My dear Friends,

Alas! We were most unfortunate with the weather for the Garden Party, but terribly fortunate in the toughness and determination shown both by the stall holders and villagers. I feel quite certain that if the Garden Party had been held in a town under similar conditions, scarcely a single person would have braved the appalling weather. However, a large number of people gallantly turned up to support us, and in spite of a power cut which lasted the whole afternoon all proceeded more or less to plan and an excellent result was achieved. The only part of the programme which had to be abandoned was the playing of the beat group as there was no electricity to power their electric instruments.

So warm congratulations and thanks to all on a remarkable achievement and, taking the weather into consideration, an excellent result. The accounts are printed in a later page of the magazine.

I hope to be away for the last Sunday in August and the first Sunday in September. There will be no alterations in Services at Bere Regis but on August 27th in place of the 10 a.m. Mattins and 7.15 p.m. Evensong at Winterbourne Kingston there will be just a 3.15 Evensong. This will make the day just a little lighter for the visiting priest.

My grateful thanks to Mrs. Barne who so kindly lent Culeaze for the Coffee Morning in aid of the Diocesan Welfare Association, at which nearly £23 was raised.

Perhaps I had better put on record for future generations the extraordinary epidemic of mumps which first affected the children and now is taking its toll of parents - a most uncomfortable disease for adults to have - we send the sufferers our sympathy.

May I wish those of you going on holiday in this glorious weather a happy time.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Aug. 6th. Mrs. Carter Jonas Mrs. Applin
13th. Mrs. Cobb Mrs. Sharman
20th. Miss E. Lys Mrs. G. Griffin
27th. Miss Llewellyn Miss A. Lys.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR AUGUST

Aug. 6th.
10. Col. A. Barne & Mr. J. House
6. Messrs. R. Barnes & L. Bartlett

13th.
11. Messrs. I. Mullins & K. Woolfries

20th.
11. Messrs. F. Lys & M. Lys

27th.

Sept. 3.
10. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. F. Lys

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Aug. 6th. Sun. 10 a.m. Family Communion

Nov. 8th. Wed. Poppy Day Whist Drive. 7.30. Drax Hall.

Nov. 16th. Bishop of Salisbury's visit to Bere Regis Deanery commences.

1968


BERE REGIS MOTHERS UNION

There will be no meeting during the month of August.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Mrs. Barne (President) and Mrs. Cobb (Chairman) wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of our "Summer Wedding". We had over two hundred 'guests' who spent an enjoyable afternoon at Culeaaze. This event raised over £60 which will enable the

Group to send a contribution to the Salisbury Cathedral Restoration Fund, and to provide flowers for those of our members who will be going to the Cathedral in September to arrange flowers for the Festival.

The Wedding Cake was won by Mrs. Carnegie-Brown - the Champagne by Mrs. M. Cobb, and Mrs. Trevor-Wood won the Flower Arrangement in a Basket.

May I remind all members that there is no meeting in August.

M. A.

BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

NOVEMBER 8th, 1967. A Whist Drive in aid of Poppy Day Funds will be held in Drax Hall 7.30 p.m.

No Branch Meeting in August.

Next Meeting September 20th 7.30 p.m. Cookery Demonstration by Miss J. Bell.

A. L. Coles

THE DORSET ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED

This year the amount collected in Bere Regis for the above was £18. 3. 0d. and the total for the Wareham district £146. 9. 2d.

Both totals show an increase over last year.

Mrs. Lys is grateful to those who undertook the collection, and to all who contributed.

BRITISH EMPIRE CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

The result of the House to House Collection was £25. 10. 7d.

The Coffee Morning held at Broadwater raised £22. 8. 8d.

Many thanks to all concerned.

M. Benjafield

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 74

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The end of the Civil War in England found the Puritan cause in power, and culminated in the execution of Charles I in 1649. From 1649 to 1660, England was without a king, Oliver Cromwell ruling for most of the time (1649 - 1658) and Richard Cromwell (1658 - 1659), and during this period, known as the Commonwealth, many Puritan clergy were instituted as Vicars to various parishes. As Puritans, they had not been ordained by a Bishop, so that when the monarchy was restored in 1660 under Charles II, when the Church of England rules
and customs reverted to what they had been before the Commonwealth, the non-ordained clergy presented a problem. Matters came to a head in 1662 upon the introduction of a new prayer book containing a clause requiring Episcopal ordination, and to which all clergy were required to consent in writing, with the alternative of resignation. The Puritan clergy were not, of course, in a position to agree, and were therefore ejected, the number concerned being estimated variously at between 800 and 2,000. Most of the ejected clergy continued to hold services in private, a practice which was then illegal, and these private meetings in 1662 mark the beginning of Congregational Churches. Philip Lamb, Vicar of Bere Regis, was one of those ejected, and can therefore be considered as the founder of the Congregational Church in this parish.

