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SATURDAYS 2.00 - 2.30PM NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS 11.00 - 11.30AM NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

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Joan & Peter Hastings
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN IT'S ALL OVER\!

How sad! Yet that is the attitude of many to the Christmas season: there are so many distractions that the real joy, the real meaning has been quite lost.

Our job is to put CHRIST back into CHRISTMAS; to show that there is more to Christmas than just food and presents. The truth remains as stupendous as ever - that God came down to earth in human form: the baby Jesus was both God and man. His birth and his life, death and resurrection have been the most important events ever in the whole of human history.

So how can we make Christmas special again?

1. PREPARE: amidst all the commercial bustle take time to THINK and PRAY about the real meaning of Christmas. READ the traditional Christmas stories in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew: MEDITATE on them, ponder on the significance of their meaning for YOU.

2. PLAN: so that you have TIME to share in the religious, most important aspect of this great Festival. Work out which Services or events will help you to get the most out of Christmas. Don't squeeze them in or allow other things to pre-occupy your mind when you do come to Church. Prepare yourself so that you can put in more and experience Christmas at a deeper level. Your GIVING also needs to be planned so that your favourite charities - as well as those chosen by your Church - can receive from you a gift that is as worthy as are all the other presents you plan to give.

3. PROCLAIM: show to others how important Christmas is to you by living the joy and peace which the angels came to announce. In you may others experience the love of God: 'for God so loved the world that he gave his Son'.
CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Bere Regis

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
2 in Advent
9.30 am Parish Communion followed by Coffee 11.15 am Matins
10.15 am Sunday School
3.00 pm Memorial Service: Gertrude Davis
6.00 pm Evensong

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
3 in Advent
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Sunday School
11.00 am Matins
6.00 pm Evensong

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER
4 in Advent
9.30 am Parish Communion
10.15 am Sunday School
6.00 pm Lessons & Carols by candlelight

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER
6.00 pm Christmas Eve Service

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER
8.00 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Family Communion

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER
11.00 am Matins
Sunday after Christmas
9.30 am Parish Communion
10.15 am Sunday School
6.00 pm Evensong

Affpuddle

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
8.00 am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
9.30 am Parish Communion

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER
8.00 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER
6.00 pm Christingle

EVENSONG is normally said in Bere Regis Church at 6 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and in Affpuddle Church at 5.30 pm on Tuesdays.
(See the weekly notices for details of all Services and activities.)

THURSDAY is normally the Vicar's day off; please avoid contacting the Vicarage on that day, except in emergency.

THE PRAYER GROUP meets in the Morton Chapel at Bere Regis Church on the second and Fourth Fridays at 11.15 am.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism
November 1 Charlotte Emily BENNETT
Christopher Mark Henry ELLIOTT

BIBLE READINGS IN OUR CHURCHES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
Theme: The Word of God in the Old testament
8.00 am Holy Communion
Isaiah 64.1 - 7; Luke 4.14 - 21

11.15 am Matins
Jeremiah 35.1-2; Matthew 25.14 - 30

6.00 pm Evensong
1 Samuel 28.3-20; 2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.8

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
Theme: The Forerunner
8.00 am Holy Communion
1 Corinthians 4.1 - 5; Matthew 11.2 - 10
9.30 am Parish Communion (ASB pp 432 ff)
Malachi 3.1 - 5; Matthew 11.2 - 15

11.00 am Matins
1 Kings 18.17 - 39; Luke 3.1 - 20

6.00 pm Evensong
Isaiah 40.1 - 11; 1 Corinthians 3

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER
Theme: The Anunciation
8.00 am Holy Communion
Zechariah 2.10 - end; Matthew 1.18 - 23

CHRISTMAS EVE
11.30 pm Midnight Mass (ASB pp 443 ff)
Hebrews 1.1 - 5; John 1.1 - 14

CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 am Holy Communion
Hebrews 1.1 - 12; John 1.1 - 14
9.30 am and 11.00 am Family Communion (ASB pp 443 ff)
Luke 2.8 - 20

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER
Theme: The Presentation
11.00 am Matins
Haggai 2.1 - 9; 1 Peter 2.1 - 10

THE PRICE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE will rise to 20p as from January 1988. The increase is due to rising costs over a number of years when the price has remained constant.

AT THE END OF THE YEAR we thank all the magazine distributors and the editors who work so efficiently throughout the year.
CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS 1987...

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER: Sandford Middle School Carols and Readings for the Festival of Christmas in Bere Regis Church at 7.00 pm

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER: Salvation Army Christmas Concert in Bere Regis Church at 7.30 pm

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER: Bere Regis First School Carol Service in Church at 2.45 pm

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER: Affpraise Family Worship at 11 am at Affpuddle. There will be a Christmas theme and gifts of money for the Dorchester Cheshire Home will be collected ('gift wrapped' if you like!) - come and prepare for Christmas!

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER: Lessons & Carols by Candlelight at 6 pm at Bere Regis

WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER: Christmas Communion will be celebrated at Turberville Court at 10.30 am.

WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER: Visit to the Carol Service and Social Work areas of St. Martin's in the Fields in London. Parishioners are invited to join a group from Red Post Parish in their annual visit to this important Christian centre in Trafalgar Square. Details from The Revd Hugh Maddox, Telephone 45 244 - soon!

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE

6 pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for all ages at Bere Regis Church.

11.30 pm MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS at Affpuddle Church

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion at Bere Regis

9.30 am at Affpuddle and 11.00 am at Bere Regis - Family Communion for all!

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER: Service of Lessons and Carols at Affpuddle at 6.30 pm.

COMMENT

A response to the Leading Article in the November Parish Magazine by Elizabeth Spracklen.

