My dear Friends,

I see in the February issue of last year's magazine that I said we were hoping to try out the New Service of the Holy Communion Series 2. We have now done this for just over the year and those who have been regular attenders at this Service should by now be beginning to form some judgment on the service as a whole.

I have now received 30 copies of the questionnaire which I am to distribute to those who have used the Service and they are asked to fill in the form to answer the questions and make their comments.

On the basis of these forms, when the answers have been collated, a Series III Service will be issued early in 1970 which, it is hoped, will meet the views of the Church as a whole. It is therefore, absolutely essential that these forms should be filled in with the greatest thought and care, and I shall rely on those who have the forms to do this.

As you will have seen, the Diocesan leaflet has now been issued in a new form. Unfortunately the new size does not marry up well with the usual size of the magazine. I hope we shall be able to do something about this in due course.

I should like to congratulate Miss Smith and the Choir on the very splendid singing in the Carol Service, quite the best I think that they have done. How fortunate we are to have such a large and enthusiastic Choir, fully equipped in every department and with no vacancies to be filled, except for perhaps one more bass.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

| Feb. | 2.  | Mr. K. Woolfries & Col. A. Barne |
|      | 6.  | Messrs. J. House & D. Poore |
|      | 9.  | Mr. M. Lys & Brig. D. Tadman |
|      | 11. | Messrs. M. Barnes & F. Marsh |
|      | 16. | Mr. I. Mullins & Lt. C. Mauder |
|      | 23. | Messrs. R. Barnes & R. Smith |
|      | 11. | Col. A. Barne & Mr. W. F. Lys |
|      | 6.  | Messrs. J. House & P. Wyatt |
| Mar. | 2.  | Messrs. K. Woolfries & F. Marsh |
|      | 10. | Messrs. M. Barnes & D. Poore |
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Feb. 2nd. Miss Murray Mrs. Chilcott
9th. Mrs. Janes Mrs. Poore
16th. Miss McFall Mrs. Tadman
23rd. 1st Sunday in Lent.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Feb. 3rd. Mon. 3.15. School Managers
5th. Wed. First Round Knock Out Quiz in School Hall and subsequent Wednesdays.
14th. Fri. P.T.A. Social Evening. Music Room Drax Arms
18th. Tues. Pancake Race from Southbrook to School, 11 a.m.
19th. Ash Wednesday. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
       7.00 p.m. Evensong
27th. Th. 3. Evensong
6th. Th. 3 p.m. Evensong
May 5th. Mon. 7.30, R.D. Conference, Puddletown
30th. Fri. Confirmation Service 7 p.m.
31st. Sat. St. Nicholas Garden Party
June 7th. Sat. Opening of School Swimming Pool
28th. Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party
July 22nd. Tues. British Legion Garden Party, White Lovington

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of the Bere Regis and Winterbourne Kingston Branches of the Mothers’ Union will be held on Thursday February 13th at 7.30 p.m. in the Drax Hall. The Subject will be Church or religious music and will be introduced by the Rev. D.H. Mortimer, the Vicar of Lychett Minster.

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19th

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
7.00 p.m. Evensong

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENT FOR LENT

During Lent the Vicar will be giving a course of talks entitled "When Religion comes in". He will commence the course on the Ash Wednesday Evensong and will continue it on Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m.

BRAVO BERE REGIS

As many of you will have seen already our Guide Dog Fund reached its target of £250, and the cheque was presented to Colonel Briggs (Bournemouth and Poole Branch Treasurer) at the Drax Hall on Thursday January 16th. It was a happy occasion and well attended. Mr. Derek Freeman who has appeared many times on T.V. Blue Peter showed the Association's Film 'Leading Lady', after which Guidewell Happy handed over the cheque. Both Mr. Freeman and Colonel Briggs thanked the Village for such a wonderful effort and were deeply impressed by the speed with which the money has been collected. This is entirely due to a really genuine interest in the cause and all offers of help and donations have been completely spontaneous. Your Guide Dog will have Bere Regis added to her name and news of her progress will appear from time to time. Many thanks to all those who have helped in any way and congratulations for such a wonderful achievement.

BERE REGIS SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL FUND

You will remember we ran a very successful Village Quiz Competition last year, the final winners of the Cup being the Mothers’ Union. We are organising a follow-up to this and have invited all the village organisations to take part again. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 29th January and the first Quiz will be held in the School Hall on Wednesday 5th February at 7.00 p.m. Spectators will be very welcome and refreshments will be served during the evening.

