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A THOUGHT FROM THE VICARAGE

"Christmas is cancelled!" Just imagine the joy in the hearts of all those overworked mothers who are just about to begin panicking. "All those presents to buy," "all those cards to write and send," "all that food and drink," "where is the money coming from?" To cancel Christmas would be such bliss for them. Interestingly enough, there was no Christmas Day in the first three centuries of the Christian era. The first Christians celebrated Christmas and Easter every time they met - without presents! But just imagine the church trying to cancel Christmas. There would be outrage. Those who don't know the difference between an apostle and an epistle or the difference between Ash Wednesday and Sheffield Wednesday, or who think Leviticus is the name of a racehorse, would be up in arms. They would defend it to the last drop. Which is marvellous. Because it is a magic time. Well it can be if we will allow it.

There is a danger lurking in the beauty of the Christmas story, and the danger is that the story is so beautiful and so enchanting that we forget how the story ends. A family I know very well always took their children to church every Christmas. They loved it. They sang the carols; they held the candles; they looked at the crib. It was "baby Jesus" this and "baby Jesus" that. They never took the children at other times in the year though. That is until one day, their four year old said "baby Jesus is in there". They were passing the church. They realised that their religious teaching was limited to "baby Jesus" at Christmas. They were intelligent and sensitive parents and it came as a bit of a shock.

One of the lovely things about Christmas is undoubtedly the "Christmas Spirit". "Happy Christmas" we say, a hundred times. "Have a lovely time!" We think of other people more than we normally do. We are more generous. We are kind. Our emotions are heightened. Carols and bells and decorations disturb our memories. It's a magic time. One of the sad things about Christmas for many of us is that it can stop on Boxing Day. We've had enough. Bloated and overindulged, we are glad it's over for another year. "I never want to hear another carol!". Wouldn't it be wonderful if, when we recovered from Christmas, we kept the "spirit of Christmas" alive. If we could forget "baby Jesus" and the delightful story, and begin to look at the grown up Jesus. The grown up man who has inspired so many down the ages. The man who cured the sick, who condemned the hypocrites and who was betrayed and destroyed. Its a disturbing story. It's not so easy as the story of "baby Jesus", but it lasts much longer.

Happy Christmas and every blessing as you prepare for 1997.

The Venerable Graham Roblin OBE
The Vicarage
Bere Regis
BH20 7HQ
Tel: (01929) 471282
CHRUCH SERVICES in DECEMBER

Sunday 1st December  
8.00 a.m. Advent Sunday 
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle) 
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion (Bere Regis) 
3.00 p.m. Mattins (Affpuddle) 
6.00 p.m. Evensong (Bere Regis) 

Wednesday 4th December  
2.30 p.m. Deannery Mothers’ Union Carol Service (Bere Regis) 

Sunday 8th December  
2nd Sunday in Advent  
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Bere Regis) 
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Affpuddle) 
11.00 a.m. Church Family Service (Bere Regis) 
6.00 p.m. Evening Worship led by the Purbeck Village Choir (Bere Regis) 

Sunday 15th December  
3rd Sunday in Advent  
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle) 
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Bere Regis) 
11.00 a.m. Affpraise and Christmas Gift Service (Affpuddle) 
6.00 p.m. Evensong (Bere Regis) 

Tuesday 17th December  
7.30 p.m. Affpuddle Carol Service with the Brianstpuddle Singers 

Friday 20th December  
2.00 p.m. School Carol Service 

Sunday 22nd December  
4th Sunday in Advent  
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Bere Regis) 
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Affpuddle) 
11.00 a.m. Mattins and Communion (Bere Regis) 
6.00 p.m. Bere Regis Carol Service (Bere Regis) 

Monday 23rd December  
6.00 p.m. Affpuddle Christingle Service 

Tuesday 24th December  
Christmas Eve  
6.00 p.m. Bere Regis Christingle Service 
11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion (Bere Regis) 

CHRISTMAS DAY  
9.30 a.m. Christmas Morning Service (Affpuddle) 
11.00 a.m. Christmas Morning Service (Bere Regis) 

Sunday 29th December  
9.30 a.m. Sunday after Christmas 
11.00 a.m. Benefice United Service (Affpuddle) 

BERE REGIS CHURCH ROTAS

Bere Regis Sidesmen

December 1st 9.30 a.m. Mr House / Mr Bates 
6.00 p.m. Mr Barnes / Miss Chesney 

December 8th 11.00 a.m. Mrs March / Mrs England 
6.00 p.m. Mr Ward / Mr Barnes (Purbeck Choir) 

December 15th 9.30 a.m. Mr Croom / Mr Strange 
6.00 p.m. Mrs Jutting / Mrs Griffin 

December 22nd 11.00 a.m. Miss Miller 
6.00 p.m. Mr Dashwood / Miss Frampton (Carol Service) 

December 24th 6.00 p.m. Mrs March / Mr Croom (Christingle Service) 
11.30 p.m. Mr Maunder / Mr Bates / Mr House 

December 25th 9.30 a.m. Mrs Hazelrigg / Mr Maunder 

December 29th 9.30 a.m. Benefice Service at Affpuddle 

Sanctuary Flower Guild

1st - 22nd December Advent 
29th December Mrs P House Mrs M England 

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Monday 23rd December from 10.00 a.m. Gifts of flowers, greenery and help will be appreciated.

