The Vicarage, Bere Regis.

THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

'The darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day: the darkness and light to thee are both alike.' 

Psalm 139.

I am writing this letter during the darkest season of the year when the days seem reluctant to dawn and when night closes in before the day's work is finished. To add to the gloom of the winter there is the news of widespread strikes and consequent shortages leading to every kind of hardship. In these circumstances it is difficult for even the most optimistic amongst us to avoid feeling frustrated and perhaps somewhat resentful about the inconvenience which we are called upon to endure. Yet, if our Faith is something more than the fair weather variety we ought, as Christians, to raise our eyes from the immediate gloom and look to the light ahead.

What grounds have we for this hopeful attitude? First of all we would do well to count our blessings. The 'thought for the day' on a 'tear-off' calendar which I have in my study expressed this very well. It read 'If you can't be thankful for what you receive, be thankful for what you escape.' We have all of us escaped hunger and homelessness, religious persecution and political oppression and most of us have escaped the consequences of frequent failures on our own part to live up to the best that is in us.

However, we may need more positive comfort for, try as we may, we cannot but be aware of the darkness which surrounds us, and this comfort is contained in the words of the great psalm from which I have quoted. Our God is a God of light for he is Light itself but this means that he is ever present in the darkness as well. It also means that however dark our world seems to be the light is still visible to those who have the eyes of Faith.

So let us try to live by the light we have and let us above all share our light with others. It means refusing to join in the chorus of woe but rather to sing our own hymn of thankfulness and praise - it may well surprise you when you discover how many others join in.

Yours very sincerely,

DENIS SHAW.
From the Parish Registers (Cont’d...)

In Memoriam:
Reginald James Crabb of Sitterton who died just before Christmas had lived nearly all his life on farms working first with horses and later with mechanised methods. He was closely connected with the Williams family of Brichead, Compton Abbas where he lived for many years but on the death of his wife some eighteen months ago he came to live next to his daughter’s house in Sitterton where he made many new friends. All who knew him were attracted by his friendliness and good humour and he will be greatly missed. Our sympathy is extended to his family in their bereavement.

Ivy Dora Love of Sitterton who died suddenly on 30th December was born in Devon. She spent much of her early life working on farms although this was interrupted by a period of service with the W.A.A.F during the Second World War. For the past sixteen years she had made her home in Sitterton where she achieved some fame through her huge St. Bernard dog, Winston, which was said to be the largest dog in England. Miss Love was well known to her neighbours for her kindness to children and she was much in demand as a ‘baby-sitter’. Her great friends were Mr. and Mrs. White with whom she spent much of her leisure time. She was a great and kindly character who will be missed by all who knew her.


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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>11.15 am</td>
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<td>Evensong</td>
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ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

Friday, 2nd February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple. 10.30 am Holy Communion.
Wednesday, 28th February – Ash Wednesday. 7.15 pm Holy Communion.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 1st & 3rd Sundays 10.45 am. 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays 10.15 am.

NOTE: The Vicar will be absent from the parish on Monday and Tuesday, 12th and 13th February as he has to attend a Conference of Rural Deans and
Lay Co-Chairmen at Dinton.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA.

Feb. 4th. 9.45 a.m. Mr. R. Stallard & Otr. C. Maunders.
6.00 p.m. Mr. F. Marsh & Mr. M. A. Bloomfield.
11th. 11.00 a.m. Mr. R. Smith & Mr. W. Woolfries.
6.00 p.m. Mr. M. Barnes & Mr. H. Dashwood.
18th. 9.45 a.m. Mr. J. House & Mr. G. Ward.
6.00 p.m. Mr. M. A. Bloomfield & Mr. F. Marsh.
25th. 11.00 a.m. Col. A. Barne & Maj. M. Knowler.
March 4th. 9.45 a.m. Mr. K. Woolfries & Mr. W. P. Lys.
6.00 p.m. Mr. M. A. Bloomfield & Mr. H. Dashwood.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

February 4th. Miss E. Lys Miss A. Lys.
11th. Miss McFall Mrs. Tadman
18th. Mrs. Shaw Mrs. Ives
25th. Mrs. Griffin Mrs. Steele.

