

March 1951



THE Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held on April 2nd at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Church. The Vestry elects or re-elects Churchwardens and appoints Sidesmen and after this the Church Meeting elects the Church Council and considers finance and numerous other business.

The election of the Church Council is important as members should, of course, be really keen churchfolk both in example and precept. The past year has seen many improvements in the furnishing of the Parish Church—these including the new curtains and hassocks. During the present year we shall have an even larger number of visitors—especially from overseas and for that reason it would be helpful if those who are planting their gardens would keep in mind a supply of flowers for the church.

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WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON has no Parochial Church Council but a meeting of the members of the congregation will be held shortly in order to review our financial position and necessary repair of the gutters and parts of the roof. S. Nicholas Church is probably as old in foundation as the Parish Church although when restored in 1878 most of the ancient fittings were unfortunately removed. It has always been a chapelry of Bere Regis and both form our ecclesiastical parish although Kingston is an independent civil parish and proudly retains its independence!

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### WHAT ARE CHURCHWARDENS?

ALL over the country churchwardens are about to be appointed and it may be well to explain briefly some of their functions. Their duties and responsibilities are less now than was the case before Church Councils came into existence. The office is one of great antiquity and was for many centuries one of great importance. They are still elected by ratepayers and in that respect are civil representatives. This method of election dates previous to the existence of Dissentors, or as they are now more generally known as Nonconformists—in days when all parishioners were members of their Parish Church. They were generally Overseers of the Parish and with the Vicar levied the local rates. Other duties consisted of removing any member of the congregation who by unruly conduct disturbed the services of the church—this duty involved the rousing of any member of the congregation who caused a nuisance by snoring during the sermon. By Act of Parliament it was their duty to impose a fine on any parishioner who failed to attend service on

Sunday at the Parish Church and to visit any tavern, beer-house or inn and compel frequenters of such places to attend service. The Act of Parliament enforcing these duties has never been repealed.

We trust that the above brief summary of the duties of churchwardens will not in any way deter the present holders of their office from accepting a continued period of their responsibilities if the Vestry records their continued confidence. The office of Sidesman is also of great antiquity and their main duty is to assist the Churchwardens wherever such assistance is required.

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### SERVICES ON GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER DAY.

Parish Church—

Good Friday: 11—12 One Hour's Devotion.  
7 p.m. Evening Service and Address.

Easter Day: Holy Communion, 8 a.m.  
Mattins and Holy Communion, 11 a.m.  
Children's Service, 2.30 p.m.  
Evensong, 6 p.m.

S. Nicholas—

Good Friday: Evening Service and Address, 6 p.m.  
Easter Day: Holy Communion, 9.30 a.m.  
Evensong, 7.15 p.m.

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### Registers.

Holy Baptism.

February 11th. Nigel Frederick, son of Thomas Walter and Mary Jarvis.

February 20th. Pauline Ann, daughter of Godfrey David and Gertrude Mary Spicer.

March 4th. John Cyril, son of Stanley and Ella Ruth Snook.

Burial.

February 16th. Frederick John Langdown, aged 51 years.