THE PARISH CHURCH OF BERE REGIS

WITH S. NICHOLAS WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
Parish Church of St. John Baptist
BERE REGIS,
DORSET.

Vicar and Rural Dean: THE REV. PAUL TRANTER, B.A.

Churchwardens:
MR. R. SMITH, Heath View.
MR. F. MARSH, Southbrook.
MR. P. MINTERN, Egdon Close, Deputy Warden.

Sidesmen:
LT. COL. A. BARNE, M. BARNES, R. BARNES, L. BARTLETT, A. HARDING,
J. HOUSE, W. F. LYS, LT. C. MAUNDER, R.N., I. MULLINS, H. PITFIELD,
D. POORE, E. RAWBONE, BRIG. D. TADMAN, K. WOOLFREY, P. WYATT

Secretary and Treasurer P.C.C.:
LT. C. MAUNDER, R.N., Acorn Cottage, Bere Regis.

Parish Clerk and Verger: MR. E. RAWBONE.

Organist: MISS G. B. SMITH, A.T.C.L.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion .. 8 a.m. and 2nd Sunday after Matins.
Matins .. .. .. .. 11 a.m.
Children's Service .. 2.30 p.m.
Evensong .. .. .. .. 6 p.m.
Family Service .. .. 3 p.m. 2nd Sunday

St. Nicholas
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

Churchwardens:
MR. C. SHEPPARD, The Nottings.
MR. A. V. SIMPSON, The Stores.

Treasurer:
MISS SHEPPARD, The Nottings.

Organist: MISS E. SHEPPARD.

SUNDAY SERVICES.
Holy Communion 2nd Sunday, 9.30 a.m.
Sunday School 11 a.m.
Evensong 3.15 p.m. 1st and 3rd Sunday; 7.15 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sunday
Matins 10 a.m. 4th Sunday. Family Service 3.15 p.m. 5th Sunday

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Life, thank God, is made up of new beginnings, every morning we wake up, can be a new start to life, every time we fall we can make a new beginning, and it's never too late to start again in the Christian life.

What a chance, therefore, awaits us at the beginning of a New Year. "Forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forward to those things that are before".

All last year’s failures and mistakes are behind us, and a fresh chance lies before us again. And, indeed, we can all do so much better.

We can be more thoughtful, we can look out for better opportunities of being helpful. We can work harder at our tasks, we can be more tolerant in our outlook.

As you begin this New Year, give thanks to God because of the chance it has again brought you of going out, and in spite of all your past failure and unworthiness, justifying yourself in the sight of God and man.

Greet the New Year, then, with hope, confidence and trust.

Do you remember the second verse of the well known hymn "Fight the good fight" which, incidentally was written by Dr. Monsell in the Vicarage of the parish of Egham, Surrey, where my Father was Vicar for more than 30 years? :-

"Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies
Christ is the path and Christ the prize."

He is the best guide, as so many of us have found to the way of life and the one person who meets all our needs and never disappoints us.

I know I feel I require a guide for the way, if I am to do my best. Your problems in 1966 will at times be severe but He provides for every occasion and every need.

If we follow this lead and let Him guide our feet, we shall find the joy and happiness which will enable us to go forward eagerly to make this year a really new beginning.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.
COMMON LIFE PLAN

On January 9th there will be no Evensong at Bere Regis or Winterbourne Kingston. Instead the congregation will attend Evensong at Winterbourne Whitechurch. The coach will leave the lower entrance to Bere Regis Church at 6.15 p.m. and will pick up at the Reading Room Winterbourne Kingston at 6.30 p.m. The Service at Whitechurch will commence at 7 p.m.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

January 2nd. Miss E. Lys
January 9th. Mrs. Applin
January 16th. Mrs. Howard
January 23rd. Mrs. Howard
January 30th. Mrs. Lys

Miss A. Lys
Mrs. Woolfries
Mrs. Lys
Mrs. Benjafield.

A meeting of the Guild was held in the Vicarage at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 16th. The Vicar was in the Chair, eleven members were present, and apologies were received from five others. The Vicar welcomed one new member. He again thanked all members for their continued help with the Church flowers, and particularly at Festival times when so many more flowers have to be arranged. The wrought iron flower pedestal, given by Mr. and Mrs. Cobb for use in the Church is much appreciated, and has already been used on several occasions.

A rota was made out for the next six months, and can be seen in the Church Porch. Subscriptions for 1966, 1/6, are now due, and should be paid to Mrs. Tadman.

C.T.T.

(Warm thanks to Mrs. Tadman for her hard work and efficiency as Secretary. We owe her much. Ed.)

