My dear Friends,

I shall be glad if you will take careful note of the various Christmas Services. The fact that this year Christmas Day falls on a Monday has caused some difficulty in arranging the proper dates for Services. The Carol Service for instance has had to be given a date earlier than usual, and will now take place at 6 p.m. on December 17th, in order to avoid holding it on the same date as the Midnight Communion. The Lessons this year will be read by representatives of various trades in the Village and again I would warn our readers that if they wish to pick any certain seat in the Church to come early.

I am again proposing to hold a Plough Sunday Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday January 7th. The plough will be carried in procession through the main village street led by the Choir and followed by the general public. This Service caused much interest last year and many people found it most moving. I am hoping for an even greater interest this year.

We all mourn the passing of the Lord of the Manor - Admiral Drax. He was always a great figure in local affairs and over the years had done a great deal for Bere Regis and its inhabitants. We extend our warm sympathy to dear Lady Drax in her bereavement and together with our sympathies, send our good wishes to Commander Walter Drax as he takes over the responsibilities and duties which will fall on his shoulders consequent on the death of his father.

It was a great pleasure to have the Bishop in the deanery for three days in November and though owing to a very tight timetable we were not able to see a great deal of him in Bere Regis, nevertheless his visit was a great success and enabled him to meet as many people as possible in this part of the Diocese rather remote from Salisbury.

I acknowledge with most grateful thanks a very generous gift of a cheque for £10.10.0d. for chairs for the Morton Chapel from Mr. and Mrs. D. Rennie as a memento of their daughter's marriage in Bere Regis Church.

Best Christmas wishes from Mrs. Tranter and myself.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

December 3rd. Advent Sunday
December 10th. 1st Sunday in Advent
December 17th. 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 24th. 3rd Sunday in Advent
December 25th. CHRISTMAS DAY. Mrs. Tranter
December 31st. Miss E. Lys. Miss A. Lys.

As Christmas Day this year falls on a Monday the Church will be
decorated for Christmas on either Friday, December 22nd or Saturday
morning, December 23rd. Gifts of Holly, flowers and greenery will
be much appreciated.

SIDESMEN’S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

6. Messrs. J. House & M. Barnes
11. Mr. K. Woolfries & Col. A. Barne
17th. 11. Messrs. I. Mullins & K. Woolfries
6. All Sidesmen
24th. 11. Mr. W. F. Lys & Brig. D. Tadman
6. The Churchwardens
11. 45. All Sidesmen.
25th. 11. Col. A. Barne & Mr. M. Lys
31st. 11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & J. House

Sidesmen’s Quarterly Meeting, Monday December 18th, 8 p.m. at the
Vicarage.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Dec. 2nd. Sat. Guide and Brownie Christmas Sale, Drax Hall,
2. 30 p.m.
8th. Fri. St. Nicholas Market. 7 p.m. Winterbourne
Kingstone Village Hall.
13th. Wed. 3 p.m. Vicarage Half Yearly Meeting of the
Sanctuary Guild.
6. 45 Mothers’ Union Theatre Outing to Salisbury
17th. Sun. 6 p.m. Annual Carol Service of the Nine Lessons
by Candlelight.

Dec. 18th. 8 p.m. Sidesmen’s Quarterly Meeting. Vicarage.
24th. Christmas Eve. 11.45 Midnight Communion, Bere Regis.
3. 15 Evensong, Winterbourne Kingston.
25th. Mon. Christmas Day. Bere Regis 8 a.m. Holy Communion
11 a.m. Mattins. 12 noon Holy Communion,
Winterbourne Kingston 9.30 Holy Communion
31st. Sun. 3.15 Family Carol Service at Winterbourne
Kingston.

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Jan. 7th. Sun. 10 a.m. Parish Communion
3 p.m. Plough Sunday Service. Procession moves
at 2.45.
Mar. 11th. Mon. 3.15 School Managers
May 20th. Mon. R.D. Conference. 7.30 p.m.
31st. Fri. 7 p.m. Confirmation. Bere Regis.
June 8th. Sat. Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party

BERE REGIS MOTHERS’ UNION

In place of the usual December meeting the Mothers’ Union will
be going to the theatre at Salisbury. The coach leaves the Wool Road
at 6.45 p.m. Names to Mrs. Tranter immediately please. Husbands
warmly invited!

BERE REGIS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 17th.
6. 00 p.m. CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT. The Service of the
Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by
representatives of local trades. Printed copies of
Service for all including full words of Carols to be sung.

Sunday, December 24th. Christmas Eve
11. 45 p.m. Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
8. 00 a.m. Holy Communion
11. 00 a.m. Mattins
12. 00 noon Holy Communion

PLough Sunday, January 7th

Plough Sunday Service 3 p.m. The procession will leave the
Old Barn Service Station at 2.45 p.m. Please come and join in the procession behind the plough, which will be carried by representatives of the Young Farmers Club.