Did you read our Vicar's article in last month's Church Magazine under the headings "Do you believe in God?" "What is my response?" and "Start Now!!" - what did you think and do about it? Anything? It was a message about "Looking at our lives", and then doing something positive about it - using our talents, gifts and skills to the benefit of the Church - not easy is it - making new starts and promises? A bit like a New Years Resolution - usually flown out of the window by the middle of January!! The Vicar said "If we believe in God we will need to respond - that is why our Church exists" - perfectly true we need our village Church as much as we need the shop or the Doctor's Surgery, but how easily we take them all for granted, do we? Just imagine being told that Bere Regis Church was to be demolished because people were no longer interested in using it, that it had outgrown its use. We would be panic-stricken wouldn't we? Why is it you do think that more of us don't attend Church? Well, I know one of the reasons, and I am guilty of it myself: 'sheer effort' - the effort of getting ready, putting other jobs aside - fitting it in with the Sunday Lunch (Oh a bind that Sunday lunch is!), the gardening, visiting relatives etc. And what about television -"can't go to the Sunday evening service - might miss "Bullseye!!"

Anyway - who needs Church? You don't have to go to Church to believe in God or be a Christian - do you?? And what is it when you get there? - a few hymns, couple of Bible readings, a bit more singing and a sermon! Oh yes, the Sermon - none of us like being preached at, do we? We get enough of that at home, or at work, without the Vicar making us even more aware of our misconducts eh?

So what about all it then? What are we going to do to ensure the future of our Church, to make sure that one day we don't wake up to find that it has disappeared - because we haven't cared enough, our 'priorities and responsibilities' have been put to other uses, and because we left it all to the "others" - the loyal "others" - what happens when the "others" have gone? Will there always be "others"?

Far fetched? Of course it is, our villagers are a generous lot, always digging into their pockets to support something or other; and if it came to a choice of keeping or losing our Church, I know what our choice would be.

The foundation of our Church is Jesus Christ our Lord, the hymn tells us, and we all need our Lord, don't we? Oh yes we do - he's around all right - don't kid yourselves, and sooner or later you will bump into Him; in Church, either at the Blessing of a Marriage, at a child's christening, or the funeral of a beloved person, or to pray for a sick friend or relative, because deep down we do believe that God is to be found in our Church - the Church is just a stepping stone to his love, caring and forgiveness. Our Bere Regis Church is beautiful, peaceful and quiet, the atmosphere warm and friendly,
why not bring yourselves to join us in the hymns and lovely prayers — the sermon in our Church is a short, simple message telling of God's love for us, a meaningful message of inspiration — not one intended to make us feel full of dread and woe, and I for one am always the happier, refreshed in spirit and confident to face the week ahead, for having attended.

For your information

AFFRAISE GIFT SERVICE at 11 am on Sunday 20 December as usual, our December AFFRAISE Service will be a family celebration of both Christmas and of our link with the Cheshire Home for the mentally handicapped. But now that there is no longer a single big "home" in Dorchester but a number of small family-sized units in various houses in the area, the nature of our link is changing. We are developing a special relationship between the Parish and one of these "families", and, as their needs are no longer for toys but for other normal household requirements, money towards such needs is the gift most appreciated. Please think and pray about your response, and bring your gifts of money to the Service, if possible in a special Christmas wrapping.

J.H.

IN MEMORY OF CYRIL SCOTT over £209 has been donated to the Affpuddle Church Organ Fund. We are most grateful to the generosity of so many in memory of one who was also so generous in his love and concern.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Gertrude Davis (formerly of Green Close) will be held in Bere Regis Church at 3 pm on Sunday 6 December.

NO SERMONS at Evensong in Advent! Instead there will be tape/slide presentations during the Service.

DECEMBER 6 'Taize' — the life and work of the famous ecumenical community in France.

DECEMBER 13 'Mother Teresa' — a pictorial presentation of the hope that is brought to many in the slums of Calcutta.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES continue on Mondays at 8 at the Vicarage.

MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER: Malachi

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER: Zechariah

All are welcome: no expert knowledge required!

COME AND MAKE CHRISTINGLES for the Christmas Eve Service. Any volunteers will be very welcome at the Vicarage at 3 pm on Wednesday 23 December.

PLEASE SUPPORT the Bere Regis Church COFFEE MORNING for CHRISTMAS on Saturday 12 December from 10.30 until 12 noon at 'Coneygar', Turnerspudle. Do come! For transport phone 471262 or 471639.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS at Bere Regis will be given to The Children's Society.

At Affpuddle they will be divided between the Salisbury Diocesan Association for the Deaf and The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The first in a series of articles about life in our Church

Since 1970 there have been four levels of Government in the Church:

- The Parochial Church Council
- The Deanery Synod
- The Diocesan Synod
- The General Synod

Each body is made up of laity and clergy with bishops belonging to Diocesan and General Synods. Parishes have representatives on Deanery Synod who in turn elect members of the Diocesan Synod which then elects members of the General Synod.

Recently there have been meetings of the three Synods and some of their discussion and decision making is reported here:

THE GENERAL SYNOD

A Report on AIDS was presented to the Synod and the motion was passed 'That this Synod, in the face of the serious threat posed by AIDS and affirming the church's traditional teaching on chastity and fidelity in personal relationships:

- Welcomes the concern reflected in the initiatives taken by Her Majesty's Government and statutory voluntary bodies;
- Urges all members of the Church of England to respond with compassion and understanding to those affected by AIDS;
- Requests the House of Bishops and the Board for Social Responsibility to continue to advise the Church on theological, moral and pastoral issues involved.'

