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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Age Concern

2.00 p.m. Thursdays, Turberville Court

Autumn Leaves

2.30 p.m. 2nd Wednesday

Beavers

6.30 p.m. Monday, Scout HQ

Bingo

7.45 p.m. Monday, Drax Hall

British Legion Club

7.00 - 11.30 p.m. Monday - Saturday

12.00 - 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 - 10.30 p.m. Sunday

2.00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday, HQ

British Legion Women's Section

7.00 - 10.00 p.m. Wednesday, HQ

British Legion Youth

6.00 - 7.15 p.m. Wednesday, Scout HQ

Brownies

Winter season opening times: Tues, Wed, Fri

7.00p.m., Sat - 4.25 p.m., Sun - 7.30 p.m.

B.R.S.C.

7.45 p.m Tuesday, Village Hall

Briantspuddle Singers

6.00 p.m. Junior, 6.45 p.m. Full Choir, Fri in Church.

Choir Practice

Wareham - Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 10.00 a.m.-

C.A.B.

2.00p.m. (closed Wednesday)

Camera Club

Bere Regis Surgery (for patients of the surgery only)

Wednesday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon

Cubs

7.30 p.m 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Cyril Wood Court

D.S.S. Van

6.30 p.m. Thursdays, Scout HQ

Dorset/Latvia Link

1st Mon 10.15 a.m.-11.00 a.m. Bere Regis P.O.

Floral Group

Secretary - Jenny Silvas - 01929 471577

Guides

2.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday, W. Kingston village hall

Mini Market

6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, Scout HQ

Mobile Library

10.00 a.m. 2nd Saturday, Drax Hall

Mother and Toddler

Every Friday 2.10 p.m. - 3.45 p.m., car park

Mothers' Union

2.00 p.m. Mondays, Congregational Church

Parish Council

7.30 p.m. 1st Wednesday, the Church

Parish Council

7.00 p.m. 2nd Thursday, Drax Hall

Playgroup Bere Regis

Sub-committees on Post Office notice board

Five mornings, Bere Regis School - Tel: 01305 848792

Pop in Place

Wednesdays/Thursdays PM

Rainbows

9.00 a.m. - 12.00 Mondays and Fridays, Drax Hall

RBL Gardening Club

4.30 p.m. Tuesdays, Scout HQ

Scouts

8.00 p.m. 1st Tuesday, Club House. - Brian 472135

W.I. Bere Regis

Junior - 7.30 p.m. Mondays, Scout HQ

W.I. Briantspuddle

Senior - 7.00 p.m. Fridays, Scout HQ

Tuesday Clubs:

7.30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday, Drax Hall

Junior Club

7.30 p.m. 1st Wednesday, Briantspuddle Village Hall

Youth Club

7.00 p.m. 6 - 9 years, Congregational Church

Swimming Club

7.00 p.m. 9 years and over, Congregational Church

Turberville Court

Teaching sessions - Saturdays 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Woodbury Hill Singers

Blandford L. C. Bob Holman, 01305 848262

2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Social afternoon each Tuesday

2.30 p.m. Mondays, Larkspur

February 1997

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 1997

15th Briantspuddle Village Hall - Valentine’s Day supper 7.30 p.m.

15th Church Gift Day 10.00 am - 12.00

22nd Briantspuddle WI Jumble Sale, Village Hall 2.30 p.m.

25th Knitters Workshop recommences, Cyril Wood Court 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

March 1997

1st Mind the World coffee morning, the Vicarage 10.30 a.m.

1st Bladen Social Club 40th birthday party

2nd Briantspuddle Village Hall - Denison String Quartet 7.30 p.m.

11th Charity Fashion Show, School Hall 8.00 p.m.

15th Autumn Leaves Spring Sale and 50p Table Top sale, Drax Hall

15th ICRF coffee morning, Cyril Wood Court 10.30 a.m.

22nd Bere Regis supports Charities day

26th Puppet show and Lantern Workshop - Drax Hall 10.00 a.m.

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

Alison Steward

'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.
A THOUGHT FROM THE VICARAGE

On Tuesday 11 of this month, all over the country, and almost certainly in North Street, Bere Regis, you can witness groups of women running. As they race, they will toss pancakes. It is, of course, Shrove Tuesday. It is a tradition that goes back into the mists of time and a tradition about which very few know anything. The word 'Shrove' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Scrifan' which changed over the years to 'Shiven'. Shrove is the past tense of the work. It meant to confess your sins, and to receive forgiveness from God."

Shrovetide was the period before Lent when people went to confession and then made merry. The 'making merry' bit still goes on, on the continent with great Carnivals and procession, but we only have the pancake races. (Perhaps closer contact with other European countries will have the bonus of us getting a day off for a Carnival!) The pancake symbolises the using up of any flour, before the fasting season of Lent.

Lent is an interesting word too. It also comes from an Anglo-Saxon word 'Lencten'. It is a word for March or Spring, and we get our present word 'lengthen' from it, meaning 'lengthening of the days'. For hundreds of years Lent was held by the religious as a time of preparation for the great festival of Easter. People deprived themselves of something, not in order to slim, or for their health, but as an offering to God. That a trim, healthy body resulted was only a spin off.

The early Christians only fasted for 40 hours. (The number 40 is a religious number, like 7, 12, and 144), but it gradually increased to 40 days, although the 40 hour fast was much more severe, especially for those who were to be baptised on Easter Day. In the Middle Ages, meat eggs and milk were forbidden, but at the Reformation, Lent was abolished as being Catholic. It came back naturally within 1000 years.

