THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The thought that is uppermost in my mind as I write this letter is the loss we have suffered in the death of two most respected persons during August.

First came the terrible shock of the sudden and tragic death of Allan Harding - and to Mrs Harding and Wilfred, as to the others of his nearest and dearest we extend our warmest sympathy. As I tried to say at the funeral, quiet as he was, Allan Harding was a figure of steadfastness and courage, virtues which he displayed during the whole of his life, and virtues which again were the keynote of his so sad a death. He was a strong and steady supporter of the Church and will be greatly missed not only by his family but by the village as a whole.

Then at the beginning of September came the death of John Strong, not sudden in this case as those of us who had seen him regularly in hospital knew that it could not be long delayed. I am glad he was spared a long illness with perhaps much pain and suffering. He was a man of many parts and was connected with a vast number of organisations. I dare not commence making a list of all the activities in which he had an interest but the number must have run well into double figures. It is sufficient for me to say here that he was a staunch Churchman and one time Churchwarden and we are all very much the poorer now that he will no longer be with us in his accustomed place in the Church and carrying out his many activities in the village and counties.

I was talking one Sunday morning in Church, not long ago about the things we always manage to leave behind while on holiday - toothbrushes, coats etc., and I went on to say that though we ought to be worried about our carelessness, which often gives trouble to other people, yet these material things do not really matter very much. What does matter is the sort of impression and example we leave behind. Has it been one of uprightness - love - charm, and of being a Christian - or have people been glad to see the back of us?

Both Allan Harding and John Strong have left us in their quite different ways, the example of quiet Christian courage and endeavour and we are all the better and richer for their lives and uprightness and service.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Oct.  1.  Harvest Festival  (Mrs. Tranter)
      8.  Miss Murray  Miss A. Lys
      15. Miss McFall  Mrs. Keeping
      22. Mrs. Terry  Miss Llewelin
      29. Mrs. Harding  Mrs. Tadman

SIDESMEN'S ROTA

Oct.  1.  10. Messrs. F. Lys & K. Woolfries
        6. Messrs. P. Wyatt & M. Barnes
     8.  11. Col. A. Barne & Mr. M. Lys
     15. 11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & I. Mullins
     22. 11. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. R. Smith
       6. Messrs. J. House & M. Barnes
     29. 11. Mr. F. Lys & Col. A. Barne
       6. Messrs. R. Smith & J. House

Nov.  5.  10. Messrs. I. Mullins & F. Marsh
        6. Messrs. R. Barnes & L. Bartlett

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Oct.  1.  Sun. Harvest Festival
     3.  Tue. 7.00 p.m. Harvest Supper, Drax Hall
     23.  Mon 3.15 p.m. School Managers

Nov.  1.  Wed. All Saints, 9.30 Holy Communion
      8.  Wed. Poppy Day Whist Drive, 7.30, Drax Hall.
     16.  Thu. Bishop of Salisbury's visit to Bere Regis Deanery
         commences.
     27.  Mon. 7.30 p.m. Parochial Church Council, Vicarage.

     17.  Sun. 6.00 p.m. Annual Carol Service of the Nine Lessons
         by Candlelight.

CALENDAR (continued)

1968

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The Triennial Elections took place on September 14th at a very
well attended meeting. Thanks were expressed to all retiring officers
who had helped during the past three years.
Mrs. Miller was elected Secretary with Mrs. Eastment as her
assistant.
Mrs. Comben was elected Treasurer with Mrs. Mullins as her
assistant.

The following ladies were elected to the Committee in addition
to the foregoing: Mrs. Collinson, Mrs. J. House, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs.
F. Pitfield.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be the Quarterly
Corporate Communion at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday October 12th.

HARVEST ARRANGEMENTS

HARVEST SUPPER. Tuesday October 3rd. 7 p.m. in the Drax Hall.
We have had to move from our usual date, the Hall being already
booked for other events. Tickets, price 3/-, available from Church-
warden Smith or from any Church Councillor. Bring your own knife,
fork and spoon. Entertainment after Supper.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st

10.00 a.m.  Family Communion
2.30 p.m.  The Children bring their gifts.
6.00 p.m.  Special Harvest Service,
            Preacher: Rev. G.G. Bradbury,
            Vicar of Winfrith.

