THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

For the first time for a number of years we shall not be having a Confirmation Service at Bere Regis, but I shall instead be taking our candidates to Broadstone on Wednesday, May 29th at 7 p.m. This means that classes must commence at the beginning of next month.

The first preliminary class will take place at the Vicarage on Monday March 4th at 8 p.m. and from this meeting we shall fix up classes at a time convenient to the candidates.

It is now, by no means too soon for any contemplating this step to commence thinking about it in real earnest. I already have had the names of some five young people given to me and as in addition I have the names of two adults, this might be a good year for any older people who would like to be confirmed to take the plunge.

I hope to meet all candidates at the meeting on March 4th. Normally candidates must be 12 years of age, but the Bishop is always willing to consider exceptional cases on their merit.

Lent comes awkwardly this year; at least as far as the magazine is concerned, but I include in this issue Services for Ash Wednesday and next month will list the full arrangements for Lent; Holy Week and Easter.

We shall all miss seeing Mrs. Lawes sitting in her accustomed place in Church. She died rather suddenly in the end after a rather long and trying illness, and we send our sympathies to her relatives and friends. We also send our sympathy to Mrs. MacCarthy on the death of her husband, who had not been well for some time and would assure her that our thoughts are very much with her at this time.

I should very much like to express the gratitude of all to Miss Irene Pitfield for all she had done in keeping our Church so beautifully spick and span. Unfortunately for personal reasons she has now had to give up this work after a number of years. Our appreciation is echoed by the remarks in the Visitors Book as to how well the Church has been looked after. I am most pleased to be able to tell you that Mrs. Bastion has very kindly agreed to take over from her, so we can have the full assurance that the Church will continue to be kept in the same way as it has been in the past.

Your sincere friend & Vicar,

PAUL TRANTER.
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

February 3rd. Mrs. Ward Miss Murray
" 10th. Mrs. Lys Mrs. Benjafield
" 17th. Miss McFall Mrs. Tadman
" 24th. Mrs. G. H. Griffin Mrs. G. N. Griffin.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR FEBRUARY.

Feb. 3rd. 11 a.m. Major M. Knowler & Mr. K. Woolfries.
" 6 p.m. Messrs. J. House & M. Barnes.
" 10th. 11 a.m. Mr. W. F. Lys & Col. A. Barne.
" 6 p.m. Messrs. H. Dashwood & M. A. Bloomfield.
" 17th. 11 a.m. Messrs. I. Mullins & G. Ward.
" 6 p.m. Messrs. R. Barnes & D. Poore.
" 24th. 11 a.m. Mr. W. F. Lys & Major J. Hudson.
" 6 p.m. Messrs. M. A. Bloomfield & M. Barnes.
March 3rd. 11 a.m. Mr. K. Woolfries & Major M. Knowler.
" 6 p.m. Messrs. J. House & H. Dashwood.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Feb. 5. Tues. P.T.A. Social Evening at R.B.L. Hall. 8 p.m.
" 6. Wed. 8 p.m. Youth Club Committee.
" 11. Mon. 3 p.m. School Managers.
" 7.30 p.m. Parochial Church Council - Vicarage.
" 14. Thurs. Drax Hall Coffee evening, 7 p.m.
" 25. Mon. Servers Meeting 8 p.m. Vicarage.
" 27. Wed. Ash Wednesday ... See Notice.
March 4. Mon. Confirmation Classes commence 8 p.m. Vicarage.
" 20. Wed. R.B.L. Women's Section Spring Sale.
" 31. SUN: 11 a.m. Visit of Archdeacon Seager.
April 14. EASTER DAY.
" 26. Fri. Diocesan Mothers' Union Festival, Salisbury.
" 29. Wed. 7 p.m. Confirmation at Broadstone.
June 1. Sat. R.B.L. Women's Section, Garden Party, White
Lovingston.
" 12. Wed. 2.30 Sanctuary Guild - Vicarage.
" 29. Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party

MOTHERS' UNION.

The talk at our last meeting from a Probation Officer was very much enjoyed and drew from her hearers many questions and a good deal of discussion.

Our speaker next month is to be Mrs. Cooper from Wareham. Those of you who were present when she last came will remember how much we enjoyed her directness and conciseness and the matter of what she had to say. The meeting will be held at the Vicarage as usual at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13th.

PHYLLIS TRANTER.

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUPS

The February meetings of the above Group will be held on the 1st & 15th of the month at 2.30 at 19 South Meadow.

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL.

The January meeting opened with an address by Mr. Cooke, of the Planning Dept., of Dorset County Council, on the latest developments in the village plan.