Readers

December 1st Miss P Chesney 
December 15th Mrs P Ward 

BERE REGIS BELLRINGERS

It has been very encouraging to have some new potential ringers who have been attending practices regularly and are improving fast. There is always room for more on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. 

John England
AFFPUDDLE CHURCH ROTAS

Readers/Readings and Sidesmen

1st December 8.00 a.m. Capt Badcock
11.00 a.m. Lt Cdr Thorniley
8th December 9.30 a.m. Mr D Payne
15th December 8.00 a.m. Lt Cdr Thorniley
11.00 a.m. Affpaise
22nd December 9.30 a.m. Capt Badcock
25th December 9.30 a.m. The Church Wardens
29th December 9.30 a.m. Lt Cdr Thorniley

Flowers and Cleaning

1st December Advent Mrs Thorniley
8th December Advent Mrs Badcock
15th December Advent Mrs Taylor
22nd December Christmas Mrs Thorniley
29th December Mrs Thorniley

DECORATION OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Tuesday 24th December from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. As in past years I am organising a collection for the purchase of Christmas flowers with which to decorate the church. If you would like to make a contribution please let me have your donations as soon as possible and before Monday 23rd December - suggested donation 50p, though lesser and greater amounts would be equally welcome.

Apart from flowers, foliage is also needed and any gifts of holly, ivy or other foliage would be most welcome. Please deliver your gift to the church before 10.00 a.m. on Christmas Eve.

CHURCH NOTICES

"CHRISTINGLE"
The very popular Christingle services will be held once again this year, in both Churches. The Affpuddle service will be on Monday 23 December at 6.00 p.m. and the Bere Regis service on Christmas Eve at 6.00 p.m.

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
This year will be in Bere Regis Church. Please note that it starts at 11.30 p.m.

THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
There is to be only one service on this day - a combined Parishes Communion at 9.30 a.m.

BERE REGIS CHURCH AMENITIES
From 1 December the church will have a WC. This has been built into the outside building that originally housed the generator. It will only be open during church service times. There has also been created in the south aisle of the church a most tasteful kitchen unit. This is to be "opened" by Mr Fred Pitfield after the 9.30 a.m. service on Advent Sunday (1 December). Mr Pitfield is the designer and architect of both amenities. (I am led to believe that WC's are not "opened" or "flushed". This is the traditional right and privilege of the plumber. It was the plumber who told me and I believe what I am told.)

CHURCH FUND RAISING
The Coffee Morning held on October 23 raised £84. Many thanks to all our loyal supporters. Next event is the Christmas Coffee morning on 7 December at the Cyril Wood Court - 10.30 a.m. This is always a happy occasion and an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts and produce. There will also be a raffle and special Christmas Cake Draw.

On January 25th we are holding the Jumble Sale at Wareham Town Hall. Any items for sale would be most welcome. Please phone 471262 or 471441 BEFORE Christmas if you have clothing, household goods, books or toys for this sale. It is possible to arrange collection if necessary.

CHURCHYARD CLEAN-UP
Thank you very much to all those who came to lend a hand at the annual tidy up. A fine morning allowed a lot to be attempted and will leave the Churchyard in a satisfactory state for the winter.
OBITUARIES

COLONEL ANTHONY MILES BARNE O.B.E. D.L.

The funeral took place in Bere Regis Church on Friday 25th October of Colonel Tony Barne, late of Culeaze, a month short of his 89th birthday. A Memorial Service was subsequently held in the church on Friday 22nd November. The funeral service was a private occasion, but the Memorial Service attracted a very large congregation from not only this parish, but also from all over the country.

People came from so many of his past associations, and also in their own right as those who had known Colonel Barne and wished to honour him.

Parishioners gathered in thanksgiving for all that he had done and been during the forty four years that he had been at Culeaze. They were reminded and had personal memories of how he, with Cara his wife, had spent years modernising the farm, and creating the exquisite gardens that they 'opened' in aid of a variety of charities. They remembered the man who had given of himself to the community in so many ways; as governor of the school, as parochial church councillor, as a passionate worker in local politics. They also remembered a person who radiated honesty and trust; a kind and gracious man to whom people responded in a similar way. People behaved graciously in his presence.

It was in 1954 that he came, with Cara, and his son Christopher to the parish of Bere Regis. It was at the end of a long and gallant career as a soldier. He was not a Dorset man, but had come from Suffolk. Being born in 1906, he was only 8 years old when the Great War started and sadly only 11 years old when his father was killed. After leaving school he went to Sandhurst, and then was commissioned into a famous cavalry regiment - The Royals - where his brilliance as a horsemanship came to the fore.

After serving happily in Egypt and India, he found himself in North Africa at the beginning of the war, and then followed seven years of warfare. When he was within the sound of gunfire almost the whole time. The two regiments that he commanded both received battle honours. Not surprisingly also, his energy and zeal kept him fit, agile, and adventurous and during the early years of his retirement he won the Round the Islands Yacht Race, twice!

At the funeral service, we felt that he was very much at home in his beloved church. He had come to know every part of it. Two weeks before his death he had been sidesman at Mattins. So we laid to rest, a true Englishman, a gallant soldier and a loyal friend, and we prayed that he might enjoy his new life with the Lord that he had served so quietly and sincerely during his life.

