My dear Friends,

First all my grateful thanks to all those who turned out, in doubtful weather for the Plough Sunday procession. It was good to have so many village organisations represented, and to see the flags and banners carried down the street. I hope we may repeat the dose next year, and on an even larger scale. Thanks too to the members of the Young Farmers Club who carried the plough and to the farmers who took part in the service.

Easter is very early this year and Ash Wednesday comes on February 12th. I append a full list of the extra services we shall be having over the Lenten season. You will see that on four Wednesdays during Lent we shall be having a Study Group at the Vicarage. Our study will be based on the new Series III Service of the Holy Communion, and we shall be trying to find out the thinking behind the revisers and what they were trying to achieve. I hope too that our discussions may range too over wider fields and that one thing will lead to another.

Will members of the Parochial Church Council please note that the meeting of the council originally fixed for Jan.27th. has been postponed to February 10th. This is to give our Treasurer more time to get the 1974 Accounts ready, as they are always seen by the Church Council before being presented to the Annual Meeting after Easter.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Batten of Rye Hill Close who has kindly consented to become a Sunday School teacher - this will relieve Mrs. Booth who has gallantly been carrying on, at great personal inconvenience, with the Infants since Mrs. Mulford left the parish to go to Ireland. We give her a warm welcome to our midst. Work among the children is, I always feel, just about the most important of all; and we still could do with more teachers in the Sunday School. Is there anyone among our readers who would be willing to help in this important work.

I am very grateful to Mr. Macdonald who has carved our beautiful new set of crib figures. They have been greatly admired and have given much pleasure both to children and adults. He has very kindly offered to make a stable for us in time for next Christmas as our original one which was not stolen is now too small and out of proportion.

Your sincere friend & Vicar,

PAUL TRANTER.
SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

February 2nd. Mrs. Howard. Miss Llewellyn.
February 9th. Miss McFall. Mrs. Tadman.
February 16th. 1st Sunday in Lent.
February 23rd. 2nd Sunday in Lent.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR FEBRUARY.
Feb. 2. 11 a.m. Major M. Knowler & Mr. K. Woolfries.
6 p.m. Messrs. M. Barnes & M. Bloomfield.
6 p.m. Messrs. R. Barnes & J. House.
16. 11 a.m. Messrs. I. Mullins & K. Woolfries.
6 p.m. Messrs. H. Dashwood & M. Barnes.
23. 11 a.m. Col. A. Barne & Mr. W. F. Lys.
6 p.m. Messrs. G. Ward & M. Bloomfield.
March 2. 11 a.m. Mr. K. Woolfries & Major J. Hudson.
6 p.m. Messrs. M. Barnes & R. Smith.

BELLRINGERS ROTA.
Feb. 2. 11 a.m. Woolfries, England, Holman, Gibbs.
6 p.m. Woolfries, England, Holland, Miss Pitfield.
9. 11 a.m. Woolfries, Ricketts, Tranter, Porter, Collins, Gibbs.
6 p.m. Woolfries, Ricketts, Steele, Miss Pitfield.
16. 11 a.m. Woolfries, England, Porter.
6 p.m. Woolfries, England, Miss Pitfield.
23. 11 a.m. Woolfries, England, Holman, Ricketts, Porter, Collins.
6 p.m. Woolfries, England, Holman, Ricketts, Steele, Miss Pitfield.

GUILD OF SERVERS.
Feb. 2. 11 a.m. Christopher Booth.
9. 8 a.m. Richard Mullins.
16. 8 a.m. John Pitfield.
23. 8 a.m. Mark Pitfield.
March 2. 11 a.m. Christopher Booth.

VILLAGE CALENDAR.
Feb. 5. Wed. Cinderella - Pavilion, Bournemouth.
Autumn Leaves 2.30.
6. Thurs. Coffee Evening - Drax Hall 7 - 9 p.m.
7. Fri. 2.30 Bible Study Group.
10. Mon. 7.30 Parochial Church Council - Vicarage.
7 p.m. Evensong together with Mothers' Union.
16. SUN. 11 a.m. Preacher - Rev. M. Ridyard, Area Secretary, C.M.S.

