The Vicar's Letter

My dear Friends,

I am glad to acknowledge with gratitude two more gifts to the Morton Chapel Fund. One anonymous gift of £20 and one of £5 which has been given by Mrs. Davis in memory of her husband the late Mr. Davis of Green Close. My warm thanks to the two donors.

You will find in a later page the full account of the St. Nicholas Garden Party. Again they were blessed with a lovely day and it was a most happy and enjoyable occasion with a splendid result. Many thanks to all the helpers and to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jones who so kindly lent the grounds of the Old Parsonage. It was also a great joy to welcome Mrs. Drax as our Opener, who also kindly judged the fancy hat competition.

We now hope that the Bere Regis Garden Party which will probably be over before you read this, will be equally successful.

While talking about outdoor events, this is perhaps a good time to remember the Open Air Service at Bulbarrow. This will again be held this year on Sunday July 28th at 7 p.m. We shall be hoping this year for much better weather than we have had on the two previous occasions, and given a bit of warmth and sun we should have a tremendous crowd for the Service. We have a splendid preacher for the Service - with a world wide reputation for such an occasion - Canon Bryan Green, the Rector of Birmingham. He will, I know, have something really telling to say to us. Please keep the date in mind and make a point of coming. I have booked a large Coach for that Sunday, leaving Bere Regis at 6 p.m. and Winterbourne Kingston at 6:15 p.m.

Congratulations to Miss Smith who has by her own efforts raised £5 to provide one set of Ladies Choir Robes. We give her our warm thanks for her initiative and determination.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

Sanctuary Flower Guild

July 7th. Mrs. Poore Mrs. Janes
July 14th. Mrs. Tranter Mrs. Woolfries
July 21st. Mrs. Howard Miss Combes
July 28th. Miss A. Lys Miss Murray
SIDESMEN’S ROTA

July 7th. 10. Messrs. M. Lys & R. Smith

July 14th. 11. Mr. W.F. Lys & Col. A. Barne

July 21st. 11. Brig. D. Tadman & Dr. I. Mullins

July 28th. 11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & M. Lys
7. BULBARROW

Aug. 4th. 10. Mr. K. Woolfries & Brig. D. Tadman

VILLAGE CALENDAR

July 10th. Wed. Winterbourne Kingston Mothers’ Union Corporate Communion. 7.30 p.m.
July 11th. Thur. Bere Regis Mothers’ Union Corporate Communion 7.30 p.m.
July 24th. Wed. 6.45 Young Wives Summer Market. Broadwater
July 28th. Sun. 7 p.m. Bulbarrow Open Air Service.
Sept. 8th. Sun. Common Life Service at Milton Abbey. 7 p.m.
Sept. 16th. Mon. 3. School Managers’ Meeting
1969

CHOIR ROBES

A Coffee Evening will be held at “Woodburyside” on Thursday July 18th. 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. Bring and Buy Sale, Raffle with several prizes. Proceeds will be given to the cost of Choir Robes. Please come and support this effort which is being run by Mrs. Cahill and Miss Murray for the above purpose.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS’ UNION

The final meeting before the Summer recess will be the Quarterly Corporate Communion on Thursday July 11th at 7.30 p.m. when the Vicar will be the Speaker. Tea afterwards at the Vicarage.

BULBARROW

Please keep the evening of Sunday July 28th free for the great OPEN AIR SERVICE 7 p.m., Bulbarrow. Speaker: Canon Bryan Green (Rector of Birmingham and world famous Evangelist). Coach will leave Bere Regis 6 p.m., Winterbourne Kingston 6.15.

HISTORY OF BER E REGIS - 85

THE THOMAS WILLIAMS CHARITY 1719

A branch of the Williams family of Hemingston became established in Bere Regis when Robert Williams came here to live some time before his death in 1631. Thomas Williams was a descendant who had been in business at Morlaix in Brittany, and in 1688 came to live at Shitterton House, which was described in 1861 as having been "lately demolished". He remained a life-long bachelor and was buried in Bere Regis church in 1728. He was a churchwarden in 1690 and 1691, and his pages in the old churchwardens account book are beautifully and neatly written. He also kept a pocket book between 1688 and 1701 in which he made notes of various domestic details. His claim to fame as far as this parish is concerned lies in the fact that he founded the boys' school and a charity in 1719. The school building still exists at Barrow Hill and bears this inscription on a stone in the gable wall:— "Bere School Endowed by Thos. Williams Esq. A.D. 1719".

