THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Thursday, June 12th will be a special date for us this year as we shall be having a visit from the Salisbury Cathedral Choir and their Organist. They will be singing a fully Choral Evensong. This will be a treat not to be missed. I am happy to say that the other Parishes in the Deanery will be joining with us on this occasion, and we shall welcome all of every Denomination who would like to hear some wonderful singing by the boys of the Choir School.

English Cathedral Choirs are by any standards quite the best in the world and here we shall have one of the finest in our own village.

June 28th, Saturday, is the day of the Bere Regis Garden Party, again to be held in the garden of Summerrods, when there is to be a full afternoon's attractions including various competitions, and we look forward to fine weather this year for this annual and happy event.

I feel this might be an appropriate moment to congratulate the Parent-Teachers Association of the School on the perseverance and ingenuity they have shown in raising such a large sum of money for the Learner Swimming Pool at the School which is to be formally opened on June 14th.

Finally, may I give you a preliminary reminder of the Deanery Missionary Festival to be held at Piddlehinton on Wednesday July 9th. Full details of this will appear in next month's issue - but please book the date now.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

June 1st,  Mrs. Carter Jones  Miss Llewellyn
June 8th,  Mrs. Janes  Mrs. Kircher-Smith
June 15th,  Mrs. Lys  Mrs. Benjafield
June 22nd,  Miss A. Lys  Mrs. Cahill
June 29th,  Mrs. J. Jesty.

N.B. Meeting of the Guild will be held in the Vicarage at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 4th June. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

New members will be welcomed.
SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR JUNE

June 1st. 11. Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. K. Woolfries
June 8th. 11. Col. A. Barne & Mr. W. F. Lys
June 15th. 11. Messrs. M. Lys & I. Mullins
6. Messrs. F. Marsh & R. Barnes
June 22nd. 11. Mr. K. Woolfries & Brig. D. Tadman
June 29th. 11. Lt. C. Maurander & Col. A. Barne
6. Messrs. R. Smith & D. Poore
July 6th. 11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & W. E. Lys
6. Messrs. F. Marsh & P. Wyatt

N.B. The Sidesmen's Quarterly Meeting will be held on Monday, June 16th 8 p.m. at the Vicarage.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

June 4th. Wed. Sanctuary Guild, 3 p.m., at the Vicarage
7th. Sat. Congregational Church Sale 3 p.m., The Cedars
10th. Tues. Young Wives Summer Market 7 p.m., Stalls etc., Broadwater Roke Road,
11th. Wed. M. U. Committee, 7.30 p.m., Vicarage,
12th. Thur. 7 p.m., Visit of Salisbury Cathedral Choir
14th. Sat. 3 p.m., Gala Opening of School Swimming Pool
16th. 8 p.m., Sidesmen's Meeting, Vicarage,
19th. Thur. 7.30 p.m., Mothers' Union Meeting at Winterbourne Kingston School,
23rd. Mon. Garden Party Meeting at Summerrods, 7,
28th. Sat. 3 p.m., Bere Regis Garden Party.

July 7th. Mon. 7.30 p.m., Parochial Church Council, Vicarage.
9th. Wed. 7.30 p.m., Deanery Missionary Festival, Piddlehinton
22nd. Tues. British Legion Garden Party, White Lovington
24th. Sun. 7 p.m., Bubbarrow Open Air Service

Sept. 21st. Sun. Congregational Church Harvest Festival


BERE REGIS ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY AT SUMMERRODS

through the kindness of Brigadier & Mrs. D. Tadman

ON SATURDAY JUNE 28th
OPENING 3 p.m.

ATTR ACTIONS:

Competitions: Decorated Bicycles and Riders
Decorated Prams and Occupants
Decorated Dolls Prams and Owners

Entries on the Field.

SIDE SHOWS, COMPETITIONS. Stalls of every description.
Teas, Ice Cream, Tombola, Orangery, Sweets, Cakes,
GROCERIES. PRODUCE, ETC., ETC.,

BERE REGIS SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Make a date for Saturday June 14th and watch the history of Bere Regis pass by. The procession will leave Sitterton at 3 p.m. on it's way to the School, where prizes will be presented to the winners. Once the Pool has been officially opened, there will be activities to suit all ages and many interesting items to see in the School. Teas will be served and the Band of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.A.C., will be in attendance during the afternoon.

M.C.

SWIMMING POOL FUND

The Committee of this Fund are now able to announce that the magnificent sum of £190 was raised on the Walk. This grand achievement was only made possible by the efforts of the fifty-four walkers, with the co-operation of the sponsors. We would like to thank everyone concerned once more for all their help.

