My dear Friends,

Will you, this month, please take particular notice of the various Christmas Services, they are laid out in full on a later page. Again we shall be having that most popular Service of Carols by Candlelight - the Service of the Nine Lessons. This year the Lessons will all be read by local farmers, which should be a matter of some interest to us all. The Church is always completely full for this occasion, so if you wish for a certain seat I would strongly advise you to arrive early. As regards Christmas Day, which this year falls on a Sunday, after a good deal of thought I have decided not to hold the usual evening Services either at Bere Regis or Winterbourne Kingston. This will perhaps avoid any conflict of inclination and duty for you!

I am thinking of holding this year the Plough Sunday Service Arrangements at the moment are not quite (to use a horrible word) finalised, but if all goes well and it can be arranged, it will take place at 3 p.m. on Plough Sunday, which is always the first Sunday after January 6th. This means that it will be held on Sunday January 8th.

If all goes according to plan a plough will be carried in procession through the main Village Street, led by the Choir and followed by the general public. It will be carried into the Church, right up into the Chancel where the Service of the blessing of the plough will take place. This is a wonderful old Service and still not out of date even in these modern days, and is a fitting commencement to the farming year.

I felt that this would be a particularly appropriate year to have this Service as the Carol Service Lessons are being read by farmers

Finally I should like to extend a warm welcome to the Foresters who will be coming from all parts to Bere Regis for their own Carol Service at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, December 31st.

Best wishes for Christmas from Mrs. Tranter and myself.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Thursday, 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.
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Dec. 4th. Advent
11th. Advent
18th. Advent
25th. Christmas Day. (Mrs. Tranter)

FAMILY SERVICE

This Service will be held as usual on the second Sunday in December. December 11th at 3 p.m. All members of the family both young and old are warmly welcomed at this Service.

PARISH COMMUNION

What better way of starting the New Year is there than coming to this Service 10 a.m. Sunday January 1st?

SIDESMEN’S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 4th. 10.00 am. Col. A. Barne & Mr. M. Lys
6.00 pm. Messrs. R. Barnes & M. Barnes
11th. 11.00 am. Mr. K. Woolfries & Brig. D. Tadman
6.00 pm. Messrs. L. Bartlett & D. Poore
18th. 11.00 am. Messrs. I. Mullins & K. Woolfries
6.00 pm. Messrs. J. House & R. Barnes
24th. Christmas Eve
11.45 pm. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. I. Mullins
25th. Christmas Day
11.00 am. Col. A. Barne & Mr. F. Marsh

SIDESMEN’S QUARTERLY MEETING

PLEASE NOTE the date has been changed from Wednesday Dec. 14th to Thursday December 16th. Same time and place, 8 p.m. at the Vicarage.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS’ UNION

The December meeting will be held at the Vicarage on Thursday, December 8th at 7.30 p.m. when the speaker will be a representative of the W. V. S. She will be telling us something of the work of that excellent Voluntary Service.

Don’t forget our Christmas Dinner to be held at Weymouth on Wednesday December 14th. The Dinner will cost 12/6d. I cannot give the exact coach fare yet as it depends on the number going, but it certainly should not be more than 5/-.. Remember you can bring your husbands! Names and numbers to me immediately please.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Dec. 6th. Tues. 2.30. Bere Regis Floral Group Christmas Fair Drax Hall.
8th. Thurs. 3.15. Sanctuary Guild. Vicarage
7.30 Mothers’ Union. Vicarage.
11th. Sun. 3.00 Family Service
14th. Wed. Mothers’ Union Christmas Dinner
15th. Thurs. 7.00 pm St. Nicholas Church, Winterbourne Kingston School Carol Service
15th. Thurs. 8.00 pm. Sidesmen’s Meeting. Vicarage.
18th. Sun. 6.00 pm. Carols by Candlelight. Local Farmers will read Lessons.
24th. Christmas Eve. 11.45. Holy Communion
26th. Mon. St. Stephen. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
31st. Sat. 6.30 p.m. Foresters Carol Service.

1967
Jan. 1st. Sun. 10.00 am. Parish Communion

1967
May 25th. Thurs. Confirmation at Winterbourne Kingston


BERE REGIS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY Before Christmas, December 18th.
6.00 p.m. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT. The Service of the Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by local Farmers. Printed copies of Service for all including full words of Carols to be sung.

CHRISTMAS EVE. December 24th.
11.45 p.m. Midnight Communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.00 a.m. Mattins
12 noon Holy Communion.
BOXING DAY. ST. STEPHEN
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

N.B. No Celebrations on St. John’s Day or Holy Innocents.

BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

The December Meeting will take place at the School Hall on Tuesday 20th December. We hope to create a “Christmassy” atmosphere by exchanging Christmas Gifts and having Miss Knight as Speaker on “Singing together”. May we take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas.

M. C.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

It is hoped that all members, and friends will come to our Christmas Fair on 6th December - 2.30 p.m. at the Drax Hall. The Fair is open to the public, and members are asked to support the Cake Stall - (we never have enough cakes!); Tombola (any gift will help here); Christmas Decoration Stall (anything that will sell - coloured candles for instance), and the Raffle.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, 13th December, and Mrs. Herridge, and Mrs. Cross have been cajoled into doing some Christmas Decoration demonstrations for your interest and delight. It is hoped that you will all come with ideas and suggestions to add to the enjoyment of our meetings in the coming year.

M. A.

SUNFLOWER GUILD

The annual box opening took place between October 25th and 31st. Once more Mrs. Osbaldestone very kindly assisted. The boxes yielded £12. 4s. 10d. - a splendid effort - and I am asked to convey to all members the Society’s very real gratitude. As we all know, daily demands are made for help for children in distress and the Society relies on voluntary subscriptions.

One member has had to retire so that there is a box for anyone who will be willing to help.

J. A. Drew. Hon. Sec.

(Our warm thanks to Mrs. Drew also for all her work. Ed.)

GUIDES AND BROWNIES

May I remind parents of two forthcoming events:
- 3rd Dec. District Christmas Sale at Puddletown Village Hall.

1st Jan. 1967. District Carol Service at Milborne St. Andrew 2.30 p.m. A Coach will be available to take children and parents.

S. M. M.

The Bere Regis Guides and Brownies would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to the Sale held on the 3rd Nov. in aid of the Aberfan Disaster Fund. This was a most successful event and the sum realized was £56. 3. 7s., made up as follows:
- Donations: 13. 10. 6d.
- Main Draw: 1. 18. 3d.
- Door: 1. 13. 0d.
- Food Stall: £10. 8. 8d.
- Refreshments: 1. 16. 0d.
- New Stall: 5. 4. 6d.
- White Elephant: 1. 13. 11d.
- Doll Competition: 1. 9. 0d.
- Jumble Stall: 17. 19. 9d.
- Sale of Rags: 10. 0d.
- Total: £56. 3. 7d.

No Expenses.

HISTORY OF BEREG REGIS - 66

PARISH MAGAZINE (continued)

1900 The magazine circulation remained at between 190 and 200 copies monthly, and as at the time of the first issue in 1887, still cost 1d. each, although many subscribers paid 2s. 0d. or 2s. 6d. per year.

The Rev. W. Farrer left the parish in January, and his successor the Rev. W. E. H. Sotheby was inducted on March 13th.

At the Easter Vestry, Mr. John Battrick was appointed clerk in succession to Mr. Barnes who had left the parish, and Mr. Battrick held the post until his death in December, 1957.

In June, the choir, which had been hitherto unrobed, were provided with cassocks.

14 pupils were attending wood-carving classes held on Tuesday evenings during the winter.

1901 The custom of combining the harvest festival service with the thanksgiving for the 1875 restoration of the church was abandoned in this year, when the harvest service was held on Tuesday, 17th September.

From an account concerning the oil-lamps for lighting the streets, it seems that the lamplighter was paid £4 per year. It was in this year that a fund was started to improve or renew the organ -- a very small instrument which had been in use since about 1885.

At a jumble sale, some entertainment was provided -- "and the gramophone, kindly brought by Mr. F. Hawkins, gave much amusement".
There was a "Concert and Dramatic Entertainment" on Friday 27th December, and "The performers are, most of them, coming at considerable inconvenience from London, to oblige us"

1902

It seems that before this time it was not customary for the congregation to stand at the beginning and end of a service, from this extract: "I wish to thank the members of the congregation for the ready way in which they have fallen in with the practice suggested from the pulpit of standing when the clergy and choir enter and leave the Church. Save few, I fear, do not quite like the change, but surely its almost universal adoption in other parishes should commend it" ---

Coronation celebrations were held on Thursday, 14th August, somewhat later than planned, due to the King's illness, and consisted of the usual procession, service and amusements, and tea for about 650 --- "and as a finale the National Anthem was sung by the choir boys and others on the Church tower, from whence a fire display of Bengal fires lit up the whole village."