This led to a most helpful and informative discussion, the results of which were agreed by all to be very satisfactory.

The Council was very disappointed that in reply to its further letter regarding the By-pass, the Dept. of the Environment dismissed any idea of a start before the late 1970's; this disappointment will certainly be shared by all those living in the village. However, one ray of hope is that the Dept. promised to keep in mind the possibility of the scheme, already pressed strongly by the Council, to relieve North St. as a first stage, "if", as the Dept., expressed it, "circumstances make this necessary or appropriate". One wonders what more has to happen in North St. before these two objectives become, in the opinion of the Dept., quite applicable: the complete destruction of a house?

The Tree Planting Committee reported the successful conclusion of the first part of the "Plant a Tree in '73" programme, in which twelve forest-type trees were planted, in prominent and strategic positions in the village, during two week-end sessions in December. These were carried out entirely by voluntary labour and the Council would like to express its sincere gratitude to those who took part, including some members of the Youth Club. This valuable help has enabled the Council to make such good use of the generous donations, given by both individuals and organisations, that there is a substantial balance in hand.

The Committee is continuing negotiations for further planting to complete the planned programme, and then hopes, as agreed by the Council,
to initiate, with the balance of the fund, another programme of planting ornamental trees in various parts of the Parish.

The Council wishes to emphasise that protests in the strongest terms have been made to the Southern Electricity Board regarding the complete failure of street lighting in certain parts of the village, combined with disorientation in time of certain lights, but without any improvement so far; these attempts are, nevertheless, being continued.

A report was sent from the Drax Hall Management Committee to the Council, as trustees of the Hall, that the Committee was not in a position to meet the cost of work considered necessary by the Chief Fire Officer to make the Hall safe for use by the public and that the latter would not agree to its use until the work was done. In the circumstances the Council had no option but to order the closure of the Hall; the Committee was asked to obtain Estimates for the carrying out of the work to be submitted to the Council as soon as possible.

The Council instructed the Clerk to take up with the Dorset Water Board and the Rural District Council the extreme urgency of the situation in the Culzean/Lane End Area, which is without water, pointing out to the Board that the Council had promptly agreed to the re-registration of part of the Common Land on Black Hill to enable them to extend reservoir facilities, there for the express purpose of making a supply possible to this area.

The appointment of a street cleaner for the village was made, the work to be carried out on the basis of a certain number of hours per month, to be increased if proving insufficient.

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BERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES.

The meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall. On the 12th February there will be a party. There will also be a meeting on the 26th.

M. E.

"AUTUMN LEAVES".

What a happy afternoon we all had on Jan. 9th our New Year Party, at Katie's Bere Regis Ranch O'Grande where her ranch hands, Dusty, Joan, Ploss, Nan, Kath & Joy were at hand to minister all the good times that we had set before us.

Cowboy Bernard Legg was a great entertainer, he played his guitar, sang, yeodelled and whistled some good oldies, and we joined in too, we didn't want him to finish.

Joan & Katie and our Arthur sung and played a few oldies too and also our dear friend and member Arthur Solles was so sporty – completed our little show. We had a wonderful selection for our Raffle which were won by Mrs. Coles - Duck, Mrs. Day - Advocate, Mrs. Hyde, Mum. Mrs. C. Shears one of our Winterbourne Kingston visitors who gave a vote of thanks from the Sunshine Club won a bottle of Rosè, Mrs. Cleall, Choc, Mrs. Percy, Shortcake, Mrs. Marsh, Stationery, Mrs. Austen, Sweets.

The Mayor & Mayoress of Wareham joined our party, it's always a pleasure to have their company, they always support us greatly and we thank them so much.

The Panto is the next thing we look forward to - Wednesday 16th Jan. At our next monthly meeting on Feb. 13, we shall have a Whist Drive, and a competition for the prettiest cup. The entrance fee for that date will now be 5p and 8p. for visitors.

J. L.

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BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP.

Due to the temporary closure of the Drax Hall, the February meeting will take place at Culzean, by kind permission of Mrs. Barne, when there will be a talk on "Pot et Pleur" by Mrs. E. Marsh of Marnhull. There will be no Bulb Competition.

In March the meeting will be at Barrow Hill by invitation of Mrs. Borton. At this meeting Mrs. Stephen King will give a talk on Gardening.

A. L.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

"Larkspur", Bere Regis.

To the Editor -

12.1.74.

Dear Sir,

"AUTUMN LEAVES"

I would like to thank members of the over 60 Club for their present to me and their loyal support during the past year. Also to thank the residents of Bere Regis for their help, in many ways, to have made Autumn Leaves so successful. My sincere wishes to all for 1974.