In about 1665, Philip Lamb moved to Morden, and in 1672 he was granted a licence to be "a Congregational teacher in East Morden, Dorset," although in 1669 he seems to have been living at Alton Pancras, and a little later than 1672 a meeting house was provided for him at Winterborne Kingston. He eventually moved to Clapham, Surrey, where he died in 1689 at the age of 66.

There was a good deal of secrecy involved in early Congregational meetings and records are therefore scarce, but in 1672 it became possible to take out licences to hold non-conformist meetings in private houses. The dates of ministers which follow, up to 1769, are in consequence approximate only.

At first it seems that six different ministers preached in succession but by 1670 Mr. Bulstrode was settled here as a minister, succeeded by Mr. Webber for a short period.


During Ambrose Garrett’s time a dispute arose and a section of the congregation left and built a church of their own, on the site of the present Drax Hall, which was opened on 9 July, 1813. William Laxon (1813-1817) was the first minister, followed by John Gay (1817-1820). On July 17, 1820 the two sections were re-united under John Gay, when Ambrose Garrett resigned.

1820-1825 John Gay. 1825-1827 Charles Greenway. 1827-1830 Thomas Burgess Barker. 1830-1844 Henry Stroud. 1844-1846 Alfred Cr...
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Last month we were thinking about SOUNDS and WORSHIP and now we turn our thoughts to MUSIC and WORSHIP.

In the Gospel according to Saint Matthew we read, "and when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives." Saint Paul writing to the people of Ephesus and to those living in Colosse, told them to sing and to make melody in their hearts to the Lord. Here we have reference to music in the New Testament, but what about music in Old Testament days—music in Jewish worship.

In the Temple between the Court of the Priest and the Court of the Women, a space was kept for the Temple choir, who led morning and evening services. The members of the choir were Levites and their sons. They wore white linen robes.

The Temple choir would have learnt the same psalms as we sing today, for the psalms are in fact spiritual songs, the greatest number being written by King David. David, the shepherd lad who lived a dangerous life and often felt the need of help and protection, as for instance we find when he turned his prayer into the psalm which we all know so well, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want". There are so many thoughts and feelings that can be found in David's lovely psalms.

The Jews of old sang the psalms, but of course with different instruments. There were no organs in those days and the instruments were trumpet, lute, harp, cymbals, strings and pipe, as psalm 150 tells us. In psalm 4 verse 4, we find the word "Selah". This is an interesting word, for it has to do with music, it means "Strike up, musicians". The people would then stop singing and the musicians blew the silver trumpets or played their other instruments.

Morning and Evening the psalms were said or sung in the great Temple at Jerusalem. We can picture Our Lord and His disciples taking part. Later Saint Peter, Saint John and Saint Paul used the psalms at the gatherings of Christians wherever the churches were founded, and since that time they have been a part of Christian worship, as they are in our Churches today.

Singing is mentioned in the description of a Christian service written by Justin Martyr about the year A.D. 120 in a letter to the Roman Emperor, Trajan. It was in the year A.D. 475 that the rule was made that the "cantors" or singers, should sit apart from the rest of the congregation, on a raised platform near the altar, wearing white surplices.

Every member was solemnly admitted by a priest who said to each, "See that thou believe in thine heart what thou singest with thy mouth, and approve in thy works what thou believest in thine heart."

Church music was introduced in our own land by Archbishop Theodore, who came to England in the year A.D. 669. But I would like to tell you more about that next month.

From the days of the Old Testament, down the ages to the present time, music has been, and still is, an important part of worship.

How better to end this article than by quoting some words written by the saintly George Herbert, who lived in the early seventeenth century. He was Rector of Bemerton, a small parish near Salisbury and twice a week he would walk in to Salisbury so as to be able to attend services in the Cathedral, afterwards joining with others who loved music, for he played the lute and viol.

"Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!"

E.M.S.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

There will be no Branch meeting during August but there will be an important special meeting in Mrs. Murray's house at 7.30 on Wednesday, September 13th to decide the future of the branch.

It is essential that all those who are at all concerned with the continuation of the Winterbourne Kingston Branch should attend
this meeting when decisions of major importance must be made.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

BURIAL
26th June. Elsie May Presslee. 69 years.

HOLY BAPTISM
25th June Karen Gillian Josephine Watkins.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY MATRIMONY
1st July John Vernon Arnold and Shirley Rita Stanley.

SMALL ADS

(2/6d for every three lines)