My dear People,

Firstly this month I should like to say on behalf of both Mrs. Tranter and myself how very grateful we are to the people of Winterbourne Kingston the Sunday School and the Mothers' Union for the most generous gift they gave us at a little reception on November 31st. We were both very touched and grateful for these tokens of their affections and they will always be a perpetual reminder of the happy times we have had at St. Nicholas.

What a pleasure it was to have the Bishop of Sherborne with us on that occasion, being held, as he is, in such warm affection by everybody.

The Bishop dedicated the Lady Chapel at St. Nicholas in memory of Mrs. Sheppard, at Evensong and preached a most gripping and telling Sermon. I am very glad to think that the Chapel is now dedicated and can be used and that it will be a perpetual reminder of a most wonderful lady.

As this is the last magazine which will be taken by Winterbourne Kingston we shall be losing that section of the magazine which has been reserved for their particular activities. Alas! that means that this is the last issue in which we shall have an article from Miss Sheppard.

She has been writing for 'Younger Readers' for many years and her articles have given untold help and encouragement to a great many people. We shall miss them greatly but do thank her for all the care and trouble she has gone to month by month to keep the series running. Is there anyone who would like to carry on for us in Bere Regis in the same sort of way?

It was decided at a lively meeting to carry on the Mothers' Union as in the past, but that new efforts should be made to reach a wider membership. It was also decided that after the ups and downs of recent years it would be a good idea to make a complete break and to start afresh in the New Year. Consequently there will be no meetings until February 1972, when we hope to start with a new page and new enthusiasm. There is to be a Committee Meeting on December 6th and the Committee would welcome suggestions for the improvement and better running of the M. U.

Again we come to the Christmas Season and I shall be grateful if you will take careful note of the various Christmas Services, which you will find fully listed on later pages.

It is with deep regret that this month we have to record the death of Mrs. Matilda Smith, at the advanced age of 98 years. She was
a wonderful woman and kept up her great interest in current affairs and what was going on around her right to the end. We send our sincere sympathy to Mr. Smith, our Churchwarden, and to Miss Smith our organist on the death of their Mother.

Every blessing and good wish for Christmas from Mrs. Tranter and myself.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter

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**SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD**

5th December 2nd Sunday in Advent
12th December 3rd Sunday in Advent
19th December 4th Sunday in Advent
25th December CHRISTMAS DAY Mrs. Tranter
26th December Mrs. Tadman

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

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**SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR DECEMBER 1971**

| 5th December  | 11. Messrs. G. Ward & K. Woolfries 
| 12th December | 6. Messrs. M. Barnes & F. Marsh 
| 19th December | 11. Col. A. Barne & Mr. M. Lys 
| 21st December | 6. Messrs. R. Smith & J. House 
| 26th December | 6. Messrs. R. Barnes & M. Barnes 
| Christmas Eve | 11. 45 All Sidesmen 
| 26th December | 11. Messrs. R. Smith & F. Marsh 
| 11. Messrs. R. Barnes & M. Barnes 

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**SIDESMEN'S QUARTERLY MEETING**

This meeting for the arranging of the Rota of Sidesmen on duty will be held at 8 p.m. in the Vicarage on Wednesday December 15th. Sidesmen please make a note of the date and endeavour to be present.

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**VILLAGE CALENDAR**

| 6th December | 8.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Committee, Vicarage (Mon) 
| 7th December | Floral Group Annual Meeting, Tuesday 

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**9th December Thurs.**

3 p.m. Sanctuary Guild, Vicarage

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**10th December Fri.**

British Legion Christmas Whist Drive

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**12th December Sun.**

3 p.m. Nativity Play by the Sunday School

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**16th December Wed.**

Bere Regis School Carol Service in the Church

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**20th December**

8 p.m. Sidesmen's Quarterly Meeting

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**17th December Fri.**

Dorset Federation of Youth Clubs Carol Service in the Church.

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**19th December Sun.**

6 p.m. Bere Regis Church Carol Service.

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**21st December Tues.**

Young Wives Carol Singing for Cheshire Homes

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**23rd December Thurs.**

Decorating for Christmas

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**25th December**

Christmas Day

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**1972**

9th January Sun.

Plough Sunday

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**15th March Wed.**

Royal British Legion Spring Sale 2.30 Drax Hall

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**18th March Sat.**

Put Clocks on one hour

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**26th April Wed.**

7 p.m. Archdeacon's Visitaton, Bere Regis

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**19th May Fri.**

7 p.m. Confirmation at Bere Regis

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**10th June Sat.**

Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party

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**24th June Sat.**

Bere Regis Garden Party

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**13th July Thurs.**

Women's Section R.B.L Garden Party White Lovington.

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**MOTHERS' UNION**

At the meeting on November 10th it was decided to carry on with the Mothers' Union, and there was to be a campaign for new members. It was also decided that there would be no meetings during the winter but that a fresh start would be made in February 1972. Consequently, the next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Wednesday, February 10th. Full details later.