On Shrove Tuesday, February 18th, we are hoping to hold a "Pancake Race" in the village. All energetic ladies are warmly invited to take part in this and there will be a prize for the winner. Entry fee will be 2/6d, but if entered before Saturday 15th February, 2/-d per person. Entries please to either Mrs. Carlyle, Rye Hill or Mr. Stacey at the school. Let's make this a fun annual event. Minimum age of entrants to be fourteen.

In order to raise the balance required for cost of the Pool, (approx. £150 now) by the opening day on June 7th, it has been suggested we hold an Adult Sponsored Walk. This will be a maximum twenty miles round walk from Bere Regis to Wareham and back. Anyone interested in joining in either by walking or use of a car for picking up stragglers, we would be most grateful for names to either Mrs. Carlyle or Mr. Stacey. The walk would probably take place late March on a Sunday morning.

C.C.
BERE REGIS SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A Social Evening will be held in the Music Room at rear of Drax Arms on Valentine Day, February 14th. Admission to parents by ticket only, available from P.T.A. Committee Members at 2/6d, to include supper.

CUBS

This is a plea on behalf of the Scout Cubs of the Village. Is there anyone who would be prepared to start a pack in Bere Regis?

A handful of boys have been attending Cubs at Briantspuddle and as these are closing down, it means they have to go either to Wareham or Bovington. There is already a thriving Girl Guide and Brownie Group going and in a village, in which the boys seem to outnumber the girls, it is such a pity that we can't have a Cubs and Scout Group also. Come on you men!!! The ladies already cater for the girls. How about it? Phone Bere Regis 441.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th February, and the speaker will be Mr. Johnson a rating Officer. M.E.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES GROUP

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall at 7.30. On February 11th there will be a talk by Mrs. Collins on her year as a Mayoress, and on the 25th a demonstration of a Batmix Food Mixer. M.E.

NORMANDY SKETCHES

"Bonjour" said the peasant lady from the top of the hay-waggon, as it lurched down the hill between the fir woods. It was followed by an old man, in an old dark suit and hobnailed shoes - a dog scampered along behind him. I heard the clang of a gate and the hay-makers had moved on, down the hillside.

I looked at the crucifix again. The peasant on the hillside, hanging there, it seemed, for ever, looked pale and sad - he had a stiff neck and sturdy limbs yet the nails held him down, as if he was nailed there in spirit while the occasional ray of the sun came to greet him. It began to rain so I hurried along the lanes to a barn for shelter.

I spent another day exploring the forest of Les Moutiers-Hubert. It was a hot day, no wind and the sober fir's lined the road, casting a graceful shade upon the traveller. A solitary buzzard flapped and circled in the blue, the undergrowth and the thickers were alive with the singing of the blackcap wren and finch, while the hot, dry ditches were aglow with campion flowers. I came to a village, tucked in to a fold of the hill, where big work horses could be seen feeding in the farms, and ploughs and whips and scythes were lining the walls of the barns. A little stream issued from further up and had formed into a tiny pond, which was now covered for the country women to do their washing in. The river of La Tongues talked below the stone bridge, as I came upon a little church and the resting place, in the middle of which stood a statue of a French soldier, surrounded by three tricolours and under which was inscribed "Pour les enfants de la Patrie, morts pour La France."

I passed the rusty, gothic gates of a deserted chateau on the hill-side, now covered with brambles, brashwood and rank vegetation, Above the chimney-pots of the old place, rooks and jackdaws clammed in the evening light. Far away in the forest, I heard a nightingale, the soloist of a perfect summer's night.

At Fervages, I discovered a racing-stud and a handsome castle, in the Renaissance style, with its spires, domes and lawns adorned with flowers. There was a moat, full of lilies and water-plants and the moor-hens clacked among them. The walls were of a mellow gold stone, the huge windows shuttered and a steelly, slate-blue roof, interspersed with dormer windows, added to the majesty of its design and appearance. The whole garden and lawns were full of blue-uniformed children who seemed to be watched by grown-ups. I took out my paint-box and began to paint the place and the youngsters crowded round the new "Monsieur" and nodded their close-cropped heads approvingly, saying from time to time "patismal" and asking from what country I came.

I marvelling at the long avenues leading to the more respectable "Manoirs", along which the woodpeckers leapt, laughing and calling, as they flashed in and out of the shadowy foliage. Now, the corn was in stook, I remember, and the shadows were lengthening and well-dressed people were returning from their holidays in their ancient Renaults, or, even once, on a horse-drawn vehicle.

A hush had descended upon the glowing fields, and the peasants
called in the woods. The sun was revealing itself in all its dying splendour, as the end of the day drew near, the peasants urged on the beasts and made for their homes and I too, took up my stick, bottle and paint-box and began the long plod home.

