A THOUGHT FROM THE VICARAGE

From the past - to the future

There can be no one, who, on entering either Affpuddle or Bere Regis church, does not immediately appreciate the wealth of our inheritance. Both churches are different. Affpuddle has as its beauty its plainness; the windows are clear glass, the walls are lime-washed, there is only one memorial, and this to an obscure man called Mr Lawrence, who, it turns out, was a relative of George Washington.

Its beauty lies in its simplicity and its age. In our minds, we can see the ordinary men and women of the village coming into these stones for the baptisms of babies, marriages of young couples, and the funerals of the old. Above all, week by week over 800 years we can see the people walking up through the churchyard in faithful obedience to their Lord, offering their hopes and their fears, their pains and their joys, offering themselves.

Bere Regis is a very different church. Its heritage is just slightly longer. It is the building of a larger parish. It had Norman knights living in its shadow - the Turbervilles. Even so, down the centuries, poverty was the hallmark of the parish, and if it were not for the exciting accident of birth of a Mr Thomas Morton, this church could well be simple and plain. As it is, Thomas Morton, born in Milborne Stileham (then part of the parish) became Chancellor of England, Bishop of Ely, and Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury. He was passionate about architecture. So came the famous carved roof and the glorious tower, now about to be 500 years old.
Then came a succession of wealthy vicars, each contributing to the additional beauty of the church, especially the renovation of the church in 1875, when the whole church took on a new look - new tiled floors, new stained glass windows, and a new organ and choir stalls. It was the glory of its time. Even the carved roof was painted, and we have early photographs of top hatted men standing on and beside wooden scaffolding, working inside the building.

Despite the renovation, dry rot was discovered in the roof, and in the floors during the next 50 years. Hardly a moment has passed without the churchwardens having to cope with the lead roof leaking, the heating and lighting of the building in need of renovation, or even pinnacles being struck by lightning. Both churches have experienced a never ending need of care and maintenance.

Affpuddle church had its own accident of fate during this century, with Sir Ernest Debenham purchasing land around Turnerspuddle, Briantspuddle and Affpuddle. He was a very keen churchman. After the second world war, he financed the renovation of the church. New flooring was put in, a new roof created, and a new organ installed, using the most modern of electrical and technical expertise.

The floor and the roof are both in excellent condition, but sadly, after only 20 years, it became clear that the organ was going to be a drain on finances. (Since 1980, the organ has been on the agenda of every church council meeting). In 1995 we grasped the nettle and began to look for a new one. It was not an easy thing to do, but eventually the diocese gave us permission to buy and install an organ built in 1850. It was in a church which no longer needed it. We bought it for £800, and asked one of the finest organ builders in the country to take it to pieces, and rebuild it for our needs. This he has almost done, at a cost of about £4,000. We think it is exactly right for our needs. It has taken six months to build; each pipe has been cleaned, each item taken apart and made new.

Due to legacies in the past, the PCC had saved £4,000 in an organ fund, so we were able to pay for much of the work without anxiety. But to create the organ meant the upheaval of the vestry underneath the organ in the tower. We are now in the process of designing a new, modern and appropriate vestry to house the vestments, linen, church books, candles, cleaning equipment, flowerpots, and a safe for the silver and documents, This will cost us about £5,000.
Although the people of the parish are very generous, this generosity doesn’t cover the sudden and large expenditure indicated by me in the legacy we are laying down for our future in this very special church. £5,000 in addition to our ongoing budget is something that needs the goodwill and philanthropy of those who love the church and are able to respond to our investment in the future.

Bere Regis Church has already had its investment in the future, in that twenty years ago, £25,000 was spent on the renovation of much of the building, and then two years ago £22,000 was spent on creating kitchen facilities within the church, and toilet facilities outside the church. This was an investment which has proved its worth already, and will undoubtedly do so as the years unfold.

Then suddenly, a bombshell came. The architects of the diocese condemned the electrical wiring in the church. We had to shut off much of the system. In our considerations as to what to do next, we decided to take advice of electrical experts to see how we could light the church, using the most modern technical advances.

We saw a need to light the roof for the occasional visitor, who would pay for this by a coin in the slot system; then to install a soft light to light the church roof during worship, so that our glorious heritage could be highlighted and not hidden; and then to provide clear light for the congregation in its worship.

The diocese has now approved our proposals, and we plan to start doing this on January 4th, with scaffolding being erected, and the electrical contractors removing the old and installing the new.

On top of this, it became clear that the building would suffer from this work. It is already looking shabby, and as every householder knows, rewiring causes damage. So we made the decision to lime-wash the church from top to bottom. The cost of both these projects will come to about £22,000. Thanks to the marvellous help of one or two parishioners, together with a big barn dance, we have £8,500 to start us off. Our patrons, Balliol College, Oxford, have been incredibly generous and promised us £8,000 towards the lime-washing. So we are looking for about £6,000 during the next year to pay for the future in our inheritance.

I have written at length in order to put you in the picture. Both our churches are gems. They are very precious to us, but they are expensive as well as precious gems. If you feel called to help us, do know that we will be deeply grateful.

With every good wish,

Graham Rose

[Signature]
BERE REGIS CHURCH ROTAS

Bere Regis Sidesmen
Sunday 6th 9.30a.m. Mr House / Mr Bates
6.00 p.m. Mr Dashwood
Sunday 13th 11.00a.m. Mrs March / Mrs England
6.00p.m. Mrs Jutting
Sunday 20th 9.30a.m. Mrs Hazlerigg / Mr Strange
6.00p.m. Miss Frampton / Mr Ventham
Thursday 24th 11.30 p.m. Churchwardens
Friday 25th 11.00 a.m. Mr Maunder
Sunday 27th 11.00 a.m. Miss Chesney / Mr Croom

Sanctuary Flower Guild
Sunday 6th Advent
Sunday 13th Advent
Sunday 20th Advent
Sunday 27th Mrs P House / Mrs M England

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Wednesday 23rd December from 10.00 a.m. Gifts of flowers and greenery will be very welcome.

Readers
Sunday 6th Mrs Lewis
Sunday 13th Mrs Jutting
Sunday 20th Carol Service
THE PARISHES OF BERE REGIS AND AFFPUDDLE
WITH TURNERSPUDDLE
The Vicar
The Venerable Graham Roblin OBE
The Vicarage, Bere Regis, BH20 7HQ

Church Officials - Bere Regis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lay Reader</td>
<td>Mrs B Pitfield</td>
<td>471391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Wardens</td>
<td>Mr J House, Lower Stockley Farm</td>
<td>471255/551266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr J England, 10 Southmead</td>
<td>471469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Warden</td>
<td>Mr R Comben, Beechmast, Whatcombe Lane, Winterborne Whitchurch</td>
<td>01258 881143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of PCC</td>
<td>Cdr C Maunder, 15 North Street</td>
<td>471342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer of PCC</td>
<td>Mr G Phillips, 102 North Street</td>
<td>471525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choirmaster</td>
<td>Mr F Pitfield, Hillbutts, Butt Lane</td>
<td>471391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Mr D Holloway ARCM, 1 Cyril Wood Court</td>
<td>472228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCC Members

Church Officials - Affpuddle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lay Reader</td>
<td>Mr J Haigh</td>
<td>471768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Wardens</td>
<td>Captain P Badcock, Cruck Cottage, Briantspuddle</td>
<td>471297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr J Solly, Symmonds Barn, Affpuddle</td>
<td>472400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of PCC</td>
<td>Mr R Killer, 4 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle</td>
<td>471202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer of PCC</td>
<td>Mr R Elkerton, Greatfield House Affpuddle</td>
<td>01305 848331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Mr I Mullins, Grasmere, 12 Parmiter Road, Colehill, Wimborne. Tel: 01202 889227</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCC Members
Bill Thorniley, Robin Gainsford, Mike Menzies, Steve Sanderson, David Payne, Allan Smith, Jenny Silvas, Erica Moriatty, Dorothy Reed, Audrey Grindrod.
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in Bere Regis Church will take place as usual, on the Sunday before Christmas, starting at 6.00 p.m. (Sunday, 20th December).

