THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

We have a Confirmation Service at Bere Regis on May 22nd and therefore I shall be commencing Confirmation Classes soon after Easter. I shall be glad to have the names of intending candidates in the not too distant future. Normally candidates must be at least 12 years old but the Bishop is always willing to consider exceptional cases on their merit.

Attendance at classes does not mean that candidates must be confirmed or that I must present them to the Bishop but it is a wonderful opportunity for us to talk together about things that matter. If there are any adults who would like to proceed to Confirmation, I will gladly arrange special classes.

We have recently had the splendid gift of a beautiful oak music cabinet to the Church and for this I am most grateful. Miss Rachel Murray most generously paid the cost of all the materials and the cabinet has been lovingly made by our two Churchwardens, Mr. F. Marsh and Mr. R. Smith. It has been made to match in with the organ casing and looks very fine in its position by the organ. It is a great convenience to have somewhere to store our Church music safely, where it is readily at hand.

It is with great regret that, as we go to press, I record the death of Mr. Arthur Janes. He was, I suppose, one of the most familiar figures in Bere Regis, sitting in his accustomed place on the Cross in almost every kind of weather.

In his younger days he played a big part in the life of the parish, both inside and outside the Church. He was a kindly and gentle Christian soul, and certainly I, for one, shall miss him greatly.

We send our affectionate sympathies to Mrs. Janes on the sad loss she has sustained.

Easter is early this year and so you will find part of our Lenten arrangements listed in this issue. The full Easter Services will be published next month.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter

EASTER LILIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

Will those of you who would like to give a lily at Easter in memory of some departed relative or friend, please fill in the list which you will find at the back of the Church, from the first Sunday
in Lent, February 15th.

I am hoping that we shall be able to obtain Arum Lilies again this year. The names must be down by Passion Sunday, March 15th. The list will be removed on the evening of that day and once it is removed no names can be accepted for inclusion. Please make no attempt to pay until you are actually asked for the money. The price will be announced at the earliest date possible.

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**SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD**

February 1st. Mrs. House Mrs. Kircher Smith
February 8th. Miss McFall Mrs. Tadman
February 15th. LENT
February 22nd. LENT

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**SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR FEBRUARY**

February 1st. Mr. R. Gooch & Lt. C. Maudens
February 8th. Mr. D. Poore & Maj. A. Kircher-Smith
6. Messrs. K. Woolfries & I. Mullins
February 15th. Messrs. R. Barnes & P. Wyatt
6. Mr. M. Lys & Brig. D. Tadman
February 22nd. Maj. A. Kircher-Smith & Mr. R. Smith
March 1st. Messrs. F. Marsh & M. Barnes

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**VILLAGE CALENDAR**

Feb. 11th. Ash Wednesday, 9.30 Holy Communion 7.00 p.m. Evensong
12th. Thurs. 7.30, Mothers' Union, Drax Hall
26th. Thurs. 3.00 p.m. Evensong
Mar. 5th. Thurs. 3.00 p.m. Evensong
6th. Fri. 2.30 British Legion Sale. Cakes, Jumble, etc.
12th. Thurs. 3.00 p.m. Evensong
19th. Thurs. 3.00 p.m. Evensong
April 16th. Thurs. W.I. Spring Sale. Drax Hall. 3.00 p.m.

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May 22nd. Fri. 7.00 p.m. Confirmation Service, Bere Regis
June 6th. Sat. Carnival and Garden Fete at the School
13th. Sat. Congregational Church Garden Fete at
      The Cedars
27th. Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party

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**BERE REGIS & WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION**

The monthly joint meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Thursday February 12th at 7.30 p.m. in the Drax Hall. The Speaker will be the Rev. W. G. Sandey, the Vicar of Morden.

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**ASH WEDNESDAY**

FEBRUARY 11th. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion 7.00 p.m. Evensong

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**LENT ARRANGEMENTS**

During Lent the Vicar will be giving a course of talks entitled "On Being perfect". He will commence the course at the Ash Wednesday Evensong, February 11th, and will continue it on Thursday afternoons at 3 p.m. with the exception of Thursday, February 12th (the Thursday immediately following Ash Wednesday) when there will be no Evensong.

