My dear Friends,

How grateful we all ought to be to those ladies and gentlemen who, during the chaos and confusion of the limewashing of the Church, clean up week by week so that the Church can be used on Sundays. This is a horrible job and it is quietly done without any fuss, as is the getting out of all the books needed for Services and the putting of them away at the end of the day. Our sincere thanks to all concerned.

All the Christmas Services are laid out on a later page and I shall be grateful if you will take careful note of them.

This year the Lessons at the Carol Service will be read by members of the Bere Regis Youth Club and we shall look forward to welcoming this, the younger end of the parish taking part in this wonderful and inspiring Service. Again this year, I ask that if any of you feel that there is any section of the Community which ought to be represented in reading at the Carol Service please let me know in time for the 1970 Service.

I am hoping that all being well, we shall be able to hold our usual Plough Sunday Service on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, the traditional Sunday, January 11th.

Mr. John House, our deputy Churchwarden, has very kindly agreed to organise the procession for me with the co-operation of young farmers in the district. So we look forward to the plough being carried in procession through the main Village Street on this day, led by the choir and followed by the general public, commencing 2.45 from the Old Barn Service Station for Service in the Church at 3 p.m.

Finally, I should like to say how very grateful I am to our magazine distributors who rain or shine, faithfully take out the magazines month by month, and collect in the subscriptions. The success and it is a very great success, of our popular parish magazine is due to a large extent to the devotion of this unpaid and often unthanked body of workers.

Best Christmas wishes to you all from Mrs. Tranter and myself.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

December 7th, 1st Sunday in Advent
December 14th, 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 21st, 3rd Sunday in Advent
December 25th, Christmas Day Mrs. Tranter
December 28th, Mrs. Tadman Mrs. Howard

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Tuesday, December 23rd. Gifts of Holly, flowers or greenery will be much appreciated.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 7th, 11.00 Messrs. K. Woolfries & R. Gooch
6.00 Major A. Kircher-Smith & Mr. D. Poore
14th, 11.00 Col. A. Barne & Mr. F. Marsh
6.00 Messrs. M. Barnes & R. Barnes
21st, 11.00 Mr. J. Mullins & Lt. C. Maunder
6.00 ( Mr. R. Barnes & Major A. Kircher-Smith
( Mr. M. Lys & Mr. R. Gooch
24th, 11.45 pm Mr. R. Smith & Major A. Kircher-Smith
25th, 11.00 Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. M. Lys
28th, 11.00 Major A. Kircher-Smith & Mr. K. Woolfries
6.00 Messrs. J. House & D. Poore
Jan. 4th, 11.00 Mr. R. Gooch & Lt. C. Maunder
6.00 Messrs. M. Barnes & P. Wyatt

The Quarterly Sidesmen's Meeting will be held on Monday December 15th at the Vicarage, 8 p.m. Sidesmen are asked to make an effort to attend.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Dec. 3rd, Wed. 3.00 p.m. Sanctuary Guild, Vicarage
6th, Sat. 2.30 p.m. Guides Christmas Fayre
8th, Mon. Institution of Rev. H.J. Treasure to Puddletown 7 p.m
11th, Thurs. M.U. Christmas Dinner
12th, Fri. 7.30 p.m. Young Wives Carol Service
15th, Mon. 8.00 p.m. Sidesmen's Meeting, Vicarage
19th, Fri. Sports Club Christmas Fare, Drax Hall
20th, Sat. }

Dec. 21st, Sun. 6.00 p.m. Carol Service
23rd, Tues. Church decorating for Christmas
24th, Wed. Christmas Eve 11.45 Midnight Communion

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Jan. 4th, Sun. 3.15 p.m. Family Carol Service, St. Nicholas
11th, Sun. Plough Sunday 3.00 p.m. Service Procession 2.45,
26th, Mon. 3.15 p.m. School Managers, 7.30 p.m. P.C.C. Vicarage.


May 22nd, Fri. Confirmation Service, Bere Regis
30th, Sat. Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party

June 29th, Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party.

MOTHERS' UNION

In place of the December meetings both the Bere Regis and the Winterbourne Kingston Branches will be going to Weymouth for dinner.

The coach will leave the Reading Room Winterbourne Kingston at 7 p.m. and picking up at the lower entrance to the Church, Bere Regis at 7.10 on Thursday, December 11th. The coach fare will be 3/- and members will pay for their meals individually at the restaurant.

Names of those who wish to go must be given to Mrs. Miller, Townsend Farm, Bere Regis, and to Mrs. Bracwell, The School House, Winterbourne Kingston, immediately.