A private member's motion led to the following motion being passed 'This Synod affirms that the biblical and traditional teaching on chastity and fidelity in personal relationships is a response to, and expression of, God's love for each one of us, and in particular affirms:—

- That sexual intercourse is an act of total commitment which belongs properly within a permanent married relationship.
- That fornication and adultery are sins against this ideal, and are to be met by a call to repentance and the exercise of compassion.
- That homosexual genital acts also fall short of this ideal, and are likewise to be met by a call to repentance and the exercise of compassion.
- That all Christians are called to be exemplary in all spheres of morality, including sexual morality, and that holiness of life is particularly required of Christian leaders.'

The Synod, amongst its other business also expressed sadness and revulsion over the Poppy Day massacre at Enniskillen; it approved rules relating to Faculties when modifications are made to Churches, although concern was expressed about delay and the 'Conservations vs. Pastoral Needs' issue.
THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Synod met on October 17th and after opening with prayers the first debate was entitled "Towards Shared Ministry", led by Canon Askeu. The Synod resolved that a short training course should be prepared for use by P.C.C.'s to equip the active laity for sharing ministry more widely.

'Should there be a free newspaper in the Diocese instead of the present Sarum Link?' Canon Ritchie introduced the proposal and a vigorous debate followed; there would be an increase in Quota of £13,000 for a full-time Editor & Communications Officer, but a saving of £12,000 on Sarum Link and £300 on postage. The proposal was agreed.

'A Marriage has been arranged ... and it's yours!' was the title of a new Mothers' Union leaflet on marriage which was commended to the Synod.

The Revd Robert Willis of Sherborne Abbey reported on the distressing news from the Sudan. The Theological College has been taken over by guerrilla troops and the staff evacuated or expelled. Our prayers for the Church leaders and people of the Sudan are urgently needed. Financial support should be kept up, to provide a substantial Fund for future restoration.

The Synod recommended the Conference in August 1998 after the Lambeth Conference (the world-wide meeting of bishops).

The Conference ended with a Report on the CHURCH URBAN FUND: throughout the country it is intended to raise £16 million to produce a permanent Fund to be used for Church Projects in the inner cities. Approximately £10 per head of those on the Electoral Roll of each Church was the target. Synod Members were asked to pray for the success of the Appeal.

The day was wide ranging and stimulating and it was hoped that Parishes would become aware of the conclusions reached.

THE DEANERY SYNOD

The October Meeting started with prayers by the Rural Dean. The Deanery Treasurer, Mr Geoffrey Booth, said that 73.7% of the Quota had been paid; there will be an increase in the Quota next year. The amount to be paid has been allotted to the Milton & Blandford Deanery and has to be divided amongst the Parishes, and there would be a Treasurer's meeting in November to decide this. This caused a stir amongst Synod members, some saying this should be done at Synod and others by the Treasurer's. The reason for this is that we are working toward paying our Clergy stipends in full, instead of being helped by the Church Commissioners. From the discussion a resolution was passed that the P.C.C Treasurer's meeting in November 1997, to decide how the Quota is to be paid and divided, in 1998 only, and that the proposals come back to this Synod for approval in an amendment on it to continue in the future.

Col. Dean said that the Deanery Cycle Ride took place on a very wet day and had not raised as much money as before for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

The Diocesan Synod report from the Revd Eric Sellgren heard that there had been a change in thinking from twenty years ago; now ministry is shared between laity and clergy, and parishes should set themselves goals for sharing ministry. As mentioned above there was debate on a Diocesan Newspaper; a new marriage leaflet was also recommended.

Church members are encouraged to grow in faith and a new book, 'The Good Wine' was commended: Church members should take a practical look to see where they are challenged by the Holy Spirit. A major evangelistic event would be held in Salisbury next year.

Jenny Holmes (the new Religious Education Adviser in the Diocese) then gave a talk on EDUCATION: she talked about the responsibility of the parents for Christian Education. In the past parents automatically instructed their children, but nowadays this is not so. The role of the school, with Christian teachers, Governors and Parents and the church involved is now important. As far as the Church is concerned, we need first to understand children before we can give them what they need, and she quoted: 'the further away we are from the child the less we can do for him', and, 'to understand the child and the way he should go, travel that way yourself' once in a while. The Church needs to give the children rights in the services and needs to involve them and accept them as part of the church as equal members with us. We should help them grow and develop as members. Synod then divided into groups to discuss: 'What do you think is the one thing that children need most from the Church?' - there were many hopeful ideas that came from this discussion.

(Thank you to Mary England, Richard & Joan Gooch who contributed material for this report on the Synods.)

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CHURCH DUTY ROTAS - BERE REGIS

SIDESMENS ROTA
Dec 6th 9.30 a.m. Mr A Bates, Mr J House
6.00 p.m. Miss S Frampton, Miss P Chesney
Dec 13th 11.00 a.m. Col A Barne
6.00 p.m. Mr H Dashwood, Mr M Barnes
Dec 20th 9.30 a.m. Mr J Strange, Mr G Ward
6.00 p.m. (Carol Service) - Miss S Frampton, Mr J House
Cdr C Maunden & Mr H Dashwood
Dec 24th 6.00 p.m. Christingle - Mrs M England, Mr J House
Dec 25th 11.00 a.m. Christmas Day - Mr J Strange, Miss P Chesney
Dec 27th 11.00 a.m. Miss S Frampton
1988
Jan 3rd 9.30 a.m. Mr A Bates, Mr G Ward
6.00 p.m. Mr M Barnes, Mr H Dashwood

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD
Dec 6th ADVENT
Dec 13th ADVENT
Dec 20th ADVENT
Dec 27th CHRISTMAS
The Church will be decorated for Christmas on 23rd December. Gifts of
flowers and greenery will be very welcome.
Thank you to those who helped to tidy up the churchyard and produce
quite a load of rubbish for the village bonfire.

