My dear Friends,

I hope you will take particular note of the Easter Day Services. They are the same as last year with the exception that I have postponed the Family Service for one Sunday so that it can take place on Easter Sunday afternoon. This, I feel, will be a happy occasion for the family to worship together on the greatest festival of the Church's year.

I sometimes feel a little worried at the comparatively poor attendances we have, in this parish, at the Service of Holy Communion. I do feel we ought to be able to do a great deal better, but I especially wish to draw Easter to your minds for if at no other time this is the Season when all Churchpeople should make their Communion. In fact, it is obligatory on Confirmed people - the Prayer Book stating quite distinctly "And note, that every Parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one."

The Annual Church Meeting for the election of Churchwardens Parochial Church Councillors, the adoption of accounts and other business is to be held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday April 22nd in the W.I. Hut. The experiment of last year in holding this important meeting here and not in the Church proved a great success, consequently we are meeting in the same place again this year.

Anyone on the Electoral Roll is eligible to be present and to vote. I do trust that many of our people will show sufficient interest in the business side of their Church to abandon their Television Sets and to attend this meeting.

In the olden days parishioners had no say in the running of their Church and the right of so doing was won only after much determination and hard fighting. It is such a pity when such an opportunity is so often lightly cast aside. Incidentally are you all on the Electoral Roll if not you will find a form on the Visitors table, please take one, fill it in and give it back as soon as possible to any Church official.

And now something quite different. The Church Council have always found themselves in great difficulty in running Social events over the fact that there is never enough china - cups, plates etc. for their purpose, and much extra work has to be incurred by borrowing and lending.

Mrs. Tranter is proposing to hold a large Jumble Sale on the evening of Thursday April 29th to raise money with which to buy Parish China which will always be available for our use.

Will you please start looking out anything you can spare. It should be of good sellable quality as we hope it will be a good quality
Sale. Goods may be delivered to the Vicarage, but if you cannot deliver, we will gladly collect.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

SANTUARY FLOWER GUILD

April 4th. Lent
April 11th. Palm Sunday
April 18th. Easter Day
April 25th. Mrs. Janes and Mrs. Poore.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR APRIL

April 4th. 11.00 a.m. Mr. W.F. Lys 6.00 p.m. Messrs. M. Barnes
           Lt. C. Mauder L. Bartlett
11th. 11.00 a.m. Brig. D. Tadman 6.00 p.m. Messrs. J. House
       Mr. D. Poore H. Pitfield
18th. 11.00 a.m. Col. A. Barne 6.00 p.m. Messrs. D. Poore
       Lt. C. Mauder P. Wyatt
25th. 11.00 a.m. Messrs. R. Smith 6.00 p.m. Messrs. P. Mintern
       W.F. Lys R. Barnes

'FRIENDS'

May we have your pledge cards please? Send or give in sealed envelope to any Church official or direct to the Recorder, Brig. D. Tadman at Summerrods.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

July 3rd. Skittles. A.O.F. Championship S.W.D.
July 10th. Bere Regis Carnival
July 21st. British Legion Garden Fete 3 p.m. White Lovington

N.B. Most unfortunately the date of the Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party will have to be altered this year, owing to the fact that the Kennels have fixed their Open Day on the same date. The amended date will appear in next month's issue of the Magazine.

EASTER LILIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

Will those of you who would like to give a Lily at Easter in memory of a relative or friend, please fill in the list which you will find on the Desk at the entrance to the Church.

We require the name of the donor, the full names of the person in whose memory it is to be given, and the number of lilies you wish to give. May we have your requirements as soon as possible please because of ordering the exact number.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The Quarterly Corporate Communion of the Mothers' Union will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday April 8th when the Vicar will give the address. Tea afterwards in the Vicarage.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

3.00 p.m. Thursday April 8th. 'The Parish plans for Action'

April 11th. Palm Sunday - Distribution of Palm Crosses at all Services

HOLY WEEK

Monday April 12th. 7.00 p.m. Compline
Tuesday April 13th. 7.00 p.m. Compline
Wednesday April 14th. 7.00 p.m. Compline
Maundy Thursday April 15th. 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Good Friday April 16th. 11.00 a.m. Devotional Service
           7.00 p.m. Evensong.