Jesus laid down no rules of fasting, except that a person should not do it publicly, but in private. No show was to be made of it. He himself fasted. He understood the value of it. It was a natural activity in his life. It is part of the custom of all major religions. Ramadan is the fasting time for the followers of the prophet Mahomet.

So what about us today? I feel that to use Lent as a time for 'dieting' is not really within the spirit of the tradition. But to abstain from some food or drink, for God's sake, must be of great value. To say the words "God, I offer you this discipline, I will not touch such and such a thing for your sake". This will help you to keep the discipline much more easily. Taking on something extra is also part of our Lenten tradition, attend a study group, extra regular attendance at Communion, or money in a Lent Box. All these things are of value if they are offered to God.

'SHROVE', 'LENT'. They are Anglo-Saxon in origin. It shows how the value of these spiritual exercises have been realised down the centuries. To abandon them now may not be as enlightened as we like to think.

CHURCH SERVICES in FEBRUARY

**Sunday 2 February**
- 8.00 a.m. Candlemas
- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle)
- 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion (Bere Regis)
- 6.00 p.m. Mattins (Affpuddle)
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (Bere Regis)

**Sunday 9 February**
- 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. Evensong (Bere Regis)

**Wednesday 12 February**
- 11.00 a.m. Ash Wednesday
- 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle)

**Sunday 16 February**
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Affpuddle)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Bere Regis)
- 11.00 a.m. Affpraise (Affpraise)
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (Bere Regis)

**Wednesday 19 February**
- 7.30 p.m. Evening Communion and Meditation (Bere Regis)

**Sunday 23 February**
- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Bere Regis)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (Affpuddle)
- 11.00 a.m. Mattins (Bere Regis)
- 6.00 p.m. Taize style worship (Bere Regis)
- 6.30 p.m. Village Hall Service (Briantspuddle)

**Wednesday 19 February**
- 7.30 p.m. Evening Communion and Meditation (Bere Regis)
BERE REGIS CHURCH ROTAS

Bere Regis Sidesmen

February 2nd 9.30 a.m. Mr Strange/Mr Bates
           6.00 p.m. Mr Dashwood/Mr Ward
February 9th 11.00 a.m. Mrs March / Mrs England
           6.00 p.m. Mrs Jutting / Mr Barnes
February 16th 9.30 a.m. Mrs Hazeldrigg / Mr Croom
           6.00 p.m. Miss Frampton/Mrs Griffin
February 23rd 11.00 a.m. Miss Miller
           6.00 p.m. Miss Chesney/Mrs Ward

Sanctuary Flower Guild

February 2nd Mrs J Clarke
February 9th Mrs Owens
February 16th Lent
February 23rd Lent

Readers

February 2nd Mrs P Ward
February 9th Mrs E Jutting
February 16th Miss S Frampton
February 23rd Miss P Chesney

AFFPUDDLE CHURCH ROTAS

Flowers and Cleaning

2nd February Flowers Mrs Thorniley
9th February Flowers Mrs Thorniley
16th February Lent
23rd February Lent

Cleaning
Mrs Thorniley
Mrs Nicholson
Mrs Russell
Mrs Thorniley

Readers/Readings and Sidesmen

2nd February 8.00 Capt Badcock
           11.00 Lt Cdr Thorniley
9th February 9.30 Mr D Payne
16th February 8.00 Lt Cdr Thorniley
           11.00 Affpraise
23rd February 9.30 Mrs Holland

The Server
Gal. 4 1-7
Mr Armitage
Genesis 17 1-22
Matthew 19 16-20
Mr Silas
Philemon 1-16
Mr Gainsford
Mark 2 13-17
The Server
2 Cor 6 1-10
Affpraise


During March, Bill and I will be preparing the Cleaning, Flower arranging, Sidesmen and
Readers rotas which start on 1st April. Unless we are notified by 1st March 1997 we will
include all existing names on the new rotas. If anyone who currently is not on any of the
rotas and who can spare time to do the flowers or clean the church or feels that they would
be able to read at any of the services on a regular basis please contact Bill or Philippa
Thorniley not later than 1st March. Please contact Bill if you are able to help with the
mowing rota of the church yard from April to October (tel 01929 471497).

Cleaning - The cleaners are asked to dust all the pews and furniture and sweep through the
church.

Flower arranging - The flower arrangers are asked to make sure that the church flowers are
fresh and tidy.

Church yard mowing - The team of three liaise during the allocated fortnight and make
sure that the grass is cut and cleared away. There is a mowing machine available for this
purpose but if you prefer to use your own machine the cost of any fuel can be reimbursed.

Philippa Thorniley
BERE REGIS CHURCH FACILITIES

After many years of plans and hopes concerning ways to bring water, kitchen and WC facilities to Bere Regis church, the moment arrived on 1 December last year for our church architect and historian, Mr Fred Pitfield, to declare the result 'OPEN'! He did this by opening the beautiful oak lids on the kitchen units now in place at the back of the south aisle. To have this facility has already proved to be a great asset, and the long process whereby we came to achieve it was propounded by Mr Pitfield in his speech, based on the Old Testament style of writing. (A shortened version of his 'ancient history' is printed below.)

The cost of creating all this, together with bringing water to the church, and organising waste and sewage disposal was of course, considerable. It has been made possible by the kindness and philanthropy of several people in the parish. Balliol College, Oxford were most generous initially, then more recently we have had private legacies made in the wills of former parishioners. The names of those who made our plans possible will be recorded on plaques on the kitchen oak, as well as on the oak table which is to complement the area in front of the kitchen. The church is deeply grateful for the ongoing financial help from those who love the building and wish to see it maintained and enhanced.

FACILITIES AND FACILITIES

1. And it came to pass in those days that the chief priest, scribes and elders of the temple in the land of Bere met together, saying "Let us consider the temple, whether is be meet for the needs of the whole multitude gathered therein at Sunday times".

