THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Lent comes a little awkwardly this year for the magazine. Consequently I have only published the Services for Ash Wednesday. However a full list of Lenten arrangements will appear in the next issue of the Magazine.

I expect that many of you have heard now that the Services of the Church are in the process of revision. So far only one main new Service has been published and that is the Service of the Holy Communion—which goes under the title of Series 2. It is quite different from the 1662 form to which we are all accustomed. It has been authorised for use for an experimental period of two years but before it can be used in any way, there must be the agreement of the Parochial Church Council. I am proposing to ask our Church Council here if they will agree to its being used occasionally so that we can see for ourselves what it is really like. It may be worse or better than the accustomed form or we may hate it or like it—but we can make no judgement until we have actually tried it and formed an opinion one way or the other. We must try and keep a judicial outlook in all such matters, neither accepting the new because it is new, nor clinging to the old because it is old, but trying to distinguish what is the best.

If and when we try out this Service, perhaps we can keep this in mind.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 4. 10. Messrs. F. Marsh & K. Woolfries


11. 11. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. M. Lys


18. 11. Messrs. I. Mullins & J. House


25. 11. Mr. W. F. Lys & Col. A. Barne

6. Messrs. R. Barnes & P. Wyatt

Mar. 3. 10. Messrs. K. Woolfries & J. House

6. Messrs. M. Barnes & L. Bartlett
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Feb. 4. Mrs. Cobb  Mrs. Sharman
11. Mrs. Howard  Miss Combes
18. Miss McFall  Mrs. Tadman
25. Miss Llewelin  Mrs. Applin

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Feb. 7. Wed. Swimming Pool Quiz at Primary School
8. Th. 7.30 Bere Regis Mothers' Union, Vicarage.
12. Mon. 7.30 Parochial Church Council, Vicarage.
14. Wed. 7.30 Winterbourne Kingston Mothers' Union, School House.
15. Th. 2.30 p.m. British Legion Women's Section Sale Drax Hall. White Elephant, Cakes, etc.
28. Ash Wednesday. 9.30 Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
Mar. 11. Mon. 3.15 p.m. School Managers Meeting
April 4. Thur. 3.00 p.m. Mothers Union Deanery Service Winterbourne Kingston.
20. Mon. 7.30 p.m. R.D. Conference
27. to June 1. Skittle Tournament Court Green
31. Fri. 7.00 p.m. Confirmation, Bere Regis.
June 8. Sat. Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party
29. Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party
July 6. Sat. School Summer Fete
28. Sun. Bulbarrow Open Air Service

FEBRUARY RECIPE

SAUSAGE LOAF

1 lb. Sausages - Pork (skinned) 2 teacups breadcrumbs, 1 teaspoon Marmite, 1 medium onion - chopped, 2 teaspoons chopped parsley, 2 eggs, salt, pepper, 4 rashers fried bacon (if possible) (chopped). Mix all ingredients together and steam in a greased basin for two hours. Press until cold. Turn out and serve with salad.

B L

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The February meeting will be held on Thursday February 8th at 7.30 p.m. at the Vicarage, when the speaker will be the Rev. W. G. Sandey, the Vicar of Morden. He will be speaking of some of his experiences as a Naval Chaplain.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.00 p.m. Evensong.

BERE REGIS SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL FUND

We are organising a Knockout Quiz to be held between all the village organisations and hope to start the first round on February 7th. Spectators welcome at the School Hall 7.30 p.m. There is to be a Skittle Tournament from Monday 27th May to Saturday 1st June held on Court Green and during this time a Grand Draw will take place - the star prize being a holiday for two at Butlins. Tickets will soon be on sale for this so look out for them.

The Thrift Shop is open each Wednesday, in the School Hall between 3 - 4 p.m. Bring along your unwanted clothing or come and pick up a bargain.

We shall be most grateful for gifts of green shield stamps to aid this Fund and a box is available at the School for any child to put them in.

M. C.

BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

February 15, Sale, Groceries, Cakes, Good Jumble, is at 2.30 p.m.
not 3 p.m., as stated in January.
February 21, Branch Meeting 2.30 p.m. Slides of Dorset Houses and Gardens, Mrs. H. M. Coles. Report on S.W. Area Conference.
March 20, Branch Meeting 7.30 p.m. Demonstration of Hair
Dressing by Marc of Poole, at 8 p.m. Visitors welcome for a small
charge.