BERE REGIS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, December 21st, 6.00 p.m. CAROLS by Candlelight

The Service of the Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by representatives of the Youth Club. Printed copies of the Service for all, including full words of Carols to be sung.

WEDNESDAY, 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 11th. Service 3.00 p.m. Procession behind the plough will leave the Old Barn Service Station 2.45 p.m. Please come and join the procession.

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BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The next meeting will be on January 21st, 2.30 Drax Hall when a Film on the work of Dorset Evening Echo will be shown by Mr. Paddy Coulter.

There will be a Coffee morning and Sale, cakes, etc., on March 4th.

A.L. Coles, Hon. Sec.

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BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES

On Tuesday 2nd December there will be a Christmas Market in the Drax Hall at 7.30. The Carol Service will be on Friday, 12th December in St. John the Baptist Church at 7.30. There will be no meeting on the 23rd December.

M.E.

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BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The December meeting will be the Christmas Party. This will take place on Tuesday 9th December at 7 p.m. in the Drax Hall.

M.E.

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BISHOP URGES QUIZ OF POTENTIAL MPs ON MORAL ISSUES

The Bishop of Carlisle has told Churchpeople in his diocese that, before voting for any parliamentary candidate in a forthcoming General Election, they should ascertain which one is going to stand for or against the Christian way of life.

Christians, he argued, should be concerned about marriage and divorce, abortion, censorship, euthanasia, moral education and the religious instruction of the young, broadcasting, pornography and a dozen other things which were the subject of daily conversations.

"Christianity is not a philosophy, but it embraces one, and from that Christian philosophy is derived a Christian way of life which is being threatened today by the growth of concerted atheist influence. It may be said that, in a country which prides itself on freedom of speech, everyone has the right to express his own views on these things, and to attempt to mould public opinion in his way to such an extent as to secure the legislation which achieves his ends. I am not disputing that.

Nor should anyone. But, as a Christian leader, I should not refrain from calling attention to what may not be immediately apparent but is undoubtedly true, and that is that the Christian faith and the Christian way of life are under fire in high places.

BHA'S TENTACLES. "The tentacles of the British Humanist Association - which is, of course, an atheist organisation - reach into broadcasting and television, into Government and universities and schools. The Association counts among its members men and women whose names are daily before us, men and women who are fashioning our laws, moulding our opinions and guiding our young people. It is not the case as it used to be, of high offices being held by Christian agnostics - that is, men and women who held on to the Christian ethic though they had doubts about the Christian faith. There are many such now and from the aspect of a way of life they walk with us. The case is that avowed atheists hold positions in which they can wield enormous influence over a nation which is, in desire and intent, still a Christian if not a church-going people."

I myself think it right for a Christian in casting his vote to know whether the man who seeks his vote, be he Conservative, Liberal or Labour, is one who is likely to stand for or against the Christian way of life. No candidate for Parliament could justly complain that that was an invasion of his privacy, since for a Christian the answer to that question touches his qualifications to represent him."

WHERE HE STANDS. "He says to me: 'I should like to represent you in Parliament. May I have your vote?' I reply: 'Before I can decide that, I want to know more than your party label tells me, I want to know where you stand on world poverty, I want to know where you stand on the so-called 'permissive society'. I want to know where you stand on the family and on religious education.'

Time was when these questions would not have arisen. That time has passed. Christians have not only the right, but the responsibility, to discover not only the content of a candidate's political creed but also the broad outlines of his social code. If the latter is diametrically opposed to the Christian way of life, then that candidate can hardly anticipate receiving the Christian's vote."

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CHRISTMAS FAIR

Bere Regis Sports Club are holding a Christmas FAIR in the Drax Hall, Bere Regis on the 19th and 20th December. There will be Skittles, Tombola and other Sideshows. Skittles Top Prize: £5. Ladies Prize: £2. The Christmas Draw will be made on the 20th December.
GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Readers will be delighted to hear that Guldewell Neana of Bere Regis, the puppy for which the Village collected, has completed her puppy-walking period and is accepted for training as a Guide Dog at the Bolton Centre.

Another item of news is that both Misty and Happy were presented to Princess Alexandra on the occasion of her visit to the new breeding and puppy-walking Centre at Tolgate, Warwick, on November 6th. The Princess was most interested in Misty's record, 28 of her progeny are working Guide Dogs and there are more in training, and acclaimed her the Association's most valuable brood. Misty was her usual vocal and sociable self, not appreciating the necessity of restraint by collar and lead, it being no different, she thought, from the gatherings she attended last year!

