THE VICAR’S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

I did say last month that I hoped to include in this issue an Obituary of Archbishop Lord Fisher, but the man and his life has been so well covered by Press, Radio and TV that I no longer think it necessary, and will add nothing to the many excellent notices that have already been written about this very great man.

I wish now to say how very grateful we all are to those ladies of the congregation who have enhanced the beauty of our Church with the lovely needlework which has recently been put into position.

We used the new kneeler for the Altar rails for the first time on Harvest Festival Sunday, and it is a lovely thing in its rich colours, both made and designed in the parish and at the same time the tapestry panels for the altar in the Morton Chapel were put in position, thus completing the design for the altar. These panels again are of great beauty, also designed and made in the parish. Things like this do not just happen there is a vast amount of thought and care that goes into them and they will be, for many many years a reminder of the love that people had for their church at this time.

I promised a couple of months ago to say something more about the restoration of the Chapel.

It is now well on the way to completion and I am hoping that before the end of the year we shall be able to see it as a completed whole. I do not wish, at this moment, to list the actual gifts to the chapel, as in a number of instances sums of money have been given to be used where the need is greatest, and these gifts have still to be allocated. But in the meantime I may say that we have had gifts of a beautiful cross and candlesticks, in stainless steel. These are in the process of being made. A carpet to cover the whole area has been ordered and will come in due course, and two houselling benches are being designed. Eight very suitable chairs have been bought, a sample of these upholstered in green can be seen in the chapel. The cost of each chair is £10 and they can be inscribed on the back with the name of the donor or the name of the person in whose memory it has been given. Three of these are already allocated, which leaves five available to be given as gifts. If any of our readers would like to give a chair as a memorial would they please see me about it.

An Altar Book has already been promised, and the metal grille for the radiator is being made in the parish. The hassocks all done in tapestry are made and finished and are stored ready for use as soon as
the chapel is completed. The woodwork too, all conceived and executed by our own people, is now finished. So we can see that an idea that was first formulated some 30 - 40 years ago has at last come to fruition, and we all look forward to the time when the altar can be consecrated and the chapel can come into use.

It was a kind thought of the Rural Dean of Purbeck Deanery, where we shall go after January 1st, to invite Mrs. Tranter and myself to their annual supper for the clergy of that Deanery. We received a very warm and kind welcome and I feel sure we shall all feel very much at home in our new Deanery in a very short time.

Your sincere friend and vicar,

PAUL TRANTER.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

November 5th. - Mrs. Barne.
" 12th. - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY. Mrs. Barne.
" 19th. - Mrs. Barne.
" 26th. - Mrs. Barne.

The bi-annual Sanctuary Guild Meeting will be held in the Vicarage on Wednesday, December 6th at 3 p.m. C.T.T.

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SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR NOVEMBER.

Nov. 5th. 11. Messrs. K. Woolfries & F. Marsh.
" 26th. 11. Messrs. K. Lys & Major M. Knowles.


VILLAGE CALENDAR.

3 p.m. British Legion Service.
" 21st. Tues. Autumn Leaves (over 65 group) 3rd Meeting at Youth
Club Hut.
" 28th. Tues. 2.30 p.m. Floral Group Christmas Fair. Drax Hall.
Dec. 1st. Fri. Conservative Evening Party 7.30 p.m.
" 3rd. ADVENT SUNDAY. Collections for the Blind.
" 6th. Wed. 3 p.m. Vicarage - Sanctuary Guild.
" 9th. Sat. Drax Hall Committee. Christmas Fare. 2.30 p.m. -
Drax Hall.
" 12th. Tues. 2.30 Floral Group Annual Meeting.
" 13th. Wed. 8 p.m. Youth Club Committee.
" 17th. Sun. 6 p.m. Carol Service.
" 20th. Wed. 2.30 School Carol Service.
" 22nd. Fri. Decorating the Church.
" 24th. Sun. CHRISTMAS EVE. 11.45 Mid-night Communion.
" 25th. Mon. CHRISTMAS DAY.

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Jan. 7th. Plough Sunday Service - 3 p.m.
April 8th. Commencement of Children's Mission.
" 22nd. EASTER DAY.
May 31st. ASCENSION DAY. Friends Service.
June 8th. 7 p.m. Confirmation Service.
" 30th. Bere Regis Garden Party.

