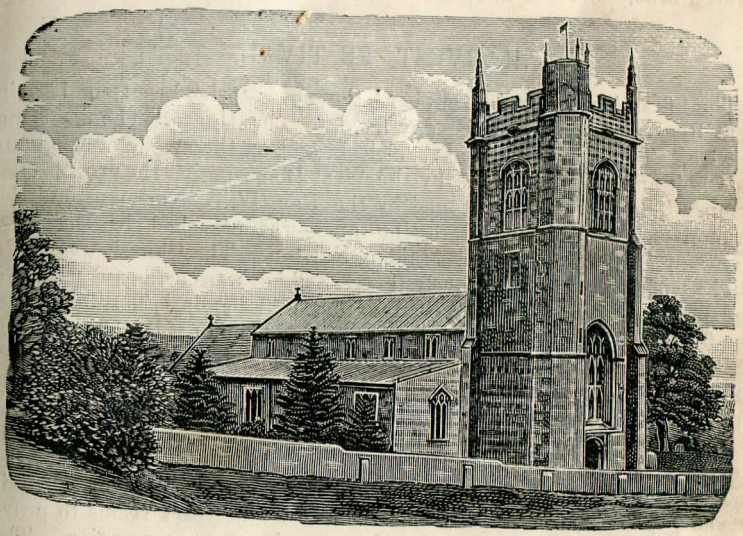
Bere Regis

AND

Winterborne Kingston



Parish Magazine.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

Dorchester:
M. & E. Case, Cornhill Printing Works.

Church Services.

BERE REGIS AND KINGSTON.

Sundays, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Holy Communion, Nov. 5, at Morning Service.
" " Nov. 19, at 8-30 a.m.
Children's Service, (Bere Regis) Nov. 26, at 2-30 p.m.

OFFERTORY.

Collections will be made at both Services on Sunday, Nov. 5, for the Church Music and Warming Funds.

HARVEST FESTIVAL.

The 'first Thursday in October,' the never-to-be-forgotten date in Bere Regis, was as usual the day fixed for our Harvest-Thanksgiving Service. The Service was at 7 o'clock, and on the stroke of the hour the Choir and Clergy entered by the West Door singing the processional hymn. The Service was intoned by the Rev. W. A. Newman, and the Sermon—a particularly interesting one—was preached by the Rev. Montagu Hankey, Rector of Maiden Newton. The Church was made bright with a profusion of lovely flowers, which were arranged with the well-known skill and taste of many practised hands The Collection was for the County Hospital at Dorchester, and amounted to £9 16s. 2d. This is the best collection we have had, the next best being 1892, £9 7s. 6d. The number of coins this time (with two contributions sent after the Service) was 310, exactly the same as the total of last year. Statistics of these collections were given in the Magazine for November, 1896. In 1896 the Service was held at 7 o'clock for the first time, having previously being held at 6 p.m. until 1895, when it was at 6-30 The number of coins the last four years seems to prove that the later hour has led to an increase in the congregation. The average for these four years is 310 as against 246 for the years 1892, 3, 4, and 5, and the average amount £8 17s. 3d, against £8 5s. 9d. It is seldom that statistics tell so plain a tale.

THE FLOWER SHOW.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 6th of October, and the outside public showed its confidence in the Committee by its absence. The Balance Sheet was a subject of congratulation, the energy of the Secretaries being mentioned with special appreciation and gratitude. We are sorry to have to say that the Balance in hand is £2 14s. 5½d, being £1 3s. less than the sum given in the accounts, as the item 'Ringers and Flagpole,' had been accidentally overlooked. Even so however, we have a very satisfactory balance.

WINTER CLASSES.

The Evening Continuation School at Bere Regis is well attended, the average being between 20 and 30.

At Kingston there are not so many in attendance at present as last year. There must be several more boys and young men who would do well to avail themselves of the Continuation School.

