I have noticed that every so often, I hear a word, or read a word, and I think "I wonder what that word really means?" If you are a crossword addict, you probably do it all the time. The word "paradox" came into my orbit the other day. I had heard it or read it many times, but I wanted to make sure I had it right.

"Paradox" is a statement, or an opinion, or a doctrine, that is the opposite to what most people think. It is something seemingly absurd, but actually correct.

I mention this, because we are coming to a time when the Christian church celebrates a paradox; something opposite to received wisdom, absurd but correct.

There is no doubt that Jesus had a personality that was different. He attracted passionate love and devotion. He also attracted passionate hatred. Why did people hate him so much? I think it was because he turned everything upside down. His teaching was nearly always paradoxical.

In a week or so we will re-enact this paradox. Palm Sunday will come, and we will see the man Jesus entering the holy city of Jerusalem. It was master-minded by Judas Iscariot. He organised the crowds; he whipped up their enthusiasm, he arranged for them to have branches of palm, which was what happened when triumphant leaders arrived. Jesus came, and the people shouted "Hooray"! But Jesus hated it. Judas had got it all wrong. He had told his followers time and time again “This is not my way”. They refused to listen. "Hooray!" they shouted with the crowds, "Here is your new king and saviour of the nation”. Jesus went away and wept. The crowds went home. Four days later, they shouted, "Boo! Kill him”. And they did, on the refuse pit outside the city, with two other criminals.

His life was a paradox, absurd by this world's standards; his death was a paradox. Everything about that week which we call "holy week" made people "wag their heads” in amazement at his paradoxical behaviour.

And so it is, that on what we call Palm Sunday, the priest gives to each member of the congregation a sign of victory, a piece of dried palm leaf. But it is made into the form of a cross. It's a paradox; absurd but true.
Apology from the Editor

I am very sorry that the magazine is arriving late with you this month and is not up to its usual standard as far as graphics and proofing are concerned.

My ‘proper job’ has been somewhat hectic recently, with the consequence that I have had very little free time to spare. Hopefully everything will be back to normal for the May edition.

Alison

ADVERTISING RATES

(Cheques to be made payable to Bere Regis PCC)

<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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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
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
Lay Reader          Mrs B Pitfield - 471391
Church Wardens      Mr J House, Lower Stockley Farm - 471255/551266
                     Mr J England, 10 Southmead - 471469
Deputy Warden       Mr R Comben, Beechmast, Whatcombe Lane,
                     Winterborne Whitchurch - 01258 881143
Secretary of PCC    Cdr C Maunder, 15 North Street - 471342
Treasurer of PCC    Mr G Phillips, 102 North Street - 471525
Organist            Mr T Colquhoun, Heatherdown, Brock Hill - 471360

PCC Members
Geoffrey Booth, Molly Carlyle, Ian Ventham, Susan Hazlerigg,
David Gibbs, Eileen Jutting, Fred Pitfield, Kay March, Sybil Frampton,
Eileen Bangay, Robert Croom, Mary England.

Church Officials - Affpuddle
Lay Reader          Mr J Haigh - 471768
Church Wardens      Captain P Badcock, Cruck Cottage, Briantspuddle - 471297
                     Mr Solly, Symmonds Barn, Affpuddle - 472400
Secretary of PCC    Mr S Sanderson, River Cottage, Affpuddle - 01305 848812
Treasurer of PCC    Mr R Elkerton, Greatfield House Affpuddle - 01305 848331
Organist            Mr I Mullins, Grasmere, 12 Parmiter Road, Colehill,
                     Wimborne. Tel: 01202 889227

PCC Members
Bill Thorniley, Robin Gainsford, Mike Menzies, Steve Sanderson, David Payne,
Allan Smith, Jenny Silavs, Erica Moriarty, Dorothy Reed, Audrey Grindrod.
BERE REGIS CHURCH ROTAS

Bere Regis Sidesmen
Sunday 2nd April  9.30 a.m.  Mr House / Mr Bates
                6.00 p.m.  Mrs Jutting

Sunday  9th April 11.00 a.m.  Mrs March / Mrs England
                6.00 p.m.  Miss Fampton

Sunday 16th April 9.30 a.m.  Mrs Hazlerigg / Mr Smith
                6.00 p.m.  Mr Woodward

Sunday 23rd April 11.00 a.m.  Miss Chesney / Miss Miller
                6.00 p.m.  Mr Comben
Sunday 30th April 9.30 a.m.  Mr Croom / Mr Ventham

Sanctuary Flower Guild
22nd April  Decorating church for Easter Day
23rd April  Easter Sunday
30th April  Mrs P House  Mrs P Roblin

Readers
2nd April  Mrs Jutting
9th April  Miss Frampton
16th April  Mrs Lewis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 2nd April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mothering Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Affpuddle)</td>
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<td>9.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Parish Communion (Bere Regis)</td>
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<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Mattins and Communion (Affpuddle)</td>
<td>Evensong and Sermon (Bere Regis)</td>
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<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 9th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Passion Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Bere Regis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Parish Communion (Affpuddle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Church Family Service (Bere Regis)</td>
<td>Evensong and Sermon (Bere Regis)</td>
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<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 16th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Palm Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>8.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Affpuddle)</td>
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<td>9.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Parish Communion (Bere Regis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Affpraise (Affpuddle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evensong (Bere Regis) followed by Annual Parochial Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday in Holy Week</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stainers Oratorio, “The Crucifixion”, in Bere Regis Church</td>
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<td><strong>Maundy Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Celebration of the Last Supper in Bere Regis Church</td>
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<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
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<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Devotions before the Cross (Bere Regis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Devotions before the Cross (Affpuddle)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 23rd April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Holy Communion (Bere Regis)</td>
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<td>9.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Easter Eucharist (Affpuddle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Easter Eucharist (Bere Regis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Easter Songs of Praise (Bere Regis)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 30th April</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 a.m.</td>
<td>A Benefice Communion (Bere Regis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 noon</td>
<td>Holy Baptism</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evensong (Affpuddle) followed by Annual Parochial Meeting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BERE REGIS CHURCH NEWS

BERE REGIS BELLRINGERS

Ringing practices continue on Wednesday evenings at the usual time of 6.30pm.

TOWER 500 books celebrating 500 years of the Church Tower and the year 2000 are still available from John England, the Post Office and Drax Arms, price £5.00.

VISITING RINGERS from the Portsmouth area will be at the tower on Monday 24th April from 10.10 to 10.50 am.

CHURCH NOTICES

The LENT LUNCHES continue each Wednesday in the south aisle of Bere Regis Church, starting at 12.30 p.m. The menu is simple - soup and a roll, with coffee following. All proceeds will go to areas of need in our world.

There are two LENT LECTURES remaining for this month. The one on 5th April will be in Affpuddle, continuing with the theme of the new forms of worship coming into the Church of England at the end of the year. The last one on 12th April will take the form of an actual Eucharist, with the up-to-date, not yet published words.

The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH meetings.

By law, each parish has to have what is the equivalent of an Annual General Meeting each year, when Church Wardens and parochial church councillors are elected for the year. Also at these meetings, reports are given on the past year, and future hopes are expressed. They are quite important meetings for the life of the church, so if you could possibly spare time to come, it would be helpful to us all.

The Bere Regis Meeting - Palm Sunday - 6.00 p.m.

The Affpuddle Meeting - Sunday after Easter - 6.00 p.m.
Our March meeting was held in church when our deputy leader, Mrs Sally Cheeseman, led us in the absence of Mary.

Our speaker was Mrs Janet Roe from the MU office in Salisbury. Janet brought a whole range of items for us to see and buy, including sweatshirts, scarves, aprons, tea towels, shopping bags, pens, cards, books and much more. She suggested we organise a trip to Salisbury, visit the Cathedral and then come along to browse in the shop. (Your committee is working on this idea!) Sales of these items are an important part of financing the MU, helping to fund our various projects. Janet also told us of the resources available to branches in the form of videos, tapes, discussion starters, etc, on almost every topic imaginable.