19. Wed. Discussion Group - Vicarage 8 p.m.
20. Thurs. 3 p.m. Evensong.
21. Fri. 2.30 Bible Study Group.
26. Wed. Discussion Group - Vicarage 8 p.m.
27. Thurs. 3 p.m. Evensong.
March 5. Wed. Discussion Group - Vicarage 8 p.m.
6. Thurs. 3 p.m. Evensong.
7. Fri. 3 p.m. Women's World Day of Prayer Service.
3 p.m. Bere Regis Church.
9. SUN. 3 p.m. Mothering Sunday Service.
12. Wed. 7.30 Mothers' Union.
13. Thurs. 3 p.m. Evensong.
Autumn Leaves 2 p.m. Whist Drive, Youth Club 7.30.
15. Sat. Old Times Dance - Drax Hall 8 p.m.
9-16 Childrens Mission.
16. SUN. Summertime begins - Put clocks on.
3 p.m. Final Service for Childrens Mission.
19. Wed. 8 p.m. Discussion Group - Vicarage.
20. Thurs. 3 p.m. Evensong.
23. PALM SUNDAY - Distribution of Palm Crosses.
24. Mon. 7 p.m. Compline.
25. Tues. 7 p.m. Compline.
26. Wed. 7 p.m. Compline.
27. MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m. Holy Communion, Mothers' Union.
Corporate Communion.
28. GOOD FRIDAY - 11 a.m. The Litany. 7 p.m. Cantata.
30. EASTER DAY.
Apr. 9. Autumn Leaves - Tour New Forest.
17. Thurs. Drax Hall Jumble Sale 2.30 p.m.
May 8. Thurs. ASCENSION DAY - Friends Service 7 p.m.
June 1. SUN. Service at Old Sarum 3 p.m.
Sept. 27. - Oct. 5th. CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS of RESTORATION OF
CHURCH.
Oct. 5. HARVEST - Preacher at 6 p.m. The Ven. The Archdeacon of Dorset.
MOTHERS’ UNION.

As the next meeting of the Mothers’ Union comes on Ash Wednesday, it will be held in conjunction with the Ash Wednesday Evensong at 7 p.m. in the Church.

Members are invited back to the Vicarage after the service for tea and conversation.

Please make a note of the fact that the Service is at 7 p.m. and not at our usual time of 7.30.

P.J.T.

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP.

February Meetings will be held on Friday Feb. 7th and 21st at 2.30 p.m. Meetings are held at 19 South Mead.

EASTER LILIES FOR REMEMBRANCE.

Will those of you who would like to give a lily at Easter, please fill in the List which you will find at the back of the Church from the 1st Sunday in Lent - Feb. 16th.

I am hoping that we shall be able to obtain Arum Lilies again this year. The names must be down by Passion Sunday March 16th. The list will be removed on the evening of that day and once it is removed no more names can be accepted for inclusion.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT & EASTER.

A Discussion Group based on the Series 3 Service of Holy Communion will be held in the Vicarage at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, Feb. 19th & 26th and March 5th & 19th.

Mid-Week Services:

Ash Wednesday - February 12th. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
7 p.m. Evensong - "Can you play Second Fiddle?"
Evensong every Thursday during Lent with the exception of Thurs. Feb. 13.
Feb. 20th. - "Are you a good hater."
" 27th. - "Are you a man of moods."
Mar. 6th. - "Can you face life."
" 13th. - "Can you keep an open mind."
" 20th. - "Can you control your thoughts."

Mothering Sunday Service: 3 p.m. Sunday March 9th.
Palm Sunday - March 23rd.
Distribution of Palm Crosses at all Services.

