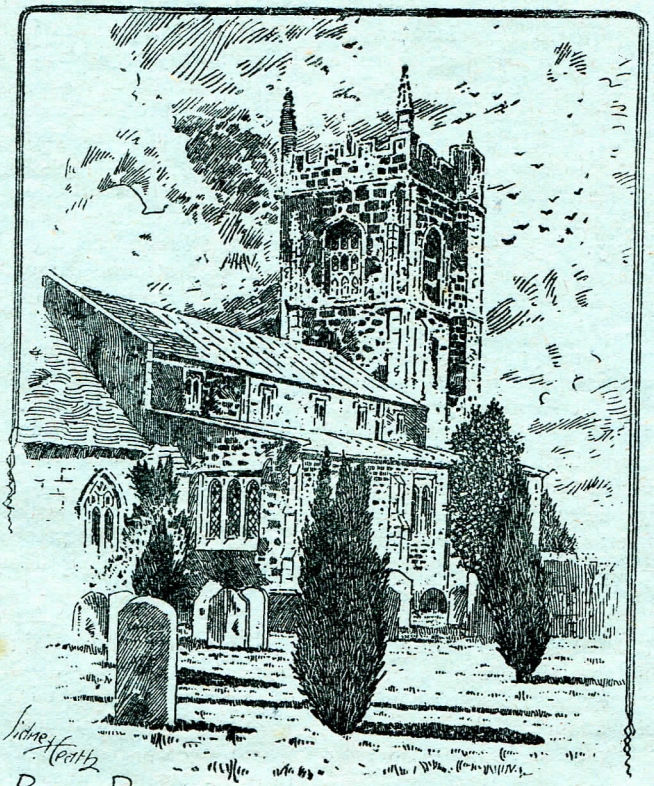
BERE REGIS & WINTERBORNE KINGSTON

DECEMBER, 1920.



Sunday Services.

BERE.

Every Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion.

11 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon except 3rd Sunday.

6 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

1st Sunday in Month

12 a.m. Holy Communion.

Daily Services at times announced in Church each Sunday.

KINGSTON.

Every Sunday

11 a.m. Mattins and Sermon.

6 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

Celebrations of Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the Month after Mattins, on the 3rd Sunday at 8 a.m.

Saints' Days.

LONGMAN, PRINTER, DORCHESTER

PARISH MAGAZINE.

Bere Regis.

Bere Regis Vicarage,
Wareham,
November 23rd, 1920.

My Dear Friends,

This month we are looking forward to Christmas and all the shops are making their preparations to display their Christmas goods. Just in the same way the call comes to us to prepare for Christmas, and the four Sundays in Advent are a warning to us to prepare in time for our great festival. I suppose that there is no day in the year that means more to us than Christmas Day. It is the great family festival when we all try to be together and link up the family circle once more. If you want really to enjoy Christmas Day you have to take care you have done your duty towards God. And Christmas is one of the festivals on which all who have been confirmed ought to be present at the Lord's Table unless prevented by sickness and infirmity. I ask, therefore, that all those who have been confirmed will try and be present at one of the Celebrations on Christmas day itself or on the Sunday immediately following. The times of the Christmas Services, both at Bere Regis and Winterbourne Kingston, will be found in another column. May I also draw your attention to the fact that there will be services of preparation the week before, so that no one may refrain from attendance at the Service on the ground that they have had no time to prepare for it.

Since the last number of the magazine was written the Parochial Church Council has had an opportunity of considering whether the parish magazine is to be continued or not. It was obvious that we could not afford to go on publishing it at so heavy a loss and that either the price must be raised or the magazine discontinued. The Council decided that the price should be raised to threepence a copy, and that we should try for another year whether the parishioners wished to continue it at this price. Personally I hope that all our old subscribers who can afford to do so will continue to take in the magazine. It is a link between the vicar and the parishioners that I should be sorry to see dissolved, and I know that there are many who value the Sign magazine as well as the pages containing the local news. At any rate, the decision to continue it and to raise the price is that of the Parochial Church Council, who are now the recognised representatives of the parish when matters of this sort come up for discussion.

It is not many months since the Council came into existence, but already I have found it of the greatest assistance in conducting the affairs of the parish. I hope its value will be still more apparent when it has recognized functions assigned to it by law. At present it has hardly recognized its importance in the parish, but it will do so when its legal duties are assigned to it. These last few months have been invaluable in giving it a preliminary training in the kind of work it will have to undertake. What form this work will probably take may be seen by studying the report of the proceedings of the recent meeting of the National Assembly. One of the measures brought forward at the assembly was for conferring certain powers on Parochial Councils. The second clause of the new measure runs as follows—"It shall be the primary duty of the Parochial Church Council to co-operate with the incumbent in the initiation, conduct of development of Church work both within the parish and outside."