CHURCH DUTY ROTAS - AFFPUDDLE

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APPRECIATION
Charles and Kathleen Jeeves wish to thank everyone for the cards and
messages of sympathy received on the loss of their mother. (Mrs. Jeeves)

BERE REGIS NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL It was reported that the District Council has decided
that the stretch of road between the surgery and Turberville Court will
be known as Turberville Road.
The Parish Council is to purchase two "STRANGER DANGER" signs to be
placed around the village. These warn children of the dangers of speaking
to strangers.
P.C. Allen reported that there is a group of people called THE BATTLE-
FIELD COMMANDO ORGANIZATION who rent land at Hyde to play war games.
The police are to keep an eye on them, as on several occasions they have
run amok through residents' gardens.
Concern was expressed about the speed of traffic in North Street, also
the amount of vehicles gaining access to the by-pass via North Street.

BERE REGIS SCOUT GROUP
Coffee Morning - Thank you to Kath Jeeves for organising our Coffee
Morning and to all those who supported it.
Headquarters - This month has been one of dodging the showers and most
of the work has been inside getting the floor laid and fixing the main
doors and frame. Inside partitions and fittings are to be the next pro-
ject.

Carol Singing - Our Group Carol Singing this year at both Bere Regis and
Briantspuddle is to be in aid of Henchard House, Dorchester. We will
only be able to get to a small area of the villages in the time available
but ask for your generous support for this cause.
Please meet at 8.30 at Turberville Court on Monday and at Briantspuddle
Village Hall on Tuesday.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP The Annual General Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, 1st December. It is hoped all members will attend to elect
their committee for next year and to hear details of the programme for
There will be no meeting in January.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Mr Pickavance, an industrialist from the Eden Vale
factory at Milborne St Andrew, came to our October meeting with a variety
of products. He enlightened us about the pressures on personnel owing
to the changes in production and marketing methods. We had a Halloween
Decoration Competition and a Market Produce Stall.
Three rounds of Skittles have been played and the Whist and Scrabble
Tournaments were to be played shortly, it was reported.
The result of the Coffee Morning held at Woodbury Tearooms was £36.00.
Thanks to everyone who helped.
The Christmas Party is on December 8th and subscriptions are due in
the New Year, now 25.85.
A Happy Christmas to all from the W.I., you are most welcome to join
us.
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION The September meeting was attended by 18 members, and Major Booth showed slides on "Seasons in Dorset", "La Mer", "Egypt" and "The Skies", all very interesting. Teas were served by Mrs Hillard and Mrs Adams, and a raffle was run by Mrs Cleall. 19 members were present at the AGM held on October 21st. All officers and committee en bloc. Teas were served by Mrs Reed and Mrs Payne. A raffle was run by Mrs Dippy, and a "Bring and Buy" sale by Mrs Cleall. Conotaph, December - Mrs Maidment.

PRE CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING - 12th December, 10.30 a.m. at the home of Mrs Margaret Roffey, Turnerspuluddle for Bere Regis Church funds. Coffee will be served with mince pies or biscuits. The stalls will be Bring and Buy, Christmas Table Decorations, Cakes and a Draw.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH.

If a lift is required please let the Vicar or Mary House know.

BERE REGIS R.B.L. BRANCH The annual Harvest Festival Service, conducted by the Rev Jonathan Burke, was a well supported event, and was followed by an auction of an assortment of items and of fruit, flowers, vegetables, etc, all provided by members. The auction reached a record sum of £310, a much welcomed addition to Branch funds.

The Branch AGM on 2nd November was again sparcely attended. Branch officers were re-elected to their respective appointments and a committee elected to perform for the next twelve months. At this meeting, our standard bearer, Mr Harry Cleall, signified his intention to retire after 40 years of assiduously carrying out these duties, which would terminate with his last such appearance at the Armistice Parade, on the following Sunday. He had appeared regularly at Branch parades, and had attended in support of other Branches and County functions, including the annual Earl Haig Memorial Service at Bovington. In recognition of his support and services he was presented with the coveted award of the Gold Badge of the Royal British Legion by Branch Chairman, Mr T Vine.

On Sunday, 8th November, it was the turn of Affpuddle Church to host the Armistice Parade. The turn-out for the Parade from Bladen Valley for the march to the Church was the largest for many years: it was led by the Parkstone Sea Cadets Band and the Branch members were preceded by the standard bearers, Mr H Cleall (Men's Section) and Mrs E G Maidment (Ladies Section), and this year's Poppy Queen, Mrs B Owre and the Poppy Princess, Miss Joanne Skinner.

The Branch was grateful for support from other organisations, including the Army Cadet Force, Bere Regis Scouts and Cubs, Venture Scouts and Rangers and the Brownies of Bere Regis and Winterborne Kingston. Wreaths were laid by the Branch and all supporting organisations at the Bladen Valley memorial before marching off to the Church. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Branch at Bere Regis, Winterborne Kingston, Bloxworth and Zeiston, at morning services.

Later in the day a small contingent of members attended the Bere Regis Congregational Chapel at their evening Remembrance Service.

A 16th December note for the Youth Section: Their annual Christmas Disco, for members only, 8-11 p.m., music by Paul Jones.

AUTUMN LEAVES OVER 60's CLUB In spite of the dreadful weather, there were five tables for a whist drive. For tea we enjoyed delicious home made scones and jam, made for us by Mrs Lewis. A Raffle and Sales Table helped to swell our funds.

