THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

This month we are all mourning the passing of Roy Poore. We send our deep sympathies to Mrs. Poore, David and Michael. All that I could wish to say about him you will find in the 'appreciation' which appears in a later page of this issue. It is sufficient for me to say here that he was a real Christian gentleman, and both Mrs. Tranter and myself feel the loss of a personal friend. The greatest comfort is the assurance he has gone to be with God who he served faithfully and well all his life.

Our most grateful thanks to Mrs. Herring for the gift of a most beautiful tapestry panel for the adornment of the Chantry Chapel together with the framed explanation of all the symbols and motifs used in the design. Until the exact position of its permanent place in the Chapel has been decided upon it has temporarily been hung in the Sanctuary where it can be seen by all, though not as yet to its best advantage.

I shall now be glad to receive the names of those who are thinking of Confirmation this year. Candidates should be of 12 years of age and over. As the Confirmation is on May 31st it is imperative I should have names immediately.

I acknowledge with gratitude a generous gift of £20 from the Misses Lys towards the furnishing of the Chantry Chapel to be used for providing some article in memory of their Mother. This is the first of what I hope will be many such memorial gifts.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

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<tr>
<th>May 5th</th>
<th>Mrs. R. Barnes</th>
<th>Miss Combes</th>
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<td>May 12th</td>
<td>Miss McFall</td>
<td>Mrs. Keeping</td>
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<td>May 19th</td>
<td>Mrs. Howard</td>
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<td>May 26th</td>
<td>Mrs. Carter Jones</td>
<td>Mrs. Applin</td>
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SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR MAY

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<td>May 12th</td>
<td>6. Messrs. J. House &amp; M. Barnes</td>
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<td>11. Mr. K. Woolfries &amp; Col. A. Barne</td>
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<td>6. Messrs. R. Barnes &amp; D. Poore</td>
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BEFORE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The monthly meeting will be held at the Vicarage at 7.30 pm on Thursday May 9th, when the Speaker will be Miss Llewellyn. Her subject will be the work of a Magistrate.

FRIENDS OF BEFORE REGIS CHURCH

We hope to hold a third Annual Service and Supper of the 'Friends' on Ascension Day, May 23rd. Invitations to this happy occasion will be sent out in due course. In the meantime will 'Friends' please keep this evening free.
GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

May, to my mind, with our fickle English weather, is a rather worrying month. You are constantly obsessed by the thought of 'dare I plant this, that or the other out or shall we have another frost hard enough to kill them'. Many years ago I remember we had over 20° of frost on the 23rd of May which stripped all the new leaves off the trees. This frost coincided with a very thick fog on the 23rd of March. This year we have had a very fog free March so maybe we can trust it to be a fairly frost-free May. The first glory of spring has gone and now we have to prepare for summer bedding. All H.A.s may safely be planted but H.H.A.s are safer near the end of the month. If not already done, when you plant out such things as snapdragons pinch out the tip. You may have to wait a little longer for the first flowers but you will have a much grander display when they do come. Bulbs that have flowered and in the way, can be dug up and heeled in some corner of the garden till the green has dried up, then take them up and dry them and store till the time comes to plant again.

(This article was written by Roy Poore before his sudden death. It is published posthumously with the full consent and wish of his relatives.

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ROY POORE 1903 - 1968

It may seem strange to some that one who lived such a secluded life, far from the village, should be known and mourned by so many. Roy Poore's heart was in his home and family and the garden; but he was known to so many chiefly on account of his personality. All who met him remarked on him.

His only excursions away from Bere Heath in the last two decades have been his never failing attendance at Church Services in the Choir and equally regular attendance at Church Council Meetings and British Legion functions. He was outstanding for his integrity and conscientiousness. Anything that he undertook he did with all his heart and boundless energy.

In the last great War he served with the Royal Air Force - too old to fly, there is little doubt that he volunteered to serve in the most unpleasant part - the much attacked air-fields of Kent. He was very proud of being a member of the R.A.F.

Nature was truly an open book to him. He loved everything that grew or moved; and could always tell interesting but little known facts of natural history. This love of nature was closely linked with his deep religious beliefs. He could read a parable into anything in the garden and yet combine it with a dry twist of humour. Some of his remarks
have been employed by Authors in their writings.

His love of Family was an example to us all; and he and his son David, worked side by side with an extraordinary understanding and sympathy - and never, never a disagreement between them.

The sympathy and support of so many friends has been of great comfort to Mrs. Poore and her two sons. The garden that he loved and toiled in for forty-two years will remain a live and beautiful memorial to him. It is indeed appropriate that our Church, of which he was so fond, should have been adorned in her Easter glory to receive him home.

A. M. B.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. The May meeting will be held in the Drax Hall on Tuesday, 21st May. The speaker will be Mrs. Jackson on "Dorset Buttons".

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES' GROUP. The meetings are held at 7.30 p.m., in the Congregational Church Hall, On the 14th May there will be a talk on mental health by a tutor of Hemlson Hospital, Mr. Scripps of the N.S.P.C.C., will be giving a talk on the 28th May.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP. There will be a practise meeting on Tuesday 14th May at which Mrs. Herridge will help and advise all members. It is an opportunity for members to bring those containers which they hope to use at the Summer Show, and to enjoy an afternoon which is given up to the fun of practising flower arranging.

