My dear Friends,

You will find in a later page some extracts from the Report of the ten-member Mothers’ Union Commission which has been sitting for the past three years under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Willesden.

The Commission was unanimous that divorced women who had not re-married should be eligible for membership of the Mothers’ Union, but on the question as to whether divorcees who had married again should be excluded or not there was a split and the Commission found itself unable to come to a common mind on this key question.

Three members of the Commission favoured the continuance of the existing rule which excludes re-married divorced persons from membership but six members of the Commission favoured the admission to membership of the M.U. of all baptised women who declare themselves able to support the objects of the Society.

Consequently, as the Commission was not unanimous, though there was a large majority in favour of altering the present rule – it has been decided to submit the question to the Mothers’ Union itself.

We all had hoped that the Commission would make some unanimous decisions which could be explained and discussed at meetings to be held all over the country; but this referring back to the M.U. itself will cause an unfortunate delay before a final decision can be made. However, perhaps the more discussion there is before the final decision the better – but hope that the powers that be will treat the matter as of the greatest urgency, and this I think it will do.

Legal responsibility for accepting either set of proposals put forward by the Commission lies with the Central Council of the M.U. in this country.

In the meantime, Mrs. Tranter asks me to say, and I entirely agree with her, that anyone who believes in the 'family' is warmly welcome to all meetings of our Mothers’ Union in this parish.

As you all know, we have now for some time been in the process of restoring the Morton Chantry Chapel. We have not hurried over this matter, as we felt that all our energies must be directed first to getting the general fabric of the Church into good repair.

Now that the tower has been completed the Fabric Committee feel that, with the approval of the Parochial Church Council, the time has come to endeavour to complete the scheme for this section of the interior of the Church.
We have had a number of gifts and promises directed to this end and in the autumn we hope to collate all these and put them into effect. I do not wish to say more about this at the moment as it will come up to be discussed at the next meeting of the PCC on Sept. 21st. But after that meeting I hope I shall be able to tell you more of what we are proposing to do and what we shall still need. I am most grateful to those who have helped in taking services while I have been on holiday and to those who have kept the mechanics of the services running during the long illness of our Verger and Parish Clerk Mr. Rawbone, who we all miss so greatly while he is off sick.

Your sincere friend & Vicar,

PAUL TRANTER.

**********

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

September 3rd Miss E. Lys.
September 10th Mrs. Wyatt.
September 17th Mrs. J. Jesty.
September 24th Mrs. Boyd.

Miss A. Lys.
Mrs. G.N. Griffin.
Miss Murray.
Mrs. Ward.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER.

Sept. 3rd, 11 a.m. Mr. K. Woolfries & Brig. D. Tadman.
6 p.m. Messrs. H. Dashwood & R. Barnes.
10th. 11 a.m. Messrs. M. Lys & G. Ward.
6 p.m. Messrs. J. House & R. Smith.
17th. 11 a.m. Mr. I. Mullins & Major J. Hudson.
6 p.m. Messrs. G. Ward & R. Barnes.
24th. 11 a.m. Col. A. Barne & Brig. D. Tadman.
6 p.m. Messrs. M. Barne & F. Marsh.
6 p.m. Messrs. H. Dashwood & R. Smith.

The Quarterly Sidesmen's Meeting will be held at the Vicarage 8 p.m. Thursday Sept. 14th. Please note the change from the usual day of the week.

VILLAGE CALENDAR.

Sept. 7. Thurs. Coffee evening for Drax Hall Funds. Drax Hall.
7.30 - 9 p.m.

10. Wed. 7.30. Vicarage, Mothers' Union.

14. Thurs. 8 p.m. Vicarage. Sidesmen's Meeting.


20. Wed. 8 p.m. Youth Club Committee.

21. Thurs. 7.30 p.m. Vicarage. Parochial Church Council.

29. Fri. 3 p.m. Bible Study. 19 South Mead.

30. Sat. 7 p.m. Drax Hall. Harvest Supper.


4. Wed. Meeting at Dorchester for explanation of new M.U.
   Charter.


16. Mon. 3 p.m. School Managers' meeting.

20. Fri. Youth Club Week commences.

21. Sat. W.I. Sale. Drax Hall. 3 p.m.

22. Sun. 6 p.m. Youth Service.


Nov. 8. Wed. 7.30 p.m. Mothers' Union. Mrs. Shipp 'Growing up
   together.'

Dec. 1. Fri. Conservative Evening Party. Drax Hall. 7.30 p.m.