MOTHERS' UNION.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held at 7.30 p.m. at
the Vicarage on Wednesday, November 8th, when Mrs. Shipp, who is the
Representative of the Speakers Panel of the M.U. will be speaking to us
on "Growing up together".

The last time Mrs. Shipp came to us, she was speaking about the M.U.
in general, at the commencement of our re-organisation, and was enjoyed
by all.

If there is sufficient support, we are hoping to arrange an evening
out for dinner at Weymouth on Saturday, December 16th. If you would like
to go, together with husbands or friends, please speak to the Secretary,
Mrs. England, so that she can know in good time whether to go ahead with
arrangements or not.

Phyllis Tranter.
BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP.

The next meeting of the above Group will be held on November 3rd at 2.30 p.m. in the house of Dr. & Mrs. Boyd, 19 South Mead.

The meeting lasts about an hour and any interested will be warmly welcomed. At the moment we are studying the return of Jesus Christ as depicted in St. Matthews Gospel.

MEMORIAL ROSE TREES.

Owing to the unexpected popularity of her scheme for Memorial standard rose trees in the Churchyard, Mrs. Tranter wishes to make it known that all available space has now been used up and that she can no longer accept orders for any more trees.

She would suggest however, that if any one disappointed would like to do something in memory of a dear one, they might like to contribute a chair or some such item to the furnishing of the Morton Chantry Chapel.

RECORDED MUSIC GROUP.

The first meeting of the group will be held on Thursday, November 9th at 7.45 p.m. The programme will be - OVERTURE - IN THE SOUTH - ELGAR. BRANDENBURG CONCERTO NO: 2 - BACH.

COFFEE BREAK.

SYMPHONY NO. 2 - BEETHOVEN.

If this music appeals to any one who has not yet contacted me, please come along and join us at Hillbutts.

Brenda Pitsfield.

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 12TH.

The Service of keeping the two minutes Silence will commence at the War Memorial at 10.50 (weather permitting) and afterwards in the Church. We are looking forward very much to welcoming our non-conformist Brethren at this Service, when we can remember together men and women from the Village who gave their lives during two world wars.

The Last Post and Reveille will be sounded from the Church Tower. The Preacher will be the Rev. Clifford Gilwhite, a Methodist Minister, and the names of those on the Roll of Honour will be read at this Service.

3 p.m. Parade of the British Legion and Annual Service.

PARISH CLERK & VERGER.

Owing to the death of Mr. E. W. Rawbone there is a vacancy in the above post.

The Vicar would be glad to hear of anyone, preferably retired and living near the village, who might be interested.

There is a certain amount of Sunday work and duties include taking in Banns of Marriage and making arrangements for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals for which the usual statutory fees are paid apart from a small salary.

Full information can be obtained from the Vicar or Churchwardens.

HERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES GROUP.

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall. On the 14th November there will be a demonstration of Paper Sculpture by Mrs. Farrow, and on the 28th a talk about Alcoholics Anonymous.

HERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

On Tuesday, 21st November the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Drax Hall.

AUTUMN LEAVES.

The first meeting was a success with 47 people arriving and being welcomed at the door by Mrs. Jeeves. Dr. Boyd kindly declared us officially started, which was very well photographed by Mr. Day.

Following tea and refreshments everyone had a piece of cake, which was kindly made by Mrs. Lewis' sister. A raffle was held and also other spontaneous prizes were given. The last 15 minutes was given to a sing-song of old tunes with Mrs. Jeeves playing the piano.

Please note all future meetings will now be held at the Youth Club Hut.

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The PIDDLE VALLEY GUIDES and BROWNIES held 'Olympic' Revels at Buddens Farm on Saturday, 16th September by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Corbin. Guides from Bere Regis and Puddletown went on a trail through the woods. Brownies from Bere Regis, Briantspuddle, Piddlehinton and Puddletown competed in a varied programme of races and games arranged by Mrs. Mullins, District Commissioner. Hot dogs, crisps and squash were served by Guides, parents and other helpers. The revels concluded with an Olympic ceremony at which each unit carried the flag of its chosen country and the youngest Brownie carried the Olympic torch. The District President, Mrs. Howard presented gold, silver and bronze "Olympic Medals" to the winners.
FAMILY SERVICE.