M. A.

HISTORY OF BER E REGIS - 83

THE NAPOLEONIC WARS 1795 - 1805. Napoleon Bonaparte had overrun most of Europe, and invasion of England seemed to be imminent. Accordingly various preparations were put in hand, one of which was a kind of "early warning system" consisting of chains of beacons stretching from the south coast to London. The beacons were prepared for lighting and were so placed on strategic hills that each could be seen from its neighbour, and upon the enemy invasion fleet being sighted in the channel, a beacon on the coast would be lighted, seen by the watchers on the next one inland, in which its turn would be lighted, and so on until the news reached London more rapidly than by any other method available at the time. There were 31 of such beacons in Dorset, one of which was on Woodbury Hill.

Other preparations included arrangements for the evacuation of livestock from an approximately ten miles wide coastal strip, whereby they would be driven to pre-arranged spots in the event of invasion. Accordingly in 1796 farmers living in this coastal strip were required to furnish information relating to the number of livestock to be moved and the men they had available to do it. They were also required to state the acreage of their various crops. The southern part of this parish came within the coastal strip and 8 farmers in the Hyde and Bere Heath area gave statistics. The farms concerned were an average of 9\(\frac{3}{4}\) miles from the sea and 5 miles from "the place fixed for driving the stock". There were 8 "servants that can be mounted on horseback to assist in driving stock" and 13 "servants on foot that can be furnished with Pick-axes, Shovels, etc."

Between them they had 40 horses, 172 cows, and 538 sheep, and the acreages of crops were: - wheat 77\(\frac{1}{4}\), barley 148, oats 43, peas 5 and hay 279. Six farmers from another part of the parish also gave statistics and were an average of 10 miles from the sea and 5\(\frac{1}{4}\) miles from where the stock were to be driven, and six mounted men were available. Their stock consisted of 39 horses 114 cows, and 1740 sheep, and the acreages of crops were wheat 154, barley 298, oats 102, peas 11, and hay 175. Fortunately none of these measures had to be put into effect as the invasion did not materialize, but the threat prompted some interesting agricultural statistics which would not otherwise have been known.

F. P. P.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON REMEMBRANCE LILIES FOR EASTER

GIVEN BY:
Mr. & Mrs. Symes
Mr. & Mrs. Bracewell
Mr. & Mrs. M. Rolls
Mr. & Mrs. T. Pittman
C. Sheppard
Edna M. Sheppard
Mrs. Parker and Family
Mr. & Mrs. J. Legg
Mrs. E. Legg
Mrs. P. Vincent
Mr. and Mrs. J.C.E. Terry
Roland and Julia
Mrs. Murray

IN MEMORY OF:
Parents and Families
Parents
Parents and Brothers
Parents and Grandparents
Ethere M. Sheppard
My dearest Mother
Mr. A. R. Parker
Mother and Sister
Husband
Parents and Brothers

Mr. and Mrs. R. Miller
My Husband

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON GARDEN PARTY SATURDAY -
8th JUNE. AT THE OLD PARSONAGE. TO BE OPENED at 3.0 p.m.
BY THE HON. MRS. H. W. DRAX. MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON. CHURCH NEWS. Our best wishes go Miss Margaret Vincent on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Brian Mitchell. Margaret, who has been actively connected with the Church from an early age, has more recently been a teacher in our
Sunday School. We wish them both every happiness.

We are indeed sorry that Mrs. Murray has left the village, but pleased that she is not too far away. We send our grateful thanks to her, for all her interest in, and work for our Church, during her time amongst us. We wish her happiness in her new home.

This is also an opportunity to send a word of appreciation and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bentley, for their work on behalf of the Church and to wish them and their family happiness in their new home - in a nearby parish.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

Rogation Sunday - 19th May  Rogation Days - 20th, 21st, and 22nd May

The great Festivals of the Church are preceded by a special season, which could really be called a time of preparation. Before Christmas we have the season of Advent, before Easter there is Lent. Ascension Day is another great Festival of the Church and this is preceded by three days known as Rogation Days. The word 'Rogation' comes from the Latin word 'Rogare' meaning 'beseech' and so really they are 'Asking Days'.

About 1500 years ago at Vienne in the South of France there were men who ploughed the land, sowed seeds, but forgot God, they forgot to ask Him to bless their land. That winter there were terrible storms and when they looked to see if the corn was coming up they found no green blades. The men were unhappy, but in this place there was a good Bishop who on Easter Day stayed in Church praying; and he thought of a plan. He called the people together and suggested that they should ask God to help them. He told them they must work and put their fields in order so that they could grow more corn; then they would meet in Church and with the choir leading they would visit every field, orchard and garden in turn and ask God to bless it. And so it was that the good Bishop Mamertus in the year A.D. 452 ordered that these three days before Ascension Day should be kept as a solemn fast, they went through the city singing litanies and as they came to a field, an orchard, or a garden, they stopped and prayed. God heard their prayers, for when the harvest came there was plenty of food for all. Since then the Church has always kept these days as a time for asking God's blessing on the fruits of the earth, and in former years in England it was a custom for the priest and people to go round the parish 'beating the bounds' as it was called. Now in the present day in some of our parishes the custom is observed and the Sunday preceding these three special days is known as Rogation Sunday. We all know about our Harvest Festival, when we give thanks to God for the blessing of the Harvest, let us remember then to keep Rogationtide, and pray to God, asking Him for His blessing upon the fields and the crops.

(WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION, May Meeting will be on Wed. May 8th at 2.30 at the School House.)

(E.M.S.)