During the business part of our meeting, we discussed the possibility of holding our meetings at Turberville Court, so that some of our less active members could attend. We decided that we would continue to hold our services of Holy Communion in church, but would go to Turberville Court at other times, by kind permission of the Warden.

Another letter from our link branch in Australia had been received and this was read by Sally, in the absence of Mary Fegan. Their leader is very ill, suffering from a brain haemorrhage.

We will be doing flowers in church on 25th June and 25th September. Anyone willing to help should contact Mary.

The deanery Lent service will take place at Fontmell Magna at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 12th April. Transport will be arranged.

Our Spring Coffee Morning has been arranged for Saturday 13th May at Cyril Wood Court, by kind permission of the Manager, when part of the proceeds will be given to the Mothers’ Union Holiday Fund which provides needy families with a break. Please support this event.  

Brenda Pitfield 471391

THANK YOU

Eileen Bangay and family thank the Reverend Graham Roblin, Dr Tim Harley and all the kind friends for the cards, letters, flowers, support and prayers in their bereavement.
OBITUARIES

Mr Richard Martin CROCKER (aged 53)

Richard Crocker was one of this world's characters. He was very well known in the parish of Bere Regis, because it was here that he was born and grew up. It was here that he went to school, and it was here that he made his mark as a self-made farmer.

His father and mother had a small farm in "The Warren", but at the early age of 51, his father died. Richard was 13. Somehow, his mother battled on, and at the first opportunity, he left school and took over responsibility for the family. Together, they brought the six cows to a different farm at Lane End. From that fragile beginning, he built up a large herd. He knew what he wanted to do, and he worked and worked to make it a success. He had to grow up very quickly. He was known to be a man of great charm, but also wild. A tight rein was needed, and this was provided by his wife, Doreen. They were married when Richard was 19 and Doreen 18.

Things went on well in their lives, with two boys being born, Martin and Mark, but when they were growing up well, tragedy struck: Martin was killed in a motorcycle accident. It was a devastation for the family. They were crushed by the grief. As time began to heal them a little, they decided to build another family unit. So came the precious daughters, Kim and Tamsin.

Two years ago, Richard became ill, and was diagnosed as having cancer. He used these years to the full. He had always worked hard and played hard. He will be remembered by his many friends, and will be treasured by his family.

In our church service in February, we gave thanks with a smile for a truly memorable character of Bere Regis.

Mr Stanley BANGAY (aged 84)

As with so many people who came to Bere Regis on retirement, we are not privileged to know of the wealth of experience that Stan brought with him.

He was a Londoner through and through. Born in Battersea during the Great War, he grew up in a difficult era of our nation's history. His father, for example, had been one of the many men who had been gassed by the Germans, and never fully recovered. Stan would have lived with this.

Sport was a big thing in his life. He was extremely good at cricket and football. They were his passion right to the end, except when the M.C.C. were playing abysmally, and then he would go into decline.
Academically he did well too, and became a mechanical engineer. His expertise was shown in the 2nd World War when he designed a release clip for the airmen's harness, used by American pilots in Flying Fortresses, thus saving many lives. Few of us would have known this, which is a pity.

Amateur dramatics brought Stan and Eileen together. He was an accomplished actor and spent many years enjoying this hobby. Their married home was in Tulse Hill, South London, and it was here that their children, Chris and Kate, were born. Coming to Dorset was a dream that he and Eileen shared, and 22 years ago this dream was realised. They bought the Old School House on Barrow Hill and here they enjoyed years of happiness with many friends.

Stan was a bell ringer in the church for a time, but heart trouble prevented him from keeping this up. But it didn't prevent him from enjoying travel. France became his great love, and with his daughter, Kate, living in Bordeaux, he and Eileen were able to indulge their new enjoyment. The twinning of Bere Regis with Cerences naturally gave him much pleasure. So also did his garden. Anything to do with nature interested him.

Eileen's commitment to her church meant that Stan also had a large number of friends and acquaintances. We gathered for his funeral, and the service had the atmosphere of celebration and thanksgiving, for a very gracious, kind and smiling man. We commended him to God that he might rest in peace and in the fellowship of Jesus Christ.

**Mr Jack BENTLEY (aged 80)**

There can be no doubt that Jack Bentley's war-time experiences made a huge impact on his life. To see him with his medals shining, and wearing his green beret, either at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies, or at the funerals of fellow Legionnaires, indicated his enormous pride for his military past.

Jack was born in 1920, in Norfolk, but his parents moved when he was a small boy to London, so to all intents, he considered himself a Londoner. By the time the second world war broke out he was just the right age, and within days he had joined up. They were very formative years.

He was very fit, having been an excellent ice hockey player - he played for the Wembley Ice Hockey Team called the Wembley Cubs. His first posting after basic training was back to Norfolk - with a searchlight battery, and it was here that he was to begin his lifetime work in Electronic Engineering.
Radar was developing very quickly, and Jack specialised in it. Then he was attached to the West Africa Frontier Force, and went with his regiment to India. The Japanese advance through Burma had to be stopped before they took the whole of India and therefore the entire Far East. So Jack, with his regiment, was in the forefront of intense and vicious jungle fighting in Burma. It was now that something happened that was to affect him severely for the rest of his life. He was captured by the Japanese and became a prisoner of war under most appalling conditions. From those terrible times, the Burma Star Association was born - an organisation demanding intense loyalty and unremitting attitude to all things Japanese. On his release at the end of the war, he returned to England and was rebadged as a member of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, a natural place for such a specialist as he had become.

He married in the early fifties, but his wife became ill, and she was in a hospital in Dorchester. Jack came to Weymouth to be near her, but sadly, the marriage failed. He then bought a mobile home behind the Silent Woman - he enjoyed this enormously. He had access to Wareham Forest, and his sons remember his ability in identifying the flora and fauna, and following the various trails. He taught them to look at things and really see them. He had had a one man canoe when he lived in Weymouth, but now he owned a motor boat, which he used in and around Poole Harbour. He was a keen angler - both coarse and sea.

His marriage to Pat sadly fell apart as we all know, but it is good that Ben, Emma and John are here, together with Peter, his executor, and oldest child in constant contact.

Jack used his trade as an electrical engineer right up to his retirement. He worked for the Colt International Engineering firm, specialising mainly in air conditioning plants.

I think it is true to say that having met Jack, you remembered him. He had very clear and strong opinions, and was not afraid to voice them. There were no grey areas - it was black or white. But he was always generous and loyal. Many's the time he would hail me, "Hello Vicar - here's a fiver for the flag fund"! He loved to see the flag flying from the church tower, but he understood why we had to take it down over the stormy winter months.

His loyalty to his comrades in the Royal British Legion was firm to the end. He never failed to be on parade, and he will be pleased that the Legion is honouring him in turn today.

At his funeral in church on the 9th March we offered his soul to God and prayed that he might rest in peace after a somewhat turbulent life.
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AFFPUDDLE/BRIANTSPUDDLE CHURCH ROTAS

FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTAS

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<tr>
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<td>LENT</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 Apr</td>
<td>LENT</td>
<td>Mrs Hogger</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Apr</td>
<td>LENT</td>
<td>Mrs Solly</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Apr</td>
<td>EASTER</td>
<td>Mrs Killer</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Apr</td>
<td></td>
<td>5th Sunday - Venue to be arranged</td>
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During Lent there are no flowers in the church.

SIDESMEN, READERS AND READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sidesman</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>02 April</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>P Badcock</td>
<td>Server</td>
<td>BCP as set</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>A Grindrod</td>
<td>P Thornley</td>
<td>Genesis 32, verses 3-30</td>
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<td>Hebrews 13 verses 1-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 April</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>P Badcock</td>
<td>R Gainsford</td>
<td>Hebrews 9 verses 11-14</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>H Menzies</td>
<td>Mark 10 verses 32-45</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 April</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>R Killer</td>
<td>Server</td>
<td>BCP as set</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>(Affpraise)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>K Wharton</td>
<td>P Neill</td>
<td>(Readings to be notified)</td>
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<td>(Easter)</td>
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<td>R Killer</td>
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<td>30 April</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>(Joint Benefice Holy Communion, Bere Regis)</td>
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<td>07 May</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>P Badcock</td>
<td>Server</td>
<td>BCP as set</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>W Thornley</td>
<td>R Elkerton</td>
<td>Isaiah 55</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F Solly</td>
<td>Mark 5 verses 21-end</td>
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AFFPUDDLE CHURCH NEWS

EASTER DECORATIONS

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 22nd April from 10.00 am to 12 noon. (It is to be hoped that the daffodils will not all be over by then). Gifts of flowers and foliage would be most welcome and should be delivered to church before 10.00 am on Saturday morning.