The Boys' Brigade.—Sergeant Simmons is again acting as Drill-Instructor, and the Members are urgently requested to attend regularly. The drills will at present be held on alternate Tuesdays, at 7-30 p.m.

The Band of Hope held its first meeting on the 11th of October, when Mr. Jenkins, who was staying at the Milborne Boys' Farm Home, very kindly came over and gave the children an Address on the meaning of their membership, encouraging them particularly to be strong and brave soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Cooking Classes, under the auspices of the Technical Instruction Committee, have been held lately.

The Mothers' Meeting is being conducted on the same lines as in previous years, by Mrs. Jesty and Miss Lys.

The Carving Class.—Mr. Farrer has some wood suitable for making picture frames, clock cases, book-stands, &c., which he will be glad to give to boys who have formerly attended his Carving Class, if they will ask him for such pieces as they want. He also has 3 or 4 bread platters left which old platter carvers may have at 1/- apiece.

[We have much pleasure in announcing that if there should be an interregnum between Mr. Farrer's leaving, and the coming of the new Vicar, those who at present help so efficiently in the conduct of the various Classes, &c, have most kindly undertaken to carry on the Meetings as usual.]

THE SCHOOLS.

Of the many trials of School Managers, one of the most difficult to deal with is the fluctuation of average attendance. In our Schools this fluctuation has operated in a most aggravating manner latterly.

At Kingston where the School was well staffed, a fall off in attendance from 109—81 in four years meant a corresponding fall in the Government Grants of about £40. The staff has accordingly been reduced.

At the Boys' School the attendance from 1880—1891 was never over 42, and the average *for those years was* 37.7 (*inclusive*). Since the

introduction of the Fee Grant or Free Education, the average attendance has gone up steadily, being from 1892 onwards, 43, 42, 44-5, 48, 52, 55. The number in attendance being over 50, according to a change in the Code recently made, we were ordered by Her Majesty's Inspector to have a Pupil Teacher. The Head Teacher is now considered 'sufficient' for an average attendance of 50. This is a 'minimum staff.'

At Bere Heath also, where we are obliged to have a Certificated Teacher, the attendance tends rather to decrease than otherwise. If the School was full, or if 40 attended regularly, the Fee Grant would be £20 instead of £15 7s. 6d., and the Government Grant £36 instead of £30. There would be clear gain of £10 a year.

As a slight set off against these three *contrary* Schools, the Girls' School has lately had a higher attendance than formerly. We hope this will be kept up, as each extra child in attendance means 28s. a year from the Government Grants.

CLERICAL INCOMES.

People, not thoroughly well informed, sometimes still talk nonsense about the well-paid clergy. The Editor of the Magazine considers the payment of the Clergy, generally speaking, to be a matter rather of shame than of boasting, but facts ought to be known.

In 1880 the Vicarial Tithe of Bere and Kingston was worth				£468.
In 1885	"	"		399.
In 1887	"	"		367.
Now	"	"	it is worth	280.

The Vicar now, it will be seen from these figures, receives £188 a year less than in 1880. It should be mentioned that £10 of the Vicar's Tithe was given to the Vicar of Milborne St. Andrew when Milborne Stileham was ecclesiastically separated from this Parish.

The total Income now of a Vicar of Bere Regis is £390. Not a bad income, *only* from that must be deducted, Rates £49, Taxes £20, Commission £9, Curate £150, Repairs £15, Tenths, Insurance, Tithes, &c., &c., £9. Take £250 from £390, and there remains £140. The question occurs 'Can the new Vicar be expected to subscribe largely to Schools, &c. out of his Clerical Income ?

This place is only an example—not by any means an exception. Mr. Farrer's new living is only worth £160 *gross*. He is not, as some have kindly expressed a hope that he might be doing, in that sense going to "better himself !"

BERE REGIS.

BAPTISMS.—Oct. 22, Mary, Kate, and Joseph, children of Thomas and Fanny Lockyer.

BURIAL.—Oct. 26, Edwin Foster, aged 71 years.