EASTER DAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins
12.00 noon Holy Communion
3.00 p.m. Family Service
6.00 p.m. Evensong.

N.B. The Family Service is transferred from April 2nd to Easter Day.

BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The Branch meeting on April 21st is at 7.30 p.m. in Drax Hall when Mrs. P. Collis will give a demonstration and talk on Cake Icing.

A. L. Coles. Hon. Sec.
BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

We should all have a most enjoyable afternoon on Tuesday, April 13th, for, on that date, Mrs. Platts comes to demonstrate "Beauty in Simplicity". Mrs. Platts - winner of First Prize at the Dairy Show for her arrangement of "Fruit and Flowers" and a prize winner at many other Shows, has a rare gift of being able to communicate her own enjoyment of flower arranging to her listeners. We hope that many members will come to this meeting, and will bring any friends who may be interested.

On April 13th, too, we are having the first of three Bring-and-Buy Stalls to be held during the year. Some members seem to think that gifts for the stall should be plant material, but this is not so, and anything, from a pot of jam to a pleasant white elephant would be most welcome. Please bring something this month.

M. A.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A meeting was held on Tuesday February 16th. Mrs. L. Prince was elected to represent our Institute at the Royal Garden Party which Her Majesty the Queen is giving as part of the Jubilee Celebrations.

Mrs. Jesky was elected to attend the A, G, M, at the Albert Hall, and to attend the dinner which is to be held the same evening.

An interesting talk was given by Mr. Broughton on 'The Great Fire of Wareham'. The Group Meeting which included the Spring Bulb Show was held on Monday March 8th. At the next meeting on Tuesday April 20th a Film will be shown by members of St. John Ambulance Association, demonstrating "The Kiss of Life".

E. M. H.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 46

THE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS 1607 - 1740

The method of raising money for church and parish affairs by means of brewing beer had obvious disadvantages, and the parish finances were put on a sounder footing in 1614, when the first compulsory church rate was levied. This method of raising money was continued until 1868 when compulsory church rates were officially abolished, although a voluntary rate continued to be collected in this parish until 1929.

We still have this 1614 rate, which is a parchment document 6 ins. to 7 ins. wide, and 8 ft. 7 ins. long and lists 128 properties in the parish, with all the owners and tenants. Incidentally, it appears from the 1614 account that this long piece of parchment cost 6d. from the item:

"paid for parchment to make the Rate roll ........... vj d"

All the properties in the parish were valued, and a rate of 2d in the £ was collected, which produced £9. 15. 1d., although £2 of this was still unpaid when the account was drawn up. At first this rate was collected once a year, but later, it was collected two or three times in one year, depending on the expenditure. In 1692, in Thomas Turberville's year of office, much building repair work was carried out on the church, and altogether £51. 5. 7d. was spent. There was still a deficit of £13. 7. 9d. even though the rate was collected seven times that year.

As this 1614 rate was the first one to be levied in Bere Regis, it is perhaps of interest to quote the heading in full:

"A Rate of the parishioners of Bere Regis towards the repair and payment of their Church duetys, made by the Churchwardens and overseers for the tyme being with the Consent of the more part of the same parish, after the portion of 1/2 d in the pound of the value of all the Lands and tenents within the same fully agreed upon and consented unto the xiith day of November 1614, in manner and forme hereunder declared"

Although the church rate was introduced in 1614, brewing ale seems to have been reverted to in 1616 when £13. 7. 9d. was raised in this way instead of collecting a rate. As the accounts are incomplete immediately after this date, it is not possible to ascertain whether or not the beer brewing method was ever used again, as for all subsequent years for which accounts remain, a rate was collected.

The church ale, and later the church rate formed the churchwardens' principal source of income, but this was supplemented in various other ways. For instance, a charge of 6s. 8d. for arranging a burial in the church, making charges for seats and pews on a life tenancy basis, and selling second hand building materials, such as timber, when repair work was carried out on the church.

