THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Last month I spoke about suggested plans for the Sunday School and I have had enough approval for the idea of having it in the morning to anyway give it a trial. But if so it does mean that we shall need two or three people who will be willing to teach from 10.30 - 10.45 a.m. and two or three people willing to sit with the children during the time of Morning Service until the time they leave the church a third of the way through the Service. If any of our readers would be willing to help please may I have names as soon as possible. There is no need for me to stress, I am sure, the importance of this work. People sometimes say that the day of the Sunday School is over, but this I do not believe, especially when I look at the most successful School which is run by Miss Sheppard at Winterbourne Kingston, with about 30 regular children out of a village with a population of 350.

Talking of Winterbourne Kingston brings me to the sad loss we have suffered there in the death of Mrs. Hooper of North Farm. She was a devoted member of the Church and the Church Committee and a willing helper at all events. We shall miss her greatly in all that she did, but shall remember the wonderful example of courage and thought for others which she set through her long and trying illness. We send our warm sympathy to Mr. Hooper and his daughter Elizabeth.

As you read this you should be receiving the second letter in connection with the 'Friends' Appeal together with the pledge card and an envelope which needs no stamp for your reply.

I have been asked to say that all gifts are welcome, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, as it is often the number of small amounts that add up to the greater. I do ask for your sympathetic consideration in this appeal. In these days of inflation the load on the shoulders of those immediately responsible for the upkeep of a building of the age and beauty of your Church is a heavy one indeed and without your help becomes intolerable.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that next year, about Ascensiontide, the Bere Regis and District Floral Group are to decorate Bere Regis Church with their wonderful Floral arrangements. The proceeds from this will go to the restoration of the great West Window, which is now in a bad condition due to the shaling of the stonework.
If you remember the previous Flower Festival, you will look forward to this one with the greatest anticipation as I myself most certainly do.

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

Your sincere friend and Vicar
Paul Tranter

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

December 6th.  1st Sunday in Advent
December 13th.  2nd Sunday in Advent
December 20th.  3rd Sunday in Advent
December 25th.  CHRISTMAS DAY  Mrs. Tranter
December 27th.  Mrs. Howard  Mrs. Tadman

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

C. T. T.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 6th.  11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & R. Smith
13th.  11. Messrs. W. F. Lys & F. Marsh
20th.  11. Messrs. I. Mullins & K. Woolfries
6. Messrs. R. Barnes & J. House
24th.  11.45. All Sidesmen
25th.  11. Col. A. Barne & Brig. D. Tadman
27th.  11. Messrs. M. Lys & W. F. Lys
6. Messrs. A. Kircher Smith & M. Barnes

Jan.  3rd.  11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & R. Smith
6. Messrs. R. Barnes & D. Poore

The Sidesmen's Quarterly Meeting will be held on Monday, December 14th, 8 p.m. at the Vicarage. Please try to come.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Dec. 4th. Fri.  7 p.m. St. Nicholas Market
Dec. 9th. Wed. 3 p.m. Sanctuary Guild, Vicarage.

Dec. 14th. Mon. 8 p.m. Vicarage, Quarterly Meeting of Sidesmen.
17th.  Thurs. Mothers' Union Christmas Dinner
20th.  Sun.  6 p.m. Carol Service
23rd.  Wed. Church Decorating for Christmas
24th.  Thurs. Christmas Eve. 11.45 Midnight Communion

1971
Jan.  4th. Mon.  7.30. Parochial Church Council
10th.  Sun.  Plough Sunday 3 p.m. Service Procession 2.45.
13th.  Wed.  Coffee morning, Fircroft, 10.30 a.m. for Flatlets Purse Fund.

Mar. 17th. Wed. 2.30. British Legion Women's Section Spring Sale, Drax Hall.