MRS ENID NANCY (Babs) SMITH, aged 86

It was only eleven months ago that we laid to rest the body of Sam Smith, so it was with deep sadness that on Thursday 14th November, the Smith family assembled in the church of Alsfudde for the funeral of their dear mother Babs. Since the death of her husband, she had been in a nursing home in Exeter. Although it was a wrench to leave her home and friends, it is lovely to record that she was very happy in her new home and was looked after with care.

Joining her children Malcolm, Sue and Leslie was a large congregation of relatives and close friends. We remembered her oldest daughter Judy, in Tasmania, who we knew would be with us in spirit.

Originally from Uckfield in Sussex, Babs became a teacher and moved to Northamptonshire. There she met and married her husband Sam. This was in 1932. Sam was an engineer with the Water Board. In 1952, forty four years ago, he applied for the job in charge of the pumping station in Briantspuddle. This started the family association with Briantspuddle. Babs brought up her family, and at the same time attracted to herself a close group of village friends. She also worked in the village shop for many years, with Mrs Todd.

Further away, she became a staunch member of the WI; she was a founder member of Autumn Leaves, learnt and practised the skills of Dorset feather stitching, and kept open house for her growing family. Latterly, and almost inevitably, she had the task of caring for Sam, who had become blind. Through these final years, she maintained her humour and her wit.

So it was with an air of thanksgiving that we offered her to God; thanksgiving for her life, her love, and her friendship and we commended her to the God that she prayed to all her life. The cremation was in Weymouth, and we will inter the ashes with those of Sam at a later date. May they both rest in peace.

MR WILLIAM LEONARD (Len) BISS aged 78

It was in the little chapel in Poole Cemetery, in sight of Poole Harbour and Brownsea Island, that we laid to rest the body of Len Biss. His wife Lily had been buried there twelve years ago, shortly after they have moved to Briantspuddle, so the congregation of relatives and friends had a great feeling of the two of them being together again in their new life with God.

Although Len was not a native of the village, he was very much a man of Dorset. He was born in Warmwell and went to school there, and in Broadmayne. After school he became an undergardener at Warmwell House and then, when he was 18, he moved to be a gardener at the nurseries in Owermoigne.
Being physically fit, he was drafted into the Militia in 1938, and at the start of the war, was in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was with the first troops into Belgium, but the Germans pushed them back to the sea. Len was amongst the gallant and lucky ones who were evacuated through Dunkirk in the 'little ships'. 1944 found him in France once again, as part of the Normandy landings, and he moved north-east up through Europe to Northern Germany for the surrender in 1945. It was fitting therefore to find that the Royal British Legion had supplied the Union Jack to cover his coffin. After the war, Len returned to Overmoigne nurseries. He married Lily in 1947 and they lived in the house in the nursery gardens until 1964, when he was promoted to be Head Gardener at Brownsea Castle. This he did until his retirement eighteen years later, before coming to Briantspuddle.

It was lovely to have friends from his Brownsea days in the congregation for his funeral, and the singing of his favourite hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" filled the chapel. We pray that he may enjoy his new life with God, and be at peace.

MRS MARGARET ANNE MOONEY (Nan) aged 82

It was forty four years ago, in 1952, that Mrs Mooney, known to many as Nan, came to settle in Bere Regis. She had been here before when her husband Tom was serving with the Royal Tank Regiment during the war, but she didn't originate from here. She was Welsh, having been born and brought up in Ebow Vale in the South Wales industrial heartland.

After leaving school, she went to work in a school in Elstree and there she met and married Tom. He was a bus driver, but the war saw him drafted into the army and posted to Bovington. That is how they both came to make Bere Regis their home.

Very sadly Tom, died in 1968, leaving Nan a widow for 28 years. She was the sort of person not to allow herself to be lonely. She had her three precious children in the village, with their growing families. She also had wonderful neighbours, and she gave of herself in the community. For example, she started the Monday evening Bingo, and ran it for 25 years; she was a founder member of the Autumn Leaves and an active member of the Gadabouts - a singing group. She was on the Drax Hall committee and for a time in the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion. So she was never idle, and if she was at home, she was knitting for the grandchildren and others.

It was awful for her in later life to find she had osteoporosis, and after breaking her hip, she became housebound. She died in Wareham Hospital on 14 November.

A large congregation attended her funeral in Bere Regis Church on 21st November, and she was laid to rest in the grave of her husband Tom. We pray that she may now be at peace and we offer our condolences to Pat, Mary and Terry, and to her five grandchildren.

BERE REGIS NEWS

MOTHER'S UNION

At our November meeting, Brother Reginald, a member of the Franciscans from Hilfield Friary, was our guest preacher at our service of Holy Communion. The theme for this evening was social responsibility which Brother Reginald defined as being human. He reminded us that Jesus came as a servant to show God's love. By being prepared to serve in the home and in the community, we can be God's instruments of reconciliation.

On Wednesday 4 December, we are hosts to other branches in the deanery for the annual Advent Carol service which takes place in our church. The service begins at 2.30 p.m. and it will be followed by refreshments.