CLEANING AND FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

The new cleaning and flower arranging rota comes into force on the first Sunday in April. Everyone who either cleans the church and/or arranges the flowers will have received a copy of the rota.

Philippa Thorniley

SPECIAL CLEANS

I would draw your attention to the four quarterly special cleans of the church which are on Saturdays 17 June, 7 October, 13 January 2001 and 24 March 2001. Help from both men and women is always most welcome and helps to continue to keep the church in its present clean and tidy condition.

Philippa Thorniley
The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist
Bere Regis

John Stainer's
"THE CRUCIFIXION"

A MEDITATION ON THE SACRED PASSION
OF THE HOLY REDEEMER

WEDNESDAY
19th APRIL 2000
at 7.30 PM

The St. John's Singers
and The Dorchester Phoenix Choir

with

Tenor: Brian Withers
Baritone: Graham Barter
Bass: John England

Organ: Julian Cherryson
Conductor: Tim Colquhoun
100 WATT CLUB

1st prize - £10
Mrs N Domen – no 299

2nd prize - £10
Mr R Cobb – no 287

3rd prize - £10

4th prize - £5
Mrs C Burden – no 297

5th prize - £5
Mr R Barnes – no 71

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BERE REGIS NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL

The March meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting at which the past year was reviewed by the Chairman, Mr Lionel Street.

In his report he mentioned the efforts to reduce the traffic speed through the village from Southbrook to Rye Hill with particular reference to the length by the School. This will be brought up again. The Council had commissioned an improvement in the form of a ramp to the Board Walk that will enable the elderly and the disabled to make use of this facility. The condition of the Cemetery was much improved since Mr Mooney had taken on the maintenance contract which reflects the interest of a local person with interest in the work. The County Council was well advanced with the road improvements at Woodbury Cross which the Council had requested some years ago. The Parish Council had recorded its objection to the Local Plan.

The Chairman regretted the decision by the District Council to close the public toilets but acknowledged the problems that had caused this decision. He reported that the Parish had suggested that the toilets be demolished and the site used to re-site the re-cycling bank. He mentioned the progress that has been made towards the provision of a new Village Hall by the Committee that represented all groups in the village. They had recorded a 100% objection against the District Council’s proposal to site the Hall at the Recreation Ground and this had been passed on to the District Council. The Chairman stated that a dialogue with the Youth had been initiated and it was to be hoped that this would continue in strength. It was considered necessary to make some provisions in the future for their needs in an endeavour to cut down on the vandalism that has occurred of late. The finances of the Parish would reflect on the changes occurring and next years Precept would be up to £11,500.

Though the Annual Meeting is the open to the Public, when they are able to make suggestions to the Council and air any criticism, it is regretted that so few Parishioners attend and take this opportunity. One Parishioner requested that the Council provide some financial support for the Twinning Exhibition and another reported a defective street light.

After the Annual Meeting, the monthly meeting took place during which it was reported that some trees had been felled, it was suggested, to improve a view. These days permission must be obtained before any tree is felled, unless it is in an obviously dangerous state and even then the fact must be reported to the District Council. The Parish Council’s Tree Officer is Mr Dunning who will answer any queries concerning the trees.

CM
The Parish Council made a major decision at the meeting. Probably it was the biggest decision for a very long time. It was decided that the Council would purchase the field known as Souls Moor, on the north side of Egdon Close, and currently owned by the Debenham Estates. The land had been put up for sale with other areas and this field had been looked at by the New Hall Committee with a view to the siting of the new Village Hall and Surgery.

This purchase will necessitate the Council obtaining a loan quite apart from the monies required to build the Hall. However first things first and the purchasing procedure is now in place. Once obtained the Village will own a sizeable open area in the middle of the Village. The scheme envisages both the Surgery and Hall using a common car parking space, there will be a bridge over the river by the end of the board walk and a pathway leading across to Southbrook via the two buildings. The area to the west and along the river is an SNCI and will need to be maintained as such. This was a very big decision by the Council but in years to come they are sure that it will be seen as the right decision as there will be this green area in the middle of the Village - perhaps it may be a Village Green.

CM

THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Seven villages are coming together to celebrate the true meaning of the Millennium with a ‘Journey of a Life’ in the Tarrant Valley on Sunday 7th May. Special events are taking place in seven of the Tarrant villages including displays, presentations, music, drama, ‘Desert Island Hymns’, and ‘Gospel Question Time’ to mark the birth of Christ 2000 years ago. Visitors are invited to travel through the picturesque Tarrant Valley stopping off at the many activities on their way. Enjoy the walk through the beautiful valley, or travel by car or bicycle and take part in this Journey of a Lifetime.

The event has been organised by Jimmy Hamilton-Brown. He said, ‘I was worrying what the Church would do to celebrate the millennium. This idea came to me whilst asleep, in a dream’. We want to show the connection between the millennium and the birth of Jesus and give people a deeper understanding of its meaning. The journey starts with Creation at the top of the Valley, moving on to the Coming of Jesus in the middle. Towards the end of the Journey people will find out what Churches get up to today.

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments, parking and toilets en route. For further details and programmes contact Jimmy Hamilton-Brown on 01258 453 939.
BERE REGIS FIRST SCHOOL

Year three and four children were lucky enough to be allocated free tickets for the Millennium Dome and had an exciting trip to London as a result.

The children really enjoyed some of the interactive exhibits and were suitably awed by the giant heart in the Body Zone. The spectacular show was most impressive and the flying acrobats, people on stilts and technological wizardry had all the children open-mouthed.

Plans are in hand for a more modest millennium show which will take place in the summer with the other schools in our cluster. This show will be based on local stories and events from the past. It will be quite an undertaking as it will involve about four hundred children in all! Drama, music and dance specialists are all helping to produce the show, so we are all hoping for a shining result!

BERE REGIS W.I.

Mr A Fielding was the guest speakers at our February meeting, giving an account of a day in the life of a ‘vet’. Having invited him to join us in our refreshments, it was even more interesting, as it became a question and answer time, and quite a long time later, Mr Fielding disappeared into the night. Maybe he thought he would never escape!

The first Sunday afternoon in March we were hostess’ to the Salisbury HARDY Society. This has become an annual event and is much enjoyed by all … including the men of the party who wolfed down the home-made cakes and goodies. I am reliably informed “that it’s all different in Dorset!” Long may it continue.

TUESDAY PANCAKE DAY RACES. Sally and her team always make everyone welcome and the time passed rapidly. We are all a little older … but we can still run, aided by some young legs … just as well we do not eat the pancakes!! The number of times they landed in the road! Still it is great fun and is part of our village life. Long may it continue also.

PS. The DAFFODILS are still giving pleasure to all who pass by. Date for the diary – Tuesday 18th April.

Our night.. SPEAKER. Mrs Bird on the History of Buttons… time 7.30pm. The welcome is waiting.
Liz Taylor - Interiors
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The Annual General Meeting of the Drax Hall Management Committee will be held in the Hall on Tuesday 11th April at 7.00pm. This meeting is open to everybody. Remember we may be talking about a new Hall but the dear old Drax has got to go on for a few years yet and it needs the loving care of the Management Committee. If you would like to help please do come along to the AGM.

All reports about the new chairs are very favourable and so we are working towards replacing all of the old chairs that have given such good service over the years. The Woodbury Hill Singers are giving a concert on April 1st, the proceeds of which will be put towards the new chairs.

