JANUARY 1956, No. 107

THE PARISH CHURCH OF BERE REGIS

WITH S. NICHOLAS WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

Parish Church of St. John Baptist

BERE REGIS,

DORSET.

Vicar and Rural Dean : THE REV. R. C. HERRING.

Churchwardens :

MR. R. SMITH, Heath View.

MR. F. MARSH, Southbrook.

MR. P. MINTERNE, Egdon Close, *Deputy Warden.*

Sidesmen :

MESSRS. P. PITFIELD, E. RAWBONE, G. DREW,

H. PITFIELD, C. BERRY, A. TOOP, J. PARSONS & M. BARNES.

Secretary and Treasurer P.C.C. : MR. C. BERRY, Sitterton, Bere Regis.

Parish Clerk : MR. J. BATTRICK.

Verger: Mr. E. RAWBONE

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Holy Communion	...	8 a.m. and 2nd Sunday after Matins.
Matins ...	...	11. a.m.
Children's Service	...	2.30 p.m.
Evensong ...	...	6 p.m.

St. Nicholas

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

Churchwardens :

MR. SHEPPARD, The Nottings.

BRIGADIER H. de B. LIPSCOMB, The Old Parsonage.

Treasurer :

MR. F. I. H. BURGESS, Muston.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Holy Communion 2nd Sunday, 9.30 a.m.

Sunday School 2.30 p.m.

Evensong 3.15 p.m.

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January 1956

THE New Year will be well on its way by the time that this issue of the Magazine reaches all our readers. But it is never too late to express the hope that for all it may be a year of happiness.

At the dawn of each new year we look back upon the one which has passed and a vast medley of thoughts must come to our minds. But human nature is optimistic and we feel sure that the days which lie ahead have in store 'castles in the air' which really have substance. But true happiness can never be found if we allow ourselves to be tied and bound by pure materialism and as Christians and Churchpeople we realize that one of the greatest sources of happiness can be found in Christian fellowship realizing that the Church to which we belong and to which we owe loyalty, can only carry its mission to the nation and to the individual by a life of active fellowship. The Christian Faith manifests itself in two directions. It involves on the one hand a certain attitude of mind and heart towards God and on the other an attitude of mind and heart towards our fellow men. It is both a Faith and a Fellowship.

It has been said with great truth as one surveys the state of religion among us today, that the decay of fellowship rather than the decay of faith, is responsible for so much that is disturbing and even alarming in English life. The cradle of faith is in our villages with their ancient and beautiful Parish churches where the Faith has been taught for centuries. Fifty years ago or less a village was an entity in a sense in which it is no longer so. Squire and parson, farmer and farm worker, formed one corporate body. Attendance Sunday by Sunday at the services of the Parish Church may have been to some extent conventional, but at least it brought those who worshipped into real fellowship. Landowners and farmers felt that they had a real stake in the life of the community and were ready at all times to play their part for the good of all and not least by their example. But the life of the villagers no longer centres in the village. Closer contact with the outside world by the popular press, by wireless and television, and by abundant facilities for transport have widened horizons. In the old days a visit to the market town was an event. Those may have been dull days as judged by modern standards, but no one can deny that that sense of community life and fellowship was of abundant blessing in many ways.

It was Thomas Hardy in his well known book 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' who described Bere Regis as being 'far from the madding crowd.' He would not apply that description to our village in these days and especially at week-ends!

As a nation we are living largely on our accumulated spiritual capital. For a thousand years and more the Christian Church in our land has stood for Christian principles in individual and corporate life and the Christian Faith has been the very backbone of our national life. S. Paul in his letter to Timothy, a young man facing an unknown future, bade him 'fight the good fight of faith'. The need for that fight is greater today and it is by endeavouring to win that fight that we can ensure—a Happy New Year.

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Register

Holy Baptism

Dec. 11th. Richard James, son of Ernest John and Kathleen Dorothy Nellie Cleall.

Dec. 18th. Jacqueline Marie, daughter of James Morgan and Jeanette Julia Gordon.

Dec. 30th. Patricia Carter, daughter of Christopher Anthony Carter and Eve Veronica Mary Jonas.