Our own monthly meeting will take place on the evening of 4 December when our speaker will be Mrs Ruth Rowland from Weymouth. She will be speaking about the origins of some well known Christmas Carols. The meeting begins at 7.30 p.m. and the venue will be the home of Mrs Sally Cheeseman in North Street. After Mrs Rowland's talk, we will sing carols and enjoy the first of the season's mince pies.

Does anyone have an unwanted wedding dress? If so, please give it to a member of the Mother's Union for forwarding to the Sudan. The women's refuge in Salisbury is appealing for bedding, clothing for women and children and various items of equipment. Please let us know if you'd like us to collect any items.

Brenda Pitfield. 471391

On 22 October, after a service of Holy Communion at the MU chapel in Salisbury Cathedral, Brenda Pitfield was presented with a gift in appreciation of her six years as booking secretary for the MU caravans at Durdle Door. Brenda's mother also gave her a present - her prize in a raffle - a 3 day break in one of the caravans, which she and Fred thoroughly enjoyed.

Salisbury Cathedral Refectory

For many years an MU team, supplemented by members of the parish have worked, two or three times a year in the refectory. Canon David Durston, Chancellor of the Cathedral, has written to say that, because of recent stringent food regulations and the ensuing complications, they can no longer welcome voluntary team who work there. He extends his thanks to everyone who has helped and hopes to mark our years of service in the near future. Thank you to everyone who has been one of the team. We went out with a bang - certainly not a whimper - on our last visit in September, when the takings for the day were £1769.34, an all time record.

Eileen Bangay
PURBECK VILLAGE CHOIR

On Sunday 8 December at 6.00 p.m., in church the choir will perform a programme of West Gallery Christmas music, all written within the area around 1840. The choir also dress in the costume of that period. Do come and enjoy this lively music.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

The Women's section held their AGM on October 16th. 27 members attended. After the Exhortation, members stood in silence remembering Miss E Lys who had been our president for many years and had recently passed away.

Then followed the business of the afternoon. Mrs Cockburn, our Secretary gave a vote of thanks to her fellow officials, committee and members for their work through the year.

Then followed the treasurer's report and then the Chairman thanked everyone for their loyalty and support throughout the year. The election of a new president was then made, this was Mrs J Cleall and the committee were all returned en bloc, as were Standard Bearer - Mrs D Clarke, Sick Visitors Mrs Barnes and Mrs G Curtiss for Bere Regis, Mrs House for Winterborne Kingston, and Mrs Reed for Briantspuddle and Cancer Research - Mrs Brett.

Seven members attended the service at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the RBL. 246 standards were on parade and it was a moving experience. The Chairman thanked all who attended. Teas were then served by Mrs Bush and Mrs Tharby and a raffle run by Mrs Clarke.

Cenotaph for December - Mrs Maidment January - Mrs Maidment and Mrs Presslee.

BERE REGIS WI

Our speaker for our October meeting was Mr Fair. His talk and slide show was a very interesting account of the Abbotsbury Swannery. At Mr Fair's request, he was the first part of our programme (in view of him having to travel quite a distance).

Strange how providence takes a hand! As Mr Fair's slide show came to an end, so did the lighting in the hall, apart from the security and emergency lighting. We were plunged into darkness! Can you imagine it? We were fortunate that our hostesses for the evening had already prepared our refreshments so we quickly enjoyed them and departed. Our committee members returned next day to put the hall back in good order.

Zena Rogers

DRAX HALL

The Parish Council were advised that one of the areas that let us down with the 'Best Kept Village' competition was the appearance of the Drax Hall. We will be addressing the outside problem and we have approached the Parish council for help. We hope that there will be improvements before too long.

CM

PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting Councillors were able to congratulate themselves on some recent successes. Their long expressed wish for the land along Elder Road to be available for the young aspiring 'Gazzas' has been approved. The District Council have agreed to cut the grass, not down to Wembley standards but to a length that permits a knock-about football game to be played. However, the kicking wall is not yet approved but given proof of use of this site for ball games it will be more difficult to turn it down. Thus, get out there and use the site.

The other concern that they have expressed over a long period has been the use of Lane End as a 'rat run' by east/west bound traffic. The County council have agreed to close the lane at the Bloxworth end at the junction with the A35, and to install a gate on the lane at the Lower Woodbury crossroad. This will happen quite quickly. The problem at the Wareham road junction with the A35 will be tackled later. It is intended to improve the turn off the A35 on the Poole side and to provide sufficient width so that 'through traffic' does not have to wait in the main stream of traffic. This should reduce the chances of the type of accidents as have been witnessed this year.

The Christmas Trees will be put up on and after 6th December. Any volunteers would be welcome to help, as would donations towards the Christmas lights. Please contact Allan Dunning on 471395.

LUCY THE LABRADOR

A correction to last month's magazine article - Lucy lives in North Street, not West Street!
BERE REGIS COUNTY FIRST SCHOOL

Thank you to all of you who supported our School Book Fair in October. A total of £300 of books were sold and the school benefited with books to the value of £160.

Christmas is fast approaching and preparations are taking place for our School Production this year entitled 'Rock around the Flock'. Dates and times are as follows in December in the School Hall.

Friday 13th!! 10.45 a.m - Dress Rehearsal for playgroup children, playgroup parents and others from the village who would like to see what goes on at school at this time of year.