The Carol Service in Affpuddle this year will be held in Briantspuddle Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.00 p.m. The Briantspuddle Singers will support this event before going on their journey around the parish, singing outside and inside homes. This is an informal service which we hope will appeal to the whole family of the parish.

The Christingle Service - Bere Regis. This has become one of the most popular services of the year. It is a Christmas Eve service for the young, with a great deal of symbolism which the children appreciate and enjoy. Within the service, children process around the church with little candles which have been placed in oranges, decorated with Dolly Mixtures, representing fruits of the earth. It is a lovely way for children to start Christmas Eve, and it helps put the rest of Christmas in its proper light. Bere Regis Church, Christmas Eve, 6.00 p.m.

Midnight Communion - Bere Regis - 11.30 p.m. This special service in the spiritual year will take place this year in Bere Regis. (We alternate with Affpuddle). Please note the start time - 11.30 p.m., and do tell others who may be planning to come.

Christmas Day

There are two services in the benefice.

9.30 a.m. in Affpuddle

11.00 a.m. in Bere Regis

Both services will be Communion Services, but designed to be of value to everyone, even if you have not been Confirmed.
### CHURCH SERVICES in DECEMBER

#### Sunday 6th December  
**2nd Sunday in Advent**
- 8.00 a.m.  
  Holy Communion (Affpuddle)
- 9.30 a.m.  
  Parish Communion (Bere Regis)
- 11.00 a.m.  
  Mattins and Communion (Affpuddle)
- 3.00 p.m.  
  Carol Service (Bere Regis) Ancient Order of Foresters
- 6.00 p.m.  
  Evensong (Bere Regis)

#### Sunday 13th December  
**3rd 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)
- 3.00 p.m.  
  Holy Baptism (Bere Regis)
- 6.00 p.m.  
  Evensong (Bere Regis)

#### Sunday 20th December  
**4th Sunday in Advent**
- 8.00 a.m.  
  Holy Communion (Affpuddle)
- 9.30 a.m.  
  Parish Communion (Bere Regis)
- 11.00 a.m.  
  Christmas Gift Service (Affpuddle)
- 6.00 p.m.  
  Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Bere Regis)

#### Tuesday 22nd December
- 7.00 p.m.  
  Carol Service (Briantspuddle Village Hall)  
  supported by Briantspuddle Singers

#### Christmas Eve  
**Thursday 24th December**
- 6.00 p.m.  
  Christingle Service (Bere Regis)
- 11.30 p.m.  
  Midnight Communion (Bere Regis)

#### Christmas Day  
**Friday 25th December**
- 9.30 a.m.  
  Christmas Morning Communion with Carols (Affpuddle)
- 11.00 a.m.  
  Christmas Morning Service (Bere Regis)

#### Sunday 27th December  
**Sunday After Christmas**
- 9.30 a.m.  
  Parish Communion with Carols (Bere Regis)
- 11.00 a.m.  
  Holy Communion (said) (Affpuddle)
AFFPUDDLE CHURCH ROTAS

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Cleaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>Advent</td>
<td>Mrs Thorniley</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Advent</td>
<td>Mrs Silavs</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>Advent</td>
<td>Mrs Solly</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 December</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Mrs Thorniley</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SIDESMEN, READERS AND READINGS

To assist members of the congregation who prefer to follow the readings in their prayer books, it has been decided this year to revert to using the ASB readings at ASB services (and BCP readings at Morning Prayer). Readers are requested to read from the ASB version set.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sidesmen</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>Server</td>
<td>From BCP as set</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>A Armitage</td>
<td>Isaiah 5</td>
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<td>Matthew 24</td>
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<td>13 December</td>
<td>09.30</td>
<td>R Gainsford</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 4</td>
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<td>J Cropper</td>
<td>John 1</td>
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<td>S Sanderson</td>
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<td>20 December</td>
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<td>M Menzies</td>
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<td>Andrea Smith</td>
<td>John 1</td>
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DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Christmas Eve between 10am and 12 noon. Gifts of flowers, holly and foliage are requested and welcomed and should be brought to church by 10am on Christmas Eve. Help with the decorating would be most welcome.

As in past years I am organising a collection for the purchase of flowers to decorate the church for Christmas. The suggested donation is £1.00 although lesser and greater amounts would be most welcome. Please let me have your donation as soon as possible.

Philippa Thorniley
CHURCH NEWS

BERE REGIS CHURCHYARD CLEAN-UP
Thankyou very much to all those who came to help in this annual effort and did so many of those jobs which make the churchyard easier to manage during the remainder of the year. We must not forget to thank as well those who help at other times of the year. It is all much appreciated.

CHURCH FUND RAISING
Don’t forget the Christmas Coffee morning on December 5th at Cyril Wood Court. Plenty of Christmas goodies and a warm welcome. Do come!

We are relying on you to fill the Town Hall in Wareham with any good discarded clothing, bric a brac etc. at the Annual Jumble Sale on February 6th. Please phone 471441 or 471262 to arrange storage or collection after Christmas.

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?
Many of you give money to the churches in the benefice. Some do this through the Covenant Scheme, others do this through the Envelope Scheme, and yet others through traditional collections taken at church services. If you covenant, the treasurer of your church can claim money from Tax Revenue. This is quite a considerable amount (23% is added to your donation by the Chancellor of the Exchequer!) and helps us to keep afloat. On top of this, visitors to Bere Regis contribute through the offertory box, and in both churches we have fund raising activities. Donations and legacies are treated separately and go into a separate fund for the fabric.

But where does the money go?

The first call on our money is to the diocese. Some of you will know this, but many don’t, that we pay the diocese £23,000 a year, as our combined Quota. This is £442 a week before we begin thinking about insurance, lighting, heating and water, payments to organists, maintaining the worship, secretarial and travelling expenses, plus a host of hidden extras that seem to come along, such as maintaining the churchyards, or indeed the church buildings themselves. So you see, it is a never ending problem for your church councils to balance the books. That we do so is, for me, a miracle in itself. But we have done, so far, JUST.
THE FLAG AT BERE REGIS

Many of you will have noticed that since the storms at the beginning of November, the flag has been taken down. This is not because of the flag wearing out by the buffeting of the wind on wet material, so much as the wear and tear on the flagpole. The pole is set in the middle of the tower lead roof, and it moves vigorously in high, wet winds, causing damage to its base. The ropes also fray in bad conditions. So we have decided to be "prudent", (as the present Chancellor enjoys saying!) As soon as we think the flagpole can bear normal wear and tear, the flag will fly.

THE COST OF THE MAGAZINE

For two years now, the cost of the magazine has remained at 35 pence (£4.00 per annum). The magazine management committee has decided to raise this to 40 pence (£4.80 per annum) from 1st January. This will mean that we "break even" at the end of the year. I do hope that you enjoy our magazine.

I would like to thank Alison Debenham for the time and energy she puts in to creating such an exceptional parish magazine, which covers the whole of our parish life.

BRIANTSPUDDLE SINGERS - 19th December - Bere Regis Church

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT with carols to sing and carols to listen to. There will be seasonal works by well known composers, but, more important, a first performance of a new work by our local composer and conductor, Dr. Richard Hall, from Rogers Hill Farm.

It should be an enjoyable evening, finishing with wine and mince pies, all included in the entry fee of £5.00.
MOTHERS’ UNION

Our November meeting included a service of Holy Communion when the celebrant was the Vicar, and Brenda Pitfield gave the address. During the service, two members, Mrs Nancy Gibson and Mrs Beryl Wilson were admitted as MU members. Eileen B had brought Mothers’ Union merchandise items including cards, calendars, diaries and tea towels, many of which were sold.