CM
ABBIRT PRINT
ADVERTISEMENT
Thanks to all the teams that entered the Carnival Skittles Knockout – a good time was had by all. Special thanks go to the team of youngsters – a very good effort.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 24th March – Quiz at the Sports Club. Teams of up to 4. Entries welcome from village organisations or individuals. Trophy to be awarded on Carnival Day.

Thursday 6th April – Easter Bingo at the Legion. 7.30 for eyes down at 8.00. Families welcome.

Monday 24th April (Easter Monday) – Duck race. Course to be from the bridge at Shitterton to the Scout Hut – weather and weed permitting – at 2.00 p.m.

Friday 19th May – Drawn mixed pairs darts competition at the Drax Arms. 7.45 for 8.00 draw. This was a very popular event last year but we could do with a few more women players. Trophy to be awarded on Carnival Day.

Poster competition. Any design may be used but apart from the word Carnival don’t put any other writing on. This will be overlaid on the winning entry.

Start drawing now. Open to all age groups, the poster should be no larger than A4 size. Entry for this will be 50p each poster so start designing now. I will advise when entries should be in by in a later issue. Entries should be in by 15th June 2000.

Wendy Johnson
01929 471803 (home phone/fax)
07971 348951 (mobile)

WOODBURY HILL SINGERS

The Singers have entertained a very large audience for the Senior Citizens at The Allendale Centre, Wimborne.

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EASTER MONDAY AUCTION

2.30pm on April 24 at Bere Heath Methodist Chapel
Goods required for sale or 50/50 towards Chapel floor repairs.
Phone Tony on 471934 evenings for details.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

We are holding a Coffee Morning at the Vicarage, on 10th May at 10.30 am. There will be a Raffle, Plant Stall and a Cooks Table.

Mr Vivian Clark of Dorchester is running the London Marathon, on 16th April, on behalf of the Bere Regis branch of the ICRF. If anyone would like to sponsor him, please contact one of the Committee Member – 471643, 471262 or 459304.
The Vacuflex system combines the benefits of reflexology and acupressure. Conditions that respond well to Vacuflex include: back pain; sciatica; sprains and sports injuries; stiff neck/joints; frozen shoulder; headaches and migraine; fatigue; sinusitis; recurrent infections; menstrual and menopausal problems to name just a few .......

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Please contact Mike Porter or Muriel Turner - Nursing Manager on 01929 462101
BERE REGIS ROYAL BRITISH LEGION YOUTH SECTION

The section now has a new Standard Bearer, Miss Terri Owers, plus a Deputy Standard Bearer, Miss Donna Merritt and they are both undertaking training. Terri has decided to enter the National RBL Youth Standard Bearers’ Competition. This is an annual competition, open to all youth sections of the legion that have a youth standard. With the finals being held in Nottingham on the 16th April, Terri will have to practice very hard until then. Mrs Jillian Hurst, the legion’s county standard bearer, is helping with the training and passing on the benefits of her vast experience in this type of competition.

The new committee for the year 2000 was elected as follows:
Chair: Miss Donna Merritt  Vice-Chair: Miss Terri Owers
Secretary: Mr Shaun Cope  Treasurer: Mr Mick Mahoney
Committee Members: Mr Michael Walker and Mr Brendon Owers

Plus the Standard Bearer and Deputy.

Bookings are being taken for the Blackpool/Alton Towers weekend in early October. The cost of the trip is only £40, which includes entrance to Alton Towers for a full day. A savings club is available for those who would like to put a little money aside each week towards the trip.

In April, the programme will include Ten Pin Bowling at Tower Park, tee-shirt painting, as well as a number of outdoor activities. The Junior Competitions will also be taking place and another series of exciting matches seems likely.

The youth section is open to all young people from the local area, including the nearby villages of Bloxworth, Briantspuddle and Winterborne Kingston. Indeed, the section has had members from much further afield in past years, Swanage, Upton and Wareham to name but a few. So if you are aged between 8 – 17 and would like to join the section, why not call in at the legion club on any youth night. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Terry Vine
Youth Leader
Telephone 471693
Meet every Tuesday 2pm-4pm in Turberville Court (off the main car park, Bere Regis.)

Please join us for Quizzes, Outings in the summer, Prize Card Bingo, Free Light refreshments and raffle prizes.

Interested? Marion Cox on 01929 471654 is looking forward to hearing from you.
Autumn Leaves over 50s club

- Talks
- Entertainment
- Tours
- Sales Table
- Raffles
- Library
- Full Tea

No fee to join, just come along.
We meet every second Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. at the Drax Hall, North Street
35p at the door, including full tea.

Ring
Kath - 471175 or
Mary - 471469
21st CENTURY DRIVING

How many of us have entered the 21st century with driving skills acquired 10 years ago or more?

Much of our knowledge has enabled us to become very experienced and safe motorists, however as with everything life moves at such a pace, have we all kept up with the changes in the Highway Code.

To help highlight any weak areas a Safer Driving feature will be published in the Parish Magazine.

So let’s test our knowledge with 4 questions selected from a Theory Test Paper, which all new drivers must pass before taking their Practical Driving Test.

1. **You are following a vehicle on a wet road. You should leave a time gap of at least:**
   - a One second
   - b Two seconds
   - c Three seconds
   - d Four seconds

2. **Driving at 70mph uses more fuel than driving at 50mph by up to:**
   - a 30%
   - b 100%
   - c 10%
   - d 75%

3. **You are driving on a narrow country road. Where would you find it most difficult to see horses and riders ahead of you:**
   - a When travelling downhill
   - b When travelling uphill
   - c On left hand bends
   - d On right hand bends
4. What is the most common cause of skidding?

a. Worn Tyres  
b. Driver error  
c. Other vehicles  
d. Pedestrians

Don’t forget in good driving conditions there should be a gap of at least two seconds between you and the car in front.

Pauline Luxton - Pineapple Driving School

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**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

thanks to Pat House

**AUNTIE BESSIE’S EASTER BISCUITS**

9oz Self Raising Flour
4½ oz Butter
3 oz Currants
1 Egg
2g Chopped Peel
6 oz Caster Sugar
Pinch of Salt
1 tsp Mixed Spice

Cream butter and sugar, add the egg and the rest of the ingredients. Knead the dough and roll out to about ¼” thick. Cut into rounds and brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar and bake at 400°C until light brown.
KENYA 2000 UPDATE

Asante (thank you) to all who brought, bought and assisted with the 50/50 Auction on 5th March and the Jumble Sale on 11th March. The 50/50 raised £320 and the Jumble Sale £330. We are now able to pay the BA flights for non-wage earning expeditioners from centrally raised funds. A great relief to all the younger members struggling to reach their targets! Hopefully remaining funds will help to buy more medical supplies, drugs etc for the first aid centre.

Training continues on Sunday afternoons from the Scout Hut, with Dr Tim Harley usually leading the field. On 25-26th March the group will be having a Training Weekend at Buddens Farm. As well as a team building exercise, this will be an opportunity to practise some of the practical skills needed for the work at Rowallan Camp Site.

The main building projects there will be to construct a complete medical clinic and a bar/restaurant area for the camp site. The foundations will have already been laid and the group will be putting up the main prefabricated structure, the facilities and fittings. The clinic will be opened by the Minister for Health and the Chief Commissioner.

Other group activities will involve:-

Preparing for the 4th Africa Jamboree – the largest of the year.

Running the camp for around 160 street kids, buying the food in the Shanty Market, haggling with street traders, cooking, cleaning, preparing camp fires etc.

Working on games, activities and training sessions with the street kids/

Visits out of the camp for the street kids – the camp is their holiday and normally they would be unable to visit some of the places they will be taken to.
BERE HEATH METHODIST CHAPEL

In its 150th year a number of events are planned by, or at the Chapel. First of all there will be an Easter Holiday Club at the Drax Hall, 10am – noon on Tuesday 18th April for 4 – 9 year olds (First School children). With help and advice from the Pop In Place holiday club team, the Parish Church, the Congregational Chapel, First School parents, and members so the Dorchester United Church, a team is preparing art and craft activities, games, singing, storytime, refreshments and more! Registration forms (widely available) should be returned by 10th April, with booking fee, to Mary Lillie at Forge Cottage (next door-but-one to School) or to the Pop In Place (Monday and Friday mornings).