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**NATIVITY PLAY**

A Nativity Play will be given by the Sunday School on Sunday December 12th at 3 p.m. in the Church. This is very much a new venture and it is to be hoped that it will be very well supported. I am most grateful to our Sunday School Teachers who are putting so much enthusiasm and effort into this Play.

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**KNITTED GOODS FOR OXFAM**

Once more we have to congratulate Mrs. Poore on the wonderful garments she has knitted from odd lengths of wool and unpicked pull-overs and jumpers which she has been given.
The goods made a colourful and brave show when they were exhibited in the Church one Sunday recently.

If any of our readers have old (handknitted) garments or short lengths of wool will they please let Mrs. Tranter have them as soon as possible, who will see they are passed on to Mrs. Poore.

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**MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS**

May I say how grateful I am to our magazine distributors who brave all weather to take out the magazine month by month. They have had a particularly difficult time this year with both the increase in price of the magazine and also the change over to decimal currency. But they overcome all these difficulties with outstanding success and the outstanding success of our magazine which still goes into practically every other house in the parish, is due in no small part to the devotion of these unpaid and often unthanked body of workers.

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**ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS 1971**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th. 6.00 p.m. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT.**

The Service of the Nine Lessons this year the Lessons will be read by representatives of the Royal British Legion to mark the 50th anniversary of their formation. Printed copies of the Service for all, including full words of the Carols.

**Friday DECEMBER 24th. 11.45 p.m. Midnight Communion**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 11.00 a.m. Mattins
- 12.00 noon Holy Communion

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**PLUGH SUNDAY**

The Annual Procession and Service for Plough Sunday will be held on Sunday January 9th (the first Sunday after the Epiphany). The Procession will leave the Old Barn Service Station at 2.45 p.m. followed by the Plough Sunday Service in Church at 3.00 p.m. Please come and join the Procession and help to keep alive this ancient Country tradition. The Plough will be carried in procession by members of the Young Farmers Club.

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**BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP**

The results of the Group competition were : Senior Section - Mrs. House. Junior Section : Mrs. Chilcott.

December 7th A.G.M. at the Drax Hall. (P. House)

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**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION**

At the Annual General Meeting a satisfactory financial position was announced and the Section had been able to send £95 to Women's Section Charities during the year as a result of their money raising efforts.

Coffee Morning in aid of Poppy Fund held at Fircroft by kind invitation of Miss E. Lys raised £28.10p. Raffle winners were : Miss Llewellyn, Miss Ann Lys, Mrs. Tranter, Mrs. Janes.

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**BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The December meeting will be on the 14th in the Drax Hall, and will be a Christmas Party.

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**BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES GROUP**

On December 15th a Carol Service and Sale will be held in the Congregational Church. There will not be a meeting on the 28th.

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**WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON**

**MOTHERS' UNION**

The December meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held in the School House, at Winterbourne Kingston, on Wednesday, 8th December at 2.30 p.m. It has been agreed to revert to afternoon meetings, on the second Wednesday in the month. Christmas Carols will be sung and the speaker will be the Revd. W. Stanger, who will also show pictures connected with Missionary work.

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**BISHOP'S VISIT**

The Eve of All Saints' Day was such an appropriate time for the Bishop of Sherborne to visit our Church for Evensong, during which the Lady Chapel was dedicated. Friends from near and far were present at the Service - which was simple and beautiful.

The new Lectern Bible, a gift to the Church from Mr. Bracewell, was also dedicated by the Bishop. We are most grateful for this kind present.

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**MAGAZINE**

As this is the last issue we shall have of the combined Parish Magazine, that of the Parish Church of Bere Regis with St. Nicholas, Winterbourne Kingston, we are hoping to have a News Leaflet, which
will keep our readers in touch with the Church and other activities in the Parish.

CHRISTMAS-TIDE AT ST. NICHOLAS

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 14th.
11.45 p.m. MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
with Christmas Hymns.

CHRISTMAS DAY
December 25th.
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
with Christmas Hymns.

It is felt that a Mid-night Christmas Communion would be appreciated by some of our congregation, and the Revd. W. Stanger has offered to take this service. It is hoped that as many as possible will take the opportunity of attending this Celebration, which will begin at 11.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve - the actual act of Communion taking place on Christmas Day. There will be another Celebration on Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m. for those who are unable to attend the Midnight Service.

2nd SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 2nd January, 1972

3.15 p.m. FAMILY CAROL SERVICE. Come as a Family, join in and enjoy the Carols of Christmas.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

GOOD-BYE

The little town of Bethlehem lay quiet and still under the stars; the innkeeper and the travellers, the camels and donkeys, the men and women, boys and girls of Bethlehem were fast asleep and still, but that night in the quiet dark the Christ-Child was born in a stable, the manger was His cradle.

The shepherds on the hillside were wrapped in their cloaks watching over their sheep, the sky seemed full of a glorious host of angels and the air filled with their song of praise, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men". The Shepherds came to the stable, they saw the Christ-Child, they fell down and worshipped Him, they told others, and others have told others, and so on, down to us - to this very present time.