Holy Week:
Monday, March 24th. 7 p.m. Compline.
Tuesday, 25th. 7 p.m. Compline.
Wednesday, 26th. 7 p.m. Compline.
Maundy Thursday, 27th. 7 p.m. Holy Communion.
Good Friday 28th. 11 a.m. Mattins with the Litany.
7 p.m. Church Cantata - "From Olivet to Calvary". Sung by the Choir.

Easter Day: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 11 a.m. Mattins
12 noon (approx.) Holy Communion.
3 p.m. Family Service. 6 p.m. Evensong.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION.

The P.T.A. is still collecting paper, magazines and cardboard to help their funds.

Paper in all its forms may be delivered to Mr. Simmonds, Court Farm, or to the school.

If anyone would like paper collected from them, please contact the school or P.T.A. Committee member.

HERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES.

On Feb. 11th there will be films by Miss Wainwright and on the 25th there will be a crochet evening by Mrs. Bush.

PARABLE OF THE PIER.

A certain man was once walking along a pier at one of our seaside resorts and it seemed to him, in a dream, that he was walking along the pathway to the Eternal City. In his dream it seemed as though the planks that made up the pier were the individual paths along which he and others were travelling - the road of salvation.

The great crosspieces and the supports sunk in the seabed were equivalent to the supports given to them on their way, prayer and Sacrament, the Church and the prayers of the saints. They were narrow planks, of course, but side by side they made up the firm road along which he travelled.

But as he looked again he saw some strange things happening. Some of those travelling were doing their best to walk along a single plank, ignoring the planks each side and making very heavy weather of it, and in his dream a voice said, 'these are they who will accept no help from others, determined that their way was the best and only way.'

Others, he saw, were clambering along the outside of the pier in dreadful danger of falling into the raging sea beneath, and some, indeed, already had lost their grip and plunged beneath the waves. Others, he saw, were even walking backwards along the road to life.

Further along the pier and at places along it, some were caught by the many slot-machines and places of amusement and seemed unable to drag themselves away from the lure of them even though their friends were calling to them.

There are planks set either side of us on our journey through life. These are the Friends and loved ones, those who have journeyed with us and have been our support, and still journey. To walk a single plank is an impossible task, so let us thank God for those who have placed their plank beside us and so often have stopped us from falling.
The aforementioned article has been filched from the Western Gazette! It was pointed out to the Editor and he thought it too good not to print it.

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SCRIPTURE UNION – Bere Regis Branch.

The Mission will be held in the Drax Hall during the week March 9th – 16th.

Full details will be given in next month's issue, but this is to remind all you TREASURE SEEKERS (boys and girls up to the age of 12 years) to tell your Mums and Dads that you are keeping those evenings free to come and meet Mr. Harold Robertson once more and to enjoy a wonderful time with him again. Don't forget!

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BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP.

Members enjoyed their first meeting of the year when they were entertained by Mrs. Herridge at her home. Slides of several Flower Festivals and the Area Show at Sherborne were shown by Mrs. Benjafieid and members were interested in seeing some of their own arrangements.

The February meeting will be held in the Drax Hall as usual when Mrs. Madan-Myers will be talking on Birds & Flowers.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

May I again thank everybody in Bere Regis who have helped to make Autumn Leaves such a success - without your support and that of the members - the Club would not be functioning so well - and members are now well over 100 - my grateful thanks to the members for their present to me - God Bless you and a Happy New Year to you all.

Kathleen Jeeves.

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AUTUMN LEAVES

Our January Meeting was our New Year Party, and so we thought we would share it with as many over 60's clubs as we could. So we invited Puddletown, Winterbourne Kingston, Bloxworth, Winterbourne Whitechurch... We also thought it would be nice to invite some friends from our village who have been very kind and generous to 'Autumn Leaves' in the past, and without whose help our good times would not have taken place.

Entertainment was provided by a really wonderful troupe who call themselves 'The Senior Generation'. They were marvellous and gave us a superb performance. (all were over 70).