Our second event (after Easter) is an Auction at the Chapel on 24th April. Items for sale can be delivered to the chapel on 23rd from 2pm to 4pm, from 10am on 24th, or call the auctioneer – Tony Shave – on 471934 (evenings). Viewing will be from 1pm, before the sale commences at 2.30pm. Refreshments will be available.

Our Flower Festival on the theme ‘Celebrations’ will take place at the Chapel on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 4th, 5th & 6th August. Local members and friends are working together to produce a feast for your eyes (and nose!), and will also be providing refreshments. The chapel will be open from 10am to 6pm each day (WC available), with a service at 10.30am on Sunday 6th.

A concert is being planned on the evening of 7th October as part of the Anniversary weekend celebrations, with a special Circuit Service at 3pm on Sunday 8th October. More details to follow.

Proceeds from events, and donations, in this Anniversary year will go to our 150th Anniversary Appeal Fund. This should enable essential floor repairs to be carried out, allowing this beautifully simple chapel to continue to be available, not just on Sundays, but for weekday events/meetings too.

For more information on any of the above phone Su Roberts on 471322.

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

There is to be an Auction of Promises to be held in aid of the Royal National Institute for the Blind on Sunday 16th April, starting at 7.30 pm at the Fairhaven Hotel, 37 The Esplanade, Weymouth. Admission free. Donated items would be gratefully received, please telephone David Taylor, Area Appeals Organiser 01929 554012.
BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

‘Dedicated Follower of Fashion’ was the title of Jane Conway’s demonstration in March. Jane took us through the various stages of flower arranging starting with chicken wire and finishing with one of our members dressed in a chicken wire dress decorated with flowers and frills – a lot of fun. In April we have ‘Naturally Yours’ with Jean Allcroft from Corfe Mullen.

Tuesday 16th May, Coffee Morning and garden walk at the home of John & Pat House, Westcourt, Puddletown Road, Wareham. Entrance £1. 10am – 12 noon. Please come and bring your friends. Bring and Buy, Raffle, lots of plants and shrubs and cakes.

Pat House

BERE REGIS BABYSITTING CIRCLE

The next meeting will be at Chris’, 6 Stanbarrow Close, on 4th April from 1.30 pm. Newcomers always welcome. Come and meet other mums and little ones and book sitters, or phone Su Roberts for info – 471322.

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Harriet Angell - R.S.Hom. on 01305 849162
POP IN PLACE NEWS

TRANSPORT
If you would like to come to the Pop In Place but are unable to walk for whatever reason, give us a call on 472335 the night before or if you decide that you would like to come on the actual morning of the session call 07967 405227. We can pick you up and return you home.

AGM FRIDAY 14TH APRIL – 10 AM
The Pop In Place AGM will be held at the Pop In Place on Friday 14th April at 10am. Everyone is welcome to come along. New team members are always welcome.

POP IN PLACE YOUTH CHOIR MEETING
There will be a brief meeting on Monday 17th April at 10.30 at the Pop In Place for any young person who would like to take part in the special service on the 23rd July. We hope to see you there, if you can’t make the meeting but wish to take part, phone Alison on 472023.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE
The annual Easter Egg Raffle will take place on Friday 21st April at 11.15 am. Tickets will be on sale on Monday 17th and Friday 21st April. All proceeds from this will go to the Poole Hospital Body Scanner Appeal. Easter Egg donation would be gratefully received for this raffle.

We thank everyone for their support and kindness and wish all readers a Happy Easter.

Alison Bennett, Pop In Place Team Leader
Several singers from Bere Regis, members of Briantspuddle Singers and Wareham Choral Society, will be singing in the Dorset Guild of Singers performance of Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius at the Wessex Hall, Poole Arts Centre on Sunday 9th April at 7.30pm.

If you would like to experience the exhilarating sound of the 300 voices of the Guild with professional soloists and musicians, conducted by Christopher Dowie from Wimborne Minster perform this great work, your local choristers would certainly appreciate your support!

Tickets cost £10 from the Arts Centre Box Office or £8 from Guild members.

Please contact Sarah Welton, 38 West Street, Tel. 471562.
Call free on:
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There is to be a One and Only, Millenium, Car Boot and Table-top Bonanza, at Bloxworth, on Sunday 16th April, at 2.30pm. Refreshments available. Admission free. All welcome.

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Golf Days held every month, usually the last Friday, from March through to October inclusive. New members are invited to join. Contact Mike Davies – 01258 451764 for membership forms and details.

**MILLENNIUM FIXTURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (all 2000)</th>
<th>Trophy</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday March 31st.</td>
<td>G. R. S. Trophy</td>
<td>Knighton Heath Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday April 28th</td>
<td>Jim Corbin Cup</td>
<td>Wareham Golf Club</td>
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<td>Friday May 26th.</td>
<td>Ringwood Trophy</td>
<td>Wolfdale Golf Club</td>
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<td>Friday June 30th.</td>
<td>Whitbread Cup</td>
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<td>Friday July 28th.</td>
<td>Landlord's Cup</td>
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<td>Friday August 18th.</td>
<td>Rob Hall Hacker's Trophy</td>
<td>Meyrick Park Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday September 29th.</td>
<td>Captain's Cup</td>
<td>Weymouth Golf Club</td>
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Thursday October 5th – Sunday October 8th – ROGS on tour – Southern Ireland

Friday October 27th. Zoom Trophy Moors Valley Golf Club

**AUTUMN LEAVES OVER ‘50’s’**

Mr Wason was the speaker at our March meeting. He showed slides of wild flowers growing within five miles radius of Wareham. There was an excellent audience with two new members. Mr Wason judged the competition for the Nan Mooney Cup – for a vase of spring flowers – which was won by Mrs Sheila Leigh.

OUR SPRING TOUR on the 12th April will be to Sidmouth – not Chichester. The cost will be £5.00 and the coach will be leaving the car park at 10.30am. There are ten seats available and anyone who would like to come will be very welcome. Do not delay as this is a very popular tour. Please ring Kath on 471175 to book your seat.

THE MAY FAYRE will be on the 6th May at 2.00 pm in the Drax Hall. Any articles of any kind for sale will be welcome.
R.B.HIRE

Taxi - 4 Seats
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CAMFED – Coastal Walk 2000

“130 million children across the globe are denied access to education. Two thirds are girls and girls in Sub-Saharan Africa are the most disadvantaged of all.”


Camfed (Cambridge Female Education Trust) is working to meet this challenge to enable girls in Zimbabwe and Ghana to attend their local primary and secondary schools. Giving girls access to education is the fundamental to the elimination of world poverty because educated women have healthier, smaller families, their children are less likely to die in infancy and are more likely to be educated themselves, - a ‘virtuous circle’.

You are invited to join in this fundraising event by either doing a coastal walk yourself during May and June this year, or by sponsoring me on my walk from Lyme Regis to Poole in June. I would be most grateful for any donations – every little bit counts!

There is a sponsor form at the Pop in Place or please contact me on 472161 for more details. Thank you.

You can find out more about the excellent work of this charity by accessing their website at www.camfed.org and their e-mail address ii info@camfed.org or telephone 01223 362648.

Jenny Kinahan – 01929 472161
You will have noticed that all over the country there are many road signs. There are warning signs, information signs, directional and hazard signs and those that give orders. On familiar roads that we know very well, we hardly take note of the signs at all, because we travel that way so often. ‘Familiarity breeds contempt’ as the old saying goes.

On new and unfamiliar roads we look for the signs much more closely, otherwise we could so easily run into trouble, have an accident or get lost. A warning sign, like the one for cross-roads, for example, is set in a red triangle, but the signs that give orders, like the one for ‘no stopping’, are set inside a red circle. I’m not telling you anything you don’t already know of course!