As we approach this most wonderful and holy season of Christmas with its gaiety, its festivity, bells, holly and Christmas Trees, let us not forget the One Whose Birthday we celebrate, that of Christ the Lord - for this is what Christmas really means. Santa Claus, who is a symbol of our patron saint, Saint Nicholas, had in his life something of the spirit of Christmas, that of giving.

"God so loved that He gave". He gave His Son at Christmas. One of the most beautiful things that happen at Christmas is the giving that people practise. In America they call it giving white gifts to the King. People who know about Jesus, give gifts to poor people, sick people, lonely people, not because they have to, but because of love. They try to follow the example of God, and give gifts of love, because love always likes to give the very best.

It is Christmas all round the world. Let us make room for the Christ-Child in our lives this Christmas, let us realise the true meaning of Christmas, in its fullest and richest sense, and as we go forward to 1972 let us try to carry this spirit of giving with us in our service to God and our fellow men.

I have enjoyed writing for the magazine for, I may say, nine years. Now the time has come to say 'Good-bye', for we at St. Nicholas will no longer be a part of the Parish of Bere Regis. I feel I have made friends with unknown readers through these pages and I deeply appreciate the privilege of having had the opportunity of sharing thoughts with you.

Let us in heart and spirit - go even unto Bethlehem and "Worship Christ the new-born King". Let us go forward into 1972 - ready to serve that King.

In its true meaning I say, Good-bye - God be with you.

E. M. S.

ROAD SAFETY No. 2

ANALYSIS OF A HEAD-ON CRASH

December will be here by the time that you read this and it looks as though we are in for a cold winter. The roads are liable to be slippery and icy and there is real danger of a skid. Let us look at a skid which could have very serious results and see if we can learn anything from it.

You are (or I am) driving along a dual carriage way, or perhaps a section of motorway. The road surface is wet, but otherwise it feels all right. Suddenly you see a car in front of you drive into the back of a lorry. The resultant crash completely blocks your side of the carriage-way. You are travelling at 70 mph and the crash occurred 1 second ago. It has taken you a second to realise that something is happening. You have already travelled 102 feet. How far away is the crash? How close were you travelling to the car which has just been involved in the accident? No time to think about that. Slam on the brakes. Nothing happens. It takes you a second to realise why you are skidding. You have now travelled another 102 feet. You are not slowing down because you are still skidding. The only thing to do is try to steer away from the pile up. You turn the steering wheel, but again, nothing happens. Three
seconds have now passed and altogether we have travelled 306 feet or 102 yards or about the length of a football pitch. If you take your foot off the brake you will stop skidding. You take your foot off the brake. The wheels grip the road immediately. But you had turned your front wheels to the right during the third second of your skid! You did not centre them again. Your wheels are now gripping the road and the car turns across the central reservation. You are still going at about 70 miles an hour because during your skid you hardly slowed down at all. You are now in the other traffic lane facing oncoming traffic at 70 mph. Your closing speed is now 140 mph or 204 feet per second. I could leave the rest to your imagination but for the purpose of the story you manage to miss all oncoming traffic and you come to a halt safely on the hard shoulder, shaken but unhurt.

How can we avoid skidding on slippery surfaces. The Police Driving School at Hendon teaches the use of 'cadence' braking. This means putting your foot on the brake and depressing it as hard as you dare. As soon as you feel the car start to skid, or preferably just before you know it is about to skid, take the foot off the brake. The skidding will stop. Put your foot on the brake again and repeat the operation and continue to do this until you have come to a standstill. You may have to pump the brakes three or four times to come to a full stop, but you will find remarkably short stopping distances are possible even in ice and snow.

One thing is certain if you leave your feet down on the brake you probably won't stop until you hit something.

Remember your stopping distances. The Highway Code page 8 and the back cover gives some guidelines. A practical example worth bearing in mind is if you are travelling to Dorchester from Bere Regis someone turning towards Poole out of South Mead will start to drive on to the main road when the road is clear. If you now appear round the corner from the Old Barn Service Station there is no real problem, provided you are going at only 30 mph. If, however, you come round that corner at 45 mph there is real danger that you will collide with the oncoming car because your stopping distance is now about 150 feet or 50 yards and there is only about 30 yards visibility round that corner. Have a look at the ground, you will see what I mean. Never travel at a speed which is faster than that which will enable you to stop in good time in an emergency. Remember, there would be no accidents if there were no emergencies.

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**S M A L L  A D S.** (15p every three lines)

**FOR SALE. SCALEXTRIC MODEL MOTOR RACING CARS AND TRACK.**
Cars need minor adjustment, worth over £10. £7.50 o.n.o. Also Cot and Mattress. Cot converts to Play-Pen. £2.50. Apply: Pitfield, Hillbutts, Butt Lane, Bere Regis. Tel: 391.

**HERBACEOUS PLANTS** for sale in variety. 7½p each. Apply The Vicarage, Bere Regis 262.