THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear People,

You will find in a later page of this issue, details of a Children's Mission which is being run under the auspices of the Scripture Union. I very much hope that this effort will be warmly supported by parents and children.

It is a good many years, 1963, I think, since we had a mission in Bere Regis when the village Evangelists came down, and spent a fortnight with us, conducting special services both indoors and outdoors with a separate series for the children. It will be a long time before I forget the wonderful torchlight procession we had through the village in pouring rain with the huge congregation from the Harvest Festival.

While this Mission is concerned mainly with the children, I very much hope that it will have the full support of all adults.

We shall be altering the Family Service from the 2nd to the 3rd Sunday in the month, so that it will co-incide with the end of the mission and will be a Service of Thanksgiving taken by the Missioner - Mr. Harold Robertson. Full publicity will be given to the mission in due course, but in the meantime I shall be grateful if you will all take particular notice of the programme which you will find in a later page.

Our thoughts at this time are very much with the Pitfield family, who have suffered a series of bereavements during the past two months - first Mr. Hewitt of Rye Hill, then Mrs. L. Crocker of Bere Heath and now Mr. P. Pitfield of Southbrook. Percy Pitfield who was for many years a Sidesman at the Church, was the gentlest and friendliest of men and was loved by everybody. He had a grand sense of humour which was the delight of us all, and we shall miss him very greatly. We send our warm sympathies to all his family and know they will find strength and courage in the Christian faith which the whole family affirm.

May I remind everyone that the Prayer Book tells us that all communicant members of the Church must make their Communion at least three times in the year, of which Easter must be one. I hope you will all endeavour to be present at one of the Easter Day Services of the Holy Communion.

The Annual Church Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 25th; 7 p.m. at the Drax Hall. All those on the Electoral Roll are eligible to vote on all questions, and this is one of the reasons why it is so important for every member of the Church to make quite certain that his or her name is on the Electoral Roll. Application forms can be obtained from the table at the rear of the Church.
As I said last year ordinary lay people are being given more and more opportunities of playing a full part in the running of their Church and it is up to you all to take up the opportunity so given and to play your full part in making the decisions which are now your right. So please, all of you, come to the meeting. A really full and interested Annual Meeting means a vigorous Parochial Church Council and a really informed laity.

One preliminary notice:— The Bishop of Sherborne will be coming on Whit Sunday evening—June 10th to consecrate the new altar and to dedicate the memorial gifts in the Martin Chantry Chapel. This will be a very grand occasion so please book the date now.

Your Sincere Friend & Vicar,

PAUL TRANTER.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

April 1st. Lent. April 8th. Lent.
" 15th. Lent. " 22nd. EASTER DAY—Mrs.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR APRIL.

April 1. 11 a.m. Messrs. K. Woolfries & W. F. Lys.
6 p.m. Messrs. J. House & R. Dashwood.
8. 11 a.m. Col. A. Barne & Major J. Hudson.
6 p.m. Messrs. M. A. Bloomfield & M. Barnes.
15. 11 a.m. Messrs. I. Mallins & K. Woolfries.
6 p.m. Messrs. R. Barnes & J. House.
22. 11 a.m. Mr. M. Lys & Brig. D. Tadman.
6 p.m. Messrs. H. Dashwood & H. A. Bloomfield.
29. 11 a.m. Major M. Knowler & Mr. W. F. Lys.
6 p.m. Messrs. M. Barnes & G. Ward.
May 6. 11 a.m. Mr. K. Woolfries & Col. A. Barne.
6 p.m. Messrs. M. A. Bloomfield & R. Barnes.

VILLAGE CALENDAR.

April 12. Thurs. 3 p.m. Evensong.
15. PALM SUNDAY—Distribution of Palm Crosses. 3 p.m. Family Service as final Thanksgiving for Children's Mission.
16. Mon. 7 p.m. Compline.
17. Tues. 7 p.m. Compline.
18. Wed. 8 p.m. Youth Club Annual General Meeting.
19. MAUNDY THURSDAY—7 p.m. Holy Communion.
20. GOOD FRIDAY—11 a.m. The Litany. 7 p.m. Stainer's "Crucifixion."
22. EASTER DAY—See Notice.
25. Wed. 7 p.m. Annual Church Meeting—Drax Hall.
27. Fri. 2:30 Bible Study Group.

24. Thurs. 10.30 Congregational Church Coffee Morning—19 South Mead.
2.30 Mothers' Union Corporate Communion.
31. ASCENSION DAY. 7 p.m. Friends Service.