26th.  Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party
July 3rd.  Sat. Bere Regis School Carnival and Gala

MAGAZINE PRICE

The Parish magazine has remained at the same price of 6d for some six years while the price of printing and paper has gone up out of all bounds. We now find that the magazine is losing more money than the Church can possibly afford. We do not wish to do more than just "break even" - but this we must try to do if the magazine is to continue its service to the village as a whole. In order to 'break even' the price, alas, must go up to 10d per copy. We do hope that our many subscribers will continue to support the magazine which is a model of its kind. In cases of real hardship we will gladly let anyone have it at the old price or the nearest to it in decimal currency, if they will speak to their distributor about it. This applies particularly to Old Age Pensioners.

Consequently from January 1st 1971 the new price of the magazine will be as follows:
10 old pence or 4 New Pence monthly
25 New Pence half yearly
50 New Pence yearly

NEANA, THE BERE REGIS GUIDE DOG FOR THE BLIND

A beautiful photograph of this lovely dog, the gift of the Village to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, can now be seen in the Church porch. It was presented to Mrs. Cahill who was the instigator of the fund to which so many of you contributed.

Do go and have a look at Neana.

MEMORIAL ROSE TREES

The churchyard has now been enhanced with nine standard rose trees. All of them being gifts in memory of people who have died.

We are grateful to Mrs. Tranter who thought of the scheme and has carried it out, to those who have so kindly given the trees and to Mr. Woolfries who has planted them.

The labels saying in whose memory they have been given will be arriving in due course. If there are any others who would like to give a memorial rose tree - please get in touch with Mrs. Tranter.

KNITTED GOODS FOR OXFAM

Congratulations to Mrs. Poore on the wonderful garments she has knitted from unpicked pullovers and jumpers and from odd lengths of wool which she has been given.

The work involved in unpicking, washing and winding the old wool must be tremendous for a start. She has now completely used up all the wool she has been given during the year.

If any of our readers have old (handknitted) garments or short lengths of wool (no matter how short) will they please let Mrs. Tranter have them as soon as possible, who will see that they are passed on to Mrs. Poore.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

May I say how grateful I am to our magazine distributors who brave all weathers to take out the magazine month by month.

The great success of our magazine which goes into practically every other house in the parish, is due in no small part to the devotion of these unpaid and often unthanked devoted body of workers.

They will have a particularly onerous job this coming year with the new price and the new currency. I ask you all to help them as much as possible as they learn to wrestle with the new coinage.

P. T. W. T.

BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

The December meeting will be the Christmas party, and this will be on Tuesday 8th December.

M. E.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES GROUP

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall, Butt Lane. On Wednesday 9th December there will be the Carol Service and Sale. No meeting will be held on the 23rd December.

M. E.

ELSIE ROWLAND

Many parents and past pupils of Bere Regis School must be saddened by the passing of Elsie Rowland, who, for so many years, was a devoted and dedicated teacher.

During her lifetime she saw many changes in the educational field, but she remained true and zealous in her belief that the basic need of the child was to be able to read and write fluently. Numerous must be past pupils who are grateful to her that she introduced them to the rudiments of reading and to the realms of literature.

For a number of years Miss Rowland was a loyal and faithful colleague and I personally owe her a great debt for her great helpfulness and devotion to the children and to the school in general.

In everything she did, her motives were always for the good of the child. She sought no personal reward but at all times, she gave generously and selflessly of her time and energy for the welfare of her young pupils.

Stan. Endacott

BERE REGIS BRITISH LEGION, WOMEN’S SECTION

No meeting in December. Branch Meeting January 20th, Drax Hall 2. 30 p.m. Slides of Flatlets and Rest Homes.

A. L. Coles
BERE REGIS C.P. SCHOOL

P.T.A. DRAMA GROUP

will present a Pantomime by G. Hurley "Jack and the Watercress Plant" in the School Hall on Friday and Saturday January 29th and 30th 1971.

MOTHERS' UNION

In place of the December meeting both the Bere Regis and Kingston Branches are hoping to go out together for dinner.

The suggested date is Thursday December 17th. May we please have the names of those who would like to go, immediately. Husbands etc., are warmly invited.