We had received an invitation to the Carol Service of the RBL Women’s section and two of our members will be attending. Members are also invited to attend the MU Deanery Advent Carol Service at 2.00 p.m. on 1st December at Gussage St Michael. Names to Eileen B or Brenda, both of whom can provide transport. Brenda thanked everyone who provided cakes for Kairos. She has been able to take goodies from twelve members to the Verne prison for the course in October.

Next month will be our pre-Christmas meeting when we will be singing carols and holding a ‘Carol Auction’. Each member is asked to bring an item mentioned in a Christmas Carol, e.g. wine from ‘Good King Wenceslas’. The items are then auctioned by our branch leader (who always manages to make us part with our money) and the proceeds go to branch funds and, subsequently to MU projects in this country and overseas.

Brenda Pitfield - 471391

to all our readers
BERE REGIS NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting the concern mentioned in last month’s report about the much mentioned development in the village was still apparent as the period for public discussion was almost entirely devoted to it. However though rumours abound no application has been made for any new development within the village. Until that is received the Council can not comment. The Council is however concerned about the delay in the decision on the Sandford and Northport bypasses, as the non provision of these roads could affect the number of houses built elsewhere in Purbeck.

Miss Sue Stone reported on a day conference at Dorchester which was concerned with Community Action and the involvement of people in the community. There is a thought that it is always the same people who get involved in whatever goes on and she was given several thoughts on how the organisational load can be spread. She sited as an example of community involvement the visit by our French Twin Cerences which involved the Fire and Rescue Brigade, the Scouts, the Sports Club and the Church. Each did their own thing towards a most successful visit and she thought that the same principles could be applied to other major tasks such as the proposed Village Hall.

The afternoon of her visit was involved with Village Maps. These are very popular as a commemorative item. With the Millennium almost upon us it could be undertaken as a project with that in mind as a target date. It could be a record of the village as it is today - almost a mini Magna Carta. If this enthuses anybody would they please contact Sue Stone or myself.

BBTA - the organisation that is building the Puddletown bypass - is putting on an exhibition of the works at the Drax Hall. As I go to print this is destined to be on the evening of Wednesday 2nd December. However this could be changed, so for the real date look for the poster that will be displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard. BBTA put on a display some months ago but the response was very poor due to the lack of publicity. If this one is as good as that, then we are in for a very good and interesting exhibition.

The Councillors will be putting up the Christmas trees soon after this magazine is published. This is an annual event and is looked forward to by many of our own Parishioners and people passing by. I always feel that the combination of the street lights and the Christmas tree lights transforms West Street into a live Christmas card. Any offers of help on the morning of Saturday 5th December should be made to David Gibbs, and any donations should be addressed to The Clerk.
The effect of the Government’s White Paper on Transport will gradually start to be noticed, even in Bere Regis. For example the County Council is investigating ways by which the Social Service vehicles could be used out of their normal working hours. It is suggested that a commuter service to Wareham, Wool, Bovington or elsewhere early in the morning could be introduced. However the requirement for any service using these vehicles, which are available only before 8.00am and after 6.00pm, needs to be made known. If this proposal could be of help to anyone then please let me know on 471342.

On Saturday 14th November a beautifully crafted seat was presented to the Parish by the Ancient Order of Foresters. It is sited in a lovely position at the top end of the Cemetery in the centre of the Memorial Garden from where there are very good views of the Village and Church. The seat, made by our own Blacksmith, is between trees that were previously gifted to the Village by the Foresters. In due course plants and shrubs will be placed in memory of loved ones.

CM.

DRAX HALL

The Hall will be busy this month with the various societies in the village undertaking their events. The Hall itself is having a Christmas Sale on Saturday 12th December. This will be the normal Mini Market with a Christmas flavour. Please do come along with the children that morning and help to make it a success. We are hoping for a live theatre performance from Artsreach in the New Year but in the meantime we look forward to our own BRATS putting on their performances in January.

CM.
I.J. SPILLER & SONS

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- FREE ESTIMATES

Paintpots, 1 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle
A TRULY CHRISTMAS STORY IN 1998

At Christmas in recent years, the Rotary Club of Wareham has organised the collection of ‘shoeboxes’ for the children of Albania. In addition to making up our own boxes we invite the local schools to ask if their children would like to help. This year, as in the past, we have been given a magnificent collection of gifts from our own village school.

As I called on the school to collect the parcels, the children were assembled in the Hall with their gift parcels for a group photograph. I felt very privileged to be invited to join them. I took the opportunity to tell them of the Albanian children and explained that those children had very little of their own and that these gifts were going to be their worldly possessions. I also told them that the parcels would be joining hundreds of others to be loaded on a lorry and taken to Albania.

It was very shortly afterwards, whilst moving the parcels to my car, that a little girl came up to me and asked whether the parcels would be going by lorry. I confirmed that they were. She then said that she hoped the driver would be safe on his journey and asked me to ask the driver to wish all the children a very happy Christmas. A simple request that I was more than happy to comply with.

What a lovely thought. (Out of the mouths of little children - etc)

CM.
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Alliance and Leicester Girobank where you can pay your bills, council tax, BT, Gas, Electricity etc.
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Nr. WAREHAM
DORSET

Bere Regis 471865
THE ATELIER THEATRE
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
presents
A Christmas Show
Items including... The Nutcracker "In a Nutshell" and a selection of various styles of dance.
Friday December 18th (evening)
Saturday December 19th (matinee and evening)
At Bovington Memorial Hall
For tickets and further details, please contact: 01929 471663

"EVERYONE WELCOME"

GARDENING SERVICES
All aspects of garden work undertaken, including lawn and hedge cutting, clearing, strimming, regular maintenance etc. Please call to discuss your requirements.

Telephone 01929 471282 or mobile 07970 490985
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Craftsman builder</th>
<th>Martin Debenham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phone: 01929 472580</td>
<td>fax: 01929 472280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- let me turn your ideas into reality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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BERE REGIS W.I.

Our November meeting was very interesting and rewarding, in as much as our speaker for the evening was Mrs Miriam Withers, a V.C.O. for the area, she swept away cobwebs that are sometimes in the mind, reminding us of the aims of the organisation which is world wide. Question time proved to be a very lively 20 minutes.

We do have a voice in Westminster. The resolution passed unanimously throughout the country this year was “that we request her majesty's government to remove or reduce VAT on sanitary towels, tampons and incontinence aids”. This has been taken forward by our delegate to Westminster.

A "challenge" for 1999! You have read this so far! Now make a “new years resolution”. Come and find out for yourselves!! The welcome will be ready for you”.

A big note for your diary:

Mince pie morning - December 1st
At “Sally’s, 101 North Street, Time 10.30.

Join us for coffee and mince pie plus Bring & Buy and Xmas raffle

Christmas is a time for children and with this in mind we would like you to support our mince pie morning, we are aiming to raise a sum of money to donate to the RNIB for their special Christmas challenge for blind children.

Your help will be greatly appreciated by all those children who will not see the “Christmas glitter” but can enjoy themselves with the appropriate help and support. If you are not able to come in person and would like to make a contribution in cash, cheque, or for the raffle or table top....please contact Sally.

Zena Rogers

COFFEE MORNING

There are many people I know in Bere Regis who like Daniel O’Donnell (Irish singer). They are also aware that he and his fans are raising funds to provide homes and better living conditions for the orphans of Romania.

I am having a Coffee Morning with various stalls and games in the Drax Hall on Saturday 30th January 1999 to help this cause.

Anyone interested in helping, either with their time, raffle prizes or items for other stalls, please contact Di Bennett on 471011.