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**BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The meetings are held in the Youth Club Hut at 7 p.m. The February meeting will be held on the 17th and will be a members' evening.

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**BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES**

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall at 7.30. On 10th February there will be a beauty demonstration by a Boots representative. On the 24th there will be a slide show by Mrs. Benjafield.

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**BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP**

Miss Sunderland will be the Judge of members' entries in the
Growing Competition, and it is hoped that there will be many bowls of blossom for her to see. Pot plants are also an entry - they must have been in your possession for more than three months. Miss Sunderland will speak on "Growing Plants". Tuesday, 10th February, 2.30 p.m. - bring your entries with you.

At the Annual General Meeting it was decided to give the following donations:

- £5: Victoria Home for Crippled Children
- £10: Village Hall maintenance
- £10: New Headquarters of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies.

ALFRED JAMES CROCKER 1892 - 1969

I always regarded Alfie as being as typically English as an Oak Tree, and furthermore he was as strong and firm and dependable as British Oak.

A carving of him could only have been made in the same wood - weather-beaten, strong-featured and utterly solid. With animals or the fowls he was gentle and they shewed no fear of him. "My Chookies" he called them all.

Apart from his service in the front line in France during the first World War, I do not think he ever left the Bere Regis area. He was not interested in the modern progressive world; his world was his work; in the woods, on the farm and in the garden.

He had a remarkable memory and it was always worth while to listen to his stories of local life at the start of the century.

Every autumn Alfie would hang his antiquated old scythe up on a tree. He said it whetted better in the Spring. It hangs up now like Father Time's, never to be whetted again.

We shall all miss him, and our sympathies go out to Mrs. Crocker and her family in their sad loss.

A.M.B.

THE CHURCH ROOF

The twelve carved figures of the nave roof have always been a source of interest and there has been much speculation as to the identity of the various figures. There can be little doubt that they are meant to represent the twelve Apostles, as Peter in particular is definitely recognizable by his mitre; keys and model of a church, Judas Iscariot holding a money bag and Philip with a pilgrim's staff are also recognizable, but the identity of the remainder has always been a matter of some doubt.

Recently, when making sketches of the figures for a drawing, I found it necessary to allocate a number to each figure for reference purposes, and to be as logical as possible, I started on the north side (a usual custom for drawings and maps) and numbered from left to right, and then continued on the south side, again from left to right. In this system of numbering Judas becomes No. 6, Philip No. 9, and Peter No. 10, and it was at this point that I was struck by an interesting thought - if they were intended to represent 12 apostles, then surely the designer of 500 years ago would have put them in some sort of order.

Oddly enough, the numbering sequence I had decided upon causes the three identifiable (underlined) figures to fit into alphabetical order, as follows:

5. John 8. Matthew
3. James 10. Simon Peter
2. Bartholomew 11. Simon Zelotes
1. Andrew 12. Thomas

Having arrived at this supposition, there are several points which appear to confirm it. Andrew, for example, appears to be wearing what could be the mediaeval version of a fisherman's hat, and John and Matthew, the two evangelists of the twelve, are holding books. Also James and John were brothers, and the figure of one of the two James' bears a striking resemblance to John, as they have the same type of beards and hair styles, and their robes are of the same form and colour - green with red cuffs and lappets. Figure No. 7, may be Lebbaeus (surnamed Thaddeus) according to Matthew (chapter 10) and Mark (chapter 3) or Judas the brother of James according to Luke (chapter 6), but which ever one he is, he would occur in the same position alphabetically.

I do not claim this to be a solution to the identity of the twelve figures in our roof, but put the idea forward merely as a suggested possibility, and I would therefore be interested to hear from anyone who might be able to offer any further evidence.

F.P.P.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON W.1.