A. L. Coles.

GARDENING NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

If you spend almost all your life in a garden you are bound to be
struck by the everlasting struggle of plant life for existence and
preparation for the continuity of life for the years to come. Even as
you cut away the spent growth of one year you see at the base of the
stems clusters of buds or rosettes of leaves waiting for warmer days
to grow in beauty or usefulness. Bulbs work unseen underground with
only two or three weeks rest the whole year. There is no season that
is free of some plant or shrub flower. Some days ago when walking
round the garden I saw two lovely clumps of stylosa irises, a mass
of winter Jasmine and in a sheltered corner, a snowdrop. This snow-
drop reminded me again of Mrs. A. Barnes bringing to my attention
the wonder of that snowdrop growing out of the almost muddy soil,
much whiter and cleaner than any Persil washed linen. In frost free weather any overgrown tree or shrub can be cut back to shape or size. Remember where I advised the cuts last month, if you have to use a saw, trim the bark which will be left fluffy with a sharp knife, and paint the whole cut with white lead paint. Those with peach leaf curl should this month spray peaches and nectarines with lime-sulphur at the end of the first week in February and again at the beginning of the last week using it at 1 of lime sulphur to 30 of water. Peaches and nectarines should be tied in. Cut out all dead and fruited stems also any that are growing out at right angles from the wall, and tie in the young wood. Peas, beans and shallots should now be sown and planted. If sowing peas on the morrow soak them in paraffin from today. If mice attack after they break through the ground, tie the bait of bacon rind to mouse trap and place over the trap a tomato box with the corner bits of wood sticking up. The mice like to feed under cover and you won’t have the miserable job of taking a robin out of the trap.

R.P.

BERE REGIS YOUTH CLUB

Members of the Youth Club went Carol Singing before Christmas and with the £12 collected were able to buy small grocery packages for some of the old folk in the village. These were delivered on Christmas Eve.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Members are reminded to bring their bulbs to the meeting on Tuesday, 13th February, when they will be judged by Mr. Potter, who is also our Speaker for the afternoon. He has entitled his talk - "So you think you can sow", so come and listen and learn.

Members will be glad to know that £5 has been given from the Group to the Bere Regis Swimming Pool Fund.

M.A.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES’ GROUP

At the Annual Meeting Mrs. Phillips was elected as Leader, Mrs. England, Secretary, Mrs. Broxham Treasurer, Mrs. Starfields Vice-Leader and Miss Secretary, Mrs. Day Press Officer, Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Cheeseman as committee members. The February meetings will be held at the Congregational Church Hall on Tuesday February 13th and 27th at 7.30. On the 13th there will be a beauty demonstration by Boots and on the 27th a soft toy demonstration.

M.E.

BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

The February meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th February at 7 p.m. in the Drax Hall. The speaker will be Miss Taylor about Soft Furnishings.

M.E.

HISTORY OF BERÉ REGIS 80

ANCIENT TRACKS AND ROADS (continued)

From 1555 onwards each parish was responsible for all the roads within its boundaries, and repair work was carried out by means of Statute Labour. This meant that by law, each able bodied man had to give six days labour each year in working on the parish roads (or pay its equivalent in cash), and as may be expected under such a system, the work was badly organised and ineffective, but nevertheless, the system continued until 1835 when statute labour was abolished.

In Dorset, the open fields which had existed for centuries were enclosed at various intervals between 1734 and 1868 (1846 at Bere Regis) and this meant that muddy and impassable sections of road could no longer be by-passed, and the old method of depositing large stones in bad patches was not satisfactory, particularly as wheeled vehicles were increasing in numbers. It was John MacAdam in about 1811 who immortalized his name by inventing the method of surfacing by means of small well packed stones. The use of tar was, of course, a much later innovation, and as a matter of interest was first used in order to combat dust. Bere Regis was one of the first villages in Dorset where tar was used on the streets in order to counteract the excessive dust caused by the continual driving of sheep through the village.

From the mid 18th century onwards local Acts of Parliament were passed settling up Turnpike Trusts, which would take over, administer, improve and repair certain sections of road, building new sections as required, and recover the costs by levying tolls on the road users. For this purpose toll gates and toll houses were set up at strategic positions and at Bere Regis a toll gate was situated at Townend, where the western part of the present farmhouse formed the tollhouse.