More details in the next issue.
The dark nights have closed in once again as winter approaches, bringing a continuation of strong winds, rain and a drop in temperatures. However, the weather was ideal for the Sponsored Night Walk through the Wareham Forest on the 6th November. With an almost full moon shining, the small group of walkers set out from the Silent Women Inn at Coldharbour. On the way they were treated to displays of fireworks bringing bursts of vivid colour in all directions from the various displays being held that night.

The walk was much drier than expected with only the occasional detour around flooded spots along the paths. Spirits were kept high with the odd sandwich and the knowledge that hot soup would be waiting at the end of the three-hour-plus walk. All were glad to reach the legion club at journey's end, take the weight of their tired feet and devour as much hot soup as possible. Once all the sponsor moneys pledged have been collected in over the next week or so then the section will know just how much has been made for the funds.

The section will be taking part in the "Gladiator's Challenge Contest" being run by the Dorset Youth Association at the Blandford Area Youth Centre on Wednesday 18th November. This event involves a tug-of-war, laser shoot out, three legged race and the popular game, of uni-hoc. The section will be keen to do well in this year’s final as they are the defending champions from 1997, so it’s fingers crossed in this Samaritans sponsored event.

For the first time since Helen Stocklev last carried the Youth Section Standard before she left the section on reaching the upper age limit. The standard appeared once again when Nathan Evans carried it on the Remembrance Sunday parade to the service at the Congregational Chapel in Butt Lane.

On the 4th December the section will be represented at the Dorset Youth Association "Talent Contest" by Leanne Evans who is a very good singer, all at the youth section wish her every success. The activities programme for the year, ends with the annual Christmas Disco for members on the 22nd December, there being no club night on the 29th. The section opens up again in the New Year on Wednesday 6th January 1999.

On behalf of Bere Regis Royal British Legion Youth Section I thank all those who have given their support and shown interest in its activities during 1998. I hope that the section can continue to rely on that loyal support in the years ahead. I wish you all A Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year.

Terry Vine, Youth Leader
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SAINT NICHOLAS MUSIC GUILD

To my ears there is something magic about a peal of bells. I am not sure whether it is nostalgia and memories of halcyon day's hearing the call to evensong across the Wiltshire water-meadows, the proclamation of some important occasion, a wedding perhaps, or just the music of their changing. Sadly, none of the three rural churches in the benefice where I am organist has the where-with-all for this delight. I know next to nothing about campanology but I can certainly appreciate the efforts of those who do! Although I live so close to Bere Regis I seldom have the opportunity to experience the magnificent bells nor the sound of the splendid two-manual "Bishop" organ in the truly beautiful church. On the evening of Sunday 1st November, I was able to savour both as I was at St John's church to conduct a Harvest Choral Concert given by the Saint Nicholas Music Guild with the Dorchester Phoenix Choir and Moreton Church choir.

The concert was a jolly, festive occasion consisting of the performance of three works: "Non Nobis, Domine" by Roger Quilter with words by Rudyard Kipling; "The Parables" written by Eric Thiman; and "The Song of Thanksgiving" by John Henry Maunder. The first item is a rousing anthem which was written for the Pageant of Parliament in 1934. The second item is a short cantata for soloists, chorus and organ, dating from 1931, encompassing the three parables of the Harvest, the Ten Virgin's, and the Good Shepherd. Maunder wrote the "Song of Thanksgiving" in 1904. It is a delightfully tuneful work for two sopranos, tenor and baritone soloists, chorus and organ. Like his other famous choral works, "Penitence, Pardon and Peace" and "Olivet to Calvary", it is great fun to sing ~ challenging without being too difficult.

This was the first time this group of singers had sung together in Bere Regis, although most of us have performed a concert of some sort as a choral society a couple of times annually for the last four or five years at different venues. The Dorchester Phoenix Choir meets regularly and performs both light and more serious music raising money for various charities. The Saint Nicholas Music Guild is a charitable society whose purpose is to promote the art of music generally and support musical education. Based locally, it has members all around the immediate area; in Bere Regis, Affpuddle and Briantspuddle, Bloxworth, Morden, Moreton, Crossways, Puddletown, Dorchester, Weymouth, Bridport, Blandford, Wimborne, Poole, Bournemouth, Wareham, Wool, Swanage and elsewhere.
Membership is open to anyone with an interest in music ~ professional and amateur, singer and instrumentalist, and those who merely enjoy listening - young and not so young! Apart from the occasional concert, we endeavour to arrange visits to places of interest and talks on various musical subjects. Have you ever wondered how manuscript music is engraved and printed? Have you seen the inside of a music recording studio? Have you been into the organ loft of one of our great cathedrals? Have you been to Steinway’s, or Blöthner’s workshops? Have you visited the Dolmetsch Museum or the English Organ School (just up the road - Somerset way), have you attended or listened to a Master Class? Have you tried your hand at playing a "Serpent", a "Celesta", a "Tabor" an "Anvil", or perhaps a "trombone" or "piano"!

Needless to say, we cannot offer all of these at once, but perhaps you get the general gist of what it is all about.

The Guild also supports the Saint Nicholas Music School which provides for students of all ages and abilities, and runs courses for those interested in aiming for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music grade (1 to 8) exams. And the church music qualifications administered by the Guild of Church Musicians on behalf of the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster (Archbishops’ Certificate in Church Music, Archbishops’ Award, and the Archbishops’ Preliminary Certificate). Details of all of these are available to members.

For more information about the Guild and details of membership drop a line to the Saint Nicholas Music Guild, Heatherdown, Brock Hill, Bere Regis, BH20 7NH, or telephone or fax 01929 471360. Everyone is most welcome!

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and melodious New Year!

Tim Colquhoun, Director, Saint Nicholas Music Guild

THANK YOU

Richard and Audrey Goldie wish to thank everyone most sincerely for their good wishes and assistance in so many ways during Richard’s stay in hospital and after his homecoming.
WANTED - ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH MILLENNIUM MUSIC BOOK

Next year, 1999, we are publishing for local distribution, a collection of church music of all sorts of different styles written by local people. The compilation will be inter-denominational and any piece however remotely associated with worship will be considered for inclusion. If you have written something or would like to do so, please send a copy to us by the end of February 1999. The manuscript should be written legibly as in the initial stages it has to read by the editor and the engraver (type-setter)! There are no prizes for the standard of harmony or counterpoint; any usable item will be considered. The copyright of each original item of course remains the property of the composer/author, and that of the finished book by the publisher on behalf of its contributors.

The collection so far consists of some two dozen acceptable entries, ranging from Introits and Vespers, hymn tunes (some complete with words), modern "worship' songs, Anglican chant, four-part anthems, carols, a choral setting of the Lord's Prayer, organ and piano pieces. We are looking for much more!

Please send copies of your work, whether grand or meagre, to the publisher, 'Local Church Music Book", Saint Nicholas Music Guild, Heatherdown, Brock Hill, Bere Regis, BH20 7NH. Manuscripts will be returned whether they are used or not.

POP IN PLACE NEWS

On 21st December we will be having Carols and Mince Pies at the Pop in Place from 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. The Pop in Place will be closed from 22nd December and re-opens on 4th January.

The New Year Party and Show will be on Saturday 2nd January at 3.00 p.m. at the Drax Hall. Tickets will be available at £1 each from the Pop in Place but they are limited so hurry and get yours now!

The Pop in Place wishes all readers a very Happy Christmas.
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**AUTUMN LEAVES OVER ‘50’s’ CLUB**

We had a lovely talk with slides at our November meeting by Mr Wason on the birds and flowers of Skokholm Island off the Pembrokeshire Coast.

There were 18 landscape paintings on display for the monthly competition and were judged by the speaker.

The next meeting will be our Christmas afternoon, when some of the children of the First School will be coming to sing to us and we will join with the Woodbury Singers to sing our favourite carols. The competition is for a Christmas card of Father Christmas.

