THE VICAR’S LETTER

My dear Friends,

I am hoping in the New Year that we may be able to commence a new series of monthly features, one a Gardener’s Calendar or Notes and also a monthly cooking receipt. The Gardener’s notes will be contributed each month by an expert, but for the receipts I am hoping to rely on our readers. So if any of you have a favourite receipt which you are willing to share with others I shall be very glad to have it with a view to publishing it in the magazine.

I flatter myself that our Parish Magazine is one of unusual interest dealing as it does not only with specific Church affairs, but also with all matters connected with village life. It is always surprising that so few of the village organisations send in their notes and news regularly. After all, apart from arousing interest in their particular activity, the magazine provides a very real means of free advertisement, going, as it does, into every other house in the parish. All we ask is that the matter should reach the Vicarage by the 15th of every month.

I think it is time, while speaking on this subject, that I should voice our gratitude to all our regular contributors, especially to Mr. F. Pitfield who has now been contributing his most interesting and fascinating ‘History of Bere Regis’ for, I think, at least four years.

So come along all you Secretaries, let us have your notes on your particular club or society - we will print them, but we cannot write them!

And those of you who have articles to sell, don’t forget our ‘Small Ads.’. This section has always sold its advertised goods with extreme speed, and you won’t find anything cheaper than 2/6 for three lines anywhere!

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter,

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Nov. 5th, Mrs. Barne
Nov. 12th, REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, Mrs. Barne
Nov. 19th, Mrs. Barne. Mrs. Platt
Nov. 26th, Mrs. Barne.

The half-yearly meeting of the Sanctuary Guild will be held on Wednesday December 13th at the Vicarage. Please make a note of this date now.
SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

Nov.  5.  10. Messrs. I. Mullins & F. Marsh
     6. Messrs. R. Barnes & L. Bartlett
12.  11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & J. House
19.  11. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. M. Lys
26.  11. Mr. K. Woolfries & Brig. D. Tadman
     6. Messrs. F. Marsh & R. Barnes
Dec.  3.  10. Messrs. W. F. Lys & I. Mullin

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Nov.  1. Wed. All Saints. 9.30 Holy Communion
     8. Wed. Mothers' Union. Winterbourne Kingston to be held
        at 'Crofters'. 2.30,
     9. Thurs. Mothers' Union, Bere Regis. 7.30 Vicarage
16.  Thurs. Bishop of Salisbury's visit to the Bere Regis
        Deanery commences.
28.  Tues. Floral Group Christmas Fair. 3.00 p.m. Drax Hall.
29.  Wed. Coffee Morning at the Vicarage for Mrs. Tranter's
        M. U. Stall at Kingston.

     8. Fri. St. Nicholas Market. 7 p.m. Village Hall.
13.  Wed. 3 p.m. Vicarage, Half yearly meeting of the
        Sanctuary Guild.
17.  Sun. 6 p.m. Annual Carol Service of the Nine Lessons,
        by Candlelight.
24. Christmas Eve. Mid-night Communion

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The programme for the coming year is in the process of being
thought out and the name of the speaker for the next meeting to be
held on Thursday November 9 at 7.30 p.m. at the Vicarage, will be
announced in due course.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th

10.45 a.m. Service at the War Memorial.
    The Two Minutes Silence.
    6.00 p.m. Evensong. Reading of the names of those on the
    Roll of Honour.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

We are looking forward to a visit from Mrs. King-Smith on
Tuesday November 14th when she will be demonstrating Christmas
Decorations. As usual, members' friends will be welcome. Will
members please remember that if they wish to nominate anyone for
the 1968 Committee, they must give the names to the Secretary at this
meeting, as this is the last date on which they can be accepted.

Tuesday, November 28th is the day on which we are holding our
annual Christmas Fair. There will be the usual stall of Christmas
Decorations, and materials will be on sale for anyone wishing to make
their own. Also a Cake stall, Jewellery Tree, Tombola and a Raffle
with good prizes. It opens at 3 p.m. and admission of 1/- will include
tea and biscuits. Do please come and bring your friends.