The original idea had been that the Turnpike Trusts should not only build new roads and improve existing ones, but make a profit as well, and this most of them failed to do. They did, however, effect a great improvement in the road system, and the term "Turnpike Road" implied a main, reliable well surfaced route. The turnpike system began to decline in the latter half of the 19th century and finally ceased in 1888 when Country councils were set up and took over the administration of all roads.
Now to consider some of the Dorset Turnpike Trusts which affected Bere Regis in particular. In 1765 the Wareham Trust was set up and was concerned with ten routes, one of which was from Wareham to Bere Regis, going over Woodbury Hill and terminating at Townsend. This had previously been a vague route across the heath, and the Trust straightened it. The section from Townsend over Woodbury Hill became largely disused in 1841, and it is interesting for being very much as it was in its heyday as a turnpike road. The road from Snatford Bridge to the present A35 was probably constructed at about the same time, as Isaac Taylor’s map of 1775 describes it as “new road to Bloxworth”.

The Puddletown and Wimborne Trust was set up in 1840, and by means of various sections formed the route as it now exists. The principal new sections were from Athelhampton to Rogers Hill through Burleston and Tolpuddle (the old route had been via Southover and Affpuddle), a short section from the top of Dorchester Hill to The Mill at the end of West Street, a new section from Wimborne Hill to Red Post, and another new section around the north of Charborough Park. (The old route had been through the middle of the park, the beginning of which still exists in front of the World’s End Inn). Together with other new portions at the Wimborne end this formed a direct route which had not before existed, and is commemorated on one of the gateways into Charborough Park by the following inscription: “This road from Wimborne to Dorchester was projected and completed through the Instrumentality of J. S. W. Sawbridge Erle Drax Esq., M. P., in the 1841 and 1842.”

Another new section of road built by this trust at the same time was from the Royal Oak, Bere Regis, to Lychett Minster, the portion as far as Morden Park Corner being entirely new. The 1840 Puddletown and Wimborne Trust was the last in Dorset, but its work was the most far reaching in the whole county, having in particular a profound effect on this village.

F. P. P.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

BEAUTY

Beauty can be defined as something that pleases. As you pause and think about it at this moment, I wonder what the word really conveys to you – beauty of course it must do in some form or other – it may be a countryside scene, or one of cliffs, sea and the seashore, a building such as a cathedral, a flower, a picture, the sound of music, a bird, clouds, stars, sunset or a moonlight night, a well loved face, for all have beauty in their different ways.

But it is about beauty of colour that I want to write now. We love gay colours and pictures, coloured pencils, crayons and paints. The rainbow fills us with wonder, for where does it begin and where does it end and how exquisite are its many colours.

There was a young man who lived in Italy at the end of the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth century, for he was born in Tuscany in the year 1387. It was in 1408 that he left his very comfortable home and went to live in a monastery where he was known as Brother John. He could paint the most lovely pictures. If you had asked him to paint you a picture, it is most likely that he would have done so, because as well as being clever, he was kind. Very probably he would have painted an angel, for he loved painting them. After he went to live with the brothers in the monastery he seemed to paint better than ever. His pictures were about the Lord Jesus, because of course John was thinking of Him and wanted to paint about Him. On the walls of the house where the brothers lived he painted many beautiful pictures, which are known as frescoes. Brother John would kneel down and pray before taking up his brush, and when the brothers saw the lovely finished pictures and admired them saying how beautiful they were, he would say very quietly, it was God Who had helped him.

Many rich people sent for Brother John to paint in churches and elsewhere, and wherever he went he left beautiful pictures on the walls. He would take no money for his work. He would never retouch or alter anything that he had painted, saying that what he had done was ‘the will of God’ and so should remain. He used to say that he who illustrated the acts of Christ should be with Christ, which was the secret of his holy life. And so his life was one of beauty, for beauty is inward, as well as outward.

The brothers, after he had died, looking at his pictures remem-
bered him with joy, and it may well be, that because so many of his pictures were of angels, they began to speak of him as 'the angel brother' - Fra Angelico - and it is by this name that he is known today.

Here then we have someone who expressed beauty in colour, but perhaps even more important, expressed beauty in his life. We may not be artists, but we too can have beauty of thought, beauty of kind deeds, beauty of character and we can look more closely at the beauty of the world around us. It is amazing how much beauty we shall find.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and this year it is the 28th February. The word 'Lent' means Spring, Spring for us means growth. Can we take the word 'Beauty' as our motto for this season of Lent, which leads us to Easter, so that now and in the days beyond, we can show forth and see more fully - beauty. E.M.S.

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY MATRIMONY

16th December 1967. Richard Sheffield Webster and Susan Caroline Roffey.
13th January 1968 William Frederick Richardson and Sarah Audrey Radcliffe.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY MATRIMONY

23rd December 1967 David John Vincent and Janis Portia Richards

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