Decorations for the Festival will take place on Saturday September
30th. Gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables etc. will be warmly
welcomed for this lovely Festival.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Mrs. Richard Jones (Bath Floral Group) is the speaker at our
next meeting on Tuesday, 10th October. This meeting is one which
members, and their visitors, should enjoy as Mrs. Richard Jones will
speak on - "Flowers for the Festive Season" and will do arrangements
of flowers for Cocktail and Buffet Parties.
Members are particularly reminded that all nominations for the 1968 Committee must be handed in to our Secretary, Miss A. Lys, not later than 10th October.

M. A.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS 76

THE METHODIST CHURCH

It is not known when a Methodist Church was first founded here, but a chapel was built in 1828 on the site of the present disused building adjoining the bus depot. This chapel cost £120 to build, had a seating capacity of 110, and was built of cob with brick buttresses, thatched roof, and there was a brick entrance porch at the west end. From an old photograph it appears to have formed part of a group of farm buildings which were later converted to the use of the bus depot, and the construction of the chapel, being so similar to the neighbouring farm buildings, gave the appearance of its having been originally a barn, adapted to form a chapel. However, as the cost of £120 would have been large in 1828, this may indicate that it was, in fact, a new building.

This cob and thatch chapel was the oldest in the Dorchester circuit, and was in 1890 pulled down and replaced by a brick and slate structure on the same site. Two foundation stones were laid at a ceremony on 28 April 1890 by the Rev. J. T. Waddy, B.A., the circuit minister, and Mr. D. Ballam, C.C., when a bazaar was also held in a marquee nearby to raise funds. This marquee was used as a temporary chapel whilst the building work was in progress. In 1931 a schoolroom was added at the east end, but in April 1962 the chapel closed due to lack of support. The building was sold, and is now used as a builders' joinery workshop.

The Bere Heath chapel at Chapel Cross was built in 1850 at a cost of £121, and with a seating capacity of 90. It is built in brick with a slated roof, and the floor which was originally of "cold brick" was replaced in 1870. A stable was added in about 1886.

The Bere Heath Methodist Society was first formed at some time between 1815 and 1829, and meetings were held in the house of Benjamin Romain before the chapel was built. The first "Trust" was formed in 1849 consisting of twelve members. Mr. Robert Hoare gave a site, and the new chapel was opened on 24 October 1850.

In 1889 only two of the original trustees were still living, so a new trust was formed with thirteen additional members, making fifteen in all. In 1939 £50 was spent on repairs, and in 1944 the original rostrum was removed and replaced by a pulpit and communion rail. The trust was again renewed in 1948 when only three trustees were still living.

In 1950 the centenary of the building of the chapel was celebrated by special services on Sunday and Wednesday the 12th and 15th November. In 1966 the chapel was licensed for weddings, and the first ever marriage service took place there on Saturday, 19 November 1966.

F. P. P.

GUIDES AND BROWNIES

Susan Gorlin, Sandra Dean, Carol Dean and Rosemary Brown spent a very enjoyable week in camp at Charmouth with Guides from Puddletown and Bradpole. The camp site was in the grounds of a hotel where they had the use of the swimming pool.

On the 9th August, Guides and some of the older Brownie Guides joined others from Briantspuddle, Puddletown and Piddlehinton for a visit to London. They visited Guide H.Q. where they were taken on a conducted tour of the building, and after lunch in the restaurant, they visited the Guide Shop to buy presents to take home.

After a visit to Green Park and the children's playground they were taken to the B.B.C. Television Theatre where they saw "Now for Nixon" with David Nixon and Roger Whitaker which was recorded for transmission on the following Friday.

Brownie Guides from the District with their brothers and sisters paid a visit to the Aqua Show at Bournemouth which they all enjoyed.

On the return journey a stop was made at Poole Park for a picnic tea.