But as once again we come to the time of Easter, I wonder just what it means to us as a nation, and more particularly, to us as individuals. Have we grown too familiar, or do we totally ignore it, which is a sign of not stopping to consider its implications for us? Or perhaps to deny self and follow Jesus Christ and the way of the cross, is a new and totally unfamiliar road for us to be travelling along?

The empty cross tells us of Jesus who was crucified, and who took on Himself the punishment for the sin of us all, and who then rose again from the dead. The cross informs, directs, and gives orders as to how we are to travel the road of life, with Christ Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. But it also warns of the hazards and dangers of ignoring Jesus and His words, on our journey through life. The simple yet profound message of Easter is the fact that ‘Jesus is risen’. Luke 24:5&6.

Now that information is worth knowing and putting into action. You will find it to be life changing!
BERE REGIS GARDENING CLUB

The March talk on Camellias by Harry Dawes was very well received and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent the following Sunday visiting his garden.

For our April meeting on Tuesday the 4th we have a talk and slide show on Australia by Tony Bates.

On 2nd May we continue our round the world theme with a talk on Stockholm by Albert Wason.

Please bring any unwanted cuttings etc to our bring-and-buy talk at the monthly meetings. Most items are eagerly snapped up and it helps to boost Club funds.

Andy Morrison, 472343

COFFEE STOP

10.00 am – 12.00 1st Saturday, Cyril Wood Court

We are holding these Coffee Stops on the first Saturday of every month from 1st April and would welcome anyone who wishes to stop by.

Jean Thorn, 471646

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

Easter Holiday Club for 4 – 9 year olds
Tuesday 18th April at the Drax Hall, Bere Regis
10.00am – 12.00am

Games, singing, craft etc.
£1.50 for 1st child, £1 for each additional child in family.

Phone Su Roberts on 01929 471322 to book by 10th April
Organised by Bere Heath Methodist Chapel and friends.
BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB

Football Results

19 Feb  BERE REGIS   1  3  LINTHORPE
20 Feb  BERE REGIS   1  4  WEST QUAY MARINA
26 Feb  LYTCHE T UTD  1  3  BERE REGIS
27 Feb  WINDGREEN C. MULLEN 1  5  BERE REGIS
4 Mar   MERE TOWN  4  0  BERE REGIS
11 Mar  BERE REGIS   1  2  MERE TOWN

The big game that would decide the destiny of the title had arrived, West Quay Marina who topped the division and with an ominous three games in hand visited Bere. There have been many examples of giant killing in recent months unfortunately, this was not one of those examples.

Against a team with the strength in depth that West Quay have, Bere’s only hope was to weather the storm and hope to get something on the break. But Bere were still putting their boots on when the first thunderbolt struck, a goal after 13 seconds that owed more to Bere indecision than West Quay precision. Despite this, Bere kept plugging away like King Canute against the incoming tide as wave after wave of attack ground them down.

Keeper Paddles had no complaint of feeling cold this week as he saved two or three, watched one wonder shot hit the post and others fly inches wide. Against this Dorset select team, Bere’s only chance was to battle hard and this they did. A combination of strong tackling in midfield and stalwart defending almost saw Bere through to half time, but just before the interval West Quay struck again. This time you could only sit back and marvel at the movement, the running and the immaculate finish, which is what Bere did. Two-nil at half-time and Bere were lucky to get the nil, their only chance being a long range effort from Andy Curtis that the keeper held comfortably.

The second half was a bit more encouraging. With the game already in the bag, West Quay tried to over complicate and this gave Bere a bit more time and space to stop them playing and set up their own attacks. Bere could unlock the Quay and the half seemed to be ending in a stalemate. But Nick, ever the crowd pleaser, decided to change all this with a double substitution. This had an immediate effect as, with the Bere defence still a bit confused, a West Quay forward gleefully ran on to a hopeful through ball and made it 3-0.
With West Quay sitting back quite satisfied with their advantage, Rob White was given the chance to ghost into the penalty area and when he was unceremoniously bundled over Bere had a chance to break their duck. Once again, ‘Iceman’ Gale strode up and stroked the ball into the corner to give Bere a well deserved consolation goal. There was still time for West Quay to score one more leaving the scoreline at 4-1.

In the end, West Quay ran out worthy winners, but Bere were not disgraced and were rewarded with several bottles of champagne from the gracious victors as they celebrated winning the league in style.

Bere’s final league encounter of the season saw them travel to Windgreen Corfe Mullen. The first half hour was pretty poor, to say the least. Bere could not find their rhythm at all. Playing against the wind is always difficult, but luckily Bere were playing against a team bereft of footballing nous. It looked like the half would end goalless, until Bungy Brown showed us his own Brazilian party piece. Finding some space on the left he looked up and curled a right foot shot past the despairing keeper and into the far corner.

A long chase for Earle Dacre left him too puffed out to run any further, so with a mighty swing of his left foot virtually from the touchline he delivered a vicious cross that the defender stabbed into his own net. A minute later it was three, and this time it was a treat. Some good approach play, an early cross and a perfectly timed run from Bungy all culminated in a volley that had goal written on it from the moment it left his boot. Wild celebrations followed but Bere were not done yet. Just a few minutes later, Kev Cox and Andy Curtis combined beautifully to give Andy a scoring opportunity that he lashed into the top corner with relish. 4-0 and Bere were playing the beautiful game once more. Unfortunately, the half time whistle came just when Bere had woken up.

At the outset of the second half, Bere slumbered assuming the job had been done. A hopeful ball over the last defender looked to be a lost cause until that man Spivey intervened. With remarkable poise and skill he managed to flick the ball, on the run, over the keeper and into the net. Unfortunately, it was his own keeper and his own net. Steve Ives emerged from semi-retirement to remind us of what we were missing.

The scoring was rounded off as the Windgreen keeper tried to dribble the ball past Wayne Cope, got caught in possession and could only watch with despair as Wayne finished from an acute angle to make the final score 5-1.
Bere have now made sure of runners-up spot and celebrated in some style, with the traditional baiting of the bar staff at the ‘Worlds’ End’ and an afternoon at the club with Mr Fosters and his friends. The next step is the cup in 3 weeks’ time and the visit, once again, of the mighty West Quay.

Forthcoming club events include cricket nets on 2, 9 and 23 April, any players interested please contact 01929 471131 or meet at the clubhouse at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start at Blandford Leisure Centre. Finally the club will be holding an Easter Egg Draw, coupled with an English Quiz to coincide with Easter Sunday/St George’s Day on 23 April 2000.

Please do not forget that full and comprehensive football and cricket reports, club events, developments and club history can be viewed at the extensive Bere Regis Sports Club official website-http://www.welcome.as/bereregis
One or two matters of moment have occurred during the past month, the main excitement (if you can call it that) being the flurry of activity over the hall chairs.

**Hall Chairs**

Due to the furniture suppliers failure to respond to our claim during the allotted period the Committee applied to have ‘Judgement’ made in our favour. This was duly done and we asked for our money to be reimbursed as renovation of the chairs is not an option. Within a couple of weeks a letter thudded onto our secretary’s doormat informing us that the Rosehill Furniture Group had applied to the court to have ‘Judgement set aside’. OOPS! not quite as clear cut as we had hoped.

It seems that the reason Rosehill had not dealt with the claim was that a ‘key personnel’ (in their words) ‘had fallen ill and subsequently died’.

We were informed of a hearing date only 6 days hence (March 16) and at lunchtime on 15 March we received a ‘submission of evidence’ which was to be presented the following morning at 10 am in court. Wow, that’s what I call short notice.

Despite two meetings scheduled for that day, the Chairman and Secretary managed to get together and burning the midnight oil so to speak, composed the following:

1) a notation of the sequence of events (which had been rolling on for two years)

2) a rebuttal of the Company’s claims - some less than truthful as it happens.

You must appreciate that having no legal training and no TIME to take advice, we were rather at a disadvantage.

After a less than restful night and in a state of trepidation and excitement, off to Weymouth County Court whiz the Chairman and Secretary to play Perry Mason.