He gave various property in the parish - 7 acres in the open fields; a house with orchard and six acres of pasture at Rye Hill, another house, garden, orchard and four acres of land; a house, garden and cottage at Barrow Hill with half an acre of arable land in the open field; a common of pasture for 50 sheep and 10 cows; and the tithes of hay from a moor to the west of Rush Mead. These properties were made over to four trustees who were to apply the rents and profits of them to the clothing and teaching of six poor children of the parish. They were to be between the ages of 7 and 14, preferably boys, and preferably from Shitterton, and were to be taught to read, write and account, and to learn the church catechism which they were to answer in the church when required.

The four trustees were to deduct any expenses incurred in administering the trust, and when only two of the trustees were living, four new trustees were to be appointed, and so on in perpetuity. It was the founder's wish that the current Vicar of Bere Regis should always be one of the trustees, and that the remainder should be, if
possible, descendants of the family of the founder living in Dorset.

The funds of the school and charity were added to by subsequent bequests - The Rev. Henry Fisher, Vicar 1725-1773 gave £100 by Will in 1773, Mrs. Neville Pleydel gave £5 in 1784, and the Rev. Thomas Williams, Vicar 1773-1817, and a namesake of the founder, gave £100 in 1813 to be invested for the benefit of the schoolmaster. In 1823 Mr. Hawker, the schoolmaster received an annual salary of £10, and "took other children for whom he was paid".

In 1832 the annual income in rents from the original property was £8.11s.4d. and the investment of the subsequent bequests produced a further £5.5s.0d. per year. Some of the original land was exchanged in 1846 when the open fields were enclosed. By 1900, owing to increased expenses, the trustees had for several years only been able to provide clothing for four poor boys instead of six.

F.P.P.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES GROUP

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall at 7.30. On Tuesday 9th July there will be a talk by Mrs. Steven, and on the 23rd a talk on Local Government. There will be a Summer Market on 24th July at 6.45 at Broadwater.

M.E.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The July meeting will be held on 16th July at Sitterton House. The speaker will be Mr. Hurrell on "Life in a Dorset Bookshop".

M.E.

BERE REGIS SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL FUND

The Gala Day held on June 1st was a great success and the Committee would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. The grand sum of £102 was raised for this fund, which now stands at nearly £800.

Our next "big" event is the School Fete which is to be held on Saturday July 6th. It is hoped to have a well-known Personality to "open" this and to judge a "Personality Princess for a day Competition". We hope all girls between the age of fourteen and eighteen will enter for this and details are available from Committee Members. There will also be a small Summer Show on this day comprising of a cookery section, floral arranging section, and handicraft section. Schedules available from Mrs. Carlyle or any other Committee Member. There will be an egg rolling race for the children, skittling and a Village Pentathlon which should make a lot of fun and we hope village organisations will support this as they have done our other competitions. The usual stalls will be there and many sideshows so all come along and help us reach our £1,000 target.

A small key was found on Court Green on June 1st. Zeiss Ikon No. 171788, K50. Anyone identifying this can collect from Mrs. Carlyle.

BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

We are holding a Coffee Morning at White Lovington (by kind permission of Miss Lewellen) on Wednesday July 31st. Bring and Buy Stall. The Speaker at the July Branch Meeting on July 17th will be Mrs. Fell.

No Meeting in August.

September 18th 2.30 p.m., when there will be a talk by a Policewoman on her work.

A.L. Coles.

RED CROSS FLAG DAY

The result of the House to House Collection was £11. 2.10d. I am grateful to everyone who contributed.

E. Lys.

"ACTION FOR THE Crippled Child"
(Formerly known as "Polio Research Fund")

Many thanks to all those who so generously helped to raise the total of £12. 7. 8d. for the above fund.

B.H.C.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The Chairman, Mrs. Herridge, would like to thank all those who supported the Summer Show, and helped in any way to make it such a happy afternoon. Mrs. D. Keith won the Copper Tray (presented to the Group by our President, Mrs. Barne) for her entry in "The Water Garden" Class.