June 8. Fri. 7 p.m. Confirmation Service.
10. WHITSUNDAY. 6 p.m. Dedication of Morton Chantry Chapel by the Bishop of Sherborne.
13. Wed. 7.30 Mothers' Union—Vicarage.
30. Sat. 3 p.m. Bere Regis Garden Party.

July 5. Thurs. Mothers' Union Corporate Communion.
11. Wed. 7.30 Mothers Union.
23. Thurs. 2.30 Mothers Union Corporate Communion.
Nov. 27. Tues. Floral Group Christmas Fair.

EASTER LILIES FOR REMEMBRANCE.

Will those of you who would like to give a lily at Easter, please fill in the list at the back of the Church. The names must be down by Passion Sunday, April 8th. The list will be removed on the evening of that day and after that no more names can be accepted for inclusion.
**MOTHERS' UNION.**

April 11th (Wednesday) is the date for the next meeting of the Mothers' Union, at the usual time of 7.30 p.m. and at the Vicarage. Mrs. Gibb is to be the speaker on this occasion and she will be speaking on Social Problems, the title of her talk being: 'Who Cares?'.

**PHYLLIS TRANTER.**

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**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.**

This important meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25th in the Drax Hall at 7 p.m.

At this meeting we shall be going through the Church Accounts, appointing Churchwardens, electing a new Church Council for the coming year, and will be discussing any other relevant business to do with Church life and the day-to-day running of the Church.

All those at all interested in the running of their Church should make a point of being present. If you are on the Electoral Roll come along and use your vote.

It sounds rather dull business - a meeting - but in reality it is most interesting, and we do need the views and help of you all.

Note the date again ...... WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th - DRAX HALL 7 p.m.

Tea & Biscuits.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT & EASTER.**

**Evensong** - 3 p.m. every Thursday.

Mothering Sunday Service: 3 p.m. April 1st.

Palm Sunday: Distribution of Palm Crosses at all Services.

3 p.m. Special Service for Parents and Children as a Thanksgiving for the Children's Mission.

**Holy Week:**

- Monday, April 16th. 7 p.m. Compline.
- Tuesday, 17th. 7 p.m. Compline.
- Wednesday, 18th. 7 p.m. Compline.

Maundy Thursday - 19th. 7 p.m. Holy Communion.

Good Friday April 20th.

- 11 a.m. Mattins with the Litany.
- 7 p.m. Stainers 'Crucifixion' sung by the Choir.

**Easter Day:**

- 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 11 a.m. Mattins.
- 12 noon Holy Communion.
- 5 p.m. Family Service. 6 p.m. Evensong.

**FAMILY SERVICE.**

Will parents kindly note the alterations to the dates of this Service, which have been occasioned by Easter and the Children's Mission.

The special service for Parents and Children run as follows:

- April 1st. 3 p.m. Mothering Sunday Service.
- No Family Service on April 8th.
- April 15th. 3 p.m. Final Service in connection with the Children's Mission.
- April 22nd. Easter Day. 3 p.m. Family Service.

**CHILDREN'S MISSION.**

Treasure Seekers Week, Monday April 9th to Sunday April 15th.

**Children 7 - 12 years.**

- 5.30 - 6.45 p.m. Monday - Friday.
- 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. Thursday and Friday.

**Children 4 - 6 years.**

- 3.30 - 4.15 p.m. Wednesday - Friday.

**Thursday 7 p.m.** Parents with Children.

- Treasure Hunt . Badges etc.

Bring your Bible and meet Mr. Harold Robertson of the Scripture Union at Bere Regis School, at the above times.

**Sunday, April 15th.**

Farewell Family Service - 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Harold Robertson.

Transport can be provided if required to and from all meetings.

**RECORDED MUSIC GROUP.**

The next meeting of this Group will be held at 151 Snow Hill at the invitation of Mrs. Keen, on Thursday, April 5th, 7.45 p.m.

"Music in the lighter vein".

**THE FRANCISCANS.**

I see the W.I. are holding a Coffee Morning on May 19th at Sitterton House in aid of the Franciscans.

The Franciscans are a body of men, some ordained, some laymen, who have taken vows of poverty among others and follow the life pattern of St. Francis.
They have no property of their own, but serve the unfortunate and the ‘down and out’. At the Mother house near Cerne Abbas they have workshops etc. for the re-habilitation of those whose lives have come to grief. They wear a brown habit with a white girdle and sandals on their feet and spend time in prayer and contemplation, but are in the main a working community.