The house where I stayed with my hosts was a very old Elizabethan-looking Presbytery with certain advantages and many disadvantages. Water one had to get each morning from the pump in a wilderness of nettles, there was no garden yet, or any decent floorboards. The food was good, and the fire was heartening, for it kept away the flies and the wasps. At night, when I went to bed, I had to jump across into bed or else I would fall through the hole in the floor and into the kitchen below - there were little or no windows, so I had to put blankets across the gaps in the walls.

But I loved it best to lie in bed, listening to the nightingale in the glade, which made me recollect on the day I had spent, and await the new discoveries I would hope to find on the morrow.

Wilfrid Harding.

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

Appointment of Clerk of the Parish Council and Burial Board. Applications are invited for the above post. Duties to commence on 1st April, 1969. Applications, to be received by 15th January, 1969, should be made to the undersigned from whom further details can be obtained.

R. L. Duckett
Clerk of the Parish Council.

Our Saviour was born
On Christmas morn
With ox and ass at hand
And Wise Men came all the way
To that holy land.

Mary the Mother rocks him to sleep
The shepherds said may we peep?
At this Child so sweet.

People from far to Bethlehem came
Wise Men, shepherds and people the same
Everyone looked and saw a star
Everyone followed it from far.

On Christmas Day
We always pray
To Jesus.

Lesley Poore, 7 years.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH

At our Family Service of Lessons and Carols on the first Sunday after Christmas, carols were sung by the congregation and the children of the Sunday School, who also read the Lessons. The Readers were : Adrian Wheeler, Robin Langdown, George Ireland, Susan Ames, Rosemary Legg, Heather Legg, Sandra Pickering, Jane Wheeler, Shirley Langdown, Elizabeth Scott, Dawn Wellstead. Carols sung by the Sunday School were accompanied on Recorders, the Recorder Players being Shirley Langdown and Elizabeth Scott. The children are to be commended on their reading, singing and playing.

Under a lighted Christmas Tree in the Church, stood figures depicting the Nativity, made most beautifully by a group of children from the Primary School.

E. M. S.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

UPHILL

"Does the road wind uphill all the way?"
"Yes, to the very end."

These are more words from the pen of Christina Rossetti, and they refer of course to the journey of life and the road along which we are all travelling. Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans implies that the way is hard and the hill steep, but it is all worth while when the summit is reached.

If you look sometimes at the tall posts which carry the telegraph and electric wires, I wonder if you have ever thought how strong they must be to carry the weight of cross-pieces and wires, and to withstand the winds and snow of winter. Once they could well have been pine trees on some exposed mountain side where the winds tore them to and fro, but they withstood the strain. That struggle to live, that constant fight against the weather is the secret of their strength today.

There is a legend of a great musician who had a wonderful violin. He was a great player but he always said that the utmost he could do was to bring out the music which was in his instrument. Sometimes when
he played upon it the music was like the singing of birds when the sun shines on some bright morning in early Spring, sometimes it was like the wailing of the wind through the branches of bare trees in mid-winter. Sometimes you could hear the laughter of little children as they played, and sometimes the notes were deep and sounded sorrowful. The legend says that the violin talked to the musician as he played and told him that all the music was the memory of days when it had been a wind-battered tree on the hillside. The tree said, "I used to wish that I had been planted in some quiet, sheltered place in the valley, but now I know that the Master planted me on that bare hillside because He wanted to make a violin." And what joy and what consolation the sounds that came forth from that violin brought to those who heard it – through the touch of a great musician. It was a steep weary road, but it led to the mountain heights of mastery.

A story is told of a young lad, who on starting work soon discovered that being a Christian meant learning how to say NO. He was often tempted to do things which a Christian knew he should not do, and sometimes those among whom he worked tried to persuade him to do wrong. But he always said, NO. He found it possible to say NO because of the great things he believed.

He believed in God. He believed that Jesus loved him so much - he just felt he could not disappoint Him. He believed that God the Holy Spirit was always at hand to help him to be good and to do good. He believed in a Life Everlasting for which this life is a preparation.

You and I know what the Christian road is. Millions have walked that road before us. Will we do so? It depends on us. E.M.S.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Miss P. Sunderland gave a talk on the "Care of Pot Plants" at the January meeting which members found most interesting. Mrs. Keith won the Rose Bowl for a House Plant which was judged as the best exhibit. Mrs. Keith also won first prize for Hyacinths. Second Mrs. F. Lys. Mrs. Benjafield won second prize for a bowl of Paper Whites.

Next month we have a return visit of Mrs. Speight who will be giving a demonstration entitled "Betwixt and Between" when it is hoped that all members will attend and any visitors will be welcomed.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY MATRIMONY

January 4th. Raymond Monty Lake and Jennifer Frances Legg.