THE MOTHERS' UNION.

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Vicarage on the 3rd. January, and although the weather made it impossible for some members to attend, we were able to make plans for our programme for this year and to discuss possible outings, the main one to be to Mary Sumner House during the early part of the summer.

On the 6th January thirty of us (including some husbands) very much enjoyed a visit to the pantomine at Salisbury.

Our next meeting will take place at 7.30 p.m. at the Vicarage on Wednesday, the 7th February, when we are to discuss questions based on the fact that this is the International Year of the Child. The Prayer Group is to meet at 11 a.m. on Fridays, 9th and 23rd. DOREEN SHAW.

VILLAGE CALENDAR.

Feb. 14th. Wed. Autumn Leaves Whist Drive and Dominoes, etc. Drax Hall, 2.30 p.m.
28th. ASH WEDNESDAY. See Notes from the Vicarage.
Mar. 14th. Wed. Autumn Leaves - Slides etc. Drax Hall, 2.30 p.m.
18th. Sun. British Summer Time begins.
31st. Sat. April Pool's Concert, Barber Shop Choir, in aid Autumn Leaves, 7.30 p.m.

continued/........

Village Calendar (cont'd. . . .)

April 8th. PALM SUNDAY
11th. Wed. Autumn Leaves - First Tour to New Forest, 2 p.m.
13th. GOOD FRIDAY
15th. EASTER DAY.
May 17th. Thur. Combined P.C.C., Briantspuddle Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
24th. Thur. ASCENSION DAY. "Friends of Bere Regis Church" Service.

June 24th. Sun. PATRONAL FESTIVAL.
30th. Sat. Bere Regis Church Garden Party, 3 p.m.
Aug. 11th. Sat. R.B.L. Horticultural Show.

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mrs. P. M. Bloomfield, 7 Boswell's Close, Bere Regis, Tel: Bere Regis 581.

Will you please continue to let me have all matter for the Magazine not later than the 15th of each month. Editor.

PLAYGROUP.

The Playgroup is now successfully established in the Youth Club Hall on Wed. & Fri. mornings.

Mothers with Toddlers or Babies are welcome to join in for any length of time on Wed. mornings. Coffee is 10.30 a.m.

Last term we welcomed eight new Mothers on different occasions.

We look forward to warmer weather and more play outside. J.G.

WOMENS' INSTITUTE.

The February Meeting will be held on the 20th in the Drax Hall when we shall have a talk and demonstration of "Spinning & Weaving" by Mrs. Doe. Do come and maybe you will want to revive these old crafts.

BERE REGIS SCOUT & CUB SCOUT GROUP.

It is very encouraging to be able to announce that the Scout pack of the Bere Regis group has now been formed, and an inaugural meeting held on January 11th. The District Commissioner and Assistant District Commissioner attended, and were introduced by Andrew Brown to Mr. Peter MacDonald the Pack Leader, and to Mr. Michael Gubbins of Winterborne Zelston who has agreed to help with the Pack.

The local Committee wishes to thank both Mr. MacDonald & Mr. Gubbins for offering their time and to all who have helped in the very successful Cub pack - from this Cub pack will come the majority of boys to form the Scout pack.

continued/........
Meetings are to be held at the Youth Club Hut on Thursdays at 7 p.m. We should be very pleased to hear from anyone who has any Scouting equipment which could be borrowed and shared. Please contact Mr. Macdonald or any Scouts Committee member.

The Club pack thanks all those who gave generously when they sang Carols in aid of Cancer Research. The sum of £16.52 was sent to the local treasurer.

HERE REGIS YOUNG WIVES.

On Tues. 13th there will be slides of Furbeck and Corfe Castle by Mr. Orchard, and on the 27th there will be a Pancake Evening.

On Sat. 17th Jan. 44 Members and their children had a very nice afternoon at the Pantomime in Weymouth.

HERE HEATH METHODIST CHURCH.