(to be continued) F. P. P.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

EASTER LILIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

A list will be found on the table at the back of the Church and will anyone who wishes to give a lily at Easter in memory of a relative or friend, please fill in their own name and the name of the person in whose memory it is to be given.

We shall be glad to have your requirements as soon as possible for the ordering of the exact number.
THE MRS. SHEPPARD MEMORIAL FUND

Donations should be sent or given to Mr. Simpson, The Stores, Winterbourne Kingston who has kindly consented to act as Treasurer.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

7.30 p.m. Wednesday April 7th. 'The Parish plans for Action'

Palm Sunday April 11th. Distribution of Palm Crosses at both Services.

GOOD FRIDAY 6.00 p.m. Devotional Service
(N.B. Not at 3.00 p.m. as incorrectly stated in last month’s magazine)

EASTER DAY 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
7.15 p.m. Evensong.

ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

7.00 p.m. Monday April 26th. All interested in our Church are warmly welcomed at this meeting, when the Church Committee will be elected and the accounts will be presented.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.

ANOTHER PRAYER BOOK PERSONALITY

MILES COVERDALE 1487 - 1569

Miles Coverdale was a Yorkshireman. He was born about the year 1487 and therefore lived during the same period as Thomas Cranmer, of whom we were thinking last month.

Miles Coverdale became an Augustinian friar in Cambridge. He was a learned man and had a friendly and upright nature. It was whilst he was at Cambridge he came in touch with reformers, whom he decided to join. He gave himself absolutely to the spreading of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the year 1514 Miles Coverdale was ordained a Priest at Norwich, but fourteen years later, in the year 1528 he had to flee from this country to evade death because of his reform ideas. This was his first exile and it lasted seven years - during this time he earned his living as a printer's proof-reader and having met William Tyndale worked with him on his Bible translations. An Antwerp merchant invited him, in the year 1534, to undertake the great task of translating the whole Bible, and he completed this mammoth work in a year. Through a humble merchant the first complete English printed Bible appeared in England in 1535. A revision was prepared by Miles Coverdale and this resulted in the Great Bible of 1539 which was officially approved by the King - Henry VIII and ordered to be set up in every Church.

He was exiled again however, because there was opposition to reformers. He kept himself and his family by becoming an assistant pastor in a German parish, and headmaster of a local grammar school. He returned to England again in 1548. Crowds flocked to hear him preach, for he was a popular and powerful preacher and three years later in 1551 he was consecrated Bishop of Exeter. Some people, however, were still against him, and he was deprived of his See two years later. His final exile lasted till 1559 when he once more returned to England, but he would not go back to Exeter and his final years he gave to preaching chiefly in London.

Miles Coverdale's great connection with our Prayer Book comes through the Psalms which forms the Psalter. His version of the Psalms was taken straight from the Great Bible and put into the Prayer Books of 1549 and 1552, and in the 1662 Prayer Book - the Prayer Book of today - the Psalms remain the same. We owe to Miles Coverdale the version of the Psalms we sing in our Church: it is his exquisite translation which we still use, unequalled for the beauty of its language. E.M.S.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON - ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are pleased to have the assistance of Miss Sylvia House, Miss Brenda Pluckett and Miss Margaret Vincent in our Sunday School, and we welcome them to this very worth-while Church work.

If it is not too late, we would like to say 'Thank-you' to the members of the Mothers' Union for the excellent New Year Party they gave us. It was very much appreciated. E.M.S.

MILE OF PENNIES

Mr. Simpson has handed to the Treasurer a further sum of £3. 14. 7d. making a total of £19. 12. 8d.

The jar on the counter at The Stores is still available for your odd pennies please!
FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

February 28th. Sarah Gibbs.

'SMALL ADS'

(2/6 every three lines)

BABY SITTING

RESPONSIBLE GIRL OF FOURTEEN WILLING TO BABY SIT, ANY EVENING. APPLY MISS C. CARLYLE. RYE-MOUNT, RYE HILL, BERE REGIS.

(Printed by Eaves & Co. Ltd., Liverpool, 1.)