Mary England - 471469  Kath Jeeves - 471175

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mr d herring, no 259

3rd prize - £10
mrs j spicer, no 117

4th prize - £10
miss s kinahay, no 203

5th prize - £5
Ven G Roblin, no 81

6th prize - £5
mr r jennings, no 63

Subscription reminders are being sent out as they become due.

£750 has been raised toward the cost of the electrics.

May I thank you all for your support.

Gordon Phillips
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**DORSET LATVIA LINK**

The Chairman and committee members wish all members, friends and supporters of the Link a peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. We thank you especially for your financial help, the donation of your time and your talents, your gifts and for your continuing support throughout 1998 and hope to see you at our stall at Briantspuddle Christmas Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 5 December.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank Alison for all her hard work with the Parish Magazine, with particular reference to the Link items. Whilst we have not (as yet!) been guilty of the ultimate sin of delivering late copy, we have had one or two dramas and they have always been dealt with sympathetically and efficiently. We often find, when opening up the mag, that our item has been made a lot more interesting by the inclusion of little pictures appropriate to the subject matter and this is very much appreciated. Thank you Alison from us all.

Jenny Silavs, Hon Sec

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Whatever you’d like, I’d be happy to advise, so give me a call on 471780

Alison, Editor

BERE REGIS ROYAL BRITISH LEGION GARDENING CLUB

In a last minute change to the programme our November speaker was Dr David Godfrey on ‘Flowers of the Cape Peninsular’. A very interesting evening left me thinking - a nice place for a holiday - when I win the lottery!

We will be having our Christmas Party on Tuesday 1st December. Tickets £5.00 per head - please telephone Elaine or Adrian on 471774.

Don’t forget you can get 25% discount on Dobies seeds, so get your orders in a.s.a.p. - telephone Andy on 472343.

Andy Morrison 472343
The summer of 1939 was a lovely time for us as a family, a happy couple in our early thirties with a son of three years (David). In November we were going to live in Cairo. Then on Sunday September 3rd at 11 o'clock came the announcement that we were at war with Germany and the bottom fell out of my world. The next week my husband Sidney left for France. Quick decisions had to be made regarding the future. I disposed of the house, the car and much of the contents of the home we loved. I moved to my mother's home, 10 North Street, Bere Regis, on the edge of Egdon Heath and dangerously near an important army camp.

One could not be too lonely with all the family together - five adults and six small children. So passed the first winter of the war. In January my husband came on leave and we had a second Christmas. Things were fairly quiet - the Home Guard training was the main activity. Our first invasion was by evacuees, mostly from London - many of them stayed and are still there. We were lucky in many ways living in the country. We were rationed but able to get eggs, milk, butter and chickens from the farms around. We had vegetables and fruit from the garden, honey from our bees and even pork, ham, bacon etc. when my brother had a pig killed. Not one bit was wasted. So we suffered few of the shortages and privations of the towns - though the sirens sounded too frequently.

I was not called up for any war work as I had a small child but I found plenty of voluntary work to do. I collected National Savings weekly and helped to run whist drives, jumble sales, auctions, dances and concerts. I played the piano and occasionally the church organ. I helped to pack parcels to every serviceman from the village.

In May 1940 my husband came on leave again. I recall we stood in a wood, blue with bluebells, and he said “in this lovely place it is difficult to believe that only a few miles away we and our enemies are poised ready to strike”. When we reached home we heard that Germany had struck. My husband left again. Now we knew we were at war black-outs, raid warnings. Only a short while and we heard that the army was leaving via Dunkirk. Winston Churchill said on the radio that we had lost several transports trying to get the troops away - I was stunned and afraid to answer the phone. The next day the phone rang. It was my husband - and only eleven miles away! We were together in less than an hour. He was well except for blistered feet through Dunkirk sand in his boots, and he visited the doctor as he had swallowed so much sand. What did these trifles matter? None - for we were together for two whole
After Dunkirk the country prepared for Hitler's invasion. Village and road signs came down and barriers were put up in readiness to block the roads. (We felt these would never have stopped the enemy had they come). The headmaster of the local school said one of his masters had been called-up and would I help him out? (I had been a teacher when younger).

I had no idea of the variety of jobs I was to do - I cooked dinners for the children when the cook did not turn up; helped reading and writing with the juniors; I took games; needlework with the girls; handywork with the boys. I often refereed the boys' football matches (I never knew when the players were 'off side'). I umpired the cricket too. We formed a poultry club and everyone bought shares and were able to buy the eggs. I took children gleaning in the harvest fields to help feed the hens. We also picked blackberries and rosehips. We adopted a Danish ship and I had to send the letters from the children. When the ship came into one of our ports we entertained the Captain. The school was decorated with Danish flags everywhere. I was also the school librarian. I was, I think, the General Dogsbody!

I seldom visited town - it was too uncertain. I was once stranded. From the dark phone box I failed to put a call through - I pressed button B and a shower of money come out! My only experience of "Pennies from Heaven"!

Early in 1941 I found an empty cottage (37 West St) - walls of mud and chalk about fifty inches thick and a thatched roof in which a lovely cream owl lived and snored loudly. There were no mod cons - only electricity. It was so cosy in winter and cool in summer. My son and I had our weekly baths at my mother's house. I had a lovely garden flowers and veg. I was no greenfingers but the man next door helped. Water came from a very deep well. I was so frightened of it that my neighbour always left a bucket filled for me.

My sister had a boy and her husband was in Singapore. She took turns fire-watching at nights so she looked after our boys during the days while I was at school and I took over when she was on duty.

After Dunkirk my husband was posted to several places in the North. We joined him for holidays but I was always glad to get back to the country. In early 1943 he came on leave and said he had been posted abroad. He had tropical kit so we knew it would be a hot climate. It was - he had six weeks in South Africa and then India. I said “but that will be thousands of miles away”. He replied “yes, but only a thought away”. That was great comfort to me. We wrote long letters twice a week.
Space will not permit details of what went on around us - bombs, parachutists, day-time raids nearby. German planes in flames just missing our chimneys. Dog-fights overhead and bullets raining down; the gliders and planes on their way to Normandy and two days later the sad sight of convoys of ambulances passing my cottage. Young men from the village were killed - the headmaster's only two sons (pilots) and two of his old boys. The community spirit in our small piece was wonderful and one person's grief was everyone's.

We had an air-raid shelter deep underground at the bottom of a large garden, but the Doctor said we would die of pneumonia before a direct hit from a bomb - so we stayed indoors and quite often in bed.

We had a spy scare. A mysterious young man visitor who would take photographs from the church tower and visit the camps which had grown up around. I suppose he was innocent or we would have heard more. Then there was William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw) who used to shoot pheasant with a cousin nearby.

My mother was taken ill in October 1944 and I took my turn sitting at nights till she died in January 1945. I was glad she lived to see the end of the war in sight.

VE Day 1945 end we joined the merrymaking and thanksgiving. We took the children to see the U Boats, which had surrendered, in Portland Harbour. The war was not over for me. My husband returned in July 1946 after 3½ years away, and then it was over. He was posted to Scotland (Edinburgh) where our second son (Mervyn) was born in April 1947. Then to the War Office in Stanmore, London. Then after two years, to Southern Command HQ at Wilton. Finally to Salisbury, over 20 years ago, where we settled and I still live alone since my husband died in 1977.

Looking back to over 40 years seems so distant - but still “Only a thought away”.

My life in Wartime by Ivy Rose Hart

Ivy died in May 1998. Her son Mervyn happened to mention his Bere Regis connection to friends of Eileen and John James in Fleet, Hampshire where Eileen and John formerly lived. He sent them a copy of his mother’s wartime memories and by his kind permission, and that of the Griffin family, to whom he is related, this article appears in this magazine. There may well be village people who can remember Ivy Hart and will have their own memories of the war years.
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Vision 2000 is not an isolated event but a continuation of The Bishops Vision for the Diocese. It will involve preparatory work such as the 1999 Lent Course and also follow up with such things as PCC material and training days. The Lent Course, consisting of five meetings, will run from 22d February until Easter 1999. Intensive work will take place from the 12th – 26th September 1999 when the diocese will be visited by the Springboard support team led by Martin Cavender. Time commitment will be - clergy one weekday, PCC member one evening, with a little extra time for those involved in festivals.