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BERE REGIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Members of the Fund Raising Committee for the new Swimming Pool would like to thank anyone who helped in any way, either by giving gifts or time, at the Christmas Bazaar. I hope to give details of the sum raised in the January issue of the magazine.

A Thrift Shop will be opening at the School Hall on Wednesday, January 17th, from 3 - 4 p.m. This will be open to anyone in the Village and will enable you to sell or buy second hand clothes or other small items. A charge of three pence in the shilling will be made on all items sold and we hope for a good response. Wednesday, January 17th, being our opening day - we shall only be open for accepting articles but the shop will open every following Wednesday for both accepting and selling. Sort out all your unwanted clothes and help us to swell our Swimming Pool Fund.

N.C.

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BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The December Meeting will be held on December 19th and will include the exchange of Christmas Gifts. Mrs. Webb will be the speaker and we hope as many members as possible will come. New members would be very welcome.

N.C.

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BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

This Group has recently been formed and the meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the month at the Congregational Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. There will be only one meeting in December which will be on the 12th, and take the form of a Carol Service followed by a Children's Christmas Bazaar. Any new members will be very welcome.

M.E.

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BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 12th December. Will all members make a special effort to attend as this is the meeting at which surplus funds are voted to various charities, and your Committee need your help and suggestions. Will you please send nominations for new Committee members to Miss A. Lys, (Secretary) before 12th December.

M.A.

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PUZZLE CORNER

Here are 12 more anagrams of place and house names found in the parish:

1. REACH LUNCH
2. MUM'S ORDERS
3. AH, GREAT VICE!
4. OR WHO DO WE LOVE?
5. OH, MAD WOODEN WALLS.
6. ENSURES A LAND
7. TAME HENS
8. A RAW TOE DR. B!
9. PORK DONE?
10. HAD SECRET
11. CATCH ROUGHS ETC.
12. GUN ERECTOR

F.P.P.

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INTRODUCTION TO OUR GARDENING SERIES

It is often said One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth and I am sure that is so providing you have the right garden and enter it in the right spirit. God himself planted the first garden. Our Lord in his last agonising hours went to the garden of Gethsemane to be alone to plead with God. On the morning of the Resurrection Mary Magdalene saw Him walking in the garden and thought He must be the gardener. Gardens and garden work are mentioned over and over again all through the scriptures. I know a garden only a brick wall from a roadway full of traffic carrying crowds of people many miles seeking pleasure and beauty to satisfy a longing within them, yet in that garden that they pass unseen is beauty and peace, an unbelievable sanctuary from the mad rush of the world so near. All creation has its beauty and each glorious view it's inspiration, yet to be able to be for a while with one's Maker alone in a lovely garden is to my mind the greatest inspiration of them all. I well know another garden far from the madding crowd where one can stand aside from the world at large and be able to look, often with awe at the madness of the people who live in it. I sometimes think how good it would be if many people could do as I have done many times and that is to stand alone in this garden on a moonlit night and watch the white clouds drifting over or past the moon, and the only sounds are of the wind in the trees, the cry of a plover flying over, or the bark of a dog in the distance. All else is still, and the garden, you, and all around seems part of something far greater. The experience is, if you stand and think, uncanny and inspiring.

By the time these thoughts about the garden get into the magazine all the beauty of the autumn leaves will have gone and many will grumble about the mess they make, but one must remember that these leaves have been the lungs of the trees and plants all the summer, and given autumn beauty before falling to the ground to
rot and become food for the roots of the trees and plants in the years to come. Here I would like to recall the last few words of a sermon preached by the Rev. Taylor many years ago "And as we grow old let us remember the leaves of the trees and like them grow old beautifully and when we eventually fall to the ground maybe serve an even greater service".

R. M. P.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 78

ANCIENT TRACKWAYS AND ROADS. From the time that man first made his appearance in Britain, a network of trackways began to evolve, until by AD 43 when the Roman conquest began there was a comprehensive pattern of trackways covering the whole country. It should be remembered that throughout the prehistoric period and even during the Roman occupation, only the upper chalk and heathlands were in any way habitable, the valleys being too wet and marshy, and too densely wooded, to the extent of being quite impenetrable in places. The ancient settlements are therefore to be found on this higher cleaner ground, particularly in the chalk, and the trackways occur as main rideways following the summits of the main hill ranges, with subsidiary branches and connecting links. The high level of these tracks also enabled the traveller to more readily identify his position from natural landmarks, and in fact any hill which may have had some distinctive shape, recognizable from various directions, often became an important meeting place of tracks, and Bere Down seems to have been such a spot.

The basic network of tracks would have become established during the Neolithic Age (BC 2500 - BC 1900), and the disposition and grouping of the round burrows of the Bronze Age (BC 1900 - BC 500) give further confirmation of their routes, as barrows were almost always placed alongside the track, and during the Iron Age (BC 500 - AD 43) the network of tracks would have been further developed in order to link all the Iron Age hill forts, of which Woodbury Hill in this parish was one.

