THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Again we come to the Christmas Season and I shall be grateful if you will take careful note of the various Christmas Services. Last year, owing to Christmas Day falling on a Monday, the Carol Service had to be moved to a week earlier than normal. This year we shall revert to our usual practice of holding the Carol Service on the Sunday immediately preceding Christmas Day - Sunday December 22nd at the usual time of 6 p.m. The Lessons this year will be read by representatives of the various professions, and so we move on into another phase of our daily life. During the time I have been here we have had very many sections of life represented in our Christmas readings and I should now welcome suggestions as to who our readers should be for 1969. If you feel there is any section of the community which has not been represented at our Carol Service and ought to be, I shall be very glad to hear of it and then perhaps we can do something about it for next year.

Last year we had to cancel our Plough Sunday Service owing to the foot and mouth disease. The farming authorities felt it was unwise for us to collect a number of people together from various farms into one place just at that time. However this year I very much hope that with the co-operation of the Young Farmers Club we shall be able to do something this year. Plough Sunday is always the first Sunday after the Epiphany and for 1969 this makes the day Sunday January 12th. So all being well, a plough will be carried in procession through the main village street on this date, led by the choir and followed by the general public, commencing at 2.45 from the Old Barn Service Station for Service in Church at 3 p.m.

Best Christmas wishes from Mrs. Tranter and myself,

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

December 1st, Advent Sunday
December 8th, 1st Sunday in Advent
December 15th, 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 22nd, 3rd Sunday in Advent
December 25th, Christmas Day
December 29th, Miss E. Lys

Mrs. Tranter
Miss A. Lys.
SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

6. Messrs. R. Smith & M. Barnes
8. 11. Mr. L. Woolfries & Lt. C. Mauder
15. 11. Messrs. M. Lys & I. Mullins
6. Messrs. R. Barnes & P. Wyatt
22. 11. Col. A. Barne & Mr. K. Woolfries
6. Mr. S. Mackenzie & Lt. C. Mauder
24. 11, 45. Lt. C. Mauder & Mr. L. Mullins
25. 11. Mr. W.F. Lys & Brig. D. Tadman
29. 11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & F. Marsh
Jan. 5. 10. Mr. W.F. Lys & Col. A. Barne
6. Messrs. R. Barnes & J. House

The quarterly Sidesmen's Meeting will be held on Monday December 16th at the Vicarage, 8 p.m. Sidesmen are asked to make an effort to attend.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Dec. 6. Fri. St. Nicholas Market, 7 p.m. Winterbourne Kingston Village Hall.
7. Sat. 2, 30. Guides Christmas Sale, Drax Hall
10. Tues. Floral Group Annual Meeting, Drax Hall
11. Wed. 3, 00 p.m. Sanctuary Guild meeting, Vicarage.
12. Thurs. Bere Regis School Concert
16. Mon. 8, 00 p.m. Sidesmen's Quarterly Meeting, Vicarage.
17. Tues. Mothers' Union Christmas Outing.
School Carol Service at the School,
19. Thurs. 6, 30 Guides Carol Service in the Church,
22. Sun. Annual Church Carol Service 6 p.m.
24. Tues. Christmas Eve, 11, 45 Midnight Communion
25. Wed. Christmas Day, Bere Regis 8, 00 a.m, Holy Communion
11, 00 a.m. Mattins, 12, 00 Holy Communion,
Winterbourne Kingston 9, 30. Holy Communion,
29. Sun. 3, 15 Family Carol Service at Winterbourne Kingston,
20. Mon. P.C.C. Meeting 7, 30 p.m.

Mar. 4. 3, 00 p.m. British Legion Jumble Sale, Drax Hall
May 30. Fri. Confirmation Service, Bere Regis
31. Sat. St. Nicholas Garden Party
June 28. Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party

MOTHERS' UNION

In place of the December meeting the Mothers' Union will be going to Bournemouth for dinner. The coach will leave the Reading Room Winterbourne Kingston at 6.30 p.m. and picking up at the lower entrance to the Church, Bere Regis, at 6.40 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th December. The cost of the outing will be 18/- inclusive and it would be most helpful if members would pay before the outing. Bere Regis to Mrs. Miller, Townsend Farm, Winterbourne Kingston to Mrs. Bracewell, the School House.