Fortunately, from a cross examination of the usher on our arrival, we learnt that we had to present a copy of our evidence to the opposition solicitor and the judge before the hearing (we discovered only then that if we had kept quiet and tried to present our evidence during the hearing it would not have been allowed - phew!).
Following a nerve racking hearing and the giving of evidence on both sides the judge announced that he found in OUR favour, so, judgement has been made. All that remains is for us to get the money back - not as easy as it sounds apparently and we are now pursuing this. We are however, elated that our complaint had been vindicated by the courts and warn other such bodies to be very careful to check contracts, and most importantly write everything down and keep copies of all your correspondence; without ours our case would have been far weaker.

Drains
A drains panic is also occupying us at the moment, with a blocked kitchen sink drain. Pressure jetting has proved unsuccessful and no records of where the drains or sewers run are complicating matters, but we are endeavouring to do our very best to sort it out.

Best Kept Village
Four members of our Committee attended an interview at Dorset Community Action in Dorchester on Wednesday 15 March as representatives of the different organisations which operate within our Village/Parish. We waxed lyrical about the facilities and activities that are available here and, by golly, came away glad that we lived here - for such a small place there is a lot on offer. It’s not until you sit down and list things that it becomes obvious ..... You lucky lot!!

Don’t forget to set aside the dates when there are opportunities to have a bit of fun on your own doorstep.

April 15 & 16 Life in The Puddles (a daytime history exhibition & evening supper & lecture)
June 25 Open Gardens
August 5 Street Fair & Horticultural Show
September 30 Barn Dance

Jenny Lightfoot - Chairman
Life in the Puddles

If you have any mementos, photos, artefacts etc. of local interest and which you would be prepared to have on display please contact John Solly 472400, Jenny Lightfoot 471498, Linda Holmes 471091 or Audrey Grindrod 471214.

The exhibition organisers are seeking more stands for display purposes. Some are being hired but suggestions of places that might loan extra ones would be appreciated - please phone John Solly on 472400 as soon as possible - thank you.

Tickets costing £5.00 are now on sale and going fast for the supper and the talk in the evening of 15 April. Admission to the supper is by ticket only and these must be bought in advance from me Philippa Thorniley 471497 by 10 April in order that I may cater efficiently. (Since I haven’t yet done the loaves and fishes evening class I can’t magic meals out of thin air).

Please let me know when ordering tickets whether you require a vegetarian meal.

Art Reach

On 26 February Tom McConville and Pauline Cato gave a rousing concert in the Village Hall. Tom played the fiddle and sang traditional songs and others which he had composed. Pauline played the Northumbrian pipes and in the second half as a result of questions from the audience, she explained how the pipes worked. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. 79 tickets were sold and after all the expenses were paid £122 was raised for the Hall Funds.

100 Club

During April I am selling numbers for the 2000/2001 100 Club. Each number costs £6.00. £4.60 of the number price goes towards the Hall Repair Fund. A prize is drawn every month.

Do consider helping the Hall in this way.

Philippa Thorniley
LIFE IN THE PUDDLES

Saturday 15th April
and Sunday 16th April
11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

at

Briantspuddle Village Hall & The Bladen Social Club

EXHIBITION OF THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF AFFFPUDDLE, BRIANTSPUDDLE & TURNERSPUDDLE

Display of old photographs, pictures, books and artefacts depicting the fascinating history of these villages.

Entrance fee £1.00

Teas and refreshments will be served each day.

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THE EVENING SUPPER & LECTURE

by

Dorset Historian, Anne King

Saturday April 15
7.30 p.m. at Briantspuddle Village Hall

Tickets £5.00 (in advance from Philippa Thorniley 471497)
BLADEN SOCIAL CLUB

Well more again the AGM was very poorly attended with only 23 members present. Subs for this year remain the same - £3.50 per member, £2.00 for 14 – 17 year olds and OAPs, plus £1.50 registration for new members and late payers.

A change in our opening times for the summer starts week beginning 27th March.

Monday 8.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Tuesday Closed
Wednesday Closed
Thursday 8.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Friday 8.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Saturday 7.30 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon to 2.00 p.m. only

From Monday the 17th April we will be running a Pool and Darts League (on Monday nights only) for members.

Bingo remains on alternate Thursdays. 6th, 20th April from Friday the 28th April will be run a fortnightly quiz team of 4 for members and guests (Fridays only).

So please come along and join in. New members are always welcome just ask the Bar Staff for a membership application form. But also don’t forget once you become a member do use the place.

Children have always been welcome in the club provided they are supervised by their parents.

Tuesday Club 11th and 25th April and 9th May. NO Tuesday Club on the 23rd May. We are still looking for volunteers to give a talk or demonstration at the Tuesday Club. Please phone 01258 837267.

Sue Jeanes
A LETTER FROM IAN BRUCE M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

March 2000

Dear Friend,

I am grateful to the Parish Magazine for giving me the opportunity to write to you all. It is great that there is such an active Parish Magazine, particularly as the news media seldom covers stories of particular interest to small rural villages.

I have recently had two issues raised with me over the new dualling and alignment of the A35. Promises of environmental screening and proper road signs are now going to be fulfilled. It shows the effectiveness of local parish councils working alongside their Parliamentary representatives.

Many parish councils wrote to me last autumn because they had heard rumours that they were all to be abolished. The Minister wrote back to say the Government "had no plans to do so" which is Ministerial code for "we might decide to do it later". Michael Meacher has now signalled that the Government is about to start consulting on abolishing parish councils and replacing them with occasional village meetings. Watch out for firm announcements!

I think the only way I as a politician can keep closely in touch with my constituents’ day to day concerns is through their regular correspondence to me. It is easy to know of the farming crisis, high fuel prices and rural poverty in a general sense, but the only real way I can get to grips with these issues and others that I don’t know about is to hear how things are affecting individuals. In that way, hopefully, I and my colleagues can change things for the better because we know how policies impact upon your lives. Any of my constituents who live in the villages of Affpuddle, Turnerspuddle or Briantspuddle (Bere Regis is in Christopher Fraser’s patch and Puddletown in Oliver Letwin’s) can write to me at the above address, but for an appointment at one of my advice centres, the number to ring is (01305) 786142.

Yours sincerely

IAN BRUCE M.P.
The Briantspuddle WI Coffee Morning, held on Saturday 11 March, was in aid of Naomi House, the Wessex Children’s Hospice. The net sum of £300 was raised. Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed, in whatever way, to make this such a successful occasion.

Frances Solly

A message from the police. A burglary was reported in Turnerspuddle on 8 March which occurred overnight. Entry was either by offenders reaching in through the cat flap to turn a handle from the inside or by forcing a ground floor window. A laptop computer was stolen.

Once again the message is as before be vigilant and report any unusual circumstances to the police. Remember that now that the Spring and Summer are approaching and people spend more time in the garden, and (it is hoped) the weather gets warmer and windows and doors are left open, make sure that the house is secure when you are out in the garden. It is better to come back to a stuffy house than a burgled house!

Another message has been received from the police warning about the activities of jobbing gardeners and builders who tout for business by ringing the door bell. You are most strongly advised not to deal with anyone who touts for business in this way. The police are anxious to know whether a white Ford P100 vehicle, registration G56 OHN is in your area. If you see this vehicle please contact the police immediately.

Bill Thorniley
VILLAGE SCRAPBOOK

The sage of the VINCENT family continues with a delightful letter from a Mrs SPICER from Wool and formerly of Moreton. She is an acquaintance of Mrs Floss CARTER, who lives at No 4 Briantspuddle opposite the Village Hall; she has given quite a lot of information about the VINCENT family, including details of JIM VINCENT, the subject of my original enquiry. Apparently his parents ‘lived in the smallest cottage in Throop’ and had 2 sons and 1 daughter. How did they all fit in I ask myself. She goes on to give more details of the VINCENT family and the ramifications will keep my original enquirer busy for some time.

Additionally there are VINCENTS buried in Bere Regis churchyard and our Mag Editor Alison received an enquiry from America some time ago concerning a family of the same name. More leads to follow up for Miss WINZAR.