The Jumble Sale held at the School on Friday May 9th was also very successful. All the stalls were well stocked, thanks to the children, who collected from door to door. With the usual band of helpers and everyone who came to support us by buying the goods, a grand profit of £27 was made. There was a competition for a chicken dinner and the lucky winner was Mrs. Carlyle.

Many thanks to Mrs. Maunder, who opened her home for the Coffee
Morning on April 17th. A cheque for five guineas was paid into the Fund from this effort.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

On the 10th June there will be a Summer Market at 7 p.m. at Broadwater, Roke Road, Stalls, Sideshows, Competitions, Keep Fit Display.

On the 24th June there will be a talk on Council Work by Mr. Johnson.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The June meeting will be held in the Youth Club Hut on Tuesday 17th June at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Mrs. Gibbons about 'Fabric Pictures' and there will be a report from the delegate to the Annual General Meeting in London.

BERE REGIS & DISTRICT BRITISH LEGION

The British Legion came into being July 1st 1921. To commemorate the occasion a Coffee Evening or more suitable beverage for the gentlemen will be held on July 1st 1969, 7.30 p.m. at 8 North Street, Bere Regis, Bring and Buy. Raffle.

WHY THE BRITISH LEGION?

A strange title for an article in a Parish Magazine, no doubt, but not nearly so strange as some of the comments made by those who are not perhaps so well informed about the Legion as they should be. Comments like "I don't believe in war so I'm not interested in helping, thank you very much". "The Legion is just a bunch of flag-wagging old have-beens." "The Legion didn't do a damned thing for my poor old Dad when he came out of the Army so why should I help?"

One would like to think that these remarks are invented, but the sad thing is that they are not... some in fact are even worse, and are best not quoted, so lacking are they in kindness and good-will, and so full are they of ignorance, prejudice and just plain malice.

The British Legion came into existence shortly after World War I for the purpose of helping those ex-Servicemen and women whose lives had been shattered in one way or another by the service which they gave for their country. The work has continued ever since, mainly because age has added a further burden to the load imposed by injuries when young, and also because there have been many wars since, World War II added thousands to the list of those needing help. Each and every skirmish all over the globe in which this country, right or wrong, gets itself involved adds a few more, and tragically, will go on adding to the list, until mankind makes up its mind that war is horrible, the results of war are unthinkable, and that as a human pastime it is out of date.

Why doesn't the State help these unhapties, you may ask? It does, to the limit of the money that we the people of the country permit the State to spend. For let us not kid ourselves and say it is the Government which doesn't do this or that, or does do this and that which we don't like. WE PUT THEM THERE, AND IT IS OUR FAULT IF THE RESULT IS UNSATISFACTORY, WHETHER IT IS THIS GOVERNMENT, THE LAST GOVERNMENT OR THE NEXT ONE. And since these democratically elected governments from time immemorial have steadfastly forgotten their moral duties to those who had fought for their country after the wars were over, the Legion has much to do. Do you remember Kipling's rather bitter comment: "Oh it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' Tommy go away, 'But it's 'Thank you MISTER Atkins,' when the band begins to play.

So what does the Legion do? Briefly, from its main funds, raised largely on 'Poppy Day', it administers and finances Legion Villages, Convalescent Homes, Rest Homes, Legion Houses and Housing Schemes. Its factories provide employment for hundreds of disabled ex-servicemen and women, and it seeks employment for others elsewhere with compassionate employers. It haggles fiercely with the Government Ministries about pensions for ex-service people, and is invariably successful; in local affairs its 5,000 odd branches and their sister branches of the Women's Section, whose particular job is to look after the widows and other female dependents of ex-servicemen, whilst at all times loyally supporting the Legion itself in all its activities, use their locally raised funds for immediate local help in case of sudden need. The Legion also runs Social Clubs, since by this means members can more easily get together, enjoy themselves, and incidentally raise more money to help someone less fortunate.

And finally, and certainly not the least important, the Legion has a definite message for young people. It encourages youth in all the activities of youth if it can be of any assistance, for in youth lies the prospect of the future, If the youth of today make the same mistakes as we made in the past, then mankind is doomed. The only hope of survival for mankind is for us to learn to live in peace with each other. Not by pacifism and weakness, but by compassion, by tolerance and by strength.

JSM

AKABA

In June, 1943, my ship was ordered round from Suez to Akaba. We steamed down the Red Sea, made the narrow passage through the Straits of Tiran and entered the Gulf of Akaba.
Our course to Akaba kept us close to the western shore all the way up the Gulf, the land looking inhospitable in the extreme: just sand and rock with the parched mountains rising in the distance. Suddenly as we rounded a point, in the midst of all this desolation, appeared the ruins of a Crusader castle. The mind boggled at the logistical problem of maintaining this outpost and at the sort of life lead by its garrison. I have subsequently been unable to discover any more about this castle other than that it was called the "Ile de Graye" and was the most southerly of all the castles built at that time.