BERE REGIS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 22nd.
6, 00 p.m. Carols by candlelight. The Service of the Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by Representatives of the Professions. Printed copies of the Service for all, including full words of Carols to be sung.

Tuesday 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 12th
Service 3, 00 p.m. Procession behind the plough will leave the Old Barn Service Station 2.45. Please come and join the procession.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BERE REGIS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The third annual general meeting of the Bere Regis Parent Teacher Association was held in the school on the evening of
Wednesday, 23rd October. The Chairman, Mr. Phillips, opened the meeting with a brief outline of the activities of the past year in which the unfortunate troubles over secondary education featured alongside the happier news about the progress made on the school swimming pool. A special vote of thanks was expressed to Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Beeden whose activities in the fund raising sphere had helped to raise the funds for the swimming pool to its present level.

The treasurer, Mrs. Maunder, then outlined the P.T.A.'s finances. This showed that the Swimming Pool Fund now stood at £999,5.3. of which £798,6.11. had been spent leaving a balance of £200,18.4. Other expenses in the year totalled £451,7.4.

Mr. Stacey gave the headmaster's report and spoke of the successful camp at Carey and the reputation gained by Bere Regis children for good manners. He was also very pleased by the number of parents who had been coming to morning prayers on Friday and he was thinking of extending this invitation on occasions to include visits to the classrooms.

Reports then followed by the Swimming Pool Building committee - which announced that work had finished for the winter but would start, and it hoped, complete the task in the following spring; and the Fund Raising committee - which would have over £200 to raise in order to complete the pool. Mr. R. Jones and Mrs. Stacey joined this committee and Mr. F. Spence took over the task of collecting the weekly football competition entries.

The election of a committee to represent the P.T.A. for the following year then took place with the results:

- Mr. Phillips - Chairman
- Mr. Hurley - Secretary
- Mrs. Maunder - Treasurer
- Mrs. Carlyle
- Mrs. Court
- Mr. Axford
- Mrs. Mullins

Mr. Stacey remains as a permanent member of the committee.

The meeting closed after tea and some slides of the children's activities over the past year were shown.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall at 7.30. On the 10th December there will be a Carol Service, and afterwards a sale.

There will not be a meeting on December 24th as it is Christmas Eve.

M.E.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 10th December, and it is hoped that all members will make a special effort to attend. Miss Lys would be glad to receive all nominations for Committee before that date.

The Group is run for all members, and it is at the Annual General Meeting that new ideas, suggestions, and constructive criticism can be heard - please come.

M.A.

SUNFLOWER GUILD

The annual box-opening this year has yielded the really wonderful sum of £18.1s.0d. Mrs. Osbaldestone kindly assisted once again.

On the children's behalf, may I say how truly grateful the Church of England Children's Society is for the day by day thought of them by our boxholders. Some of our members have been helping since 1957. The late Mrs. A.E. Barnes was among our founder members.

If anyone would like a box at any time, please let me know. We are always glad to welcome fresh help as daily the work grows.

J.A. Drew. Hon. Sec.

(Congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Drew for all her hard work in producing such a wonderful result. Ed.)

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHRISTMAS-TIDE AT ST. NICHOLAS

CHRISTMAS DAY - 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - 29th December - 3.15 p.m. Family Carol Service.

Come as a family and join in and enjoy the Christmas Carols.
TO REMIND YOU AND TO INVITE YOU TO:

THE ST. NICHOLAS MARKET
ON THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS - 6th DECEMBER
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 p.m. TO BE OPENED BY:

MRS. H. W. BURDETT

CHURCH NEWS

We are indeed sorry that Mr. and Mrs. Overstall have left the village, but pleased that they are not too far away and hope we shall see them here occasionally. This is an opportunity to thank Mrs. Overstall for her all too brief a membership of the St. Nicholas Church Council. We wish them and their family happiness in their new home.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

It was quite dark, the sheep were asleep in the sheep fold and safe. One of the shepherds had found some sticks and made a fire just by the door of the fold, there the shepherds sat with their cloaks around them. Over the hill in the houses of the city the people were going to sleep, they were lying down to rest, in the city of David and the lights went out one by one. It was very quiet and peaceful until in the dark sky there appeared a glorious light and someone spoke to the shepherds. It was the Angel of the Lord, telling them not to be afraid, for He brought good tidings of great joy - "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Then suddenly there was a number of Angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and in earth peace, good will towards men."