As there will be the British Legion Parade on the second Sunday in November at 3 p.m. being Remembrance Sunday, we shall this month have to cancel the Family Service. In its place children are asked to come to Sunday School at 10:30 as usual and will stay till the end of the 2 minutes silence.

TILL DEATH US DO PART.

With no reflection on the intrepid Mrs. Whitehouse, it does seem strange that it was her voice that had to be raised to produce an apology from Lord Hill on the BBC for a deplorable example of blasphemy and the coupling of the name of the Virgin Mary with obscenity in TILL DEATH US DO PART, the BBC comedy series.

She expected that at least there would have been a protest from the Roman Catholic Church on behalf of its members, and had also hoped that some other Church leader or group would have complained.

Mrs. Whitehouse herself wrote on behalf of her Viewers and Listeners Association to Sir John Eden, the Government minister responsible for overseeing TV, with a copy to Lord Hill. To his credit the chairman of the BBC made no attempt to defend the part of the programme which must have offended many people who saw it and listened to the blasphemy. The unfortunate thing about the whole business is that there are apparently people in responsible positions at the BBC who would be well aware of the offence likely to be given, but who would have read the script and given it their approval.

In his letter to Mrs. Whitehouse, Lord Hill admitted that the BBC had received complaints from viewers, and "senior people in the TV service" believed that the inclusion of the offending passages was a mistake. One trusts that in view of this, the relevant passages have been deleted from the tape recording, rather than that they should remain and be included in any "repeat" that might eventually take place, or be transferred to any copy to be sold abroad.

OLD LENTEN Penance.

Eating fish in Lent in the days before fish fingers and fridges was a very real penance, unless you happened to live by the sea or a handy river. Mostly it meant salt herrings day after day, and this is how one schoolboy wrote home to his father:

"Thou wyl not beleve how wery I am of fysh, and how much I desir that flesh were cum in ageyn, for I have ate non other but salt fysh this Lent."

He must have been thankful when Easter came and fresh meat, but some old men in Henry VIII's day were glad to have a gift of fish.

Cardinal Wolsey went to Peterborough in 1530 on Maundy Thursday, and there in the Lady chapel he washed the feet of fifty-nine poor men, and then "he gave every one of the said poor men 12 pence in money, 3 ells of good canvas to make them shirts, a pair of new shoes, a cask of red herrings, three white herrings and one of these had two shillings."

FROM THE CHURCH TIMES:-

WOMEN PRIESTS?

The ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of England is a question now well and truly before the Church. Since the Anglican Consultative Council at Limuru decided by a narrow majority in favour of the innovation, discussion of the subject has now been made unavoidable in England.

However much, therefore, some people might desire to avert their attention from a question which arouses strong and opposed feelings, the die has been cast. Public debate is now certain, beginning in the General Synod next month. So the Church must brace itself for a long controversy to decide whether or not women should be ordained to the priesthood on a full and exact equality with men, with every office of the priesthood — including, of course, the office of diocesan bishop — thrown open without any discrimination on grounds of sex.

An element of prejudice on both sides is probably inevitable. It is an emotive question, touching heart and mind at a very deep level. But it would be a mistake to allow this fact to disguise the equally certain truth that there are formidable rational arguments which can be brought forward on either side. Enthusiasts for the cause of women priests have no doubt of the strength of their logical case, which is indeed in many ways impressive. The opposite is also true; opponents like Professor E. L. Mascall, are fully prepared to deploy weighty theological arguments against the ordination of women, touching such fundamentals as the nature of the Godhead, of the Incarnation and of the Church.

All these theological arguments on both sides need to be carefully weighed. So do important practical considerations. It has to be asked how the step proposed would affect the unity of the Church of England. How might it affect, if at all, relations with Rome and with the Orthodox section of Christendom? Would it improve and strengthen the Church's mission to the world by proving that the Church is moving with the times? Or, on the contrary, would it weaken the Church's claims to be a unique and divine institution by suggesting that it is prepared always to trim its sails to secular fashions?

All these things are going to need careful thought before the Church of England, claiming as it does to be part of the Church Catholic, could rightly decide on such a departure from age-old tradition. It will be interesting to see what light is thrown on the issue by the current discussions between Anglicans and Roman Catholics on the ministry.
FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

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