The two weeks will include

**In Deanery Clusters**

Deaneries have been arranged into clusters and Cluster Clergy Days should happen on the same day as Cluster PCC Evenings.

**PCC evenings** which will be open to lay and clergy and including District Church Councils, Local Ecumenical Projects and Local Ministry Teams. These can have an ecumenical dimension where appropriate. They will encourage and resource Parochial Church Councils as leaders in mission.

**Clergy Days** that are exclusively for clergy and could include other denominations where appropriate. There will be separate evening events for Non Stipendiary Ministers and Ordained Local Ministers who can not get to the Clergy Day. They will focus on resourcing clergy to be leaders of church in mission.

**In Deaneries**

Ventures in Mission involving local people in disciple making events. These meetings could be held in venues such as pubs, halls or homes and it is planned to have as many of these as possible across the diocese. Some Deaneries might like to hold Deanery Mission Festivals to celebrate the ongoing work of mission. These would be on a Sunday afternoon and evening.

**Centrally**

A Training Day on Saturday 25th September which is open to both clergy and laity. This will involve practical training in all aspects of making new disciples.

For more information contact Janet Hartwell on 01672 513686.
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"Merry Christmas", so the familiar greeting goes, but I wonder, do you feel a bit like Scrooge, in Charles Dickens' famous book 'A Christmas Carol' when you say that to someone - especially these days?

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried the cheerful voice of Scrooge's nephew.

"Bah!", said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge’s nephew, “you don’t mean that, I’m sure?"

"I do", said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason do you have to be merry?"

Well, I wonder how you would answer Scrooge's question? Have you any right or reason to be merry this Christmas? Many will, of course, be 'merry' through drinking alcohol as they celebrate Christmas, and possibly at the same time, will dismiss the real reason for Christmas - the birth of the Lord Jesus - as "Humbug".

When I look at the state of the world, and even this nation, at the present time, I can find no right to be merry. Floods in Bangladesh, China and now, the worst of all in Honduras, confrontation in Iraq and Indonesia, famine and war in Sudan, to name just a few of the world's trouble spots. There seems to be no reason, from a human point of view, to be merry or pleased in any way this Christmas time.

But when I consider the real meaning of Christmas, then I have every right and reason to be full of great joy and hope, as I give thanks to Almighty God for His most precious and priceless gift to me of eternal life through His Son. (2 Corinthians 9.15)

Far from being 'humbug' as many think, it is an historical fact that Christ Jesus was born of a virgin in Bethlehem. He lived on earth for a time. He died on a cross. He rose from the dead. This is the good news of great joy that I share with you this Christmas time. Everyone who makes room in their hearts and lives for Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour - as it says in one of the carols - will have every right and reason, like Mary and Joseph and the shepherds, to glorify and praise God. Luke 2.1-20.

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Each year the Ramblers’ Association throughout the country has a Festival of Winter Walks and invites the public to join them. Those arranged for Dorset are as follows:

South Dorset Group
Sunday 27 December 1.00 p.m. 4-5 miles at a leisurely pace
Meeting place - Stinsford Car Park
Sorry no dogs
Further information - 01305 784672

North Dorset Group
Monday 28 December 11.00 a.m. 4 miles to Greenhill Down and Hilton or 2.00 p.m. 3 miles around the village of St Catherine’s Chapel
Further information 01258 820209

East Dorset Group
Friday 1 January 10.30 a.m.
Meeting place - South Haven Point
Further information 01202 470543

If you have never been on a Group Walk, why not join us?

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

A Carol Service will be held at the Bere Regis Parish Church at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 6th December 1998. Everyone will be welcome to join us at this festive time. Tea and refreshments will be available at the Drax Hall after the service at a cost of £1.50.

New Year Buffet

On Saturday 9th January 1999, Court Prospect will be holding a New Year Buffet at the Bere Regis British Legion Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. There will be the facilities of a bar, and entertainment by Cliff Whelan, Country Style. There will be a charge of £5.50 per person. Please inform the Secretary - Mr Roy Davenport on 01305 268328 if you would like tickets for this function, by 1 January at the latest.
BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB

Football results

17 Oct Bere Regis 7 2 Linthorpe
18 Oct Bere Regis 4 2 R&D Construction
24 Oct Stickland Utd 1 1 Bere Regis
1 Nov Dorset Sunday junior cup round 2
   Bere Regis 0 7 Angel Inn
7 Nov Dorset Saturday junior cup round 1
   Kingston 2 (AET) 2 Bere Regis
8 Nov Bere Regis 1 1 AC Sports

By far the most dominant factor over the autumnal months has been the weather, Bere have lost three games to the torrential rain, and the hallowed turf remains under threat. The Saturday eleven continue to build on their impressive early season form and still sit atop the league table having only dropped eight points from four draws. They faced old time rivals-Linthorpe and were expecting a lively encounter giving recent matches between the two sides. Sure enough Bere were made to work for their points, but having conceded two goals in the first period they were in no mood to cave in, and an avalanche of goals reminiscent of two years ago in a 9-2 drubbing.

In wind and rain that could only be described as inhospitable, Bere faced Stickland and were hoping for three more points in their quest for division two. What followed seemed farcical at times, and the net result was that Bere had dropped two valuable points. A mouth-watering trip to Kingston-on-the-Hill in the cup proved a difficult hurdle for Bere. Their opponents were progressing well in their sister league, and both sides were to give a full blooded cup tie leaving honours even after extra time, which will bring things back to the old rec for a replay on 14th November.

Absentees and injuries prove to be a major obstacle for Nick Macklin and his charges for the Sunday eleven, after such a severe hammering the previous week, a good result was needed to put the league campaign back on track.
At home to R & D, Rob White was forced to don the gloves and was given an easy ride from the visitors. A cool finish under the advancing keeper by young Macklin started Bere on their way, and a rout looked likely. R&D however had other ideas after floating in a free kick past the rooted Rob White leaving the score 1-1 at the break.

A succession of corners followed after the half time tea and Bovril, draftee Sean Bartlett maybe should have netted a hat-trick, but settled for one. Rob White having been unshackled by the manager was now able to create havoc up front and fell under a clumsy challenge which the fairest referee of all time awarded a penalty, R&D refused to read the script and equalised setting up a top finale.

A Rob White header made it 3-2 from a precision corner from TheEarl, and Andy Curtis picked the ball up on the halfway line, twisted, turned, teased and tormented 4 defenders before breaking through to score one the goals of the season. Due to unfortunate lack of availability again at home to Angel Inn in the second round of the cup, Bere suffered another seven nightmare.

A missed penalty and a 4-0 deficit at half-time gave for a very forgettable day. AC Sports were last season's victors in Bere's league, and dished out a pasting to Bere last term, this year was to be much different, however Bere had still to draft in a makeshift side due to squad depletion. Injuries to Steve Ives and Rob White did not help the cause, and Bere were up against it, especially on the verbal side from the AC front-line, and it was their penchant for industrial language that incurred a booking or two. Inevitably the visitors drew level after Andy Curtis added to his tally with a typical poacher's goal before the break. It was a hard fought draw, leaving Bere in 6th position only two ponts off the league leaders.

Forthcoming club events
4 Dec Race night at BRSC clubhouse
20 Dec Annual Christmas draw at BRSC, with family quiz.
26 Dec Boxing Day football followed by club events
7 Jan Cheese and wine party at BRSC
JUBILEE 2000 AT CHRISTMAS

Jubilee 2000 has brought out some one-signature petition slips, which can be slipped in with your Christmas cards for your friends to sign and send off. We also have a small number of items with the Jubilee 2000 logo on them (black on white) - teatowels £2.50, apron £4.25, shopping bag (unbleached) £4.25, and large T-shirts £10.00.