The young people of Bere Heath Methodist Church raised £12 Carol singing for the National Children's Home, a very good effort.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION & THE WOMENS SECTION. . . .

prior to Christmas distributed parcels of groceries and bags of logs to elderly members in the district which includes Winterborne Kingston, Slough and Affpuddle.  

R.J.C.

"AUTUMN LEAVES" Over 60s.

Our New Year Party was well attended and we were fortunate the snow had disappeared two days before. Over 80 Members enjoyed our very own Concert Party "The Gadabouts". The cast for this successful show consists of Lucy Beken, Cecilia Lewis, Rosalie Andrews, Roy Rickets, Joy Kain, and Nan Moonie - the Pianist is Kathleen Jones. Many thanks to them for their hard work. Also thanks to the Hostesses and helpers for the delicious tea provided. A Raffle was held and a gift given to everyone present. We welcomed our guests which included the Mayor and Mayoress of Wareham, and Canon & Mrs. Shaw. The Show was again performed to the Over 60 Club at Puddletown.

Our next Meeting is a Whist Drive and Dominoes etc. on Wed. 14th February, 2.30 p.m. Drax Hall.

We welcome New Members so come along and enjoy yourself.

K.J.

We would like to thank the Youth Club for their donation of £24 from the Carol Singing - this gesture is very much appreciated and is a considerable help to the running of Autumn Leaves Over 60s Club - Bless you all.

"Autumn Leaves."

HERE REGIS & DISTRICT YOUTH CLUB.

Here is the balance sheet for the 1978 Youth Club Week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Takings</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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Despite the weather being very cold some members went Carol singing on three evenings and collected £24 which has been given to the Autumn Leaves.

O.C.

HERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP.

Unfortunately, owing to weather conditions, our January Meeting had to be cancelled which was disappointing. We shall however hope to arrange to have our "Flowers & Cooking" at a later date in the year.

On February 13th, Mrs. CARNegie BROWN will demonstrate Traditional & Modern Arrangements, and the competition for Club Members will be "when Flowers are Few".

A.L.

THE 1978 POPPY APPEAL.

£690.18 was the magnificent sum raised by the nine villages and areas in the Bere Regis district. Thanks to all who contributed or gave, especially as November is not an easy time of the year for collecting or giving.

J. Munro - District Organiser.
PARISH COUNCIL.

During 1979 the Parish Council will meet once a month on the following dates -

January 24th, February 21st, March 21st (Annual Parish Meeting), April 18th,
May 23rd, June 20th, July 18th, August 22nd, September 19th, October 24th,
November 21st, and December 19th.

Members of the public are most cordially invited to attend these meet-
ing, and at the discretion of the Chairman, will at some point be given the
opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters of individual concern.

Elections for the new Parish Council will be held in May, and further
details will be announced in due course.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (WOMEN'S SECTION).

The R.B.L.W.S. held their monthly meeting at the R.B.L.H.Q. on 22nd
November, 23 members being present.

The Chairman, Mrs. Maidment, opened the meeting with the Exhortation.
Minutes of the last meeting were then read, confirmed, and signed. The
speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. Cross, who brought several Xmas Décor-
atives with her and showed members how to make them. At the end of the
meeting Mrs. Cross kindly gave several of the Decorations for a Draw. A
vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Shawman.

A "Gifts & Goodies" party was organised by Mrs. Pressley on 15th
November, and a Draw was run by Miss Green. Teas were served.

J.C.

(Too late for January edition) ...

On 11th December, in spite of a pouring wet day, 21 members of the
R.B.L.W.S. gathered at H.Q. to enjoy a Party organised by their Chairman
Mrs. Maidment. Carols were sung followed by games of Blind Bingo and
Musical Parcel.

Refreshments of tea and mince pies were enjoyed by all, and the
afternoon closed with the Chairman wishing all members a very happy
Christmas.

J.C.

Diana and Austin would like to thank everyone who was so kind at the time
of their Father's illness and death. Grateful thanks to Dr. Greenfield and
Canon Shaw. Very special thanks to Uncle Ray, Jenny, Sheelagh, Margaret and
Ann.