2. "Yea," they say, "it is the finest temple in all the lands round about." Yet it lacketh a well of water for the multitude to drink therefrom after the rites of the temple have been performed.

3. It likewise lacketh a vessel for the relief of the people, whereof they stand in need a sundry times.

4. Let us therefore build a fair place without the walls of the temple, on the north side thereof, wherein to put these things which we have need of.

5. And all the elders there gathered saw that it was good, and said one to another, "Yea, let it be done, even as we have said."

6. Then the chief priest, scribes and elders sent messengers unto the scribes and elders of the great temple of Sarum, whose word ought to be obeyed in the land of Bere, telling them of these things which they have need of.

7. Now the scribes and elders of the great temple of Sarum were much put about by these sayings, for they knew not how to answer them. "Let them send messengers unto the elders of the tribe of Purbeck", they say, "for their word likewise ought to be obeyed in that land of Bere, and if peradventure they say 'yea' then verily say we 'yea' likewise".

8. Then the people of the land of Bere did even as they were bidden, and sent messengers unto the elders of the tribe of Purbeck, but they likewise knew not how to answer these sayings.

9. And it came to pass after many months that the elders of the tribe of Purbeck say 'yea' but in a still small voice.

10. Then cometh unto the land of Bere from a distant land where he now dwellith, one Robert, the keeper of the treasure of the people, saying "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, there be not enough shekels in the coffers of the temple for to do that which thou wouldst do."

11. Then the elders were much put about by these saying, and murmured one to another, "How then shall these things be accomplished?"

12. Then the chief priest, Graham the son of Robbin, and the guardians of the temple, John of the house of House and John of the house of England, gathered the elders of the temple before them saying, "As ye have heard, there be not enough shekels in the coffers of the temple for to build a fair place without the wall of the temple wherein to put those things which we have need of."

13. "Let us therefore, consider that place which we have already, which standeth without the walls of the temple, on the west side thereof, wherein our forefathers begat the wherewithall for to lighten the temple in ages past.

14. Let us put therein a vessel for the relief of the people, and moreover, within the walls of the temple, let us make there a well of water for the multitude to drink therefrom after the rites of the temple have been performed."

15. And all the elders gathered there saw that it was good, and said with one voice, "Yea, let it be done even as ye have said."

16. So it came to pass that the chief priest, the guardians of the temple and the scribes gathered before them, men skilled in the ways of building, Griffin the son of Griffin, Graham of the house of Gale and Michael of the east men.

17. And they say unto them "Go forth unto the temple, unto that place which standeth without the walls of the temple on the west side thereof, and there put ye a vessel for the relief of the people.

18. And within the wall of the temple, in the south west corner thereof, make ye there a well of water for the multitude to drink therefrom after the rites of the temple have been performed."

19. And behold, it was done even as they had said. And when all these things were accomplished, the chief priest and all the people gathered together in the temple to drink of the waters and there was much rejoicing.
THE BERIE REGIS CHURCHYARD

It was a very sad day last year when we were forced to cut down a lovely 45 year old cedar tree. It had become unsafe and there was a slight possibility of it falling onto the bungalows below. A replacement tree has now been planted. It is the tree that the 'Arboriculturist' of Purbeck District Council recommended - a Wild Cherry. It has been donated by Mrs Mollie Carlyle and we are very grateful to her. The churchwardens did the planting on a bitterly cold morning. The vicar took photographs, and they failed to come out!

ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of Lent. There will be celebrations of the Holy Communion in both parishes.
11.00 a.m. in Affpuddle
7.30 p.m. in Bere Regis (with Meditation)

LENT

For those of you who wish to do a little bit extra in Lent, the Home Group that meet in Briantspuddle and Bere Regis, will welcome you to their special Lent studies.

In Briantspuddle, Mr Jonathan Haigh is the co-ordinator (471768) and the Home Group will give you a warm welcome. The meetings are on Monday 17 February and Monday 24 February, both starting at 7.45 p.m. Please see the notice sheets for the meeting place or telephone Jonathan.

In Bere Regis, Mrs Brenda Pitfield is the co-ordinator (471391) and the Mid-week Group meets on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. Please see the weekly notice sheet for the meeting place. This group is following a Lent Course devised by Christian Aid.

There will be a mid-week Holy Communion on Wednesday evenings in Lent, starting at 7.30 p.m. During this service, the vicar will lead a short meditation.

Now that we have our lovely kitchen facility in Bere Regis church, we are holding Lent Lunches every Wednesday, from 12.30 p.m. until 1.30 p.m. This will be in the church. The menu will be soup, bread and cheese and coffee/tea, and the cost will be £2.00. Any profit made will be given to a charity that helps with alleviating hunger in the third world. We do hope that will prove to be a popular addition to our Lent offerings. Please bring a friend.

BERIE REGIS GIFT DAY

There is no doubt that those of us who live in the parish of Bere Regis are very proud of our parish church. It is one of the gems of England. We are always pleased to show our visitors around. To see it standing there with the flag flying makes us feel good.

It is also a wonderful place for a baby to be baptised in, with the awe-inspiring thought that babies have been brought to that very font for 830 years.

It is very special for a bride and groom to stand before that altar on their wedding day. And week by week, ordinary men and women of our parish use the building for prayer and worship. It is a holy place; it is a living church, and not a museum.

We all know how much things cost especially home owners. The upkeep of a modern house is never ending, so you will appreciate how costly it is to keep such an ancient building like ours.