Another clause deals with the Church collections. At the present time the alms at the service of the Holy Communion are disposed of as it seems best to the incumbent and Churchwardens. The other collections are legally at the disposal of the Incumbent, to be spent as he sees best. Of course, in practice at any rate in this parish, the Vicar consults with the Churchwardens as to the purpose to which any Church collection shall be put. A third important clause provides that "Every Council shall have power to make representations to the patron of the benefice within twenty-one days of the voidance of such benefice with regard to the exercise of his power of presentation thereto, and the patron shall not exercise his power of presentation thereto until such a period has elapsed." I quote these clauses as samples of the kind of responsibilities which it is suggested the Parochial Church Councils shall undertake. They have not yet become law, possibly some or all of them will never receive legal sanction. None the less it is important to know the suggestions that are being made at the present time. The time is coming when the Incumbent and the Parochial Church Council conjointly will be responsible for the welfare of the Church in each parish, and the laity will have a real share in the government of their Parish Church, and its affairs.

Yours very sincerely,
R. C. V. HODGE.

Winterbourne Kingston.

The outstanding event during the past month at Winterbourne Kingston was the visit of the Bishop to hold a Confirmation. Over 20 candidates from Bere and Kingston were presented, and the church was filled with relatives and friends. A most stimulating address was delivered by the Bishop, and his words of exhortation applied not only to the candidates for Confirmation but to all who listened to them. We have to thank Messrs. Ballam and Miller for the way in which they had prepared the church for the service, Mrs. Besent for her arrangements for tea, and Mrs. Cave for her gift of flowers for the Altar. It was very gratifying to see the attendance at the Celebration of the Holy Communion on November 21st, when the great majority of the newly confirmed made their first attendance. We hope to have a monthly service of preparation for Holy Communion after evening service on the second Sunday in the month, and I ask not only those recently confirmed but others as well to try and be present at this service.

This month, I believe, the school at Kingston passes from the hands of the Church Authorities into those of the County Council. We regret in many ways that this should be the case but we believe that, under the circumstances, the Church Authorities are wise in not pressing their legal rights to a year's notice from the County Council. The question of religious education in England is a difficult one, but surely in all schemes proposed for its solution the principle to be observed is that the parent of each child has the right to decide what religious instruction he or she is to receive. I do not want to force what is commonly called "Church Teaching" on the children of Non-conformist parents, but on the other hand I do not want the children of Church people to grow up in ignorance of what they ought to know and believe to their soul's health. It seems to me that in Kingston there is an easy solution of the difficulty once the school becomes a Council School. If the parents who belong to the Church of England desire it, I will come over every Tuesday morning and hold a class of the children who belong to the Church of England, from 9 a.m. to 9-40, when they can go into school to be marked before the registers close. The fact that the church is so close to the school makes this a perfectly possible solution, and it is way in which religious instruction is given in Australia with great success.

R.C.V.H.

LIST OF CANDIDATES CONFIRMED IN S. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON, ON NOV. 3RD, 1920, BY THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

Males. H. R. Crocker, E. R. Hewitt, P. J. Pitfield, G Speck, K. J. Wolfries.

Females. F. B. Hames, L. M. White, G. L. Jeans, J. Jeans, D. L. Hunt, M. E. Symes, E. M. Sheppard, M. V. Besent, G. P. Besent, L. K. Besent, L. D. A. Turner, F. E. M. Linn, E. A. Lock, K. Hewitt, B. Crocker, L. V. Pitfield, B. M. Kellaway, B. J. Kellaway.

BAPTISMS.

November 14th—William James Ames.
" 21st—Harry Applin
" 21st—Alfred Applin

MARRIAGES.

Winterbourne Kingston, November 6th
Ernest Jolley and Elsie May Jeanes.

Winterbourne Kingston, November 10th
Reginald Frederick Vincent and Kathleen Eliza Hunt.

VILLAGE LIBRARY.

In order to maintain a sufficient stock of books for the village library a yearly subscription of £5 is paid to Boot's Booklovers' Library. This, of course, does not take into account expense incurred in exchanging the books. As only £2 11s. 0d. has been received in subscriptions for this coming year I am afraid that the Library will have to close next October, when the subscription at Boot's Library terminates. At the same time I should like to thank those who have kindly given more than the minimum subscription of 2/6 this year.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

Bere Regis.

7 a.m., 8 a.m., and noon—Holy Communion.
11 a.m.—Morning Prayer.
6 p.m.—Evensong and Carols.

Winterbourne Kingston.

8 a.m. and noon—Holy Communion.
11 a.m.—Morning Prayer.