Our next meeting is our Xmas afternoon when we will be entertained by the Bere Regis 1st School children and songs by The Gadabouts - Drax Hall, 2.30 p.m. Wednesday, 9th December.

Xmas Bazaar - We had a very successful Bazaar, thanks for the help given by all members and helpers.

DRAX HALL We have just received a letter from the North - Father Christmas will be in the Village on Saturday, 5th December.

By coincidence that is the very day on which we will be holding the annual Christmas Fair in the Drax Hall, and Father Christmas has kindly agreed to be at the Hall, arriving at about 2.30 p.m., and he will be delighted to meet children of all ages!

The Christmas Fair will have a variety of stalls and games, and a raffle with some fine prizes, and the proceeds are all earmarked for further improvements to the Hall, including some new tables for the bingo addicts and other users.

The more support that the Fair receives the more we can continue to improve the Hall. Please attend if you can.

BERE REGIS PLAYCHOOL The Playgroup committee would like to thank everyone who supported their pre-Xmas coffee morning on 14th November.

Due to outstanding support approximately £182 was made for playgroup funds.

Special thanks must go to the Sports Club for loan of their premises, and especially to Father Christmas for coming.

MOTHERS UNION The November meeting was Communion followed by a discussion on "Communion before Confirmation". The arguments for and against this were put forward, giving members a great deal to think about.

The next meeting will be the Christmas meeting, with mince pies and carols.

Tea Hostesses - Sally, DI and Mrs Chalk.

BERE REGIS WIVES GROUP The October Meeting was the AGM. New officers were elected - Chairperson, Mrs S M Day; Secretary, Mrs L Fletcher; Treasurer, Mrs R Wise. Our President, Mrs Iris Bush, retired. Our thanks for her support over the years.
November Meeting We have the Potato Marketing Board coming along for a cookery demonstration, to be held at 5 Shitterton, time 7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 16th December will be the Annual Christmas meal out - this year to the Baker's Folly.
Meetings during 1988 will be held in the Drax Hall, downstairs, every 4th Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. starting on 26th January.
New members always welcome.

PUZZLE CORNER Last month's anagrams were:-
1. Longbredy 6. Kimmeridge
3. Tarrant Monkton 8. Litton Cheney
4. The Corne Giant 9. Dewlish
5. Piddletrenthide 10. East Lulworth

Here are 10 more anagrams of Dorset place-names:-
1. WINTER SUN'S TORMENT 6. OH, MUCH ART
2. SPOKEN ART 7. TO SEND AMONG
3. FIRST DONS 8. WINE BOTTLES CAN DRINK
4. MEET IN BARS 9. THREE MAGI
5. ICED HOCK 10. RICH MEN'S ART

100 YEARS AGO The following item is taken from the Parish Magazine for December 1887:-

VILLAGE LAMPS
At a meeting held at the Vicarage on Monday, the 21st December, the subject of lighting the village street was discussed. Two new lamps have already been in use on the last few Sunday evenings, and have proved so useful that a general cry was raised for "more". The lamps themselves are not very expensive, and the cost of oil and lighting and care will not be a heavy burden on any, if all who appreciate the boon will contribute a small sum according to their means - 2s 6d, Is 6d, or less. It is proposed that a collection should be made at the beginning of each winter to defray the expense for the season, and any money that may be over will be added to the lamp fund. It was decided at the meeting to order at once two new lamps of the same pattern as those already in use, and that the lamps shall be lit on all dark nights during the winter months, from dark up till ten o'clock. Probably the old argument will be raised by some who do not want to subscribe, viz., "We have done without lamps all this time, so I don't see why they are wanted now": but we have no doubt there will be a number of wiser people who will be glad to do their part in such a manifest improvement.

B.R.S.C. FOOTBALL RESULTS AND SCORERS, OCTOBER 1987

Dorset Div 1
3rd Bere 2, B. Johnson & G. Barratt - Hamworthy Utd 1
10th Bere 2, B. Johnson & G. Barratt - Branksome 3, Senior Trophy
17th Hamworthy Utd 0 - Bere 1, G. Eaton
24th Bere 1, G. Barratt - HMS Osprey 5
31st Littlemoor 0 - Bere 6, L. Legg 2, G. Barratt, R. Harrison,
G. Pendleton, C. Phillips

Dorset Div 3 East
3rd Cranborne 1 - Bere 0, Junior Cup
17th Bere 0 - Wareham 4
20th Bere 0 - Wareham 4, Brakes Cup
31st Bere 1, Gary Watts - St Mary's 2

Sunday xi
25th Sunday XI 8 - Bere Sports 2nds 2
Youth Football, Under 11's
4th Hamworthy Harriers 8 - Bere 0
25th Branksome 6 - Bere 1, Sam Stanley

New Captain, Stuart Revell and the lads are looking forward to November when the fixtures seem a little easier. Kevin Cox and Chris Dram continue to impress.

Diary Dates
Christmas Draw - Monday, 21st December - Music with George Hurst
Boxing Day - Friendly football 10.30 a.m. - Family games day
New Years Eve - Fancy Dress (Judging 9.30pm) - close 10.30pm

AFFPUDDLE NEWS

BRIANTSPUDDLE SINGERS Will be singing carols around Briantspuddle on Friday, 18th December & around Affpuddle on Monday, 21st December.
BRIANTSPUDDLE HALL COMMITTEE Don't forget our Christmas Fair on Saturday, 5th December 2.30 - 5pm. Please support all our village organisations with stalls & raffle & Father Christmas.
Future dates for your diary: Street Fair Saturday, 21st May 1988, Village Quiz 2nd February 1989 7.30pm.
PUDDLETON 1ST SCHOOL During the week 9-13 November Puddledown 1st School held their own Book Week. Children visited Dorchester Library to see the reference section. An author and an illustrator came and showed children how they worked. A Book Quiz was held with Piddle Valley 1st School revealing how well the children know their stories. Lots of people came and shared their favourite stories and poems with the children and the week ended with a party. Prizes were awarded for the best attempt by children to be dressed as a story character. All in all a very enjoyable and worthwhile week.
On Tuesday, 15th December at 11.00am the children and staff would like to extend a warm invitation to all Senior Citizens to join us for a Christmas entertainment with mince pies and coffee. We look forward to seeing you all.
We break up for the holidays on Friday, 18th December and return to school on Tuesday, 5th January.
Children who will be five between 1st March and 31st August start school on a part-time basis on 5th January. Please let me know if I do not have your child's name.