BERE REGIS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 20th, 6.00 p.m. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The Service of Nine Lessons. The Lessons will be read by members of the firm of Bedford and Jesty.

Printed copies of the Service for all, including full words of the Carols.

Thursday, 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

We again hope to hold our Procession and Service on Plough Sunday (first Sunday after the Epiphany), Sunday January 10th.

2.45 p.m. Procession behind plough leaves the Old Barn Service Station

3.00 p.m. Service in Church.

Please come and join the procession and help to keep alive this ancient country tradition.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

CHRISTMAS-TIDE AT ST. NICHOLAS

CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - 3rd January, 1971

3.15 p.m. FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

Come as a Family, join in and enjoy the Carols of Christmas.

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REMINDER YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ST. NICHOLAS MARKET

FRIDAY - 4th December, in the SCHOOL at 7 p.m.

TO BE OPENED BY MRS. P. G. CURRY

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CHURCH NOTES

On a fine November evening a successful Coffee Evening was held at Winterbourne Cottage, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. P. House. The sum of £6.10.6d was raised to aid the St. Nicholas Market. Most grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. House for opening their home for the occasion, and to all those who contributed to make the evening such a pleasant and worthwhile one.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"THOU SHALT NOT STEAL"

During our consideration of the Commandments we have tried to remember that they were for a people, they were to help the children of Israel to build up the character of the people of God. They were going to their own land, where they would have homes, cattle, vineyards and so forth. How were these people to treat other people's property? God was giving them a new Law. In their Promised Land there was to be no stealing.

All the Commandments, if we interpret them rightly, tell us not only about things that we should not do, but point us to definite duties that we should do, in order to build up our own Christian life. Stealing is taking away something from our neighbour, whilst the opposite is to give something to him. What is our practice about giving? How much do we keep for ourselves? How much do we give to others? Rather searching questions.

There is a story told of how on the banks of a French river stood a blacksmith's shop. On Christmas Eve he was making rivets for a new bridge. Just as he had finished he noticed that one of the rivets had a flaw in it. He was greatly tempted to let it pass. "The bridge" he said, "has very little traffic, one weak rivet out of so many will make no real difference". He was tired and his children were waiting
for him at home, and it was Christmas Eve. But then, he said, "No, I have been trusted with this work, and I must be trustworthy. I have never sent out bad work yet, and the thought of that badly made rivet would always make me uncomfortable." So he took up his great hammer, and made a fresh rivet. Later war broke out. There was a battle on the other side of the river. The French were beaten, and had to retreat. The blacksmith's son was among them. The little bridge, which usually had so little traffic, was the only means by which the soldiers and their heavy guns could retire. The blacksmith stood and watched the bridge strain and sway. But it stood the pressure, because every rivet was sound. Was he not glad that he had done his duty? This story shows the glory of trustworthiness and honesty.

We need to be honest in little things, as well as in the great things. A convict doing penal servitude when asked how long he had been a thief, replied, ever since as a boy he began cheating at marbles. Let us never forget all that this eighth commandment implies.

If we have not got the 'giving' mind, we are always in danger of 'the taking' mind. Christmas, the season of goodwill, when we remember especially the wonderful Gift of the Christ-Child, Whose Birthday we celebrate, shows in greatness and in simplicity what it means to 'GIVE'.

What are we 'giving' this Christmastide? Among our gifts, let us give some thought, some time during this Holy Season, to the message of the Christmas Angels - let us in heart and spirit go even unto Bethlehem that we may find the true meaning of Christmas. Let us "Come and Worship, Worship Christ the new-born King".

E. M. S.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM
November 15th. Victoria Caroline Roffey

BURIAL
November 7th. Elsie Mabel Rowland aged 65

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY BAPTISM
November 1st. Kathryn Ann Vincent

BURIAL
November 17th. Dora Kate Hooper

"SMALL ADS" (2/6 every three lines)

FOR SALE. ALOR CONVECTOR HEATER £1. 5s. LYS-Fircroft, Bere Regis