Members were welcomed to the first meeting of 1970 by their new President, Mrs. Doe. They enjoyed a very interesting afternoon with slides of the Steam Engine Rally at Stourpaine, and the building of the Swimming Pool for the Kirpton School shown by Mrs. Janes.

Tea was given and served by the Committee.

V.A. House
I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Bracewell and the children of our village school who came round our area in cold weather and sang carols very much enjoyed by all who heard them.

V.A.H.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

CHURCH NOTES

A word of thanks to Mrs. D. Legg who has distributed the Church Magazine for many years, but who now finds it increasingly difficult to do so, owing to other commitments. We are indeed grateful for her help.

We welcome Miss Brenda Puckett, who has undertaken the distribution in this part of the Village. At the same time we would like to say a sincere 'thank you' to our other distributors, Mrs. G. Hansford, Mrs. P. House and Mrs. E. Vincent, for this piece of Church work.

A large congregation attended the Family Service of Lessons and Carols on the first Sunday after the Epiphany. As in previous years the carols were sung by the congregation and members of the Sunday School, who also read the lessons.

The children are to be commended on their reading, singing and the playing of the Recorders, which accompanied the carols sung by the Sunday School.

The Church had been attractively decorated for the Christmas Festival, an illuminated Christmas tree stood at the Chancel steps, and figures, beautifully made by the children of the Primary School, depicting the Nativity and the coming of the Magi, were also placed at the entrance to the Chancel.

We were pleased that the Vicar was able to be with us for this part of 'Christmas'.

We congratulate Churchwarden Simpson and Mrs. Simpson on the birth of a son. We trust he will prove a great blessing to his family.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

"CALL"

There are various kinds of 'calls' that I want you to think about together this month.

First of all let us think about everyday calls. The calls we hear at home, the calls we hear at school, the calls we hear elsewhere. We may be called to our meals, called back as we are going out because we have forgotten something, called back and asked to do an errand, we may be called because someone has something to tell us. The telephone rings and the bell is a sign that someone is wanting to speak to us. The school bell rings calling us to lessons. The Church bells ring, calling us to worship.

Then there are the calls of God. One of the oldest stories in the Bible - it must be about 4,000 years since it happened - tells how God called a man to give his life to God's work. His name was Abraham, and he lived beside a great and beautiful river, the Euphrates; but God called him to leave the country he loved so well, and to go to another land.

He left his father's house, and his kindred, and took with him his wife, Sarah, and Lot, his brother's son. They went to the land we now call Palestine. It was not easy for Abraham to answer God's call, since he was an old man of seventy-five. But he did, and it was into this family that Jesus was born in Bethlehem about 2,000 years later.

Then there are God's calls in later days. One of the greatest violin makers was Antonio Stradivari, who probably made the most wonderful violins of all - violins which today are greatly sought after. Stradivari loved his work, he loved God too; he believed that this was what God had called him to do - to make instruments for beautiful music. Antonio Stradivari once said, "God could not make Stradivari's violins without Stradivari". He knew that God needed him, and needed him in this way.

Then there is the call of worship. What is our own custom, our own rule about Sunday. Some people have not got a rule at all, sometimes they go out, sometimes they stay indoors, sometimes they go to Church if they feel like it.

But what would happen to our school if we only went when we felt like it? And what would happen to our letters if the postmen only delivered them when they felt like it, what would happen to our milk, if the milkman only delivered it when he felt like it, and so we could go on. In the big things of life we cannot afford to do what we 'feel
like'. Don't you think a good rule is, "God's House on God's Day"? That was our Lord's rule and He kept it through His life. That, I know, is the rule of some boys and girls and grown up people too, but it would be lovely if more and more of us could make it our rule.

God will call us in many ways as life goes on. How are we going to respond to that call - our very own calling.

E.M.S.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

BURIALS

1969
14th December, Kathleen Cheffey aged 76.
26th December Alfred James Crocker aged 77.

1970
10th January Arthur William Janes aged 86

'SMALL ADS'

(2/6 every three lines)

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