Jenny 471577

A35 NOISE POLLUTION

Thank you to all those who signed the petition against the noise pollution from the A35. 133 residents of Briantspuddle signed the petition - a brilliant response. Copies have been sent to Oliver Letwin MP (West Dorset) and Ian Bruce MP (South Dorset).

Volunteers have also agreed to take the petition to the residents of Puddletown, Affpuddle and Southover. It is hoped to eventually get a combined response from the whole of the Piddle Valley.

Jan Hopkins
AFFPUDDLE AND TURNERSPUDDLE PARISH COUNCIL

The council met on 8th March.

POLICE MATTERS
The Police were present at this meeting and were represented by Sgt Becher who reported that in general things had been “fairly quiet” in the area. However, there had been a burglary in Turnerspuddle the previous night and at least three vehicles had been broken into.

NOISE AND THE BYPASS
On the subject of road noise (the bypass), the Parish Council had received a letter from the Highways Agency to say that as far as they were concerned the contract had been completed satisfactorily and there was nothing more they could do. Apparently most of the noise comes from an exposed section adjacent to Athlehampton. A petition had been circulated around Affpuddle, Briantspuddle, Tolpuddle and Puddletown in an attempt to have the offending section shielded by an earth bank.

B3390 AND TRAFFIC
It was reported that the amount of traffic on the B3390 seems to have increased since the opening of the bypass and heavy vehicles were causing damage to the soft verges.

RECYCLING BINS
Just as we thought that the re siting of the recycling bins had been resolved, a suggestion was put forward for an even better place! This time it was at the top of the now disused section of the old A35. Here there were no neighbours to disturb and a ready made hard standing. Providing that it is within the Parish, this would be the preferred site.
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

APRIL
1st (Saturday) Super League Darts
6th (Thursday) Carnival Bingo
8th (Saturday) Quiz results
15th (Saturday) Function
21st (Friday) Pete Howell
22nd (Saturday) Easter Egg Draw and Quiz
29th (Saturday) Super League Darts

Whist still goes on every other Thursday and Gardening Club the first Tuesday of the month

Thanks to all who attended the pot luck pairs competition on Saturday 11th March – a good time was had by all.

Richard Chivers
58 Elder Road
Bere Regis
Dorset
BH20 7NB

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

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Christine Pyatt BA(Hons) Psych IHBC, ATL
Bowshers Therapy Clinic, Wool
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Jackie Macintosh ITEC - 01929 471068

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24 New Road, Wool
01929 405562

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Gordon Tucker, 10 Elder Road, Bere Regis 01929 471882

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Private and Contract work Free Estimates 01929 471705

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N Hodder - 01305 773556

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Painting, carpentry, tiling and general building repairs. No job too small.
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Carpenter and Joiner
Anthony House 01929 471949

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Large hall and smaller room are both available. The latter especially suitable for children’s parties. For details of hiring charges etc. Contact Hall Secretary - Sally Cheeseman - 471022

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01929 471685
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01929 471686

Long Acre Barn
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Colour TV
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Listed building. Ideal for parties, wedding receptions, dances. For rates and further details contact: Mrs Thorniley
01929 471497

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Own bathroom and sitting room with colour TV
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Tel: 01929 471552
Opening Times
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m.
CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Age Concern 2.00 p.m. Thursdays, Turberville Court
Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society 7.30 p.m. 1st Monday, British Legion Hall
Autumn Leaves (over 50s) 2.30 p.m. 2nd Wednesday, Drax Hall
Babysitting Circle 1.30 p.m. 1st Tuesday, Su Roberts – 471322
Beavers (6-8 yrs) 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. Wednesdays, Scout HQ
Bere Heath Methodist 10.30 a.m. Sundays except 2nd Sunday monthly Chapel (3.00 p.m.)
Bingo 7.45 p.m. Monday, Drax Hall
British Legion Club 7.15 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday
7.15 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. Sunday
Legion Women’s Section 2.00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday, HQ
British Legion Youth 7.00 - 10.00 p.m. Wednesdays, HQ
Brownies 6.00 - 7.15 p.m. Mondays, Royal British Legion
B.R.S.C. Winter season opening times: Tues, Wed, Fri
7.00p.m, Sat - 4.25 p.m., Sun - 7.30 p.m.
Briantspuddle Singers 7.45 p.m Tuesdays, Village Hall
Choir Practice 7.00 p.m. Fridays in Church.
C.A.B. Wareham - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10.00 a.m.-
2.00p.m. (closed Wednesday)
Bere Regis Surgery (for patients of the surgery only)
Wednesdays 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon
Camera Club 7.30 p.m 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Cyril Wood Court
Coffee Stop 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon, 1st Saturday, Cyril Wood Ct
Congregational Church 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Sundays, Butt Lane
10.00 a.m. Sunday School
Cubs (8-10½ yrs) 6.30 p.m. - 7.45 p.m. Thursdays, Scout HQ
Dancing classes  
Fridays 4.30 p.m.-6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.-10.00 p.m.

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

Dorset/Lativa Link  
Secretary - Jenny Silavs - 01929 471577

Floral Group  
2.00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday, W. Kingston Village hall

Guides  
Unit suspended

Kingsbere Quilters  
3rd Wednesday, Drax Hall

Mini Market  
10.00 a.m. 2nd Saturday, Drax Hall

Mobile Library  
Every Friday alternately 11.15 a.m. -12.35 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. – 4.25 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 (10½-15 yrs)  
7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Mondays, 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

Twinning Association  
Contact Bernard Hammick - 472424 for all activities

Venture Scouts (15-20yrs)  
8.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. Wednesdays, Scout HQ

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
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April
1st  An evening with the Woodbury Hill Singers, Drax Hall  7.30 p.m.
2nd  Mothering Sunday
4th  RBL Gardening club – Australia, Tony Bates  8.00 p.m.
6th  Carnival Easter bingo, RBL  7.30 p.m.
8th  Church visit to Lambeth Palace
12th  Autumn Leaves tour to Sidmouth, - car park  10.30 a.m.
14th  Pop in Place AGM  10.00 a.m.
15/16  Life in the Puddles, a daytime history exhibition and evening supper and lecture, Briantspuddle Hall
16th  Palm Sunday - Bere Regis Church AGM
18th  Easter Holiday Club, Drax Hall  10.00a.m. – 12.00 noon
21st  PIP Hot Cross Buns and Easter Egg Raffle  10.00a.m. – 12.00 noon
21st  Good Friday
23rd  EASTER DAY
24th  Auction at Bere Heath Chapel  2.30 p.m.
24th  Carnival duck race
30th  Affpuddle Church AGM

May
2nd  RBL Gardening Club – Stockholm, Albert Wason  8.00 p.m.
6th  Autumn Leaves May Fayre, Drax Hall  2.00 p.m.
10th  ICRF Coffee Morning at the Vicarage  10.30 a.m.
10th  Autumn Leaves talk on Sea Shells, Harry Dawe  2.30 p.m.
19th  Carnival Darts competition, Drax Arms  7.45 p.m.
19th  Confirmation
28th  Rogation Sunday - Church Service in a Farm

June
1st  ASCENSION DAY
5th  World Church coffee morning, Bere Heath Chapel  10.00 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.
11th  WHITSUNDAY
14th  Autumn Leaves summer outing to Bath
16/17/18th  Annual Cub Camp, Bowling Green Wood, Lulworth
24th  Vicarage Garden Party
25th  Briantspuddle Open Gardens
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<td>Church Coffee Morning - Cyril Wood Court</td>
<td>Bangers and Mash Party, and Auction of Promises - Drax Hall</td>
<td>Harvest Festival - Afppuddle</td>
<td>PIP 4th Birthday Party and Raffle</td>
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<td>Remembrance Sunday</td>
<td>Afppuddle Carol and Gift Service</td>
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<td>Afppuddle street fair and horticultural show</td>
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PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

Alison Debenham
‘Kastania’, 11 Rye Hill Close, Bere Regis,
Wareham, Dorset. BH20 7LU

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E-mail: kastania@msn.com

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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.

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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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