Tuesday 17th - 2.00 p.m - Performance for Autumn Leaves, Grans, Grandads and other relatives. Mince Pies and tea or coffee will be available.

Wednesday 18th - 7.00 p.m. - Performance for parents unable to make Tuesday's performance.

The last day of term, Friday 20th December will culminate in our School Carol Service at the Church from 2.00 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

To help with costumes we are in need of old white sheeting and curtain material. Please leave any items at school or ring 471334 for arrangements for collection.

FOBRS

Our Christmas Fair this year will take place at the school on Sunday 1st December starting at 2.00 p.m. There will be a variety of craft and other shows, and it is hoped that Father Christmas will make an appearance. Any unwanted items such as books, toys, games etc in a reasonable condition will be gladly received at the school.

Community Links

The school is always looking to develop its links with the wider community and would welcome offers of help or suggestions for getting our children more involved with local people. Please contact the school if you have any ideas.

Steve Battishill.

FRIENDS OF BERE REGIS FIRST SCHOOL

After a well attended Annual General Meeting held at the school on 15 October 1996, we approach the new year with lots of new faces and lots of new ideas.

Out next event will be an Advent Fayre on Sunday 1 December at the school starting at 2.00 p.m. Entrance will be 50p to include a cup of coffee/tea and mince pie. There will be lots of stalls and games, so do come along, there are bound to be lots of ideas/gifts for Christmas, not forgetting a Raffle! If you would like to have a stall at this event, please telephone 472414 for more information.

December 1996

At the first meeting of the FOBRS on 21 October, much discussion took place regarding the school's main social event for 1997. It was unanimously agreed that FOBRS will not be organising a Carnival for 1997. It was decided to have a more traditional Summer Fayre - date and details to follow later. The Committee thought it only fair that their decision was made known as soon as possible so that there would be plenty of time to set the wheels in motion, if another group/organisation wanted to organise this event. Of course Committee Members are more than willing to pass on any advice, and can be contacted on 472414 or 472350.

Don't forget that you do not necessarily need to be a parent to join the Committee - it is open to all persons in the catchment area of the school. So if you would like to join us and help the children of the school, please come along to the next meeting, scheduled for 15 November 1996 at 8.00 p.m. at the Royal Oak Pub. You will be assured of a very warm welcome.

FOBRS Committee

TRAIDCRAFT

Thank you to those who supported our 'Christmas Shopping' evening on 13th November. We sold over £300 worth of goods. The money from the sale goes back directly to the producers in third world countries and will help them to continue to support themselves and their families.

Pat Chesney - Mind the World Group.

AUTUMN LEAVES OVER 50's CLUB

We had a very enjoyable afternoon in November when Mr Ian Ventham, talked to us about the work of the RNLI and showed us a video. We learned a lot about the dangerous work of the voluntary lifeboat crews. A large number of umbrellas were on display.

Our next meeting will be on 11 December, and it will be our Christmas afternoon. The children from Bere Regis First School will be singing for us, then we will all be singing carols and Christmas songs to be requested by the members on the day.
THE WOODBURY HILL SINGERS

The singers during November have entertained Staphill Over 60's and Lychett Minster Luncheon Club.

They are singing at Wyevale Garden Centre on Sunday 8th December from 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. in aid of Trimar Hospice. Do come along and join them in singing Carols and Christmas songs etc.

Many thanks to all the singers for giving their time throughout the year to so many charities; over 60's clubs etc. They have entertained 26 venues during the year! Good work.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

In November we had a lovely afternoon with Mrs Jenny Moore of Wareham and in December we have 'Christmas Cheer' with Bryan Morrineau from Exeter.

Our AGM will be held on January 14th 1997. Do come.

Pat House 551266

BERE REGIS CAMERA CLUB

Meetings first and third Thursday of every month Cyril Wood Court - 7.30pm

Over the first year club members have taken a wide variety of photographs, some based on projects set through the club, while for others, members worked on their own favourite subjects. Now you have the chance to see the fruits of our labours.

Saturday 30th November - Sunday 1st December 1996
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION at Community Centre at Cyril Wood Court. Admission free.

For further information contact Dave Gibbs on 471500 or Julien Lightfoot on 472007.

DISTRICT NURSES TEA PARTY

Many thanks to you all for supporting us on 5th November. We raised £80 which has been donated to Wool Surgery Charity Fund.

BERE REGIS SCOUT GROUP

Our Scouts are continuing their canoe training and we are very grateful to the Thomas Williams Educational Foundation Trust for their grant to the group of £1000 towards a canoe trailer. We look forward to seeing the trailer in use in the Spring. The Scouts will be cooking a Christmas meal for some of our Senior Citizens on Sunday 22nd December.

The Cubs are busy with their Winter programme and are also training for the district six-a-side football competition - we wish them success.

Our Beaver Leader, Gill Grey is unwell at present and we wish her a speedy recovery. Kim Benjafield and Denise Croom from Cubs, plus our Group Scout Leader, Phil Venthem are helping Tess Hellin to keep the section running.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Jumble Sale a success - we raised £116.

We will be carol singing around Bere Regis on the evening of Monday 23rd December in aid of the RNLI. We are still very much in need of someone to help us to look after our equipment so if you can help please contact me on 01929 471651.