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH

On Sunday - 14th December - we commence our new time for Evensong on the second Sunday in the month. This is to be at 6.00 p.m. and it is hoped that the new time will be more convenient for our worshippers, than the later hour, which it has been in the past.

CHRISTMAS-TIDE AT ST. NICHOLAS

CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
3.15 p.m. FAMILY CAROL SERVICE
Come as a Family,
Come and join in;
Come and enjoy:
The Carols of Christmas

TO REMIND YOU - and to - INVITE YOU - to
The ST. NICHOLAS MARKET - on the EVE OF SAINT NICHOLAS
FRIDAY - 5th DECEMBER in the VILLAGE HALL
at 7.00 p.m.
TO BE OPENED BY MRS. A. T. SCOTT

CHURCH NEWS

A very successful Coffee Evening was held at Winterbourne Cottage, Anderson, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. P. House. The sum of £6. 4. 10d. was raised to aid the forthcoming St. Nicholas Market. We are indeed grateful to Mr. and Mrs. House for placing their home at our disposal, and to those who contributed, as well as to those who ventured out on such a very wet evening.

It was a most pleasant occasion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Children's Society collecting box and our Missionary Box have recently been emptied and the Sunday School has sent £2. 13. 6d. to the Church of England Children's Society, who by the way, help 5,000 children each year; and £3. 4. 6d. to the Gambia-Pongas Diocese. Both deserving causes and a very praiseworthy effort.
Receipts are on the Church notice board.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

CHRISTMAS

A little grey donkey outside a white cottage in a village street, saddled and bridled for a journey. A man comes out and straps a basket of food and a bottle of water on its back. Then a young woman comes, and he helps her into the saddle. Who are they? Where are they going?

A decree has gone out from Augustus, the great Emperor, after whom the month of August is named; that there is to be a Census and everyone has to be enrolled in the city to which his family belongs.

Up steep hilly paths, across streams, Mary and Joseph travel, Meal-times by the wayside, nights of rest in the villages through which they pass until after toiling up the steep hill they see the white houses of Bethlehem, Bethlehem, standing 2,500 feet above sea-level, called a 'city' because of being surrounded by a wall; in size no larger than many an English village.

With the sun sinking toward the waters of the distant Mediterranean, the travellers are forced to hurry, for if they arrive after sunset, the city gates will be closed. At last they pass the gates and reach the inn, hoping to find rest.

An Eastern inn is very unlike an English one. There is an open courtyard, with a well in the middle, surrounded by a high wall. On the inner side of the wall are arches, and over these bare little rooms, approached by a stone stair. The rooms are for rich visitors, the poor
ones sleep in the arches. The mules and camels lie in the yard. The inn-keeper’s room is over the arch which leads into the courtyard.

Here then, are Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, around them are the hills, where their ancestor David used to guard the sheep as a shepherd boy. Here at the inn, the inn-keeper has never seen the little town so full. The descendants of David are very numerous, and all have come to be enrolled. The only corner that can be found is among the beasts in the stable.

In the stillness of the night, with only the stars and the angels keeping watch, Jesus is born.

To the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks by night, angels bring the tidings, and as soon as the gates open the shepherds hurry into Bethlehem and find the stable. This great and wonderful happening is revealed to mere shepherds. There are seven or eight hundred people in Bethlehem but it is the shepherds who come and visit Christ, the new born King.

God can only lead those who are willing to be led. The shepherds were leadable, and so God led them. The Bethlehemites had their minds full of other things, they never noticed the air full of angels, neither did they hear the tidings they brought.

Let us not be so busy this Christmastide that we forget to listen to the message of the angels; that we forget Whose Birthday we are really celebrating. If we are willing to be led, God will lead us. God stooped from heaven, to the manger, to share our lot and to show us how our duty should be done. If we will but listen and be led, we shall indeed have a Happy Christmas.

E.M.S.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS
BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM

October 19th. Mark Anthony Crocker
October 19th. Elizabeth Caroline Rich
October 26th. Sarah June Gale.

BURIALS

October 7th. Lucy Bishop aged 56
October 13th. William George Hoare aged 86
October 18th. Evangeline May Hewitt aged 77
October 29th. Cecily Mary Standfield aged 73

'SMALL ADS' (2/6 every 3 lines)

BRYANTSPUDDLE NURSERY SCHOOL. Bookings now being taken for next term which begins on Wed, Jan. 14th. Children may attend fulltime or part-time. Mon-Fri, 9 am to 12 noon. Mrs. K.E. Jones. Tel. Bere R. 397