The Annual District Sports was held on 16th September at Puddletown. Both the Guide and Brownie Guide trophies were gained by Bere Regis for the second year. There were various stalls, and competitions etc., and a very popular attraction was the visit of an Ice-Cream Van.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The October meeting will be held at the Primary School on Tuesday October 17th at 7.0 p.m. The Speaker will be Miss Bell on "Party Snacks" and as nominations will be taken for the Committee for the forthcoming year will all members try to be there. There will also be a "Round Table" for next year's programme so please come along with lots of new ideas.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

At an enthusiastic meeting held on September 13th it was decided certainly for the time being to continue this branch of the
Mothers' Union. Members pledged themselves to do their best to recruit more members, and for themselves to be as regular at the meetings as possible.

It was decided to revert to the old time of meeting, i.e., at 2.30 in the afternoon instead of in the evening - with the exception of the Corporate Communions which have to be continued at 7.30 in the evenings.

It was also agreed, with the kind help of Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Bracewell that meetings should be held in each of their houses on alternate months. At the triennial elections which followed, Mrs. Bracewell was elected Secretary. Mrs. House was elected Treasurer and the following ladies were elected to the Committee: Mrs. J. Legg, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Scott.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be the Quarterly Corporate Communion at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday October 11th.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

GOD CARES

If I began by writing 'Once upon a time' you may think I was going to tell you a fairy story - but this is no fairy story for it is true, and so I will begin by saying, that once there was a tiny seed of wheat - it was in a large bin in the farmer's barn, in fact as it lay there among all the other seeds it looked as though it was dead, but that was not so.

One day it was taken away from the barn and went on quite a long journey until it arrived at a field. Then it found itself falling, falling, until it was lying quite snug in the earth - there it laid and there was nothing it could do but to go to sleep.

However, something happened, the sunbeams came flitting and dancing about, the raindrops came pitter pattering and the little seed began to wake up. Of course you know what happened, it grew and it grew and it grew towards the light and found its way through the dark earth into the light, then it turned into a green blade. Do you think it knew how it grew?

Its roots took in the food the earth gave, the green blade drank in God's sunshine and it was God who made it grow. However clever people are they cannot make the corn or anything else grow, they can find out better ways of looking after the crops - that is their part, God does His part by giving life and giving growth.

Every day it grew taller and taller and of course heavier, until it hung down its head because of its weight. At last it was ripe and ready to cut, to be ground into flour for our bread. One little seed had grown into so many. Is that not wonderful? For every seed the farmer had sown he now had forty or fifty and he took his first sheaf of wheat to God's House, to give to God, because he knew that it was God who had made it grow and he wanted to go to Church to say 'Thank You'.

In the Church's Year there is a happening which comes towards the end of September or the beginning of October in most of our Churches. In the Church there are sheaves of corn, bread, fruit, vegetables and other gifts, beautifully arranged and made to look really artistic, surrounded by flowers of every hue. These are the offerings made by people in thanksgiving for the harvest.

The harvest means all the fruits of the earth. Later these offered fruits will be given as gifts to others. When we are grateful we often try to express ourselves in two ways. First by saying 'Thank you' and secondly by trying to pay back the debt we owe. That desire to show our thankfulness by giving something in return, is the origin of our Harvest Festivals or Harvest Thanksgivings.

There are of course other ways of giving thanks. There is the way of doing kind things - every little kindness which we do can be part of our thanksgiving offering. Another real offering can be the giving of our time, by helping at home or elsewhere, when maybe we should really like to be doing something else. In these and other ways like them we can say 'Thank you' - so let us not forget to give THANKS.

"We thank Thee, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And, what Thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts."

E.M.S.

HARVEST-TIDE AT ST. NICHOLAS

HARVEST FESTIVAL - SUNDAY- 8th OCTOBER

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sunday School
7.15 p.m. Evensong.

Your gifts of vegetables, fruit, flowers, etc., will be gratefully received at the Church on Saturday, 7th October, from 10.00 a.m. onwards.
FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

BURIALS

23rd August Allan Harding Aged 69
7th September John Strong Aged 79.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY MATRIMONY

16th September Ian Michael Stewart and Diane Mary Bracewell.

We apologise for an error in the notice of the death of Walter Murray in a previous issue. The entry should have read as follows:

12th April Walter James Murray Aged 77.

SMALL ADS

(2/6 for every three lines)