Pat Hall

BERE REGIS BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

A coffee morning was held at Turberville Court on Saturday 26th October. Despite a poor response, £20 was raised for funds. Our thanks to the residents and warden at Turberville for their continued support.

On Saturday 9th November, Piddle Valley District Guides held a craft show at Puddleton. Rainbows and Brownies from Bere Regis were well represented. Congratulations to:

♦ Elspeth Monro 1st in the cookery section for her fairy cakes and 3rd in the Christmas decorations

♦ Sophie Hillie 3rd in the sweet section for her peppermint creams

♦ Kerry Pitman 3rd for her Christmas table decoration and highly commended in the 'You've made it, let's see if' section.

Well done to you and to Sian, Carla, Samantha and Elizabeth.

Rainbows and Brownies break up for Christmas after their party on Tuesday 10th December. See you all in 1997 and have a Happy Christmas.

Pat Bentley
THE POP IN PLACE

Christmas Party
Everyone is welcome to come to the Christmas Party on Saturday 14th December from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Just Pop-In and put your name on the list to enjoy the free entertainment and food.

Library
Our thanks to Rose and Tony Wise for erecting all the new book cases and to Denise Smith for categorising the library books and videos. We have purchased many new books and videos with the community council grant. If you haven't already visited us why not Pop-In and make use of the free lending library.

Children's home play area
Our thanks to the Williams Trust for a donation of £200 towards the development of this facility. We have already ordered equipment to this value and are now eager to raise some more funds to complete this part of the project.

Transport
If you require transport to the Pop In for any reason, especially with the colder weather conditions, please phone our transport co-ordinator Joan Grimston on 471750.

Progress report
We are delighted to see young mums and babies and toddlers attending the sessions. The Pop-In becomes increasingly more popular and many people are using it on a regular basis. We welcome anyone irrespective of age and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL
BUTT LANE, BERE REGIS

Well, what do you make of Christmas? Or, to put it another way, what does Christmas make of you? Many people, including Christians, are divided about the whole idea of Christmas. It has become far too commercialised and costly. People spend time and money they can ill afford on things they do not really need. Too much eating and drinking is crammed into a few days. Then comes the morning after the night before - and the overdraft - and the day of reckoning! Was it all worth it, we ask ourselves.

Well, it depends on what we are supposed to be celebrating. December 25th was probably not the date of the birth of Jesus Christ. It was more likely to have been in September or October. The precise date is not the important thing. It is the fact that the Saviour Messiah entered this world at a certain point in time that matters. History alone tells us that Christ did come. He did Live! He did Die! He did Rise from the Dead! No-one who is open and willing to consider the evidence can deny the truth that in the town of Bethlehem a Saviour has been born, who is Christ the Lord, (Luke 2: 8-20) and that some 33 years later he died on a cross and then rose from the dead. (Luke 24: 5-8)

Christmas (and Easter) will make a big difference to you if you go and hear, see and believe for yourself. Then you will make a lot of Christmas as you love and worship your Saviour and Lord. Yes indeed, Jesus is worth it.

Rev Ray Healey
BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB

Football Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>FLIGHT REFUELING</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>HANDLEY SPORTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Dorset Sunday Junior Cup 1st Round Replay</td>
<td></td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>FLIGHT REFUELING</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>STALBRIDGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>LYTCHETT R.T.</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>WESTON UNITED</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>STURMINSTER MARSHALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>BERE REGIS</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>STOKEFORD INN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Dorset Saturday Intermediate Cup</td>
<td></td>
<td>CRANBORNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Dorset Saturday Junior Cup 2nd Round</td>
<td></td>
<td>MARTINSTOWN 0-3 BERE REGIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Dorset Sunday Junior Cup 2nd Round</td>
<td></td>
<td>BERE REGIS 2-1 ADMIRAL HARDY</td>
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</table>

"Revenge is sweet", a phrase well worn over the years and was never more applicable when Bere were at home to a brutal Handley Sports. A first half demolition job of 5-1 was witnessed by the ever expanding faithful, only to see Bere concede three late goals to give for an exciting finish. With Kev Cox and Wayne Cope exploiting every weakness on their left, they were torn to shreds during a performance of fighting spirit and football not seen at The Rec in recent years. The resurgent Burt "Bacharach" Stranack netted three times giving Bere the extra dimension up front alongside the evergreen Ricky Cummins who chips in with his share of goals also. The game was marred by some of Handley's tactics but well dealt by the more than able stand-in referee Reg Frip.

Away to Lytchett RT, Bere's manager Archie asked his troops to dig in and prepare for a battle. As it was Lytchett threw all they could at Bere in the first half and our home warriors were rather lucky considering they played well below par. Ricky Cummins hit a powerful effort to send Bere in 1-1 at half time, then Wayne Cope stole centre stage as Lytchett's left flank were treated to a turn of pace not seen this season. He bagged two goals in five minutes effectively ending home hopes, and right at the death their goalkeeper gifted Burt a fourth. Playing badly and getting results is a mark of winners, and Bere showed this side at home to a useful Sturminster Marshall side.