We should also like to thank all who sent donations to Henchard House,
Dorchester.

Diana Phillips and Austin Crabb.

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A SONNET ON OUR BLESSINGS.

There may be hours of sadness,
There may be days of pain,
There may be weeks of waiting
For the sun to shine again.
There will be hours of gladness,
Days with a joyful refrain,
Weeks of much debating,
Toiling will not be in vain.
For if we can accept with cheer,
Whatever comes our way,
We shall count endless blessings
Are ours at the end of each day.
So, fill your heart with thankfulness,
And Strive, God's Will to obey.

Rachell L. Murray.

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SMALL ADS. (15p. for 3 lines)
AFFPUDDLE NEWS.

Affpuddle Editor: Mrs. P. Thornley, Raithby Cottage, Briantspuddle.
Tel: Bere Regis 497.

(Please may I have all items for inclusion in the magazine by 14th of the month).

AFFPUDDLE FLOWER & CLEANING ROTA

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<tr>
<td>4th February</td>
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<td>11th February</td>
<td>Mrs. Thornley</td>
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<td>Mrs. Rockingham Smith</td>
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<td>25th February</td>
<td>Mrs. Herridge</td>
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<td>Mrs. Kellaway</td>
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(From Septuagesima until the end of Lent is a penitential season therefore there are no flowers in Church).

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR.

In this series of short articles we shall consider each month what the Church has to say to us through the Holy Days which fall during that month.

There is a Celebration of Holy Communion in one of our Parishes on each Holy Day when we can come to ask God's help to accept that part of His teaching into our lives.

Last month we remembered God being shown to the Gentiles at the Feast of Epiphany and at the end of the month the calling of St. Paul to spread the Good News throughout the Gentile world.

This month starts with a thanksgiving for Jesus' birth at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 2nd February when Simeon declared that Jesus was the Light of the Gentiles and ends with the commemoration of St. Matthias being called as an Apostle in place of Judas Iscariot on 24th February. From the characters of these three we are reminded that God's call to each of us may come at any time and however awkward and embarrassing it may be when it does come we should accept it joyfully. Are we ready to do this? If not perhaps we would use Lent which starts on 26th February for this.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the magnificent sum of £11.00. Mrs. Jeavess supplied masses of beautiful yellow and white chrysanthemums which lasted well into January. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Church for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION

A collection of £10.75 was taken at the Christmas day service. This was donated to the Dorset County Association for the Blind. The Treasurer has received a letter of thanks and acknowledgement.

AFFPUDDLE NEWS (cont'd....)

GIFT SERVICE:

At this simple and charming service the congregation brought gifts for the handicapped children at the Dorchester Cheshire Homes. The Bere Regis Autumn Leaves performed a Nativity Tableau and the affpuddle School Children sang "Away in a Manger". The collection of £13.58 was sent to the Cheshire Homes who have acknowledged it with thanks.

AFFPUDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

The children went carol singing in the Village and collected money for the Cheshire Homes. The School piano has come to the end of its life. If anyone has a spare piano and would like to donate it to the school the Headmaster, Mr. Hunt, would love to hear from them! (Tel: Bere Regis 411).

THE VILLAGE QUIZ:

This will be held on Wednesday 14th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Briantspuddle. Details are available from Mrs. Bowell - Tel: Bere Regis 387.

BRIANTSPUDDLE SINGERS:

During the house-to-house carol singing £27.00 was collected and sent to Oxfan.

CONSERVATIVE CAROL CONCERT:

Briantspuddle Village Hall was the setting for a happy evening of community carol singing with the band of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, conducted by Staff Sergeant Black, Royal Hussars. All seats in the Hall were filled; Village and Band joined joyfully together in a well balanced programme of loved carols. An unofficial, "Barbar's Shop" Quartet from the Band sang in delightful close harmony unaccompanied and also sang verses of some carols with the Band and village joining in the chorus. £36.79 clear profit was raised and has been sent to Dorchester Hospital for their elderly patients' Christmas.
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