P.T.W.I.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP.

On April 10th we are having a demonstration by Mrs. Dorothy Tuffin entitled "Spring Enchantment". Mrs. Tuffin is a National Demonstrator and anyone interested in the subject of Floral Art should not miss this meeting, and we shall be pleased to welcome visitors.

On May 23rd, members and their friends will be visiting Margery Fish’s garden at East Lambrook and Ford Abbey. The coach will leave Bere Regis at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 8 p.m. Anyone wishing to join this outing may give their names to me before April 10th.

Audrey Lyn.

BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES’.

The meetings in April will be on the 10th and 24th. On the 10th we are visiting Poole Fire Station.

M. E.

BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE.

On the 17th April there will be a talk about Porcelain and Victorian. There will be a Coffee Morning on May 19th in aid of the Franciscans.

M. E.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN’S SECTION.

Coffee evening with Raffle & Bring and Buy on Thursday, May 10th, 6.30 p.m. onwards, at Shepherd's Cottage, Roke Down by kind invitation of Mrs. Cummins – Proceeds towards cost of new panel for Women’s Section Standard.

The April 18th Branch Meeting will be held at Robins Wood Farm – 2.30 p.m. members wanting transport please let Mrs. Cummins or Mrs. Steele have their names. There will be a Raffle & Bring and Buy Stall.

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War Memorial Flowers.
April – Miss Combes. May – Mrs. T. Woolfries.
June – Mrs. Mileham.

A. L. Coles.

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3 Short Poems on Bere Regis from the W.I. Competition ............

ONCE WAS

Lovely village, not too small,
Wandering lanes, room for all,
A church of beauty, unsurpassed,
The one thing that we know will last.
The lanes are gone, the traffic roars,
Some houses now are village stores.
Gone is the peace of yesterday,
Only the noise is here to stay.

BERE REGIS IN FUTURE

What we need is a bypass,
Village hall and public loo,
Some bungalows, a car park,
More litter baskets too.
But when we’ve got a bypass,
Cleaner streets and all the rest,
What shall we have to grumble about,
Will life soon loose its zest?

THOUGHTS ON BERE REGIS.

I love the woods, the fields, the lanes,
And walks with friends and neighbours,
For this is gentle country here,
The land around Bere Regis.

I knew no-one when here I came,
But I’d no cause to worry,
For the people here are kindly souls,
The good folk of Bere Regis.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

We are most grateful to the kind fairy who provided the beautifully embroidered table cloths, with which we were each presented at the Sunday School party. Such a lovely surprise!

Sunday School Teachers.
WISE WORDS FROM A BUILDER.

Christian principles in decay.

The need for a reaffirmation of hallowed Christian principles was stressed by Sir Frederick Catherwood, former director-general of the National Economic Development Council.

Speaking at a church in Sanderstead, Surrey, Sir Frederick - who is now chief executive of Laings, the builders - said that the only advanced thing about contemporary British society was its state of decomposition. "It is not so much the new centre party we want as the old Christian principles," he said. "We are beginning to find out what happens when everyone starts to look after number one."

Among people who were "disposable" in the secular society of today, said Sir Frederick, were girlfriends, unborn children, wives and husbands, children, and the elderly.

"We weep crocodile tears about the old-age pension," he added, "yet it never stops us putting in the next wag's claim. But, if we can dump other people, they can dump us. I doubt if there have ever been more lonely people than there are today; I doubt whether, despite all our wealth, there have ever been more miserable people than there are today."

It was not "trendy" to be Christian. But non-Christian trends had led to a fifty-five per cent rise in illegitimate births in the 1960s; one boy in twelve being born without a father prepared to accept legal responsibility; seven teenage brides in ten being pregnant.

Some people called this a civilised, others a permissive, society, Sir Frederick said. He preferred to call it an irresponsible society.

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APPEAL BY TOP IRISH CHURCHMEN.

In a joint message to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Protestant Church leaders have appealed for renewed efforts to end sectarian assassinations.

Signatories to the statement were the Anglican and Roman Catholic Primes of All Ireland, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland's General Assembly, and the President of the Methodist Church.

The four Church leaders, in a message to their own members, appeal to the whole community to root out the evil of assassination and "tell the murderers and assassins that they are on their own."

The horror of recent murders haunt their minds, they say, and they believe that such acts have brought shame and tragedy to Ireland.

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

Burial:
Feb. 27th. Lucilla Violet Crocker. 72 years.

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SMALL ADS: (15p. every three lines).