After losing Dean ' Sicknote' Rogerson, sleeves had to be rolled up giving a defensive performance unparalleled this season in a 3-2 victory, rarely has there been such camaraderie in the side coupled with an ability to play attractive football when the chips are down. The second round of the cup away to unknown Martinstown presented the opportunity for Bere to progress into the quarter finals for the first time in their history. A damp day greeted the players and Bere strode into the next round courtesy of some luck, but clinical finishing from the front two and a rare strike from Kev Cox sealed a 3-0 victory. Bere's midfield shine, particularly with Bungi Brown and Stuart Merritt dominating proceedings. A late flurry of chances almost made the score embarrassing for the home side, with the sharp Andy Curtis hitting a post. All cars will be tuned to the radio for the draw of the next round on Farmers FM.

With the football on the more traditional Saturday taking a turn for the better, Bere's Sunday heroes have put in some sterling performances of their own, turning heads in the lower reaches of Sunday's Hangover Leagues. With manager Mike Walker at the helm, he has steered Bere to dizzy heights in the league and the third round of the cup. A replay at Flight Refuelling was billed as a repeat of an ill-tempered first leg at Bere which sparked written protests from the opposition.

A dodgy start helped Bere to a 1-0 reverse, but a penalty from Mark Gale and important strikes before half time from Andy Curtis and Steve Ives virtually sealed victory. A second half controlled by Bere's libero Rob White ended with Chris Oram hitting a fourth and setting off on a bizarre goal celebration. League leaders Stokfod Inn met Bere at The Rec and outplayed the home side with some robust football and unfortunately Bere entered into some unsavoury moments with a last minute dismissal, but lessons were learnt from a 5-1 loss. Unbeaten Admiral Hardy of Weymouth brought their side to Bere in the second round of the cup. A game played on a pitch reduced to mud after some untimely November rain, was seen by some 50 or so spectators which spurred Bere on to a 2-1 win and the promise of silverware. Early chances fell to Bere's youthful frontline, but Fabrizio and Des could not capitalise, it was left to a bullet header from Gary and a rifled shot from Mike Azzaro to ensure Bere's fate.

Steve Cheeseman

DORSET LATVIA LINK

Aleysha

We have received finally all the necessary information in connection with a new prosthesis for Aleysha and the committee met on 10th November to decide on the best course of action. The treatment will be in two stages - the first stage requires a remedial operation to tidy up her limb in readiness for her new prostheses. This operation can now be carried out in Latvia with the Link providing the necessary funds - approximately £600. This is a real bonus as it means Aleysha will be able to convalesce at home, thereby saving time and, of course, money.
Hospitalisation in Latvia is relatively inexpensive compared to the UK. The second stage will be the actual making and fitting of the limb and it is anticipated that this will take place in the Spring of 1997 when she has had time to recover fully from the operation. She is at present able to attend school for only one day a week as her current artificial limb is causing a great deal of pain and inconvenience.

A reminder that the Link will be running a stall at the Briantspuddle WI Christmas fair on Saturday 7th December at 3.30 p.m.

Finally the Chairman and committee of the Dorset Latvia Link extend their warmest greetings to you all for a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1997 and thank you for your continuing help and support.

Jenny Silavs - Hon Secretary

AFFPUDDLE NEWS

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE

This service will be combined with the Affraise service on Sunday 15th December at 11.00 a.m. All gifts will be taken to the Cheshire Home in Dorchester for the benefit of the residents.

Since we started making gifts at Harvest and Christmas to the Cheshire Home at Dorchester the home has changed. Now all the mentally handicapped residents live in five houses based around Dorchester and try to live as near to normal a life as possible. The ages of the residents range between 18 to 28. As you know they really appreciate the Harvest produce which we give every year. When talking to the staff at the headquarters I asked what type of gifts were the most useful. At Christmas they would greatly appreciate any items which can be stored (tins, jars, packets etc.), cleaning materials, Christmas treats such as crackers, nuts, sweets and other easily stored non perishable Christmas fare and this year they suggested small gifts of toiletries or clothes such as those one would give to a teenage son or daughter.

Do be generous as apart from disability benefit and housing benefit they rely on support from the community to supplement their funds and pay for the staff and housing costs.

Philippa Thorniley

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Mrs Ramm gave a concert of classical music for the benefit of the Village Hall. Some 50 people attended and enjoyed a varied programme of music. During the interval wine and small cocktail eats were served. All in all it was a very pleasant evening and the Briantspuddle Hall committee are most grateful to Mrs Ramm for giving her time and talent to help the community.

During November there will be a concert given by the Yetties.

On 25th January 1996 in conjunction with Artreach there will be a concert of classical music given by the Budapest Cafe Orchestra. At the time of going to press we have not yet been notified of the price of the tickets but by the time you read this tickets may be obtained from Philippa Thorniley, 471497. It is suggested that you book early to avoid disappointment.

The Hall committee has met twice in the last month, once with representatives from the Social Club and Parish Council to discuss an application for a Lottery Grant for the general improvement of the facilities at the hall and again at a routine management meeting.

CHURCH YARD TIDY UP

It is intended to have a further church yard tidy up on Saturday 7th December between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. The main work will be to clear up the leaves which have fallen late this year. There are a few other jobs to be done to make the church yard look well tended before Christmas.

HOME WATCH

There has been an increase in the number of house burglaries in the Wareham area. Although properties between Turnerspuddle and Pallington have not been targeted recently there is no reason to be complacent.