Once a year, we have a 'gift-day' when the Vicar sits outside the Post Office in West Street. He sits there (normally on a wet or freezing day) to receive any offering you might care to make. An envelope with an explanatory note will be delivered through your letter box in the next few days. If you can put an offering in the envelope for the church it would be very much appreciated.

The Gift day is Saturday 15 February from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. If you can't deliver your offering on that day, do bring it to the church or to the Vicarage. Many thanks.

CONFIRMATION

Part of the understanding in having infants baptised/christened is that they should come to be prepared for Confirmation when they reach 'the age of discretion', which has been judged to be eleven or twelve and above.

Confirmation classes will be starting shortly in the Vicarage, for teenagers. This applies to boys and girls in the AFFPUDDLE parish as well as the Bere Regis parish. We will meet once a week for six weeks and then plan for the Confirmation in May. The times of the meetings will be decided at our first meeting which will be on Tuesday 11 February (Shrove Tuesday) at 6.00 p.m.

The first meeting will last half an hour. Clearly the good will and encouragement of parents is essential for this.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

I know there are one or two who wish to be confirmed and we will meet separately. If anyone would like to talk to me about being confirmed, please telephone and I will come to see you, or you can come to the Vicarage.
ADULT INFORMATION LECTURE
This will once again take place in the Vicarage on Thursday 27 February from 7.00 p.m. until 8.00 p.m.

MIND THE WORLD COFFEE MORNING
We are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 1 March in the Vicarage from 10.30 a.m. onwards. All are welcome to support this function for the Mind the World group.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP
We have a very enjoyable AGM and after the business of the meeting, mince pies and tea was served by the committee. On February 11 we have Mrs Anne Syrad of Broadstone and her title will be 'Fun with Flowers'.

OBITUARY
MRS VIOLET MAY BOWRING, aged 85
The cremation service for Mrs Bowring took place in Poole Crematorium on Tuesday 15 January. For the past sixteen months, she had been looked after at the Castle Farm Nursing Home, due to increasing ill health. Before that, she was a resident at Turberville Court, but for fifty years before that, old Bere Regis residents remember her at Southbrook, and then Church Cottages.

Mrs Bowring was born and brought up around Bridport. She was the seventh of eight children, born into a farming family. Her upbringing affected her whole outlook on life; she loved gardening, animals and the look of the countryside. She married her husband Edgar in 1935, but he died in 1973, so she had to cope for many years on her own. Edgar worked on the cress beds during the war, but then moved to be the dairyman at Court Farm, this was when they moved from Doddings to April Cottage, and it was here that her children Philip and Kay were born. They stayed in this house for a quarter of a century.

As with many of her generation, she was a very good cook, and an expert knitter. She also made home made wine 'out of anything'. She kept hens and rabbits and of course, she had her dog. Many of us will remember her walking in the village with her dog.

We laid to rest a very dignified lady with high ideals; a person who was generous and compassionate. We thanked God for her life, and we prayed that she might now enjoy her new life in God.

BERE REGIS NEWS
MOTHERS' UNION
The year began with a change in our programme. The speaker who had been booked to come in February discovered that she was double booked on that day so the dates were rearranged to enable Mrs Alma Gill to come to our January meeting. Alma spoke to us about the MU's current theme, "to live and work to God's praise and glory", and we were challenged to think about how we care for others in our families and in the community. In groups of four or five, we shared our experiences and gained useful insights from each other.

On 5 February, we will welcome Mrs Elizabeth Baker from Wareham who will talk to us about the work of Mother Theresa. Anyone who is not a member of Mothers' Union would be most welcome to attend any of our meetings.

Don't forget the appeal launched jointly by the Salisbury/Sudan Link, Christian Aid and the Mothers' Union, for needlework material. Full details appeared in last month's magazine, but if you have misplaced your copy, please contact either Pat Chesney, Eileen Bangay or myself.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION GARDENING CLUB
The year has started well. 40 renewals of memberships already. Must have been everyone in the Legion Club at AGM. Speaking of which, all who were 'IN' before, are 'IN' again. It's carry on as usual.

We ran a trip to Anne Stevens' Cottage Garden a few years back. It was pleasant enough then but as the beautiful colour slides showed, it has improved in quality, colour and content tremendously since that time.

By the time you read this you will be thinking about getting the garden ready for the Spring Show in April. Of course you will! However, if it's still a bit frosty on the ground, come along to the Legion Club and learn all about the Care and Propagation of House Plants on Tuesday 4 February. Door open around 7.00 p.m. The talk and demonstration, by an expert from Kingston Maurward College starts prompt at 8.00 p.m. We don't make a charge at the door and you don't need to join the Gardening Club first time round. You can if you want to, of course, but as it's still only £1.50, we think you will be offered good value for money.

Our grateful thanks go to all who braved the freezing cold to turn up at the AGM. Hope it didn't go on too long for you. Getting on for ten minutes this year. We must try not to drag it out next time. Still, weren't the raffle prizes great?

See you all on Tuesday 4 February.
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Since our last report quite a few events have taken place but unfortunately it is always a little difficult to meet the deadline. However, we held our Poppy Queen and Princess evening which was not too well supported. Mrs Jill Cleall was again chosen as our Poppy Queen and Miss Lucy Box our Princess. Both have carried out several duties since. Once being the Remembrance Day Service at Bere Regis, where there was an excellent turnout, and for once we had a fine sunny morning.

Although we try to send letters of thanks to all the various groups who take part, we feel a further thank you should be extended to all the choir, bellringers and members of the public who support us on this very solemn day in our calendar, and a special word of thanks to the Venerable Graham Roblin for a very moving service.

