THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

I am sorry to say that there has been a spate of anonymous letters, which have been sent to various people in the village. These letters have all been sent obviously by the same person and purport to be sent out of kindness telling the recipient that certain things are being said about them and that the writer thinks they ought to know about it.

There is nothing so mean and beastly as the anonymous letter. Sometimes they are written by people who are just vicious and wish to vent their hate and spite on anyone they can lay their hands on - sometimes they are written by people of unstable mind who need medical attention, but whichever way it is such a letter is a wicked and sinful thing - especially those which purport to be done in kindness, these perhaps are the worst. In some ways, of course, one must feel sorry for the writer, for it shows such a mean spirit that the person is either downright wicked, and there can be no happiness for such a person - or the person is mentally ill, and there too is terrible unhappiness. And so our anger must be tempered with Christian sorrow and pity.

But whichever way it is there is one thing that is certain and that is that these letters must cease immediately. I hope that these words of mine will come before the writer and that there may be an end, otherwise drastic steps will have to be taken to discover the writer and to have him or her brought to justice.

In the meantime if any others of you have had such letters please let me know and we can decide what must be done to put an end to it.

It is with great regret that I have to tell you that Lt. C. Mauder, R.N., will be resigning his post as Secretary and Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council at the end of the year. Unfortunately he has now been given a sea posting (I doubt if that is the right expression but you will know what I mean!) and will be permanently away for some time. During the time he has been with us he has done a great deal to modernise our finances and our system of accounting and has proved himself as a most active and efficient Secretary. We shall all miss him greatly not only as a Secretary but also as a person and I know you will join in with me in thanking him very warmly for all he has done and in wishing him every happiness and success in his new appointment.

You will find all the various Services for Christmas fully announced in this issue and I hope you will take due notice of the arrangements. We are repeating the Service of Carols by Candlelight which was so successful last year, and this year the readers are to be representatives of the various Village organisations. It may well be
that as we have only nine readings there may be more organisations than we can use, if so, we will repeat the Scheme another year and will have representatives from any organisations that may have been left out this year.

A very happy Christmas to you all is the warm wish of all of us at the Vicarage.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Dec. 5th. Advent
12th. Advent
19th. Christmas (Mrs. Tranter)
26th. Mrs. Tadman

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 5th. 11.00 a.m. Lt. C. Mauder & Mr. I. Mullins
6.00 p.m. Messrs. M. Barnes & R. Barnes
12th. 11.00 a.m. Messrs. K. Woolfries & W. F. Lys
6.00 p.m. Messrs. D. Poore & L. Bartlett
19th. 11.00 a.m. Messrs. A. Harding & R. Smith
6.00 p.m. Messrs. F. Marsh & P. Wyatt
Christmas Eve 11.45 p.m. Lt. C. Mauder, Messrs. I. Mullins, J. House & D. Poore
Christmas Day 11.00 a.m. Mr. R. Smith & Lt. C. Mauder
Dec. 26. 11.00 a.m. Mr. W. F. Lys & Col. A. Barne
6.00 p.m. Messrs. F. Marsh & P. Mintern

QUARTERLY SIDESMEN'S MEETING 8 p.m. Wednesday December 8th at the Vicarage.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Dec. 8th. Wednesday 8.00 p.m. Vicarage Sidesmen's Meeting
9th. Thursday Bere Regis School Concert
10th. Friday Bere Regis School Old People's Tea
14th. Tuesday Floral Group Annual General Meeting Bere Regis School Children's Party
16th. Thursday 3.00 p.m. Sanctuary Guild. Vicarage
17th. Friday Winterbourne Kingston Whist Drive for Village Hall Funds. 7.30 p.m.
19th. Sunday 6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

1966
Jan. 10th. Monday Bere Regis Sports Club, General Village Meeting 7.30 p.m. Drax Hall.

BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB

The Committee of the above club have called for a General Village Meeting, to discuss the future of the Club. Monday, January 10th, 1966, 7.30 p.m. They would like to point out that the "Rec" is primarily the property of the National Playing Fields Association but is held in trust by the Villagers of Bere Regis. We would like to show that there are money responsibilities, i.e., Water Rates, General Rates, Electric Bills. Insurances and most of all the General upkeep of the Playing Field and accommodation etc. These have to be paid yearly. Up to now these have been covered by the efforts of the Club with Bingo Drives etc. It has become increasingly difficult each year through dwindling support. With funds in credit very low, and through lack of support the Committee as it stands at the moment can no longer carry the burden of responsibilities.