6. Wed. 3 p.m. Sanctuary Guild. Vicarage.

17. Sun. 6 p.m. Carol Service.

1973


MOTHERS' UNION.

Our September meeting will be held at the Vicarage on Wednesday Sept.
13th at 7.30 p.m. and, as I indicated last month, will be a special meeting to mark the beginning of our autumn session. We are proposing to have a social 'get together' with special refreshments, a 'bring and buy' sale and to finish with a general meeting to elect committee members and officers, and to discuss policy for the coming year.

I do hope that every member will do her utmost to be present so that we can have a fully representative gathering for the meeting and to give us a good start after the summer break.
In the meantime, if any members are willing to make something for the refreshments - will they kindly get in touch with Mrs. England, our Secretary, and let her know what they are willing to do.

Finally, I should like to welcome any non-members who would care to come and join us on this social occasion.

Phyllis Tranter.

______________

**HARVEST ARRANGEMENTS.**

Harvest Supper. Saturday September 30th. Drax Hall 7 p.m.

Tickets from Churchwarden Smith or from Church Councillors.

25p each.

They are limited in number, so book yours now to avoid disappointment.

Bring your own knife, fork and spoon.

Special Speaker: MR. G.F. FARRIMOND, whose talk will be on Forestry, illustrated with slides.

______________

**HARVEST SERVICES.**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st.**

8 a.m. Holy Communion.

11 a.m. Matins.

3 p.m. Children’s Gift Service.

6 p.m. Evensong.

Gifts of fruit, flowers, vegetables will be welcomed, preferably on Monday morning Sept. 29th when the Church is to be decorated.

The Family Service usually held on the 2nd Sunday will for this month be moved to the 1st Sunday so as to co-incide with the Harvest. We hope all our children will bring a gift to the Harvest.

****

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.**

**WOMEN’S SECTION.**

A successful Garden Party was held at White Lovington by kind permission of our President.

The opening ceremony was performed by the County Chairman, Mrs. E. Smith, who was presented with a Victorian posy by Susan Poore.

a member’s grand-daughter. The Raffle was won by Miss D. Phillips, Mrs. Shugnell, Mrs. E. Brown, Mrs. R. Standfield, Miss M. Mooney, Mrs. Austen, Mrs. T. Oliver, Treasure Hunt M. Brookes. The amount raised was £72.39, including the sale of D.N.I. and Cambrian goods.

Sept. meeting 2.30 Sept. 20th and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Oct. 18th 2.30 p.m.

**WAR MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

Sept. Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Cheeseman.


A. L. Coles,

Sec.

**********

**BRIANTSPUNDE SINGERS.**

Next season begins on September 26th at 8.00 p.m. in the Briantspuddle Village Hall. Main work this season - Verdi’s Requiem, to be performed in the Coade Hall, Bryanston School on March 24th 1973. New members welcome. For further details please contact the organiser, Mrs. F. Pitfield, Bere Regis 391.

**RECORDED MUSIC GROUP.**

Have you any favourite records which you would like other people to hear? Would you like to visit other people in their homes to hear their favourite records? If so, please contact Mrs. F. Pitfield, Bere Regis 391.

***

**BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP.**

The next meeting will be on September 12th, the demonstrator will be Mrs. Stephen King and there will be a Plant stall.

Will members who wish to go to the Fork Supper on October 10th please get their tickets at the September meeting.

On September 17 and 18 the Area Exhibition will be held at the South Dorset College of Education, Weymouth.

P. H.

***

**BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE.**

There will be a SALE OF WORK on SATURDAY OCT. 21st in the Drax Hall at 3 p.m. to be called The Bere Regis Boutique. Produce and Food Stalls, White Elephant and Jewellery, Grandmother’s Treasures, Teas, Admission Free.
The Speaker at the September meeting will be Mr. Ross Cox, on Studland National Nature Reserve.

M.E.

***

HERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES GROUP.

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall, Butt Lane, on Tuesday Sept. 12th at 7.30. There will be a talk about Tapestry by Mrs. Gibb, and on the 26th a Quiz.

M.E.

*********************************************************************

100 Years Ago
FROM THE CHURCH TIMES.
July 26, 1872

If fair weather auger golden future, the Sisters of East Grinstead must be greatly cheered by the halo of glorious sunshine which always decks St. Margaret's day. The sun shone down its rays with an extreme intensity, lighting up the charming country which girds the town in bright golden hue. The procession formed in a wing of the convent. The spectacle it presented was striking and altogether unique. First came the St. Agnes girls, attired in white muslin dresses with blue trimmings and sashes of Our Lady's hue; then followed, in their uniforms of soberer tint, the girls of the orphanage; next the novices; succeeding them the choir sisters, their sombre habits contrasting with the bright colours that preceded them; lastly the choral and sacred ministers, in crimson vestments. The procession advanced singing the hymn, "Where, O hell, is now thy triumph?" to a simple yet majestic Gregorian tone, the melody of which, chanted in the subdued accents of feminine voices and echoing against the low roof of the cloisters, produced a beautiful effect.