Happy Christmas from all at Puddletown First School.

L.K.L.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH
The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Thursday, Christmas Eve from 10.00am onwards. Gifts of greenery, holly and flowers would be most welcome and should be brought to church by 10.00am on Christmas Eve. As in past years contributions towards the purchase of flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas are requested. Your donation should be delivered to Philippa Thornley as soon as possible. (Suggested donation 50p - though lesser and greater amounts would be most welcome.) In past years the flowers have lasted well into January and are a great help to the January flower arrangers.

CHRISTMAS FAIR
The Christmas Fair will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 5th December from 2.30pm onwards. Do support this event and stock up with delicious home made food and Christmas presents. Visit Father Christmas and help swell the funds of the participating village organisations and the Hall Thatch Fund.

THE VENTURE SCOUT AND RANGER GUIDE UNIT
In late August, the Venture Scouts with Philip Ventham attended a week's summer camp in Snowdonia. Operating from a base camp at Anhog near Barmouth, they undertook a two-day expedition across the Cader Idris range of mountains and a canoeing expedition down the river Mawddach, as well as less arduous expeditions to the Suncentre at Rhyl and to nearby Barmouth. We are very grateful to Derek Boyt who stood in at very short notice as an additional leader on this camp. We hope the experience wasn't too traumatic for him.

This term has seen the Unit indulging in an aerobic session with our very own 'scarlet goddess', and attending a discussion on personal relationships. A bright Saturday afternoon saw 12 members of the unit being taken round the assault course at Bovington Camp from which we emerged very wet, muddy and sore.

Over half term, three Venture Scouts completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expeditions in the New Forest whilst another four tried their hand at parascending at Bere Down. In November, the unit will be performing at the Guide Gang Show in Puddletown and the term will end with a visit to the Ice Skating Rink in Bournemouth.

Plans are being considered for next term and will probably include a fire fighting course at Poole, a visit to London and to the Ordnance Survey at Southampton.
The unit has 17 members at present and welcomes new members, male and female, between the ages of 14 and 20, whether they have been Scouts or Guides before or not. Anyone interested, contact unit members or the adult leaders, Philip Ventham and Penny Haigh.

WINE AND MINCE PIES FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER
The Venture Scouts and Ranger Guides Unit will be holding a mulled wine and mince pie party at 12 North Street, Bere Regis (The Wards) on Friday, 18th December from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. There will also be a raffle and a bring and buy. Please come along and help the unit raise funds to buy much needed equipment, tents, rucksacks, etc. £1.00 entrance.

P.V.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 1987
2nd 2.00pm RBL Women's Section, Knitted Garments Sale - Church Cottages
4th 6.30pm Bere Regis Quarterly Sidesmen's Meeting - Vicarage
5th 2.30pm Briantspuddle Christmas Fair - Village Hall
5th 2.30pm Drax Hall Christmas Fair
12th 10.30am Coffee Morning for Church Funds - Conreygar, Turnerspuddle
14th 7.45pm Christmas Bingo - Drax Hall
18th 8.00pm Venture Scouts Wine & Mince Pies - 12 North Street
18th Carol Singing, Briantspuddle - Briantspuddle Singers
21st BRSC Christmas Draw
21st 6.30pm Scouts Carol Singing - Bere Regis
21st Carol Singing, Afpuddle - Briantspuddle Singers
22nd 6.30pm Scouts Carol Singing - Briantspuddle
26th 10.30am BRSC Friendly Football
31st BRSC Fancy Dress Party

Future Events 1988
January 9th Mince Pies & Punch, 10 Southmead - Scouts
March 26th Scouts Jumble Sale
April 20th Autumn Leaves 'New to You' Sale
May 7th Scouts Coffee Morning - Anderson Manor
June 18th Scouts 'Mile of Pennies'
June 25th Bere Regis Church Garden Party
CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

AUTUMN LEAVES
2.30pm 2nd Wednesday

BEAVERS
6.00pm Monday, Winterborne Kingston School

BELLRINGERS
6.30pm Wednesday Learners: Improvers 7pm

BINGO
7.45pm Drax Hall (Mondays)

BLUE VAN
3.45-4.15pm 2nd Monday - Post Office

BRITISH LEGION CLUB
7.00pm Mon to Fri: 12 noon to 2.30pm & 7.00pm Sat: 12 noon to 2pm Sunday

BRITISH WOMENS SECTION
2.30pm 3rd Wednesday, HQ

BROWNIES
6.00pm-7.15pm School Hall, Bere Regis

B.R.S.C.
Winter Season Opening Times Tues, Wed & Fri
7.00pm, Sat 4.25pm, Sun 7.30pm

CHOIR PRACTICE
7.30pm Friday in Church

CUBS
6.30pm Thursday, School

FLORAL GROUP
2.30pm Tuesday, Drax Hall

MOTHER & TODDLER
2.15pm Monday, Congregational Church

MOTHERS UNION
7.30pm 1st Wednesday, The Vicarage

PLAYGROUP BERE REGIS
3 mornings Bere Regis School, Tel 471165

PLAYGROUP BRIANTSPUDDLE
9.30-12 noon Tue, Wed, Thur, Village Hall
Enquiries Jean McGrory 471766 & Martha Tucker 471358

