

April 1955



ANOTHER Lent and Easter have gone and we can look upon both with thankfulness. At the Parish Church during Lent we had a weekly visit from the Rector of Holy Trinity, Dorchester, who gave a very helpful course of addresses. Easter Day at both churches saw large congregations and the churches beautifully decorated. The Vicar greatly appreciates the Easter offering which was generous, both at the Parish Church and at S. Nicholas. We have to thank a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, for a beautiful set of book markers for the Parish Church.

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THE Social at Winterbourne Kingston has not taken place before these lines are in print but we hope to be able to record next month that it was a great success thanks to the untiring energy of Brigadier Lipscomb and others. This is one of the efforts being made to raise funds for the restoration of the tower of S. Nicholas. After standing up to the storms and weather of many centuries definite signs are visible of decay, and as S. Nicholas is the Parish Church of Winterbourne Kingston we feel sure support will come from all parishioners who value and appreciate this ancient witness to our faith. The connection between Bere Regis and Winterbourne Kingston is rather unusual. Both are separate civil parishes and with independent civil administration and for all legal purposes such as marriages, S. Nicholas is a Parish Church. But both form one Ecclesiastical Parish and in this sense S. Nicholas is a Chapelry of Bere and has been such for many centuries. The original name of Winterbourne Kingston was Kings Winterborn and much of the land in the parish was Royal property. Here is an interesting extract from an ancient and reliable history:—'On Jan. 9th, 1738, Thomas Bezant of this place and his wife were stabbed with a knife by their son almost an idiot who was executed at Dorchester the Lent assizes following. . . . Here is a chapel of ease belonging to Bere, the Vicar whereof officiates in it once every Sunday for which he is paid the sum of ten pence.' The first known of the Vicars who officiated at S. Nicholas was Richard Bromhill in 1408. From this we can date the Tower now in need of restoration going back to about 547 years. Undoubtedly there was a church on this spot previous to that and it is possible that the Tower itself may be older.

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Register

Holy Baptism.

March 23rd. Cyril James Kenneth, son of Francis Patrick and Violet Ivy Peggy Gormley.

Holy Matrimony.

March 12th. Dennis Bernard Thomas Maidment and Eileen
Georgina Henson.

March 19th. Richard Henry Percy and Elsie Eleanor Betty
Allen.

Burial.

March 31st. Caroline Osmond, aged 86 years.