The committee were not to be unnoticed for we were all dressed alike as upstairs downstairs maids and very cute we all looked too although I say it myself.

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There was a very colourful spread consisting of varied sandwiches, pork pie, sausage rolls, trifles and all done by the committee. The focal point of all the food was a grand 'New Year Cake.'

We had a vote of thanks from all Clubs, and Mrs. Debenham on behalf of the visitors, which proved to us that all had spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The Raffle was won by Mrs. Rawbone, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Smith of Bryantspudle. Following the Raffle Mrs. Osbaldestone (a member of Autumn Leaves) presented Mrs. Jeeves and the six members of the committee with a gift from all the club members and we did appreciate it very much. Many Thanks.

Joan Lewis.

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Our Christmas Party commenced with a competition, which seemed to prove without doubt that there are no budding portrait artists in the immediate district! This was followed by more competitions and games, and then an excellent supper. After this we were entertained by the Young Wives - our thanks to them for the very good show they put on for us, and we finished the evening with a sing-song and carols. We are very grateful indeed to Mrs. Jeeves for coming to play for us.

A competition for a small Christmas table decoration was won by Mrs. Brooks. We were very pleased to welcome so many friends, and hope a good time was had by all.

We start the New Year with Mrs. Calvey telling us about Rhodesia, and we hope to follow this in February with a Cookery Demonstration.

J.W.D.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION.

The next meeting will be held at Branch Headquarters on Wed. 19th. Feb. at 2.30 p.m. Our County Chairman Mrs. Raymond will be the speaker.

War Memorial Flowers:
February - Miss Llewellyn. March - Mrs. Coles.

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COMMENTARY ON PARISH COUNCIL AFFAIRS.

Unfortunately, the writer was unable, for health reasons, to attend the monthly meeting of the Council, held on December 18th. For this reason, and owing to the fact that the Minutes of that meeting will not be circulated until after these notes have to be despatched for publication, the comments thereon are inevitably inadequate, although attempts have been made to obtain fuller information. It is believed, however, that they are accurate so far as they go.

continued........
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL: All the four applicants for the position, none of whom reside in the Parish, were interviewed. It was decided to offer the post to Mr. Jim Ruddock, who is employed in Local Government and lives at Upton; it is understood that he has accepted the offer. Mr. Ruddock is not unknown in the village, as his wife, Dianne, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Lewis of Chamberlaynes Cottages, Bere Heath. We give a warm welcome to him and trust that his association with the Parish will be a long and happy one. In view of the difficulties of transfer, the present Clerk, Mr. Peter Davis, has kindly agreed to continue until the end of March, for which the Council is very grateful.

PLANNING MATTERS: (1) An amended application by the owner for an addition at Snow Hill, considerably lower than the previous design, was considered satisfactory and so recommended for acceptance by the District Council. (2) It was reported that the District Council had agreed to the proposed development at Batt Lane.

PAVEMENT IN NORTH STREET: A complaint received regarding the state of this pathway was referred to the County Council.

VILLAGE LIGHTING: The recommendations of the Parish Meeting, reported last month, that improvements in the switching arrangements and the quality of certain lamps should be carried out, up to a maximum cost equivalent to a half-penny rate for the Parish, were considered. It was decided to seek a firm quotation from the S.E.B. for installing new time-switches throughout, with 24-hour spring reserve (to give continuing function through power cuts) together with eight new lamps, of mercury vapour type, considered necessary by the Council in the interests of safety.

Several important matters on the Agenda were deferred for consideration, thus allowing a much earlier closure than recently possible. Another factor which also helped considerably was the agreement that, in consideration of matters arising from the Minutes, the Chairman should nominate those items he considered needed fuller discussion, and if any member wished to refer to any other item, the permission of the Meeting should be sought for doing so. This should help to save quite an amount of time in future.

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

BURIAL: December 18th. Montague John Cheeseman 87 years.

HOLY MATRIMONY:
Jan. 18th. Peter Cheeseman and Susan Steele.

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