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR JANUARY

Jan. 2. 11.00 Lt. C. Maunder & Mr. K. Woolfries
6.00 Messrs. M. Barnes & L. Bartlett
Jan. 9. 11.00 Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. W. F. Lys
6.00 No Evensong at Bere Regis Coach to Whitechurch instead.
Jan. 16. 11.00 Col. A. Barne & Lt. C. Maunder
6.00 Messrs. L. Bartlett & J. House.
Jan. 23. 11.00 Messrs. K. Woolfries & I. Mullins
6.00 Messrs. D. Poore & M. Barnes

VILLAGE CALENDAR

N.B. CORRECTION. The Sports Club Meeting on January 10th (Monday) is to be held at 7.30 in the W.I. Hut and not in the Drax Hall as stated last month.

12. Wednesday. Winterbourne Kingston Mothers' Union Quarterly Communion. 2.45.
13. Thursday 7.30 p.m. Bere Regis Quarterly Communion
17. Monday Parochial Church Council 7.30 p.m. Vicarage.
25. Tuesday Conversion of St. Paul. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Mar. 22. Tuesday M.U. Deanery Festival
May 12. Thursday 7.00 p.m. Confirmation Bere Regis
June 4. Saturday St. Nicholas Garden Party
25. Saturday Bere Regis Garden Party
July 9, 10, 11. Floral Festival in Bere Regis Church.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The Annual General Meeting on 14th December, was very badly attended, and it is hoped that next year many more will be interested enough to come and help with the running of the Group. Miss McFall was not well enough to be with us, and Mrs. Benjafield took her place, and showed us lovely slides of past arrangements done by Group Members, followed by slides of past holidays in Europe which made a delightful break on a wet Winter's afternoon. It was decided to allocate our funds as follows: £10 to British Empire Cancer Research Campaign; £5 to Guide Dogs for the Blind; £5 to Sue Ryder's Work for Displaced Persons and £10 to the Village Hall Building Fund Committee to help the finances of the Hall. The Committee of the Hall is finding it difficult to pay off the debt, and it was felt that the Group would like to help.

Our next Meeting is on 11th January, when Mrs. Stephen-King will be speaking to us on "Growing plants for Floral Decoration". She is an expert on growing the more unusual plants, and has a vast store of gardening knowledge. Do remember to come, and bring any friends who
may be interested in growing their own material for floral decoration.

M. A.

"A RARE VISITOR"

On Tuesday 14th December, I heard from Mrs. Benjafied that she had seen a Bittern down by the stream in her garden. This seemed so unusual that I cross-examined her like Counsel at the Assizes, but never doubted her identification.

The Bittern, which is a member of the Heron family, and carries the highly dignified Title of Botaurus Stellaris, was fairly common in all marsh and reed bed country up to the beginning of the nineteenth century. After that he got shot out as more and more people became gun owners and "Sportsmen".

Early in this century the Bittern became 'news' as he started once again to breed in Norfolk.

He has two remarkable characteristics. One being the famous booming which is his call in the spring and sounds like a distant foghorn. The other is the habit when disturbed of 'freezing' in an upright position with his beak pointing straight upward. This second is one of the things that Mrs. Benjafied observed. Nothing could look more ludicrous than this posture when in the open, but when in a reed bed it is possible that even Mrs. Bittern could wonder where her husband had disappeared to, as the whole colouring combined with the pose makes the bird invisible.

I have always been told that Bere was derived from a Saxon word meaning Sedge or Reeds. I cannot, however, quote any reference for this, and would not like to cross swords with our Historian, whose monthly articles I read avidly. How be it, if Bere was once a vast Reed bed, what more likely than a migrant bitttern should call in, in answer to some deep instinct that man cannot yet fully understand.

In the Western Desert of Egypt there is a deep depression that several thousand years ago was a great lake, and still to this day large numbers of migrating duck land there, thinking (by instinct) that it is a staging post on their way to the Sudan. As it is probably over one thousand miles from their last staging post (Salonika) they are near exhaustion, and finding neither food nor water they get no further, and die in large numbers.

However, our Bittern is more likely to have flown lazily on to Abbotsbury, and I hope has escaped the gun of the collector or the "Sportsman" or even that of the curious.

A. M. B.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The quarterly Corporate Communion will be held at 7.30 p.m. on

Thursday January 13th. Tea after at the Vicarage.

FAMILY SERVICE

3 p.m. January 9th. All welcome, young and old.

HISTORY OF BEREG REGIS - 55

NEOLITHIC OR NEW STONE AGE (BC 2500 - BC 1900)

Towards BC 2500 less primitive people began arriving in Southern England from Europe, and this heralded the beginning of the Neolithic or New Stone Age. These immigrants were far more advanced than the Paleolithic inhabitants they found here, for they practised a primitive form of agriculture, and brought with them domesticated livestock and seed. Their stone implements included flint agricultural tools as well as weapons and were much more highly finished. They were also able to make pottery and their way of life allowed them to live in more permanent settlements, many of which have been located.