Yours sincerely,

KATHLEEN JEEVES.

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

We had a lovely Christmas Party at Sitterton House, with games, competitions and a good buffet supper, ending the evening with an enjoyable little concert by the Guides.

As we cannot use the Drax Hall for the present we shall be meeting in the British Legion Club Hall until further notice. Mrs. Maunder is
demonstrating Soft Toys in January, and in February we shall be welcoming Mrs. Powell, who is coming to talk on "Making a Film".

J. W. B.

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 27th.
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
7 p.m. Evensong.

HANDS across the SEA.
(The Editor thought our readers might be interested in the following letter recently received by him, together with a Christmas card to the people of Bere Regis).

91 Hine Road,
Wainiuomata,
Hutt County,

Dear Mr. Tranter,

You will undoubtedly be very surprised to receive a letter and a somewhat early Christmas card from someone you don't know who lives on the other side of the world. Let me explain.

Fifteen years ago my husband Roy and I with our two year old daughter Lynda left Southampton, our home town to sail to New Zealand where we intended making a new home. My mother and father preceded us in this venture by some five months.

We settled in a small town about 15 miles to the east of Wellington, the capital city. We have now lived in Wainiuomata for 13 years and have come to love it dearly. It is a valley surrounded by hills and we really have the best of two worlds, for in many ways Wainiuomata (Wainui for short) is still rural, but Hutt City is only 7 miles away over the hills, 20 minutes drive in a car.

Our Parish Church is the Church of St. John's and our vicar is Canon Donald V. de Candole. He and his wife are English like ourselves and have lived in New Zealand for a number of years.

Our daughter Lynda is now 17 and at college here in Wainiuomata. She takes an active part in Church life and has her own Sunday School class of lively 6 year olds.

Michael, our 13 year old son has been recently confirmed by Bishop Norman, who was enthroned only last Ascension Day in Wellington Cathedral.

Having told you something of ourselves I must now explain how I come to be writing to you.

Two years ago my mother died and last March my father returned to England and has since married again.

He and my stepmother have travelled around the south of England quite a lot re-visiting old familiar places and, as they know my deep interest in English Churches, have fallen into the habit of sending me picture postcards, magazines, etc. from the places they visit.

Recently they passed through Bere Regis and stopped at your Parish Church. As a result a few days ago I found in my mail box your Parish Magazine for November, a little leaflet about your Church, and a beautiful photo looking towards the altar.

I have felt moved to write to you with greetings for the coming Christmas season to you and your parishioners.

By the way, you may be interested in the origin of the name of our town. Wainiuomata is a Maori name meaning "The place of the weeping waters". Many many years ago, before the coming of the "pakeha" (European) an unfriendly tribe came over the hills into Wainiuomata and in the ensuing battle many men of the Wainui tribe were slaughtered. The women folk and children gathered up their dead and in a great "tongi" wailed and sorrowed by the waters of the Wainiuomata river.

The pronunciation is not difficult as in the Maori tongue all vowels are pronounced and given equal weight. Try it this way Wye-noo-ee-au-mah-ta, or Wye-noo-ee for short.

We will think of you in your old Dorsetshire church this Christmas season singing carols perhaps "amid the Winter snow", should you have a white Christmas; while we, in our small white wooden church sing the same familiar tunes and much loved words in our summer sunshine.

May God bless you all and bring peace and joy your way.

Sincerely, ISABEL F. BEDFORD.

DANGER IN TOO MUCH FREEDOM!

A warning about the "terrible danger" in allowing more and more so-called freedom came from the Bishop of Leicester (Dr. R. R. Williams) when he addressed a CESM group in Leicester recently.

Dr. Williams was explaining how he was approached to become a member of the Longford Committee on Pornography, and how he came to move its report in the House of Lords.

He commented on some of the "quality" papers - which in certain respects, he alleged, were as bad as those called "cheap". There was a highbrow intellectual defence of so-called freedom, he said, and people who were terrified this freedom was going to be restricted took it to other extremes.

continued/
"Once given freedom of a certain kind, it palls and soon loses its appeal; and people have to go on one stage further to get the same kind of excitement."

The Bishop said that the idea behind present legislation, to restrict what could be shown in advertising or book covers, was not an attempt to define indecency. Those who wanted that sort of entertainment should be able to find it, but it need not be thrust upon those who did not seek it.

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

Burial

December 4th: Maurice McCarthy. 72 years.

17th: Kate May Lawes. 73 years.

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