A. L.

BERE REGIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

At a meeting of the newly formed Committee of the Swimming
Pool Fund it was decided to hold a Christmas Fair on November 25th
at the school. Further details later of this and other projects to raise
money needed for a learner pool for the school children.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The November Meeting will be held on November 21st and is the
Annual Meeting. The speaker will be Mrs. Jehu, V.C.O., Will all
members try to be present at this important meeting, held in the
school at 7.00 p.m.
THE 1876 MURDER

Woodbury Hill Fair had always caused a large influx of visitors to the village and a certain amount of drunkenness and rowdism often occurred. 1876 was no exception when on the evening of 20 Sept. P.C.'s Bishop and Samson were on duty. Constable Thomas Bishop had been the village policeman for the past 2½ years, and Constable Sansom was on special duty in connection with the fair. At about 11 p.m. a dozen or so people came out of the Drax Arms creating a disturbance, and one of them, Henry Lock, a 25-year-old labourer, was heard to mutter threats against P.C. Bishop who had previously summoned him for being drunk and disorderly. The two policemen tried to persuade the troublemakers to go quietly home, and P.C. Bishop separated Lock, the ringleader, from the rest and escorted him along a passageway to his home, whilst P.C. Samson kept the remainder at the entrance to the lane.

Shortly afterwards a neighbour came running for the assistance of P.C. Sansom, saying “Come quick as your mate is beaten bad”, and Sansom found P.C. Bishop lying on the ground with severe head injuries. Lock had been seen attacking him about the head with a large flint. P.C. Bishop was taken home still alive, but in spite of Dr. Lys attending him all night, he died at 5.30 the following morning.

Henry Lock was arrested, and subsequently convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

P.C. Bishop, who was 38 years old, had been held in very high esteem in the village, for on the day of his funeral all shops were closed and blinds drawn in every house. The funeral procession was headed by a contingent of 24 constables under the command of the Chief Constable, followed by practically the whole population of the village, and members of the inquest jury.

Constable Bishop left a widow and an 11 year old child, and the villagers started a fund for them, which was opened with a donation of £50. The highest sum which was at that time payable in such circumstances from official sources was £63. 17s. 6d., and it was not until 14 years later that widows of policemen killed in the execution of their duties were entitled to a pension. F.P.P.

THE LATE MR. AND MRS. JOHN STRONG

The amount of money raised in the collection, in aid of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, taken at the Memorial Service to Mr. Strong was £14. 16. 0d. A further sum, in Mr. Strong’s memory,

was sent direct to the fund by the Bere Regis “Dorset Group” of the Disabled Drivers Association. The amount of money received by Mr. W. Wellstead in aid of the same fund, in memory of Mrs. Strong, amounted to £10. 18. 6d. This makes a grand total of £28. 14. 6d sent to the Fund.

THE SUNFLOWER GUILD

The annual box opening of the Sunflower Guild of the Church of England Children’s Society was held on October 4th. Mrs. Osbaldstone kindly helped as usual. The boxes yielded £12. 11. 0d. - a very good result. Two members were not at home when visited so have been asked to make a separate return.

More than 5,000 children are helped each year, including spastics, diabetics, maladjusted and physically handicapped, so that our members’ generosity is really appreciated. J. A. Drew, Hon. Sec.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN’S SOCIETY

FLAG DAY

The excellent sum of £16. 0. 0. was raised for this great Society. Mrs. Tranter wishes to thank all her Collectors for their help under difficult circumstances, and also those who gave so generously.

(Thanks too to Mrs. Tranter and Mrs. Drew, who through their efforts raise a considerable sum for this Society. Ed.)

ORGAN RECITAL

6 p.m. SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19th, by Paul Rogers. Silver Collection in aid of Organ Fund. Full details and programme later.

CAN YOU BEAT THIS?

When reading my friend F.P.P.’s history of Bere Regis dealing with the 20th century it brought vividly to my mind the first memories of my life. They were outstanding. As a boy of 3 - 4 years and dressed, as was the fashion in those days, in petticoats and long hair, I was sitting on the grass bank on the right side of lower Butt Lane. As I sat there Mr. W. Langdown drove a pig out of 'Back Lane' and towards West Street. Soon after a band of boys raced out of Back Lane chased by a donkey which they had without doubt tormented until it was maddened enough to break its tether and seek revenge. The boys raced past me into a yard, with gates, on the way to Snow Hill. I, too young to know fear, stayed where I was and the donkey set upon me in
it's anger. It used my long hair and clothing to pick me up and bang me to the ground again, I lost much hair and flesh in the process. I remember seeing my mother crossing the lane with an apron full of runner beans, I remember four frightened boys yelling for their father who fortunately was near at hand and using a pitchfork. With this he drove the donkey away from me. My mother gathered me in her arms and ran home with me. The next thing I remember is of being in a bath of 'Condy's Fluid' in front of the fire with many people looking on. Now 61 years after I still feel I owe my thanks to Mr. F. Sheppard for being God's means of saving for me those years of my life.