Some of the more noticeable remains of this period are the long barrows in which dead chieftains were buried, often together with some of their personal belongings. Many of these long barrows were first constructed in stone before being covered with earth, in which case they are known as chambered long barrows. Some cases, where the earth has since been eroded away, the remaining stone construction is known as a Cromlech.

There is one very fine long barrow on Bere Down, 190 feet long, 40 feet wide, 7 feet high at its west end, and 9 feet high at the east. It would appear to be a chambered long barrow, as sarsen stones can be seen protruding through the top. Another barrow on Bere Down is thought to be a long barrow 105 feet long, 105 feet wide, and 3 feet high, but its shape is rather indistinct, and it may be a round barrow of later date. F. P. P.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

The Annual Saint Nicholas Market, was again a most successful occasion, both from a social point of view, as well as a financial one.

We were delighted to have Miss M. M. Lewellin with us, to open the Market, and to welcome her to this part of the Parish. Stalls were attractively displayed and well laden and the Vicar expressed thanks to all who by their efforts had made the sale possible.

Without the generous support of givers and buyers, from both far and near such an excellent result would not have been possible, and as you will see from the Statement of Account, our Restoration Fund is
increased by over £74.

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH MARKET 3rd DECEMBER 1965

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

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PAYMENTS

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£77.8.3.          £77.8.3.

Payment to Bank : £74.18.9.  E.M.S.

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH

Great credit is due to the lady members of the Congregation of St. Nicholas Church, who week by week and month by month keep the Church so beautifully clean and the brasses cared for - this work being carried out voluntarily.

The rota for 1965 has been:

January    Mrs. D. Legg.
February   Mrs. Symes
March      Mrs. Bulteril
April      Mrs. Bentley
May        Mrs. P. House
June       Mrs. Thrush
July       Miss Sheppard
August     Mrs. E. Legg.
Sept.      Mrs. Pickering
Oct.       Mrs. Rolls
Nov.       Mrs. E. Vincent
Dec.       Mrs. J. Legg.

If any helper wishes to make a change in the above list, will they please get in touch with the Church Secretary. As Mrs. Bulteril has now left the Parish there is now a vacancy for the March cleaning.

This work for the Church is deeply appreciated.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS’ UNION

The Quarterly Communion will be held at 2.45 p.m. on Wednesday January 12th.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

'A CATECHISM, that is to say, an instruction to be learned of every person before he be brought to be confirmed by the Bishop'.

Last month a very brief reference was made to the 'Catechism' and now we are going to learn, first of all, how the Catechism found its way into our Prayer Book.

The word 'Catechism' comes from a Greek verb, which means to teach by word of mouth, by uttering to the pupils words to be learnt in order that he may echo them back again. It is an instruction in the form of question and answer.

The Catechism first appeared in the Prayer Book of 1549, prefixed to the Order of Confirmation. This Catechism went only as far as the 'Desire' - look this up for yourselves in your own Prayer Book - the part connected with the Sacraments was added in 1604. The Puritans at the Hampton Court Conference asked for an explanation of the Sacraments, and it was King James who gave directions for an addition to the Catechism to be made upon the doctrine of the Sacraments. It was in the year 1661 that the Catechism was separated from the Order of Confirmation and placed as it now stands in our Prayer Book.

In Saint Luke, chapter 1, verse 4, the Evangelist says that Theophilus has been instructed in the rudiments of the Christian Faith, and just like Theophilus we are instructed and learn our Catechism before Confirmation.

Let us think of the Catechism in five parts –

1. We learn what it means to be a Member of Christ's Church
2. We learn the Apostles' Creed and what it really means.
3. We learn the Commandments, so that we know what we have to give up.
4. We learn the Lord's Prayer and what we desire of God in this prayer.
5. We learn to understand the Sacraments of Baptism and the Supper of our Lord - this great service of Holy Communion, to which our Confirmation admits us as communicants.

The Catechism is a guide-book, showing us the way to live, we
need to understand it - and we can understand it if we only try.

E.M.S.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTMISM

October 24th. Sarah House
Colin Gerald Edwards

December 19th. Naomi Karen Jeffrey
Julie Josephine Brady

BURIALS

December 3rd. Mary Burt. 82 years.

HOLY MATRIMONY

November 20th. Ronald Randolph Jack Coates and
Phyllis Alicia McCarthy.

December 11th. Leslie Victor Barnes and
Hilda Frances Maud Humberstone

ST. NICHOLAS

HOLY BAPTMISM

December 5th. Andrew Frank Turpin.

HOLY MATRIMONY

December 18th. Michael Brian Haine and
Heather Joyce Peacock.

'SMALL ADS'

(2/6 every three lines)

HOME SEWING AND DRESSMAKING UNDERTAKEN by
MRS. CARLYLE, 'RYEMOUNT', RYE HILL, BERE REGIS.