We anchored to the west of Akaba, off what is now the Israeli port of Eilat. This is the Ethol mentioned in the First Book of Kings: "And King Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Ethol, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom".

Eilat was King Solomon's port from which he exported copper from the nearby mines to Ophir. The Queen of Sheba is thought to have landed here on her visit to him.

Still in my possession is a piece of coral picked up on the sand at the head of the Gulf where four countries meet, To-day in the uneasy truce prevailing in the Middle East one reads of rocket attacks by the Arabs on Eilat and retaliatory raids by the Israelis on Akaba. In those more peaceful days of war it was possible to walk the five miles of shore passing "without let or hindrance" through four countries: Egypt, Palestine, Transjordan and Saudi Arabia.

A.V.S.

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WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
MOTHERS' UNION

The June meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Thursday, 19th June, at 7.30 p.m. (please note change of week for this month) This meeting will be held at the School, Winterbourne Kingston, when the Speaker will be the Revd. D.J. Letcher, Salisbury Diocesan Adviser in Children's Work, who will speak on, 'Focus on Children in the Church'.

The Winterbourne Kingston branch gives a warm welcome to the members of the Bere Regis Branch who will be joining them on this occasion.

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FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

On our journey through the Palace of Armour, we still have much to see, and we must not linger among the sandals - which occupied our time last month, we must press on, and as we do so we come to great shields, shields like iron-studded doors, such shields as were carried by the Roman soldiers. Joined together these shields formed a wall behind which a body of troops could hide themselves from the enemy's missiles.

There were marks of burning on some of the shields and the guide explained that in olden times flaming arrows were used in warfare. The soldier could carry his shield in such a way that he could move it quickly, to ward off the fiery darts from all directions, and with such a shield a man was safe, for no darts could kindle upon them. They were not designed to save a man from hard knocks and shrewd blows, but to help him to stand up to them when they came.

The shield was in fact to a Roman soldier what the tin hat is in modern warfare - a great protection against flying darts or pieces of shrapnel. The lad wished that he had such a shield, but the guide told him that every man must fashion his shield of faith for himself, for the Christian soldier's great protection is faith.

Faith means belief and the faithful soldier of Christ is true to what he believes. The old English word for "believe" is "gelyfan" which meant to "hold very dear". We can find our faith written down in the Creed - the Apostles' Creed, which is so called because it teaches us what the Apostles were taught by Our Lord Himself. So the Creed is His Creed - it teaches what He taught and that is why we learn it.

The Creed is something to be proud of, something to be thankful for, something to be loyal to. The Creed which the martyrs died for; the Creed that has been recited for centuries, the Creed that we use today. The Crusaders used to recite the Creed with their swords drawn, as a sign that they were willing to fight for it, and to die for it.

A mission preacher in the West of America told his hearers this, and he was surprised to see his congregation of cowboys all draw their revolvers during the reciting of the Creed on the following Sunday. It was unexpected, but it showed the right kind of spirit.

The Creed then, is like a shield to the soldier of Christ, for we shall find it a most useful protection whenever we meet with evil in ourselves or in the world. This Shield of Faith will not save us from difficulties and temptations, but it will help us to stand up and do our best to overcome them,

E.M.S.

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM 20th April Alice Clare Blount
4th May Duncan Anthony House
SMALL ADS
(2/6d every three lines)

PART TIME WORK URGENTLY REQUIRED.
APPLY: MRS. JEAN TURNER, 3 GREEN CLOSE, BERE REGIS.

NURSERY SCHOOL, BRIANTSPUDDLE,
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 - 12. FULL TIME OR PART TIME. APPLY
MRS. K.E. JONES, 27 BRIANTSPUDDLE. TEL: Bere Regis 397

WANTED: TOYS, PUZZLES, LARGE PLAY EQUIPMENT,
SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN 3 - 5 YEARS.
MRS. K.E. JONES, 27 BRIANTSPUDDLE. Bere Regis 397

WANTED: SMALL GIRL'S TWO WHEELED BICYCLE, SUITABLE
FOR GIRL 8 YEARS. MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION.
MRS. K.E. JONES, 27 BRIANTSPUDDLE. Bere Regis 397.

FOR SALE:
4 SPEED AUTOMATIC RECORD PLAYER. GOOD
CONDITION £8. ALSO FOOTBALL 15/-d.
APPLY: 23 SITTERTON CLOSE, BERE REGIS.