The light faded from the sky, the shepherds turned to each other and said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see." They hurried, they found the stable, they went inside, they saw. They knelt down before the little Lord Jesus - Christ the Lord. They worshipped. Then they told the glad news. That is what happened on the first Christmas Day.

"A Bishop of Gibraltar was once on his way to Haiti, in the West Indies and with him was a little coloured boy called Jim. Christmas Day found the ship in mid-ocean. On that morning Jim suddenly announced that Christmas Day was his birthday. The Bishop said he thought he was born in June ... Jim said that Christmas Day is everybody's birthday. Everything had a new beginning at Christmas. Every time for instance when we put the date on a letter we say it is so many months and days and years since the first Christmas Day. It was the world's birthday."

I wonder why you like Christmas. I daresay you count up the days before Christmas, and even though there may be only a few to go, it doubtless seems they will never pass. There are those fascinating parcels, with the words on them 'not to be opened before December 25th.' Perhaps the paper has been torn and you can see something pushing through, you guess it is this and you guess it is that - it all seems to make it harder to wait. Then, of course, there are those secrets which you have been keeping yourself for so long, the gifts that you are going to give and it seems so hard to go on keeping the secret.

It is in such ways that we get ready for Christmas. Home is getting ready. We shall try to get the Church ready, by bringing in holly and evergreens to decorate it. We shall sing Carols and be very glad because Jesus was born on the first Christmas Day, and so we need to make ourselves ready for Christmas as well. Let us pause, and in all the joy that Christmas brings, remember that we are celebrating the Birthday of the Child Jesus, and as the shepherds of old may we kneel and worship.

In the words of Christina Rosetti -

"Love was born at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign."

E.M.S.

PERSONAL POSERS

Isn't it a bad thing that the censorship of films and plays has been abolished?

When one learns that censorship has been abolished, one immediately envisages the possible or probable production of the most appallingly blasphemous, or obscene plays because of the profit to be derived from them.

So, in order to clear our minds about the new situation, it is important to see just what it is. Though new plays no longer require preliminary censorship before permission being granted for them to be staged, they are still liable to be prohibited and their production
penalised if they provoke breaches of the peace or if they are found to
outrage accepted standards. In other words, it remains to be seen what
the result will be. It may be that greater latitude will be permitted,
and that may or may not be a bad thing; but it may be that less latitude
will be permitted by theatre managers, and that may or may not be a
bad thing.

It is always tempting for those in authority to ban anything which
may possibly or will certainly have bad results. But the remedy may be
worse than the disease. Experience of Prohibition in the United States of
America was not encouraging. I do not know enough about the subject
to say whether the existence of licensing laws in this country is beneficial
in diminishing drunkenness; it may be that it would be a step forward if
they were abolished and simultaneously the penalties for drunkenness were
stepped up.

Bad money proverbially drives out good money, and it may be that
standards will deteriorate. But artists can show integrity and audiences
can display good taste, and the philistine need not always win. Lilian
Baylis proved something by her successes at the Old Vic and Saddlers
Wells - who will follow where she left off?

Kenneth Ross

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

BURIAL
30th September  Rex Henry Richard Bert Abbott, aged 54.
1st November    Charles Toms, aged 82.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY BAPTISM
3rd November    Karen Rolls

"SMALL ADS"

(2/6 every three lines)

TWO ARMCHAIRS FOR SALE. IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND
NOT TOO LARGE. THREE PAIRS NEARLY NEW DOUBLE SHEETS
90 x 108.

APPLY: THE VICARAGE.