SCOUTS
6.30pm Thursday, Youth Club Hut

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.30am Every Sunday in Parish Church

BERE REGIS YOUNG CHRISTIANS
9.30am Saturday, Youth Club Hut

TUESDAY CLUBS:

ADVENTURERS
7.00pm 7-11 years, Congregational Church

ADVENTURERS
8.15pm 12 years & over, Congregational Church

WIVES GROUP
7.30pm 4th Tuesday, Vicarage

WOMENS INSTITUTE
7.00pm 3rd Tuesday, Drax Hall

YOUTH CLUB
7.00pm Friday, Club Hut

AFPPUDDLE

Church Wardens - Capt Badcock, Cruck Cottage, Briantspuddle. Tel 471297
- Col D Corrigan, Brockhill, Turnerspuddle. Tel 471343

Secretary of PCC - Mrs E Moriarty. Tel 471747

Treasurer of PCC - Mr A Elkerston, Greatfield House, Afpuddle.
Tel Puddletown 331

Parish Magazine - Mrs Sue Smith, Old School House, Briantspuddle.
Representative Tel 471919

Organist - Mr J Mullins, 28 Boyte Road, Pimperne.
Tel Blandford 53438

BERE REGIS

Church Wardens - Mr J House, Lower Stockley Farm. Tel 471255
- Mr J England, 10 Southmead. Tel 471469

Deputy Wardens - Miss S Frampton, 1 Tower Hill

Secretary of PCC - Mrs M Mauder, 15 North Street. Tel 471342

Treasurer of PCC - Mr R Stallard, 13 Boswell's Close. Tel 471774

Organist - Mr S Athill, LTC, MRST, 19 Southmead. Tel 471280

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

Miss Dorothy Briggs, 1 Southmead, Bere Regis. Tel 471509

Please submit all announcements, copy or small ads to Mrs. Smith by the 14th and Miss Briggs by the 15th of each month.

SMALL ADS

The best bargain in local advertising
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* BILL SLADE CAR SERVICING & REPAIRS Prompt and personal attention MOT check, welding repairs, etc. 22 Green Close, Bere Regis 471685 before 8am and after 4.30pm

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* TREE FELLING, pruning, lopping & topping by experienced contractor. No job too small. D.J. Penman, Bere Regis 471618


* INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PAINTING & DECORATING Ceramic tiling, glass repairs. Derek J Bennett, 3B Trent Drive, Wareham. Tel Wareham 5571

* CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING services by STIMAC. Free estimates, demonstration if required. Personal service assured. For bookings phone J M Klein, Lychett Minster 625102 or Bournemouth 570977. Fully insured.

* GENERAL HOUSE MAINTENANCE painting, carpentry, tiling. Specialising in HOMEASSEMBLY DOUBLE GLAZING. Also chair caring. Martin Lys, Bridge Cottage, Muston, Winterborne Kingston. Tel B.R. 471234
* PICTURE FRAMING RICHARD ROWE South Dorset Framing Briantspuddle. A quick
and efficient service for all your framing needs including wash line
and oval mounts, blackboard mounting and restoration of water colours
and oils. Gallery: Local Water Colours and Prints on sale. Tel 471167

* ALL HOUSEHOLD Repairs Interior and exterior painting and decorating,
glass, ceramic tiling, etc. Free estimates. Charles Stickley, 39 West
Street, Bere Regis. Tel 471810

* COLIN J CLOSE Funeral Director, 13 Salisbury Street, Blandford. Tel
Blandford 53133. 24 hour personal service. Private Chapel of Rest.
Daimler Fleet. Limousine also available for weddings. Monumental Masons
and Memorial Specialist.

* TEMPORARILY going abroad or moving away from the area? Wanting to let
your home? For further details contact R V Porter, Property Management
Services. Warwell 853152

* RACQUET RESTRINGING & REPAIRS For tennis, squash and badminton racquets
with overnight service. Contact Sandy Moriarty, Brankstone, Briantspuddle.
Tel 471747

* JAMES PATRICK PHOTOGRAPHY For weddings and all occasions. Portraits
of all the family. Old photographs copied. Central Barn, Tolpuddle.
Tel Puddletown 720

* GENERAL BUILDER also D.I.Y. sand, cement, ballast. Eddie Watkins, Kennels
Cottage, Bere Heath, Wareham. Bere Regis 471481

* BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL Listed Building. Ideal for parties, wedding
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tables, crockery, etc. For further details contact Mrs Bowell. Tel 471387

* EXTENSIONS Plans drawn and submitted for planning and building regu-
lations and approval. Tel 471919

* TELEX BUREAU Need to send or receive an important message? We offer
the facility to use our telex number as your own. Tel 471919

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* BLADEN STORES & OFF LICENCE Under new friendly management Betty & Peter
Fisk. Delivery free to Tolpuddle, Afpuddle & Bere Regis. If we haven't
got it we will try to get it for you. Groceries, provisions, fruit and
vegetables. Tel 471214

* FREE RANGE EGGS 80p per dozen. Kennels Cottage, Chapel Cross, Bere Heath,
Bere Regis. Telephone 471481

* INTERIOR & EXTERIOR painting and decorating by Colin J Close (Advanced
Craft Certificate) 14 Liddington Crescent, Blandford. Tel (evenings)
Blandford 54904

* LOOKING for a mortgage in 1987? For a first class service at very com-
petitive rates telephone Bob Holman, your Canada Life Assurance Con-
sultant, on Puddletown 262