Our Standard Bearers also attend the Remembrance Day Service at the Chapel. They have been busy attending many 75th Anniversary and Dedication services during the past few months, especially Miss Helen Stockley who was selected to attend both the British Legion 'Songs of Praise' at Sherborne Abbey and also the Remembrance Day service at the Albert Hall. They all attended the Festival of Remembrance at Poole Arts Centre.

Our congratulations must also go to Mr Terry Vine and his Youth Section who have just been informed that they have again won the Windsor Spinks Cup. This is an award made to the Youth Section which has done the best to promote Legion Youth throughout the country. The presentation took place on Wednesday 22 January.

Finally our Poppy Appeal figures are just out. Our house to house collection realised £1,576.21. Slightly down on last years figure, and with church collections and various other gifts and donations the figure raised increased to £2,304.09. This was also slightly less than last year's total. We are greatly indebted to our Appeal Organiser, Mrs Olive Curtis and all who gave up their time to collect and have Poppy Boxes on their shop counters. Our most sincere thanks to you all who gave so generously to reach such a wonderful appeal total.

It is with great regret that I have to say that Mrs Curtis feels she wishes to give up as our Appeal Organiser due to the widespread nature of our area, which makes for quite a lot of travelling around.

Unfortunately this leaves us with a huge gap to fill, and should there be anyone who would be prepared to carry on this work, we would be pleased to hear from you; we can assure you that you would have every assistance to help required. A huge thank you to Mrs Curtis from all of us in the Bere Regis Branch for all the time and work she has given us over the past four years.

S G House

I regret that I was unable to give more warning than this of a performance that is being presented in the hall on Thursday 6 February at 7.30 p.m. This is the Silent Comedian which stars Andrew Pollard and is presented by the Natural Theatre Company. This company is known over the world for its well observed comical creations on the larger scale.

Now, Andrew Pollard, a leading performer in the company's indoor and outdoor productions, explores a fascinating comic character - his great-grandad! In this touching and often hilarious one-man show, Andrew splices together the life of Ben Pollard, the one time Music Hall comic and bitter rival to Charlie Chaplin. With the aid of film, family letters, music, fire and hotdogs, the mystery surrounding Ben's cinematic doings and Hollywood hokum is gradually unspooled!

Tickets at £3.50 are available beforehand from 15 North Street, or phone 471342

Then looking ahead to Wednesday 26 March at 10.00 a.m. we have a puppet show - 'Burglar Bill'. More details next month.

CM

PARISH COUNCIL

Bristol University has written to the Council to advertise the various courses that they organise in this area. A booklet on the courses available is held by the Clerk.

The Christmas Trees came and are now gone. Many people complimented the Council on the display of Christmas tidings and I must say that the centre of the village was very attractive. Some people asked about having a larger tree at a focal point in the future. If there is sufficient interest then it will be considered. Just let your wishes be known to a councillor - list outside the post office.

The Council requests that all owners of the lights to have a close inspection of the lights and to rectify any defects found before December when they will be required again.

All parishioners are grateful for the donations received towards the trees and to the individual efforts of those involved in putting them up. Particularly to Michael Eastment with his electric wizardry.

Concerning the proposals for the Car Park, where bins are to be landscaped with some trees, only favourable comments have been made so presumably the work will proceed in due course.

CM
IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAX HALL

The Drax Hall has really come to life! It is now being used on a very regular basis and it seemed to take off after the huge success of the Woodbury Hill singers '40s' concert in 1995.

Although the hall is a bit 'antiquated' to say the least, until the day comes when we have a new village hall, we do make the best of it. My husband and I are in the Drax Hall every Friday evening with our friends enjoying 'Eileen's' ballroom dancing lessons and as well as dancing it is as much a social evening get together where we have a lot of fun and laughs.

For the last two years, Eileen has come along to the hall with Christmas music and a group of us (family, friends and children, tea and biscuits) have decorated the Hall for the Christmas festivities. It is not quite as much fun though taking them down!

I would like to express my personal thanks to the 'Pop in Place' ladies and their helpers who by their very hard work have so greatly improved the lower function room and kitchen.

It is now freshly painted and decorated and there are new curtains, plants in the windows and pictures on the walls. When we held our annual Christmas friends and family party on December 21st, nearly 40 or us sat at tables in this room and the fresh surroundings made our party so much more pleasurable. Thank you all and a happy 1997 to all Drax Hall users.

Elizabeth Spracklen

KNITTERS WORKSHOP

This popular activity resumes on the last Tuesday of each month and the first session will be on Tuesday 25 February from 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. at Cyril Wood Court Community Centre. The charge is only 50p to cover costs and providing tea. For more information ring Mary Fegan on 472237 or call at No 9 Cyril Wood Court.

AUTUMN LEAVES OVER 50's CLUB

We were sorry that the New Year Party was cancelled, due to the cold weather and the many illnesses that were about. We hope to see you all fit and well at the February meeting on Wednesday 12th when we are to have another wonderful session with Tony Bates and his slides. The competition will be for a sugar bowl and there will be a Christmas tea.

BERE REGIS FRIENDS OF THE IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

We are now in our twentieth year of operation as a group and in that time we have raised thousands of pounds toward conquering cancer. We would like to wish all our loyal supporters over the years a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year (slightly belated when this goes to press!).

Vivian Clarke from Dorchester, who has raised money for us in the two London Marathons he has completed, has been accepted for the 1997 Marathon on Sunday 13 April. Please do sponsor him if you can - or, even better, pass a sponsor form around at work or around your family for us. Please contact Mrs Barbara Griffin at the Cedars for sponsor forms.

We are holding a coffee morning at Cyril Wood Court on Saturday 15 March at 10.30 a.m. There will be a Cook's Table, Raffle and Bring and Buy. We look forward to seeing friends old and new. Please put the date into your diaries now.