R.M.P.

(The Editor would welcome any other such reminiscences as this - which are of the greatest interest to us all)

PUZZLE CORNER

The following are anagrams, and can be re-arranged to form local place names within the parish.

1. LESS BOW CELLO! 7. BUSH ROOT O.K. ?
2. MIND DAD'S FROG. 8. HELLS RECORD HIT
3. COPS CHARLES 9. HE TIPS TWO
4. DUST A HOME 10. WHIRL ONE LIMB
5. SID LOVES TEN. 11. M.P., SPEAK FIRST
6. DREW OBOE 12. PELT LEMON CURD

F.P.P.

We published a series of these in October and November 1966 and they caused much interest. We hope these will again amuse you, Ed.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET

FRIDAY, 8th DECEMBER, at 7 p.m. IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

TO BE OPENED BY MRS. P. BENJAFIELD

A VARIETY OF STALLS Gifts will be gratefully received at the Village Hall on MARKET DAY - between 2,30 and 3,30 p.m.

Your support will be much appreciated and we hope to meet you at Market on the 8th December.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

DO WE CARE?

"God Cares", that was the theme of our thoughts last month, when we were thinking specially of the Harvest, realising just how much God really does care for our daily needs.

Now we turn our thoughts to ourselves - do we care. Let us for a moment think about someone who cared very much.

A little girl in England once went to see two of her friends, an old shepherd and his dog called Cap who used to help him look after the sheep. She found the shepherd one day very unhappy because Cap's leg had got hurt and he thought it was broken. Florence, for that was her name, looked at the dog's leg and found that it was not broken only terribly bruised. She bound it up and every day went to look after the dog until his leg was quite well, and he was once again able to go with his master to look after the sheep.

When any people in the village were sick Florence would go and see them, taking them food and nursing them until they were better. As she grew older she wanted to be a proper nurse and so she went to a hospital in Germany in order to learn to be a really good nurse, which was an unusual thing for a girl to do in the days in which she lived. Of course, by now you will know about whom I am writing, for it is none other than Florence Nightingale.

Soon after she came back from Germany there was a dreadful war in Crimea and she heard that the soldiers had no nurses to take care of them when they were ill. She set out from this country on the long journey and took some nurses with her. She had a wonderful gift for organisation and after finding the hospital arrangements in the most appalling muddle and confusion; by their magnificent efforts Florence Nightingale and her nurses transformed it; making it clean and comfortable, bringing help and cheer to the patients by their constant care and kindness. She did all she could to make them better, and she did a bit more, for when the other nurses had gone to bed and all was quiet, Florence lit her lamp and walked through the hospital to see if the soldiers were quite comfortable. Those who were still awake loved to see her go by, for she would speak to one and another and nod to many more. She was a ministering angel, without any exaggeration.

At last the dreadful war was over and Florence Nightingale came back to her home, but her kindness to the soldiers was not forgotten. She lived quietly and simply after her return to England, and though broken in health was able by her writings and her influence to do much to raise the standard of nursing, to the art and skill which it is today. A nurse's life is a busy one, and often though she may be
tired she does not mind, because she does not think of herself, she
thinks of those who are sick and does her part to make them well
again. She cares.

In the life of Florence Nightingale we can really see what it
means to care.

"Teach me, my God and King,
I all things Thee to see;
And what I do in everything,
To do it as for Thee!"

E. M. S.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS
BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM

Sept. 17th. Robert James Green
Sept. 24th. Mandy Louise Cheesmur
Sept. 24th. Deborah Ives
Sept. 24th. Anna Louise Burden

HOLY MATRIMONY

Sept. 23rd. John Lockyer and Jacqueline Ann Mitton

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY BAPTISM

Oct. 1st. Rebecca Susan Speight.

'SMALL ADS'

2/6 for every three lines.