The most common method of entry is by windows and patio doors. Once inside the thieves go for the master bedroom where they look for jewellery. They grab everything they can as quickly as possible.

The best way to deter burglars is to make sure that all windows and doors are locked whenever the property is vacant. Special door bolts and window locks should be fitted and the keys for these should not be kept in the immediate vicinity.

Home Watch Co-ordinator

BRIANTSPUDDLE W.I.

In November we held our A.G.M. and reappointed our Officers for another year, as well as our committee. This was followed by a demonstration of Christmas floral art by Diane Holman. In December this year we shall have our Christmas meal in the Hall, especially prepared for us by Nicky Killer and Jenny Beadie. This will be followed by the Christmas fete in the Hall on Saturday 7th December at 3.30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Social Club, whilst you will be able to purchase your gifts for Christmas at the various stalls in the main hall. Entry will be by raffle ticket purchased at the door. We hope to see you and your friends there.
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<td><strong>Autumn Leaves</strong></td>
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<td>6.30 p.m. Monday, Scout HQ</td>
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<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
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<td>7.45 p.m. Monday, Drax Hall</td>
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<td>7.00 - 11.30 p.m. Monday - Saturday</td>
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<td>12.00 - 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 - 10.30 p.m. Sunday</td>
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<td><strong>British Legion Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday, HQ</td>
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<td><strong>British Legion Women's Section</strong></td>
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<td>7.00 - 10.00 p.m. Wednesday, HQ</td>
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<td>6.00 - 7.15 p.m. Wednesday, Scout HQ</td>
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<td>Winter season opening times: Tues, Wed, Fri</td>
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<td>7.00p.m., Sat - 4.25 p.m., Sun - 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brianspuddle Singers</strong></td>
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<td>7.45 p.m Tuesdays, Village Hall</td>
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<td>6.00 p.m. Junior, 6.45 p.m. Full Choir, Fri in Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wareham - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10.00 a.m. - 2.00p.m. (closed Wednesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C.A.B.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Camera Club</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cubs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D.S.S. Van</strong></td>
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<td>W.I. Brianspuddle</td>
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<td>Woodbury Hill Singers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Readers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs B Pitfield. Tel: 471391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs A Hart. Tel: 471666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Wardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J House, Lower Stockley Farm. Tel: 471255/551266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J England, 10 Southmead. Tel: 471469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr R Comben, Beechmarsh, Whatcombe Lane, Winterborne Whitchurch. Tel: 01258 881143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of PCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cdr C Mauder, 15 North Street. Tel: 471342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer of PCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr F Pitfield, Hillbutts, Butt Lane. Tel: 471391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choirmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr D Holloway ARCM, 1 Cyril Wood Court. Tel: 472228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Di Phillips - 471423 Mrs Mary England - 471469</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Kay March - 471883 Mrs Dorrie Barnes - 471531</td>
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<td>Mrs Eileen Bangay - 471724</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>PCC Members</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>The Venerable Graham Robin - 471262 Eileen Jutting</td>
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<tr>
<td>John House - 471255/551266 Kay March - 471883</td>
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<tr>
<td>John England - 471469 Sybil Frampton - 471643</td>
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<td>Christopher Mauder - 471342 Pat Mills - 471308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eileen Bangay - 471724 Norah Penfold - 471540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Booth - 471586 Brenda Pitfield - 471391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Carlyle - 471441 Roy Comben - 471372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Pitfield - 471391 Robert Croom - 471905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Stuallard - 471774 Mary England - 471469</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Readers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Jonathan Haigh - 471768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Terry Lane - 471751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Wardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr R Gainsford, 19 Brianspuddle. Tel: 471419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of PCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cdr W Thornley, Raitby Cottage, Brianspuddle. 471497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer of PCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr R Keller, 4 Bladen Valley, Brianspuddle. 471202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr I Mullins, Grassmere, 12 Parmiter Road, Colehill, Wimborne. Tel: 01202 889227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Pastoral Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Lindy Ventham - 471215 Mr Halloween - 471751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Penny Haigh - 471768</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Magazine Rep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Martha Tucker, Delaware, Brianspuddle. 471358</td>
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 1996

1st  Ancient Order of Foresters Carol Service  3.00 p.m.
   Bere Regis Church

4th  Folk Art (decorative painting) with Jeanne Seymour  7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
   at Cyril Wood Court, Every Wednesday until Dec 18th

7th  Christmas Coffee Morning at Cyril Wood Court  10.30 a.m.
   (proceeds to Church Funds)

7th  Briantspuddle WI, Christmas event  3.30 p.m.

11th Autumn Leaves Xmas Afternoon  2.30 p.m.

14th Pop in Place Christmas Party, Drax Hall  3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

January 1997

18th Quiz Evening, Scout HQ  7.30 p.m.

25th Jumble Sale, Wareham Town Hall  10.00 a.m.

AROMATHERAPY AND REIKI

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Either of these treatments would make an ideal Christmas present. Gift vouchers on request.

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

Alison Sheward
'Kastania', 11 Rye Hill Close, Bere Regis,
Wareham, Dorset, BH20 7LU

Telephone: 01929 471780  Fax: 01929 472280
E-mail: kastania@msn.com

Please submit all announcements, copy or advertisements to Alison by the 15th of each month,
or Martha Tucker, Delaware, Briantspuddle by the 13th.
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