* TROUT Fresh, smoked, pate, etc. Always available Mon-Fri. Chris and
Pamela Hare, Brickhill Fish Farm - 471552

* PLUMBER P J Barnes, 41A West Street, Bere Regis. Tel 471192 before 8am
and after 4.30pm

* SEWING REPAIRS and alterations. Moderate charges. Bere Regis 471878

* WEATHERBURY VINTNERS, Higher Norris Mill, Bockhampton. Wine Suppliers
and Merchants. Special occasions sale or return, free glass loan service.
Orders and enquiries - Puddletown 205

* THROOP NURSERIES NOW OPEN Garden plants and P.Y.O. fruit as available.
Mr J E Smith, 2 New Cottages, Throop. Tel 471948

* GRASS KEEP, Post and rail, also good loose boxes. D.I.Y. or part livery.
Adjacent bridal path and Wareham Forest. Williams, Hyde Woods. Bere
Regis 471087

* LOGS FOR SALE Hardwood logs - Ash & Oak £34 per load. Softwood logs
£20 per load. Available now. D J Penman, Bere Regis 471618

* BOUNCING HIGHER Bouncing Castle hire and children's party things.
Charlotte Motefiore. Bere Regis 471202
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FIRST CLASS BUILDER Plastering, brickwork, plumbing, roofing - you name it and I can do it! No job too big or too small. Paul Smith, 13 North Street, Bere Regis. Tel 471663

HOLLY WREATHS & TABLE DECORATIONS as well as chrysanthemums and Christmas Trees now available at Culeaze Farm. Follow the signs on the Bere Regis to Wool road. Tel 471344

THE BOOK OF BERE REGIS There are now just 20 copies of this book left, at the original price of £14.50. Ideal as a Christmas gift. Obtainable from F. Pitfield, "Hillbutts", Butt Lane. Tel B.R. 471391

FOR SALE Ferguson Stereo (radio, record player & cassette) in excellent condition - £35. Tel 471882

MILBORNE ST ANDREW 10 mile and 2 mile FUN RUN on Sunday 3 January. Starting at 10.30. Good prizes for all races. Get your entry forms from local shops. More information from Dave Payne, 7 Bladen View, Milborne St Andrew (Tel 7700)

WINDOWS, galvanised steel with glass: approx 4’ x 3’8” and 4’ x 3’, also secondary double glazing for above and 6’5” x 2’4”, 6’5” x 4’, 6’5” x 4’2””, offers. Raleigh bicycle, suit 9 year old £20. Girls clothes, including Guide, Brownie and Tap, suit 8/9 year old, offers.

Payne, 7 Bladen View, Milborne St Andrew (Tel 7700)

FROM DARK TO LIGHT

WE IN OUR DAYS talk about morning, noon and night – or sunrise and sunset – but the Hebrew phrase, with its simplicity and its order, always goes the other way: the evening and the morning, from darkness into light. It is significant. It is nearer to God than our way. For the Lord always is leading us from darker states to lighter ones, leading us ever higher towards His heaven – unless we resist, this is the unfailing way of our Lord.

HEARTS ARE TRUMPS

A CARD PLAYER once said: "In this death-and-life game of high stakes, God has already declared what are trumps. They are not clubs (sheer blind force), diamonds (the power of wealth), or even spades (dogged hard work) but hearts. In other words, your life is given to you by God as an opportunity to discover what it means to love, and having discovered what it means, to go on loving. Then you will find peace.

VITAL DIFFERENCE

AN OLD MAN, walking the beach at dawn noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Catching up with the youth, he asked what he was doing. "The starfish will die if they are still on the beach when the sun toasts them with its mid-morning heat" came the answer.

"But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish," countered the old man. "How can your effort make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

HERE COMES THE BRIDE....QUICKLY

AD IN LAS VEGAS NEWSPAPER: "Just can’t wait to get married? 5 minute wedding, no waiting at the Chapel by the Courthouse. Reasonable rates. Free parking. Open 24 hours on weekends."
WHAT IS A HUMAN LIFE WORTH?
A CORRESPONDENT in Baptist Times recalls a visit to Montserrat and seeing records of the slave trade.
Relating to a sale in 1744: one cow and calf...£16; three old candlesticks...3s-0d; one frying pan...3s-0d; one negro girl, leg cut off...3s-0d.
He comments: Such evil - a human life worth no more than a few candlesticks!
Jesus knows what it's like of course. He was valued at pieces of silver - the price of a slave.

SOAP WITH HOPE!
THE SOAP OPERA has come to Christian publishing! After Crossroads and Coronation Street (not to mention Dynasty and Dallas of course!) comes Quick Street.
Quick Street Church is the focal point for a fiction series in Today magazine that uses the soap opera format to bring to life incidents and problems that they hope may help, interest and amuse churchgoers and Christians in general.
There in the first issue were all the cast with potted biographies and real photos looking, as our old granny used to say, as large as life and twice as natural.
If the authors have a secret hope that it might one day transfer from the magazine page to the TV screen, they are not saying. It would only need Joan Collins to pop up as leader of the women's group to get the whole thing zooming to the top of the ratings!

(135 words)

THE WILL AND THE WAY
No religion ever spread so rapidly. St Peter's preaching converted 3,000 people on Pentecost day itself. The faith, called at first 'The Way', spread like wild-fire through the Jewish communities of Palestine, Samaria and Syria. Within 30 years of the death and resurrection of Christ it had spread right through the known world.

FIRST THINGS FIRST
I GOT UP EARLY one morning and rushed right into the day. I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray. Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task. "Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."
ALEX and SANDRA welcome you to

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