - ORANGERY - SWEETS - CAKE - GROCERIES - GARDEN PRODUCE - WHITE ELEPHANT - MOTHERS’ UNION - DRAW TICKETS - POSIES etc.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.
LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS

SAINT ALBAN - THE FIRST BRITISH MARTYR. 17th JUNE, 304.

Long before St. Augustine came to England from Rome - he was the Saint we were specially thinking of last month - there were Romans and there were Christians in Britain. In some way or other, the Gospel story came to our land, we do not know exactly how. It could well have been that some of the Romans having heard the news of the Gospel in their own city, brought the good tidings with them to Britain.

Round about the year 300 there was a terrible persecution of Christians who were under the rule of the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, and as the Romans had conquered Britain it meant that the Emperor’s orders had to be obeyed here. The order was that all Christians had to be killed. It was dangerous for them to meet for prayer, for the Roman soldiers were continually on the watch, but in spite of all their care and watchfulness it was not possible to destroy the Christian faith in this land.

There lived in a town called Verulam, about twenty-five miles from London, a man called Alban. He was a soldier in the Roman Army and the son of a rich Roman. Alban was not a Christian, he knew nothing
about the true God, nothing about His Son, Jesus Christ, but he was kind and good-hearted and he told his servants to give a welcome to any travellers or poor man who might need shelter in the town of Verulam. It so happened that one day a British Christian priest arrived at the home of Alban worn out and hungry and begged for shelter. At once he took Amphibalus into his home and cared for him. The priest told Alban quite honestly who he was and that he was trying to hide from his enemies. It was not long before Alban learned from him the beautiful teachings of our Blessed Lord and himself became a Christian. The heart of the old priest was filled with joy.

When the Roman Governor heard that Alban was giving shelter to a Christian priest, he sent soldiers to take him prisoner. Alban was determined to save the priest and wondered how he could manage it. He seized the worn cloak from the priest, took off his own rich robes and throwing them round the priest, wrapped himself in the old cloak and went out to the soldiers who believing him to be the man they sought took him to the Governor. When he was brought up for trial the Governor recognised him, for Alban was a soldier well known and beloved. He tried to save him by offering to set him free if he would but declare that he did not believe the Christian Faith, but although he had been a believer for such a short time he was brave and true, and so the cruel order was given for his execution.

Followed by a large crowd Alban was taken to the meadows by the river Ver. The executioner felt he could not do this terrible duty and threw his sword away into the stream declaring himself to be a Christian too. Thus did two soldiers kneel down on that bright summer’s day in June, 304, and without fear gave up their lives. They were not ashamed of confessing Christ before men.

Saint Alban has never been forgotten. The town of Verulam is now called Saint Alban’s and on the spot where these two martyrs died stands St. Alban’s Abbey, which since 1877 has been a Cathedral with its own Bishop. "The Noble Army of Martyrs: praise Thee" (Te Deum) (E.M.S.)

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS’ UNION

The next meeting of the Mothers’ Union will be held in the Reading Room at 2.45 on Wednesday June 10th. The speaker will be the Rev. F. Griffiths who will be telling us about the work of the Church of England Children’s Society.

'SMALL ADS.'

(2/6 for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING BY QUALIFIED STYLIST. MRS. LAMB, 'MERRYDOWN' SITTERTON, BERE REGIS 308. RING BEFORE 9.30 am for APPOINTMENT. REPRESENTATIVE FOR AVON BEAUTY PRODUCTS.