Diana Holman

BERE REGIS WI

Owing to the collision of dates re meetings and the printing of the parish magazine, the report given for the WI is always way behind.

Nevertheless, here goes. December was our Christmas party with invited members from the surrounding WI's within the Woodbury Hill Group.

The committee are to be congratulated. The buffet was superb, and the entertainment revealed that we have actress talent in our midst, followed by the usual singing of the well known Christmas Carols.

Make a note in your diary to join or return to our meetings. We have moved out of the 1920's (I know that there are some ladies who think that we have never passed that milestone) and we have thrown away the old felt hat image. We are looking towards the Millennium. Help us shape the new way forward.

The welcome and usual refreshments will be waiting for you - we meet on the Third Tuesday of each month.
IT'S YOUR PARISH

Your parish is looking for more people to take part in the life of the community and to be represented in decision making. Whether you go to church regularly or not, a way to become more involved in your parish community is to ask to have your name added to the Church Electoral Roll.

Just as you need to be registered to vote in local or national elections, being on the Electoral Roll of your parish means you can get involved with the running of your local church and parish and elect the Parochial Church council (PCC) - or even stand for election yourself if you are a communicant member of the Church of England.

You have nothing to lose - you can be involved as much or as little as you like.

How does it benefit me?

Being on the Electoral Roll of a parish is both for church goers who wish to have a say in the running of the Church and for all parishioners who would like to be more part of the parish community. It means you can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (held each Spring), and vote in the elections to the PCC. It enables you to have your voice heard, at Deanery and Diocesan level as well as in your own parish.

Who can enrol?

The requirements are very simple. You must be

- aged 16 or over
- baptised (christened)
- a member of the Church of England

Also, you must

- either live in the parish
- or have regularly attended church there for at least six months.

The Electoral Roll Officer will be able to help you if you need any more information, and will give you a simple form to fill in if you would like to have your name added to the Church Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll Officers for our parishes are

Bere Regis - Miss G Miller, 3 Boswells Close, Bere Regis 471745
Affpuddle - Mrs G Silavs, 3 The Hollow, Briantspuddle 471577

THE POP IN PLACE

The Pop in Place continues to flourish. We will be holding our AGM in April and more details of the format for that will follow in next month's Parish Magazine.

Volunteer needed. The PIP committee are seeking a volunteer auditor. Is there anyone prepared to audit our account at the end of our first year. If you are willing, the Treasurer Tony Wise, on 471971, will be delighted to hear from you. We will need this attended to before our AGM in April.

We are pleased to hear we have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Talbot Village trust of £500 towards floor covering for the lower room of the Drax Hall that we use twice weekly for the Pop In. This will really finish the room off beautifully and add much needed warmth. The proposal will be to use carpet tiles as these can easily be replaced if they were to be damaged for any reason. This, of course, has to gain the approval of the Drax Hall Management committee and will be raised at their next meeting by our representative.

As part of our development plan we intend to support local charities and good causes, so we are delighted to take an active part in the Bere Regis Supports Charities Day, on Saturday 22nd March. Two events have been arranged, both for very worthy causes and both needing the support of the local community to succeed.

An Easter Coffee Morning will take place on this date from 10.30 a.m. until noon at the Drax Hall. All profits from this will go to the National Meningitis Trust. There will be stalls, cakes, bric a brac, tombola and a draw etc. Donations for this and offers of help please to Andrea Phillips on 472112.

In the afternoon on the 22 March there will be a jumble sale and grand Easter Egg raffle from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m. at the Scout Hut in Elder Road. All profits from this will go to the Fourways Day Centre in Poole. This centre is for people of working age with physical or sensory disabilities and also for people recovering from mental illness. Donation of jumble can only be taken at the Scout Hut on that morning from 9.30 a.m. onwards. Donations of Easter Eggs - big and small can be handed in at the Pop in Place at anytime.

Please give your support on 22 March for Bere Regis Support Charities Day.

COFFEE MORNING - MIND THE WORLD

There will be a coffee morning in aid of Sewing Materials for Sudan on Saturday 1 March at the Vicarage from 10.30 a.m. All the usual stalls will be there and the money raised will be used to supplement the gifts already given and to help with transport costs.
WANTED
SEWING MATERIALS FOR SUDAN

Any of the following items are requested:
- Assorted reels of cotton
- Packets of sewing needles
- Packets of dressmaking pins
- Sets of buttons
- Thimbles
- Crochet hooks
- Zips - 25 cms or 60 cms
- Pairs of knitting needles
- Balls of wool
- Tape measures
- Cutting out scissors
- Needlework scissors
- Cotton dress lengths - minimum size 1m x 2m

Cost seemed to be no object as Richard Branson, and his companions, soared heavenwards in their gigantic balloon. They were intending to jetstream round the world, and in so doing, to achieve a world record and bring great glory to the name of Richard Branson. Instead it cost him a little dent to his pride and his bank balance, when it could have cost him his life and that of his friends.

Cost seemed no object in the finding and rescuing of bullish Tony Bullimore by the Royal Australian Air Force and Navy, from his expensive boat which had capsized in the Southern Ocean. Mr Bullimore’s round the world sailing dream ‘upturn’ has made him a hero as well as a rich man. Quite a ‘turn-up’ for him, but who pays the bill?

Contrast these events with the event that took place some 2000 years ago, when Christ Jesus, at a total cost to himself, died on the cross to rescue us from sin and give us eternal life. The only cost to us is repentance and obedience to Him.