These items will be on sale in Bere Regis Church on Sunday December 6th, at 10.30 a.m. If demand exceeds supply, I will put in a prompt order for more.

After Birmingham, now Cologne - 18th - 20th June 1999. By arrangement with Jubilee 2000, Harry Weeks Travel Agency is offering a bargain 3 day trip to Cologne for the day of action surrounding the G8 Summit in Cologne next June. (This is the occasion on which it is planned to make the final presentation of the Jubilee 2000 petition, as Germany has the Presidency of the E.U. for the first part of 1999). The £79 charge for the trip includes coach travel, 2 nights' B&B, and transport into Cologne on the Saturday for the Chain Event. (Insurance is extra.)

I have more details and application forms if anyone is interested - or there is a brochure on the Information table in Bere Regis Church. If anyone from our two parishes is interested in going, and would like to be part of a block booking so that we can travel together and hopefully stay in the same place, could they please let me know -preferably with a £20 deposit by December 12th. The price is only guaranteed for bookings made before the end of January, and it would be good to ensure that these arrangements don't get tangled up with Christmas!

By the time you read this, we shall have passed the 400 Days till the Millenium mark. As for the 500 Days, a group of people in Bere Regis (this time the Wednesday Group) will have filled a cardboard box with symbolic 3 link chains, and sent them off with a letter enclosed, to reach the I. M. F. for the significant day. (In this case, November 27th.) This is a campaigning action recommended by Christian Aid, and various supporters from all over the country will have done likewise, putting into tangible form our concern for the need to reduce poverty in the poorest countries in the world.

For further information on the Jubilee 2000 Campaign or to make a booking for the Cologne trip, by December 12th unless you want to book separately, please contact Philippa Ward on 471527 at 16, North St, Bere Regis.

P.W
Brownies re-started after the summer holidays with an increase in numbers. Welcome to all the new ones.

Between now and Christmas we will be covering various badges - Footpath for new members, and Road for those who already hold their Footpath. These cover the principles of Brownie Guiding: Brownies Have Fun Out of Doors, Make Things, Lend a Hand, Do Their Best, Keep Healthy, Are Friendly, Help at Home and Are Wide Awake. New Brownies will also be learning their Promise.

We have been working on the Agility badge, which involves a great deal of running about, acrobatics and skipping. It is hoped to complete this and be tested by the end of November. I certainly hope we complete it soon, as having 17 Brownies using you for leapfrog is an experience that should be limited.

Over the last two weeks, we have been making collages out of autumn leaves and berries - these looked wonderful with an amazing collection of colours with leaves, berries, flowers, conkers, all collected by the Brownies during the week before. This covers the “Brownies Make Things” part of the Footpath and Road. Last week, we created decorated masterpieces out of fairy cakes. I would apologise for any Brownie who picked one of my home made buns to decorate. I never did pass my Cookery Badge. The finished cakes showed great imagination with colours (oops, sorry for any hyperactivity) and patterns made with cherries, jelly shapes and hundreds & thousands. Although the cake decoration does not cover any of the Footpath or Road details, it was fun for us to do.

During October and through half term, we have arranged with Bere Regis Fire Station to learn all about Fire Safety in the home and also the work of the Fire Brigade. On the 19th October, a visit will be made to Brownies to tell us all about it, with a trip to the Fire Station on the 26th. The Brownies will be tested the following week and Fire Safety Badges awarded.

Brownies runs from 6pm to 7.15pm each Monday during School term time at Bere Regis Royal British Legion. Ages are from 7 to 10. Leaders: Brown Owl - Jane Storey, Tawny Owl - Liz Gale. If you have a child interested in joining or if you would like to get involved, please feel free to call at the Legion any Monday during school term time or call me on 471041, evenings.

Brown Owl.
AFFPUDDLE/BRIANTSPUDDLE NEWS

AFFPUDDLE CHURCH NEWS

GIFT SERVICES

For many years it has been the practice of the church at Affpuddle to arrange a gift service on the third Sunday in December. Your gifts are taken to the Dorchester Cheshire Homes and used for the benefit of the residents. The residents are aged between 18 to 28. It is suggested that you give a small present suitable for someone in that age range (bearing in mind that the residents are mentally handicapped). Suggestions are toiletries, small items of clothing (socks, hankies etc.) crayons, pencils and writing or drawing paper. Alternatively if you do not want to give this kind of present then non perishable Christmas food or goods or store cupboard goods, which may be kept for later on, would be most welcome.

Please do not wrap up the presents as they will have to be sorted before they are distributed. If you wish, do include a greetings card and supply the wrapping paper (please attach it to your present with a rubber band).

Whatever you give will be used for the benefit of the residents and will be very gratefully received.

ART REACH

The Artreach production for December will be held in the Village Hall on 19 December at 7.30pm and is Charles Dickens’ Christmas Carol (this was formerly advertised as ‘Bah Humbug’ but has been retitled using its more familiar name!). Tickets costing £4.50 with concessions for children will be on sale from the beginning of December from Philippa Thorniley (Bere Regis 471497). There will be a bar available to purchase preshow and interval drinks and mince pies will be served in the interval. Coffee will also be available.

At the time of going to press, news has just been received that we have been allocated another Artreach production on 23 January 1999 - Alison Lurie in ‘Bella - The Story of Mrs Beeton’ so keep this date free. The ticket price is not yet known but there will be full details in the January magazine and tickets will be on sale from the beginning of January.
BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

As most of you probably already know Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee is hoping to make a lottery application and wheels have been grinding away. The unforeseen delays involving the (now dropped) inclusion of a shop building and the intervention of the planners with a list of suggestions contrary to our previous plans are now being overcome. Co-operation from all parties concerned has led to a final consensus of opinion as to how the future of the whole site can be secured.

Because many groups’ interests have to be taken into account, and the fact that the village hall is a listed building, we have to be sure of our ground before we can put any definite plans before the village for your enlightenment.

However, worry not! We hope that in the New Year there will be something to show for all the to-ing and fro-ing in which we have been involved.

After a recent joint meeting of the Bladen Social Club Committee, the Parish Council and the Hall Committee regarding the proposed improvements to the Village Hall it was agreed that the Architect and representatives of all three committees will liaise with Purbeck Planners over the agreed changes to the hall and environs. The meeting was fruitful and the Hall Committee would like to thank the Social Club for agreeing to host the event. Anyone interested in the proposals should contact any member of the Hall Committee who will be happy to chat to them about the plans for the future.

When you next visit or hire the hall you will find that the cupboard previously used for storing the card tables has been converted and now houses china. Also twenty new tables have been purchased. These were chosen to complement the new chairs and replace the existing wobbly card tables. We think you will agree that this is a big improvement and was made possible by fund-raising in 1998. Thanks for all your support.

The recent silent film show was a great success, organised and catered for by Mrs Thorniley. A hiccup however, during the proceedings illustrates well the need for improvement of hall facilities. The ladies toilet failed to function on the aforementioned evening but fortunately a handy committee member was attending the event and was able to effect an impromptu repair. Not the kind of thing you expect to be doing between your supper and the entertainment! (Many thanks to that member) Since this incident proper repairs have been made, but the toilets remain both basic and inadequate, and by the year 2004 they will also be illegal, due to lack of disabled facilities.

Meetings of the Village Hall Committee are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month in Briantspuddle Village Hall. At the next meeting the main subjects of discussion will be a new hiring agreement and the insurance.
PURBECK FILM FESTIVAL

The Hall Committee took part in this year’s Purbeck Film Festival and hosted a silent film show and supper. 60 people attended an interesting performance of ‘Sunset’ starring a very young Janet Gaynor. We were lucky enough to have Stephen Horn a talented pianist from the National Film Festival who accompanied the film in authentic and dramatic manner. After all expenses were paid £113 was raised for Hall Funds.