Our next Meeting is on 9th July when the talk will be on "Flowers and Accessories" given by Mrs. E.A. Speight. Mrs. Speight will do various arrangements to illustrate her talk. Please come, and bring friends who may be interested. Visitors are always welcome at our Group Meetings.

M.A.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

The final meeting before the Summer recess will be the Quarterly Corporate Communion on Wednesday July 10th, 7.30 p.m.
in the Church. The Vicar will be the Speaker.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH GARDEN PARTY
8th June 1968

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<td>£5: £1: 10/-</td>
<td>£5: 5: 0: 0</td>
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<td>10/-</td>
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Stalls:
Mothers’ Union | 21: 10: 0. | Reservation of Hall | 2: 0: 0. |
Tombola | 8: 12: 0. | Licence for Draw | 1: 0: 0. |
Teas | 6: 2: 0. | | |
Ices and Soft Drinks | 4: 16: 0. | | |
Hoop-la | 6: 8: 3. | | |
Treasure Hunt | 1: 3: 9. | | |
Gate | 4: 1: 0. | | |
Flower Sellers | -: 10: 0. | | |
Found | -: 3: 1. | | |


St. Nicholas Church Restoration Fund.

E. M. S.

As the magazine goes to press just a word about our Garden Party, held in the delightful garden of the Old Parsonage through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jones. It was a lovely June afternoon, and how grateful we are for this blessing, for this added to the colour and gaiety shown in the Children’s Fancy Head-Dress Parade, which attracted quite a number of entries. Also the setting added to the charm of the Dancing Displays presented by the Pupils of the Primary School.
It was a joy to have the Hon. Mrs. H.W. Drax with us on this occasion and to have so many of our friends from near and far, for it was indeed a friendly social gathering.

At the end of the Garden Party the Vicar thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jones for the use of their beautiful Garden, the Pupils of the Primary School for their Dancing Displays, all the Stallholders and all who had given support in any way.
 Helpers, givers and buyers are to be congratulated on the excellent result – which is most pleasing.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

OBEDIENCE

Obedience may seem to be an old fashioned word, but if we really think about it, we find that people have felt the influence of its meaning in their lives down through the centuries until the present day. You know what it means to obey, and you doubtless know what it means to disobey – the latter may be easier; for to obey can often mean a much tougher struggle but it also means a far greater satisfaction.

I am sure you know the story of Samuel. Can you imagine the great sacrifice of his mother, Hannah, in giving her son to God’s service? She could so easily have been tempted to forget her promise when the time of parting came, but she did not. So Samuel went to help in the Temple, to help Eli the Priest. He would sweep, dust and polish; put oil in the lamps, wait on Eli and run errands for him.

When only a child Samuel had a great test of obedience to face, for he heard the voice of God and he had to take to Eli the Priest some very bad news about his sons for they were wicked and greedy, dishonest and disobedient. But Samuel obeyed the Lord and faced the task he had to do, although it was by no means easy telling Eli God’s message. This was a real test for Samuel, who was to grow up to be a very great leader and we see in this act the obedience of Samuel from his earliest childhood days.

Mrs. Gaskell tells a story of a white rose-bush which grew very weary of being fastened to the wall with dull pieces of cloth and ugly nails. It declared that it wanted to be free to grow its own way and to stand in its own strength. So it strained at the nails and pleaded with the wind to help it till the nails were torn out and the rose-bush stood alone. It soon found it was not strong enough to do it. The next storm that came beat it to the ground and the leaves were spattered with mud and the white petals of the blooms were all spoiled. So once more the rose-bush talked to the wind, and the wind tapped on the window with a branch of a tree till the master came and saw the plight of the rose-bush and nailed it up again so that it could grow safely and keep its blossoms out of the mud.

In this simple illustration of nature we can see what obedience means.

Of course obedience is not easy to learn. The things worth learning are usually the most difficult to learn. We have to learn
obedience in just the same way as we learn to play musical instruments and many other things - by practice. We learn obedience not by listening to lessons about it, but simply and most importantly by practising it. Shall we try? It will be well worth the effort.

E.M.S.

'SMALL ADS'

(2/6 for every three lines)