*********************************************************************

MOTHERS' UNION COMMISSION.

The Commission which began its discussions in February, 1969, had as its terms of reference: "To examine the objects of the Mothers' Union and to consider how its witness can be maintained and its work of strengthening Christian family life extended, having in mind that the lifelong nature of marriage is the foundation of family life, and taking into account changes in civil and ecclesiastical law."

The Commission's 500-page report, 'New Dimensions' (SPCK, £1.00), was published recently. In an early chapter it summarises the basic dilemma of the Mothers' Union in trying to be two "essentially incompatible" things at once:

"On the one hand it seeks to be a society which stands for a particular position, and seeks to witness to that position in the life of the Church. On the other hand it also seeks to be - or has allowed itself to be regarded as - the society for all women in the Anglican Communion."

Apart from Lady Corell Barnes, members of the Commission are unanimous in proposing that the Mothers' Union's existing three objects should be revised, in favour of five new objects, embodying the same ideals but more broadly based, as follows:

1. To uphold God's teaching on the nature of marriage and the lifelong nature of the marriage vows as taught by the Church, and to promote their wider understanding and acceptance.
2. To encourage parents to accept and maintain the ideals of Christian family life, and to help them to equip themselves to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
3. To establish and maintain throughout the Anglican Communion a society of Christian women who will unite in prayer.
4. To seek to preserve and strengthen those elements in the laws which favour lasting marriage and stable family life and the protection of the children.
5. To help and support all those whose marriages have met with adversity.

Three members of the Commission - including the chairman - favour the continuation of the existing rule maintaining the principle of the life-long permanence of the marriage vow and the consequent exclusion from membership of remarried divorced women. Six members of the Commission favour the admission to the M.U. of all baptised women who declare themselves able to support the objects of the Society.

The reasoning behind the two totally opposed views - referred to in the Commission's report as Alternatives 1 and 2 - is set out at length in succeeding chapters of the report.

The Mothers' Union will thus have to decide whether, as it is proposed in Alternative 1, to continue as a society whose members have not remarried after divorce while a former partner is still living, or to depart from tradition and admit (as is suggested in Alternative 2) remarried divorcees.

Those who advocate Alternative 1 maintain that those who have remarried after divorce while a former partner is still living cannot personally witness to the indissolubility of marriage, whereas those who advocate Alternative 2 maintain that it is possible for them to do so.
NEWS FOR THE OVER 65'S.

A monthly group is being formed for the over 65's by Mrs. C. Jeeves and 6 helpers.

We plan to give you a chat, light entertainment, not forgetting tea and biscuits, also a raffle for those who wish.

So please come along and join your group "Autumn Leaves" on Tues. Sept. 19th at the Drax Hall at 2.30.

Further information available from Mrs. C. Jeeves, Mrs. Mooney (West St.) or Jeeves the Butchers.

----------------------------------------

'Small Ads.'

(15p every three lines.)

WILL anyone who may have taken my Prayer Book of sentimental value (name inside) from the Church by mistake, kindly return it to the Church or to me -- Audrey Lys, Fircroft, Snow Hill.

****

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

HOLY MATRIMONY.
June 17. Nigel Oliver House and Marilyn Ann Stickland.

HOLY BAPTISM.
July 22. Andrew Frederick Ward.

****

THE RIGHTS OF THE HEART.

WHEN the Duke of Windsor died in Paris M. Maurice Schumann, the French Foreign Minister, said: "One must thank the Duke of Windsor for having, in an implacable age, caused a short break in the clouds on behalf of the rights of the heart."

Perhaps only a Frenchman would have thought and said that, but how important it is to remember that the heart has rights!

This age is so often implacable, and quite unyielding and inexorable (which is what the dictionary gives as the meaning of the word "implacable") in its pressures for things other than those of the heart. You see a small example of this in the advertisements on television, where you are persuaded in many clever and subtle ways that the possessors of THINGS are those who are happy, successful, beautiful and desirable.

It is in your heart that you know that this is not true, but it is for many people increasingly difficult to gain a breathing-space to things of the heart, the spirit and the imagination.

To be cont'd ...