AFFPUDDLE CHURCHYARD CLEAN UP

Very many thanks to all who came on 14 November.  Great progress has been made and it looks good.

Also our thanks to all who have given their time to keep the churchyard mown this year. It is much appreciated.

Paul Badcock and John Solly

AFFPUDDLE AND TURNERSPUDDLE PARISH COUNCIL

A vacancy has arisen for a part time (approximately 15 hours per month) Clerk for the above parish. Small remuneration and expenses. Applicants need access to a WP or computer and the ability to do simple accounts.

For a job description and application form please contact Mrs Rosemary Turner, 21 South Mead, Bere Regis. Tel: 01929 471144.

BLADEN SOCIAL CLUB

Firstly thankyou to everyone who supported our Harvest Auction - £130 was raised for Church Funds.

On Saturday 5th December there will be a Christmas Bingo at 8.30 p.m. in the Hall. Visitors will be most welcome.

Villagers are also welcome to join us on New Year’s Eve from 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you.

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- Celebration cakes
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Briantspuddle Village Hall
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December 1998

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APOCHE SPRINGS

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### December 1998

#### CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Time/Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Concern</strong></td>
<td>2.00 p.m. Thursdays, Turberville Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ancient Order of</strong></td>
<td>7.30 p.m. 1st Monday, British Legion Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foresters Friendly Society Autumn Leaves (over 50s)</strong></td>
<td>2.30 p.m. 2nd Wednesday, Drax Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beavers</strong></td>
<td>6.30 p.m. Monday, Scout HQ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
<td>7.45 p.m. Monday, Drax Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>British Legion Club</strong></td>
<td>7.15 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.15 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legion Women's Section</strong></td>
<td>2.00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday, HQ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>British Legion Youth</strong></td>
<td>7.00 - 10.00 p.m. Wednesdays, HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brownies</strong></td>
<td>6.00 - 7.15 p.m. Mondays, Royal British Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B.R.S.C.</strong></td>
<td>Winter season opening times: Tues, Wed, Fri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.00 p.m, Sat - 4.25 p.m., Sun - 7.30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Briantspuddle Singers</strong></td>
<td>7.45 p.m Tuesdays, Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choir Practice</strong></td>
<td>6.00 p.m. Junior, 6.45 p.m. Full Choir, Fri in Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C.A.B.</strong></td>
<td>Wareham - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10.00 a.m.-</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.00 p.m. (closed Wednesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bere Regis Surgery (for patients of the surgery only)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesdays 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Camera Club</strong></td>
<td>7.30 p.m 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Cyril Wood Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congregational Church</strong></td>
<td>10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Sundays, Butt Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.00 a.m. Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cubs</strong></td>
<td>6.30 p.m. Thursdays, Scout HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dancing classes</strong></td>
<td>Fridays 4.30 p.m.-6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.-10.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D.S.S. Van</strong></td>
<td>1st Mon 10.15 a.m.-11.00 a.m. Bere Regis P.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dorset/Lativa Link</strong></td>
<td>Secretary - Jenny Silavs - 01929 471577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Floral Group</strong></td>
<td>2.00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday, W. Kingston Village hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guides</strong></td>
<td>Unit suspended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kingsbere Quilters 3rd Wednesday, Drax Hall
Low Impact Exercise class Every Monday, 7.30 - 8.45 p.m. School hall - 472153
Mini Market 10.00 a.m. 2nd Saturday, Drax Hall
Mobile Library Every Friday 2.00 p.m. - 3.35 p.m., car park
Mothers’ Union 7.30 p.m. 1st Wednesday, the Church
Parish Council 7.00 p.m. 2nd Thursday, Drax Hall
Sub-committees on Post Office notice board
Playgroup Bere Regis Five mornings, Bere Regis School - Tel: 01305 848792 Wednesday/Thursday PM
Pop in Place 9.00 a.m.- 12.00 Mondays and Fridays, Drax Hall
Rainbows 4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Mondays, Royal British Legion
RBL Gardening Club 8.00 p.m. 1st Tuesday, Club House. - Elaine 471774
Scouts Junior - 7.30 p.m. Mondays, Scout HQ
Senior - 7.00 p.m. Fridays, Scout HQ
Swimming Club Teaching sessions - Saturdays 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m,
Blandford L. C. Bob Holman, 01305 848262
Toddler Group 1.30 p.m. Mondays, Congregational Church
Tuesday Club A social afternoon 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. every
Tuesday at Turberville Court. All welcome
W.I. Bere Regis 7.30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday, Drax Hall
W.I. Briantspuddle 7.30 p.m. 1st Wednesday, Briantspuddle Village Hall
Woodbury Hill Singers 2.30 p.m. Mondays, Larkspur, Snow Hill

PLAY AND LEARN VAN
Wednesday 2nd December
Bere Regis School - 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.
Bere Regis Surgery - 10.15 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
Briantspuddle - 12.20 p.m.
### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Gardening Club Christmas Party</td>
<td>8.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Christmas Coffee at Cyril Wood Court in aid of Church Funds</td>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Photography exhibition, Bere Regis Camera Club</td>
<td>10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Briantspuddle WI Christmas Sale at Briantspuddle Village Hall</td>
<td>2.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Dorchester Branch Ringing Practice</td>
<td>2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Carnival Committee Christmas Bingo</td>
<td>8.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Pop in Place Mince Pies and Carols</td>
<td>10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### January 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Pop in Place Party - Pop In goes West</td>
<td>3.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Gardening Club A.G.M. followed by Albert Wasson’s ‘Scottish Foray’</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>Orphans of Romania Coffee Morning, Drax Hall</td>
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#### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Jumble Sale at Wareham Town Hall in aid of Church Funds</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>St Valentine’s Fundraising Supper, Briantspuddle Village Hall</td>
<td>7.30 p.m.</td>
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</table>

#### July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Carnival</td>
</tr>
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</table>
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

Forthcoming events:

DECEMBER

4  SOUND & LIGHT DISCO
5  BULLSEYE 8.15
7  WOMENS SECTION CAROL SERVICE
12  CHRISTMAS DRAW 9.00
19  CHRISTMAS QUIZ - 8.15
26  DICE HORSE RACING 12.15
31  BLACK MAGIC DISCO

We would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

ADVERTISING RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full page, full year</th>
<th>Full page, one month</th>
<th>Half page, full year</th>
<th>Half page, one month</th>
<th>Third page, full year</th>
<th>Third page, one month</th>
<th>Small-ads, full year</th>
<th>Small-ads, one month</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£100</td>
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<td>£50</td>
<td>£5</td>
<td>£40</td>
<td>£4</td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>£2</td>
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</tbody>
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(Cheques to be made payable to Bere Regis PCC)

Rates for charitable, community or non-profit organisations are charged at 50% of above.

Art-work for advertisements can be created, free of charge for simple text, £5 - £10 for complex text and graphics.
PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

Alison Debenham
‘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, no later than the 15th of each month.

Contributors from Affpuddle and Briantspuddle should submit copy, no later than the 13th of each month, to
Jan Hopkins
End Cottage, 24 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle, Dorchester, DT2 7HP.
Tel: 01929 471778

We regret that late submissions will not be included.

******************************************************************************

Copy can be accepted handwritten, but preferably typed or on disk. If a disk is supplied the file should be saved, ideally, in a ‘Microsoft Word ’ format.
The typeface should be Times New Roman, 10pt.
Please do not use underlining, UPPER CASE formatting, or include any tables or graphics. For more advice on computer based copy, please ring Alison.

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DISTRIBUTION
For information regarding the distribution of the magazine and for new subscribers contact Mary England on 471469