(to be continued) F. P. P.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON, ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

As a result of the Harvest Supper the sum of £9.14.0d. has been handed to the Treasurer for the Restoration Fund.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Wingfield, for opening their home for a Coffee Evening to aid the forthcoming St. Nicholas Market. The sum of £4.7.7. was raised, which makes a good start for the event. Thank you to all who gave and helped in any way.

CAROL SERVICE. The children of Winterbourne Kingston County Primary School will hold a Carol Service in Church on Thursday, December 15th. The Service will commence at 7 p.m. and an invitation is extended to all.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

CHRISTMAS

The principal events in our Lord's life made such an impression upon the memory of His disciples, that as the days came round on which they occurred, the religious celebration of the day by special acts of Divine Worship became a matter of course. Thus arose the Festival system of the Church and one of the most wonderful Festivals of all is that of Christmas. Christmas Day, being the day when God makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christmas joy, Christmas wishes, Christmas gifts. We like to receive presents on this day and also to give presents ourselves. But have you ever thought why this is a time of giving and of receiving presents?

Let us go back to the first Christmas Day. Jesus was born in Bethlehem - not in a house, but a stable. His cradle was a manger. News of His birth was given by the Angels to the Shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem as 'good tidings of great joy'. You know well what those tidings were which the shepherds were told, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord". Here we have the first Christmas gift - the gift from God to man. What did the Shepherds do? They looked at each other and said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass". And so they came to the stable, and went away filled with joy; they stopped the passers by, men, women and children and told them what the Angels had said, and how that it was true, they had seen the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

The 'good tidings of great joy' are still the same today, for us, as they were for the Shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem on the very first Christmas Day. Even beyond the Church the Christmas gladness of the Church spreads itself, it is a season of unity, fellowship, good-will, happiness and peace.

There is a lovely story, which has been adapted from a poem entitled "Thanksgiving Day", which I should like to share with you:

"It was Christmas Day, and an old gentleman, who lived all alone, thought to himself, 'If you want to be really happy, give something to somebody else.' So he sent a fat turkey to the shoemaker, who lived round the corner. When he saw the big bird, and thought what a beautiful dinner he was going to have, he said, 'I have a nice chicken in the larder, I will send it to my friend, the poor widow.' She was so pleased and thought it so kind that she felt she must make someone happy, so she sent the beautiful pie she had made for herself to the washerwoman, who had so few treats. But it did not end there, for the washerwoman was so delighted that she began to think of some poor little motherless children whom she knew who never had enough to eat and lived close by. She had been all the morning baking a ginger cake, so she said, 'I will send them that', and when they saw it their thoughts went off to a poor little lame boy whom they knew, and they cut him off a large slice. 'Oh, thank you, thank you,' he said, 'I shall enjoy it,' and while he was eating he thought, 'I will save up all the crumbs for my friends the sparrows'; and they twittered away on the window sill as if they, too, were saying, 'If you want to be really happy, then give something to somebody else.'"

A very happy Christmas to you all.

E. M. S.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

For our December meeting we shall be going to Weymouth to have
a Christmas Dinner together. For this we shall be joining with the Bere Regis Branch. The cost of the dinner will be 12/6 and while the coach fare is not yet settled it should not come to more than 5/-.

I have already received a large number of names of those who wish to come, so if you have not yet given in yours please let Mrs. Bentley have it immediately. Husbands are welcome on this occasion which is proving a most popular event.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
9.15 a.m. Holy Communion
1st SUNDAY after Christmas
3.15 p.m. Carol Service.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS
BERE REGIS
HOLY BAPTISM
Nov. 6th. Julie Anne Wheeler.

SMALL ADS
(2/6 for every three lines)

ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF TYPING UNDERTAKEN. MODERATE CHARGES. PROMPT SERVICE. MRS. M. H. RICKETTS, "LAMORNA" TOLPUDDLE (OPP CROWN INN)

JOIN THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY, SOUND, SOLVENT, SECURE, PROGRESSIVE, POPULAR AND PRACTICAL BENEFITS. YOU CAN OBTAIN FOR MODERATE SUBSCRIPTIONS, SICKNESS, DEATH AND ENDOWMENT, FAMILY PROVIDENT INSURANCE, CONVALESCENT HOME TREATMENT (FREE) MORTGAGE ADVANCES FOR HOUSE PURCHASE ON EASY REPAYMENT AND INTEREST TERMS. THE LOCAL MEMBERSHIP IS 403. FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY TO MR. A. E. BARNES, SECRETARY, COURT PROSPECT, BROOKSIDE, BERE REGIS.

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