



It is never too late to wish each other well and so may this first issue of the Magazine convey all good wishes to our readers for the New Year, and thanks, too, for their continued support of the Magazine.

Thinking broadly the New Year has many difficulties to face, especially in international relationships which are bound to have repercussion on home affairs, and home affairs are already indicating signs of considerable unemployment. Of affairs even more closely at home, the rapid spread of television is showing its influence. Evenings are now spent with much 'looking in' and consequently evening meetings of any kind, whether political or otherwise are occupying much less attention. This is widespread, particularly in rural districts throughout the country. Even remote cottages are seeing things previously unheard of. Some are desirable and helpful, others are much the reverse. Among the latter we must include many of the children's programmes.

It is open to question whether this comparatively new invention adds anything to life in our villages. Many children attending schools have never seen a country sight of beauty such as a team of horses ploughing a field. They do, however, see dashing cowboys shooting each other with the same ease and speed with which their elders played ping pong. And with all this we are losing much which used to be precious in England's countryside. The effect on attendance at our village churches is already apparent, and what used to be known as 'evening church' as part of the routine of life is disappearing with many. We notice it in our own Parish Church where once familiar faces are being missed, probably because they are 'looking in'. A New Year determination, which is stronger than a resolution, would be to 'turn off the telly' at any rate for an hour or so on Sunday evenings and return to the custom of our forefathers by attending our Parish Churches.

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John Battrick, died December 22nd, 1957, aged 93 years.

With the passing of John Battrick the Parish has lost a venerated old parishioner. Exact dates are not easy to obtain but he was Parish Clerk for close on 60 years and joined the choir about 80 years ago. He loved his Parish Church and all connected with it and he and his predecessor John Hibbs occupied the position of Clerk between them for about 100 years. John Battrick was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and had a manner and old-fashioned courtesy which has almost disappeared with his generation. With this he had a quiet sense of humour, which remained up to the end and, when his memory failed, and after living for the

greater part of 100 years in the parish he remarked that 'Bere Regis must be quite a nice place to live in'. That remark was typical of his gentle and pleasant outlook on life.

He was one of the last of the old order of Parish Clerks. It was a freehold and lifelong appointment. Now in the place of Parish Clerks are appointed Deputy Clerks whose tenure is not a freehold and so can be ended if and when necessary.

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**C**HRISTMAS was a happy festival at both churches and the usual lavish care was bestowed on their decoration. Congregations were better than for years.

At Winterbourne Kingston the usual Christmas Party went with its usual zest and was attended by children of the Sunday School, members of the Mothers' Union and other friends. The Vicar thanked Mrs. and Miss Sheppard for their unfailing work with the Sunday School which is in a flourishing state.

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### Register

Burial, December 27th. John Battrick, aged 93.

Holy Matrimony at St. Nicolas, December 21st

Derek Campbell-Bell and Nora Gwendoline Hathaway