Such was the trackway system as the Roman conquerors found it in AD 43, and they soon embarked upon a scheme of properly constructing certain sections to their own standards, leaving other sections as they were to serve as secondary roads. The Roman standards were very high, and included banking up above the general ground level, drainage ditches and proper packed flint surfaces - standards not reached again in Britain until the 20th century.

Now to consider this parish in more detail, one ancient trackway came across the heath from the south east, passing just south of Gallows Hill, and forming almost the whole of the southern boundary of the parish, and now represented by a modern tarred road. Another track coming up from the south, crossed the one previously mentioned south of Gallows Hill on the parish boundary, from where it proceeded to Black Hill Clump. Along the top of Black Hill it still exists as a path, marked with barrows, and proceeded to Weatherby Castle, near Milborne. A branch comes off this track on the top of Black Hill, and crosses the valley by following the present Black Hill Lane to a point, just beyond the cemetery, where instead of turning sharp right as the lane now does, it continued straight across the river and on to Bere Down by way of Butt Lane. Another track joined this one from the east by way of Woolbsbarrow (an Iron Age hill fort on the heath) and Woodbury Hill. From Bere Down, tracks ran north towards Blandford, east to Bloxwath Down and west to Weatherby Castle (another Iron Age hill fort). The Roman road, built in about 50 AD, crosses the northern part of the parish from Ashley Barn to Bagwood Copse, and is part of an almost straight section from Durnovana (Dorchester) to Vindegliada (Badbury Rings). F. P. P. (to be continued)

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

Christmas Tide at St. Nicholas

Christmas Eve. Sunday - 24th December. 3.15 p.m. Evensong

Christmas Day. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday After Christmas. 31st December. 3.15 p.m. Family Carol Service. Come as a family and join in and enjoy the Christmas Carols.

Christmas Decorations at The Church. The Church may be decorated any time during the week before Christmas, whenever it is most suitable for our decorators. Gifts of holly, flowers and greenery would be most helpful.

"An Appreciation"

Those of us who knew Mrs. Chandler will have learned of her passing to the Heavenly Home with a feeling that one of the links with the days gone by has been broken. She was a person of quiet graciousness and charm, who loved her garden and her piano, for music was a joy to her. Major and Mrs. Chandler at one time lived at the Old Parsonage, and the years spent in Winterbourne Kingston were particularly happy ones for them both. They worshipped regularly at St. Nicholas and were always interested in the welfare of the village, Mrs. Chandler being for many years President of the Women's Institute.

We are especially asked by Mrs. Chandler's relations to say how deeply touched they were at seeing so many of her friends who had come to pay their last respects at the funeral service on the 31st October and by the flowers which they brought in her memory. After leaving the village it always gave her the greatest pleasure to look back on and talk about the time she had spent here. We too have
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

In place of the usual December meeting there will be an outing to the theatre at Salisbury on Dec. 13th, Wednesday. The coach will leave the Reading Room at 6 p.m. Names immediately to Mrs. Bracewell please. Husbands warmly invited!

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

LET US FIND ROOM

The days before Christmas are always busy. The streets are filled with people shopping, at home the final preparations are being made, we seem to be so busy in "keeping" Christmas, the Christmas presents, the Christmas dinner, the Christmas parties, all a most lovely part of this season, but let us not be too busy so that we forget altogether why it is that we keep Christmas.

The first Christmas Eve found Bethlehem a very busy place. The crowds were coming to the City of David for the Census, there was hustle and bustle everywhere. No room could be found at the Inn for Mary and Joseph - only a stable - and it was in such surroundings that the Christ-Child was born. There were some, however, who received Him when He came, some who did not sleep that night, they were the Shepherds, who came with haste.

We shall soon be preparing once again for Christmas. All round the world people will be telling of the happenings of the first Christmas, on the lonely bush farms in Australia, where they will be in the midst of their summer, on the remote ranches in Canada, in palm thatched kraals in the heart of Africa, in old walled cities of China, in India they will be singing the Christmas hymns and on the strange coral islands in the South Seas. In Bethlehem, the stable and the manger have gone, instead a church stands there now, but you will see, let into the floor, a silver star about a yard across. This star marks the place where the Lord Jesus was born on that first Christmas Day. Around the star in the floor is written, in Latin, "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary." Here in Bethlehem the Birth of Christ will be celebrated, and so it will be in our own Parish in this small part of Dorset - for when Christmas comes, it is Christmas throughout the whole world. Let us welcome the Birthday of Jesus, and let us find room to do so; so that in keeping His Birthday, we shall not forget Him.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas. E.M.S.

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET ; JUST A REMINDER ; MARKET DAY at THE VILLAGE HALL on FRIDAY, 8th December, at 7 p.m. To be opened by MRS. P. BENJAFIELD. IN AID OF OUR RESTORATION FUND