On Saturday 22 February at 7.30 p.m., we shall be having our monthly Celebration meeting at the Chapel, Butt Lane, when the speaker will be Dr Geoff Barnard. Geoff is a scientist and an excellent Bible teacher. He will continue the theme of the talk he gave on his last visit to us, although each message is complete in itself. Everyone is invited to this meeting.

Rev Ray Healey

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL
BUTT LANE, BERE REGIS

THE DORSET LATVIA LINK

A very happy New Year to everyone and a big ‘thank you’ to those who supported our stall at the Christmas Fair in the village hall where we raised a very creditable £45 as well as having a lot of fun. Our first meeting for the year takes place very soon and no doubt fund raising will be at the top of the agenda. An early reminder that our Annual General Meeting will take place in April and all Dorset Latvia Link members will receive an invitation to attend. We do hope you can make it.

We are awaiting news of the date for Alesha’s operation which is due to take place in Latvia, hopefully in the not too distant future. If you are interested in becoming a Link member you may contact Hilary Menzies our Subscription Secretary on 01929 471263 for a minimum subscription of £2.50

Jenny Silavs - Hon Sec
BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB

Football Results

21 Dec   STURMINSTER MARSHALL  8  0  BERE REGIS
26 Dec   DEADLY DOUG'S DEMONS  3  4  MACCA'S MIRACLE MAKERS
12 Jan   BERE REGIS            4  3  DORSET COMMERCIALS

Contrary to rumours rife in the area, the Club would like to clarify the position regarding the football section. In December, Bere's first eleven manager took it upon himself to resign, taking away some thirty players, and leaving the club in debt. After being let down so badly, the Club pressed their case to the Dorset F.A. After lengthy negotiations have managed to maintain a Saturday team for the local and loyal lads. This is testament to Secretary, Andy Cheeseman, whose hard work in his own time has given Bere the opportunity to continue with a so far, successful season.

With the cold weather taking a grip over the festive season, Bere's annual football extravaganza took on the appearance of the Wintertime Eisteddfod. It was Boxing Day, but this year was different as pivotal figure Peter Larder could not make his yearly appearance between the sticks, due to a dental appointment. It was in the teeth of a biting North Easterly that the match began. Despite the quality of the playing surface, there was no help given to our groundwork, who had been stoking up the undersoil heating since 7am. The teams were evenly matched as is the tradition, not this season saw 11 versus 12, with the proceedings overseen by Reg 'Calypso' Fripp on the whistle. Deadly Doug's Demons took on Mighty Macca's Miracle Makers for the right to hold The Restoration Trophy.

With the Demons boasting a semi-professional in their ranks alongside a stalwart defence of Hall of Famers, Doug Curtis, Alan Green and Herbie Swann, they started as slight favourites. However the Miracle Makers possessed team spirit and pace throughout the side. Early exchanges saw Alan Green and Huey Evans dominate down the Demon's left, with the defence contributing to their flowing football. Large gaps were forged down the inside right channel, with Spice Boy, Graeme Price pushing on, but they failed to capitalise, as Roberto White running he show for the Miracle Men. The opener was scored by Martin Lemon returning from exile to entertain the Christmas crowd with his no-nonsense Highbury-style football. Simon Walker got a deserved second from wide on the right as the Demons turned the screw.

The Miracle Makers having been pinned down in their own half for long spells, looked for inspiration. They flooded the midfield and inched their way back into the game.

Although Demon's goalkeeper Gaz Pit had to be thrawn out at half time, after freezing up due to lack of action. After the break, Demons sat back, and had to defend a series of corners, one of which Mark Ivanov outfoxed Herbie Maldini at the far post to pull one back. What followed was typical end to end stuff, with crisp long balls dictating play. The Miracle Men changed their keeper, and the Demons missed a boatload of chances, Hristo Oram being the chief culprit.

The final quarter was a combination of cold turkey and the Miracle Makers' best period. Their 'Turkey Wing-Backs' Adam 'Gloves' Rogerson and Kev Cox gave them width with their aerial assault on the Demon's defence increased. Nevertheless the Demons still possessed the ability to counter attack, with substitute Paul Snook being instrumental on his return after eight years in the wilderness. Despite attempts to bribe the referee with spirits before the game, the Demons fell victim to two hotly disputed penalties awarded late on for innocuous pushes in the box. Mark Gale and Steve McGinley duly dispatched the spot kicks, giving the 45 or so spectators great entertainment right up to the finale.

Destiny proved to be firmly in favour of the Miracle Makers, who performed the turning of water into wine to walk off with the prize, leaving the Demon's deflated ruing a half of missed opportunities. Not even the imposing presence that David May created going forward for corners was enough. The game was played as ever, in a true spirit on a lethal pitch reducing the game to a slower pace. But all the participants enjoyed their mildly hungover Boxing morning, and all flowed in the Clubhouse again.

With the running of the Carnival changing hands, the Sports Club in conjunction with The Playgroup, are to host a meeting at the Clubhouse on 10th February, to discuss ideas about events and activities for this year's Carnival. Also there will be a forum on fund raising for the Village's Millennium celebrations.

Steve Cheeseman

AFFPUDDLE NEWS
BLADEN SOCIAL CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the club takes place on Wednesday 19 February. Membership fees are due on 1 March 1997. For those who have applied for membership recently, this is the best time to take it up, but please feel free to use the club in the meantime. All recent applications have been approved.

We celebrate our 40th birthday in February, but our party will not be until Saturday 1 March. Members old and new are most welcome to attend.