Would all Villagers especially those with young children and all those who have previously had the privilege of the use of the Rec. etc. who have this interest at heart, come along and hear and say your opinions and suggestions. Remember, please, that the Rec is the only available place of Recreation and play with no civic help, and it is in our interest to keep it under our own control. Please make a note of time and date of Meeting.

E. Havitt, Chairman.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Will all Members make a special note that December 14th is our Annual General Meeting. This is the meeting where your suggestions, ideas, and criticism, can be of the greatest help towards keeping your Group the happy, lively one it has been from the start. This is the meeting at which we allocate to charity the funds which you have helped to raise - your help is welcome here. It will not all be hard work for Miss McFall is bringing some very interesting slides to show, and the Committee will provide you with tea.

Our Coffee Morning was a great success, in spite of the rain. The Chairman, Mrs. Cobb, sends a special 'thank you' to all those who gave for the various stalls, and to those who came and spent so generously. The sum raised was £35 clear profit, and a large proportion of this will go to charity.

M.A.
BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There will be a Whist Drive in the W.I. Hut on Thursday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m. Good Prizes - All welcome. Also a Members Christmas Party on Tuesday 21st December at 7.0 p.m. Bring a gift - receive a gift - up to 1/6d in value. We wish all past, present and future members a Happy Christmas and hope they will join us at meetings in the New Year. Third Tuesday in month.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

SUNFLOWER GUILD

The annual box opening took place at 10, Southbrook, by the kindness of Mrs. Osboldstone. Boxes yielded £13.10.0d. this year - a splendid effort. I have been asked to convey the Society's very real gratitude to you all. There are nearly 5,000 children in care each year including handicapped children. Would anyone else like to take a box? Please let me know.

(Mrs.) 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 £14.1.8d. over two pounds more than last year and for which the Society are most grateful.

HISTORY OF BEREG REGIS - 54

PALEOLITHIC OR OLD STONE AGE (up to B.C. 2500)

When man first made his appearance in the British Isles is not, of course, precisely known, but during the whole of the period before BC2500 Paleolithic man was primarily a hunter and gatherer of wild fruits, and was continually wandering from place to place in search of food. This meant that there were generally no permanent habitations, but that men constructed temporary shelters or made use of natural shelters such as caves. Evidence of early occupation has been found in many caves in the British Isles and Europe and includes early cave paintings.

The principal remains of this period consist of roughly made flint weapons used in hunting, usually spear heads and axes, and in some areas numbers of flint flakes have been unearthed indicating sites where such weapons were made. Generally, however, Paleolithic remains are few and far between, due to the remoteness of the period, the scanty population, and the lack of any permanent habitation sites.

A Paleolithic hand axe was found in this parish by the side of the road of Gallows Hill in 1939, where the ground had been disturbed by ranks. It had been recently broken, and the finder, Mr. R.E. But of Poole, was fortunate enough to find both pieces. When re-assembled it was found to be about 5 1/2 inches long, 3 3/4 inches wide at its broadest part, and a maximum of 1 inch thick.

F.P.P.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

Owing to the School children's Concert the December meeting of the Mothers' Union has been postponed from December 9th to the following Thursday, December 16th. The Christmas party has been cancelled and in its place, on the 16th light refreshments will be provided and we shall have an evening of Christmas Carols and music.

I very much hope that all members will try and be present on what should prove to be a most enjoyable evening of fellowship and singing.

P.J.T.

OXFAM

If any of you have any odd pieces of knitting wool, I shall be most grateful if you would let me have them at the Vicarage. I have one or two devoted knitters who can make it up into most useful and sought after articles for the above Society.

P.J. Tranter.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Wednesday December 22nd. Gifts of Holly, flowers and greenery will be much appreciated and should be delivered to the Church on that morning as early as possible.

FAMILY SERVICE

This Service will be held as usual on the second Sunday in December, December 12th at 3 p.m. All members of the family, both young and old are warmly welcomed at this Service.

BERE REGIS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY before CHRISTMAS, December 19th.
6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight. The Service of Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by representatives of village organisations. Printed copies of the Service for all.

CHRISTMAS EVE. Friday, December 24th.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Communion.
CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins
12.00 noon Holy Communion.

BOXING DAY, ST. STEPHEN, 1st Sunday after Christmas.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins and Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Evensong.