Sue Jones - Hon Treasurer 01258 837267
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Thank you to all the people who contributed towards the cost of the church flowers used for Christmas decorations. £28 was collected and white chrysanthemums were purchased from Piddle River Nursery at Culeaze. At the time of writing the flowers are still fresh and it is hoped that with care they will last until Lent.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE
Thank you to all the people who gave gifts of money and presents for the Cheshire Homes in Dorchester. The following letter was received just before Christmas:

"Please accept our thanks for the Christmas gifts so kindly donated on behalf of the Affpuddle PCC. This is very much appreciated by us all, please convey our gratitude to all concerned, for their consideration once again towards our young people. May we take this opportunity to send our best wishes to one and all for a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year."

Bill Thorniley

VILLAGE HALL NEWS
The Denison String Quartet will be giving a concert in Briantspuddle Village Hall on Sunday 2nd March 1997 at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets, costing £4 are available from Philippa Thorniley.

Jumble Sale

Briantspuddle W.I. will be holding a Jumble Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd February at 2.30 p.m. We would be most grateful if you would let us have any jumble or bric-a-brac. This can be delivered to the Village Hall on the day of the sale or if you wish one of our members to collect it from your house, please contact Jenny Bendle on 471002 or Martha Tucker on 471358.

BERE REGIS
Lay Readers
Mrs B Pitfield. Tel: 471391
Mrs A Hart. Tel: 471666

Church Wardens
Mr J House, Lower Stockley Farm. Tel: 471255/551266
Mr J England, 10 Southmead. Tel: 471469

Deputy Warden
Mr R Comben, Beechmast, Whatcombe Lane, Winterborne Whitechurch. Tel: 01258 881143

Secretary of PCC
Cdr C Maund, 15 North Street. Tel: 471342

Treasurer of PCC
Mr R Stallard

Choirmaster
Mr F Pitfield, Hillbutts, Butt Lane. Tel: 471391

Organist
Mr D Holloway ARCM, 1 Cyril Wood Court. Tel: 472228

Lay Pastoral Assistants
Mrs Di Phillips - 471423 Mrs Mary England - 471469
Mrs Kay March - 471883 Mrs Dorrie Barnes - 471531
Mrs Eileen Bangay - 471724

PCC Members
The Venerable Graham Roblin 471262 Eileen Jutting 472282
John House 471255/551266 Kay March 471883
John England 471469 Sybil Frampton 471643
Christopher Maund 471342 Pat Mills 471308
Eileen Bangay 471724 Norah Penfold 471540
Geoffrey Booth 471586 Brenda Pitfield 471391
Molly Carlyle 471441 Roy Comben 471572
Fred Pitfield 471391 Robert Croom 471905
Robert Stallard 471774 Mary England 471469
Ian Ventham 471480 Philippa Ward 471527

AFFPUDDLE
Lay Readers
Mr Jonathan Haigh - 471768 Mr Terry Lane - 471751
Mr R Gainsford, 19 Briantspuddle. Tel: 471419
Cdr W Thorniley, Raithby Cottage, Briantspuddle. 471497

Church Wardens
Mr R Killer, 4 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle. 471202
Mr R Elkerton Greatfield House Affpuddle. 01305 848 331

Secretary of PCC
Mr 1 Mullins, Grassmere, 12 Parmiter Road, Colehill, Wimborne. Tel: 01202 889227

Treasurer of PCC
Mr R Elkerton Greatfield House Affpuddle. 01305 848 331

Organist

Lay Pastoral Assistants
Mrs Lindy Ventham - 471215 Mrs Dawn Lane- 471751
Mrs Penny Haigh - 471768

Parish Magazine Rep
Mrs Martha Tucker, Delaware, Briantspuddle. 471358
PCC Members
The Venerable Graham Roblin 471262 Paul Badcock 471297
Bill Thorniley 471497 Elk Elkerton 01305 848331
Jonathan Haigh 471768 Steve Sanderson 01305 848812
Robin Gainsford 471419 David Payne 01258 837700
Richard Killer 471202 Allan Smith 471412
Mike Menzies 471263 Jenny Silays 471577
Ivor Mullins 01202 889227

PLAY AND LEARN VAN
Wednesday 5th February and Wednesday 26th February
9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. Bere Regis First School
10.15 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Bere Regis Surgery
2.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. Briantspuddle

VALENTINE’S DAY SUPPER
Saturday 15 February 1997
7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
at Briantspuddle Village Hall

Menu
Cream of Watercress Soup £5
Ham and Asparagus au Gratin with Focaccia bread £5
Cassata Ice Cream £5
Coffee and Mints

After supper talk from Graham Roblin
Musical accompaniment from Denis Holloway
Raffle

Tickets from Robin Gainsford
19 Briantspuddle - £5.00
Phone 471419

Charity Fashion Show
in aid of 'Breakthrough', the charity for breast cancer

Tuesday 11 March
at 8.00 p.m.
Bere Regis First School Hall

Book your tickets now!
£2.00
(including wine and nibbles)
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**Logs for Sale**

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Tel: 01929 551216

**Terry Mooney**

Gardening maintenance including hedging, grass cutting, panel fencing, paths etc. Contract grass cutting.

Ring 01929 471421

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Dave Bridge - 01929 471255

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24 New Road, Wool
01929 405562

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Do you need to unwind and relax? Relieve those aches and pains. These treatments will help balance and heal the body. Tel: Joy Bagwell on 01258 880215 for details and appointments

Acupuncture
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Sugaring in Bere Regis

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Contact Hall Secretary - Mr Thompson - 01929 471261

Briantspuddle Village Hall
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01929 471497

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Modern Ballroom, Latin American, Jive, Rock and Roll. Every Friday from 8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. Children's classes age 3 to 15. Ballroom, Latin, Disco, Rock and Roll. Every Friday from 6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
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Any donations for stall, please contact
Andrea Phillips on 472112

2.30 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. there will be a
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Donations to be brought to the Scout Hut
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