FRIENDSHIP

On my way to the Church I pass by the home of a now elderly couple whose friendly spirit and warm hospitality it has been my happy lot to receive and enjoy for over 25 years. I would like to record this fact and my thanks in this issue of our magazine. This friendship began when the world was plunged into darkness by the second World War and has continued free of any cold spells ever since. I hope many is the time I will be still able to call upon them to receive the warmth of their welcome. How many good and living things have their beginnings in darkness? In the darkest days of the year (Advent) we prepare for and await the joys of Christmas. The daffodils and kindred bulbs must be plunged into darkness to prepare them that they bring forth their wondrous flowers to lighten Good Friday and add their glory to Easter morning. And when all friendly spirits pass into the seeming darkness of the end of this mortal life, shall not that be just a preparation for them to rise again to dance, shine and sing with the daffodils on that final and most glorious Easter morning?

(Signed) R.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Brookside,
Winterbourne Kingston,
Blandford, Dorset.

Dear Mr. Tranter,

I would be very grateful if you could find space in your Magazine to express the thanks of myself, and a number of villagers, to those who kept the Churchyard in such a tidy condition during recent months. They have really done a first class job, and worked very hard. Again, many thanks.

Yours sincerely,
Edward R. Wanstead.

ST, NICHOLAS CHURCH.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

Would you like to make a gift of a Prayer Book to the Church at Christmas, in memory of a dear one, or of a special occasion in your life, or as a friend of Saint Nicholas? If so, please enter your names on the list in the Church, or others further afield may like to let the Vicar or Treasurer know of their desire to help the Church in this way.

It will be possible for you to inscribe your name in the book as the giver if you so wish. The price is 7/6d each. We will obtain the books on your behalf.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

CONFIRMATION

The words which conclude the Service for the Baptism of Infants, and addressed by the Priest to the Godparents are :- "Ye are to take care that this child be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Ten Commandments in the vulgar tongue, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose."

Having then taken the first step on the road of Christian life through Holy Baptism, we come to the age when we are capable of learning more about our Christian doctrine, as set forth in the Church Catechism, and making firm ourselves the promises made for us by our Godparents. The word 'Catechism' means question and answer, it is, therefore, an instruction drawn up in this way and it was inserted in the Prayer Book of 1549.

Before becoming a Knight of King Arthur’s Round Table, the Knight had to place his hands in those of the King and promise to obey him in all things, to fight for the Kingdom of Christ, as well as making other vows. It was a big promise to make, so that when a man was to become a Knight he would spend the whole of the night before in Church, alone, kneeling before the altar in prayer to God - on the steps beside him would lie his armour and his hands would rest upon the hilt of his sword. In the morning the Priest would come into the Church and celebrate Holy Communion, which the watcher would receive, the King would then take the sword and lay it on his shoulder after which he would be a Knight. This lonely watch was called the Vigil and no man was able to be a Knight unless he had kept vigil in this way.

We too have promises to keep, they were made for us at our Baptism, but as we grow up we want to make them ourselves, so after our preparation we come to the Bishop to be Confirmed. It is God’s help - the gift of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter (or Strengtheners), which we seek in CONFIRMATION. The renewal of the vows made at our Baptism, we now publicly acknowledge as our own obligation, and God offers us again the gift of His Holy Spirit, but with new power, to
enable us to keep the rules of the Kingdom of which we are inheritors.

The Act of Confirmation is performed by the Bishop laying his hand or hands on the head of each person to be confirmed, and keeping his hands there for a moment, very still, in blessing, he prays.

"Defend, O Lord, this thy Child with thy heavenly grace, that he may continue thine for ever: and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit, more and more, until he come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen."

The Act of Confirmation is an outward sign of an inward grace - the inward grace which God gives us being His wisdom and strength. Confirmation is in fact, God's own preparation of a Baptized child for the still greater gift bestowed in Holy Communion.

Our Confirmation gift will never fail us, if we use it.

E. M. S.

WINTERTHORNE KINGSTON

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
BOXING DAY, ST. STEPHEN, 1st Sunday after Christmas.
NO MATTINS at 10.00 a.m.
7.15 p.m. Evensong.

WINTERTHORNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held at 2.45 pm in the Reading Room on Wednesday December 8th. Mrs. C. E. Hampton, the wife of the Rector of Piddlehinton, will be the Speaker.

This will be her first visit to Winterbourne Kingston so I trust all members will try and be present on this occasion to give her a warm welcome.

P. J. T.

'SMALL ADS'

(2/6 for every three lines)