THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

I am printing in this issue an article on the Annual Church Meeting, its title as you will see is "General Election at Bere Regis", and the date is Friday April 19th. Do please read it with care as it is a very good article indeed (I did not write it myself!) and it does summarise very well the essential information you should know about the Annual Church Meeting.

The Annual Church Meeting is for all on the Electoral Roll and I do trust we shall have a large number of people at this Meeting when the elections are made and the Church accounts presented.

To move to a completely different subject. I should feel most unhappy if journalists were to be given complete exemption from having to give their source of information in a Court of law. I well remember an article concerning my Father which appeared in one of the London Evening papers purporting to give an interview a reporter had had with him - quoting what my Father had said to the journalist and what the journalist had said to him. In actual fact my Father had not spoken to any member of the press at all, and the article was a pure figment of the writer's imagination! In this particular case it was of no particular importance but it might have been, and if there is no obligation on the writers of newspaper articles to disclose his source of information the door is open for any unscrupulous, sensation mongering journalist to make up anything he likes, and to cover himself by saying he refuses to disclose where he got his information.

Some of the newspapers have been saying that this could not happen because the truth will come out eventually. So it may, but quite possibly far too late, when the damage may be done - characters blackened and good names taken away, and untold misery and unhappiness caused.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On April 16th we will be meeting in the W.I. Hut at 7 p.m. to hear Miss Almack talking about 'Watching Birds'. New members will receive a warm welcome.

Hostesses in April are Mrs. J. Cheall, Mrs. Trim, Miss Hyde, Miss Storrs and Miss Clarke.

IN AND AROUND BERE REGIS
by Parishioner

A winter such as we have had has one compensation in that Spring is all the more welcome. It is astonishing how the countryside, which was still partly covered with snow a month ago, with hardly a blade of green anywhere, has awakened to life. The warm winds and rains of March have brought out the spring flowers in the garden and hedgerows while in woods the wild daffodils are in bloom. Each day the fields look a shade greener, the birds are singing once more and soon winter will be a memory.

The traditional March hare is much in evidence. It must have been difficult for hares to find sufficient food during the snow and no doubt many perished but to see them running about now one would never guess what they have been through. They probably depended to a large extent on the hay which was fed to cattle in the fields.

The wet weather that has brought on the grass has delayed sowing on the farm and it looks as if most of the corn will go in during April this year which is unusual for this part of England. Seed is going into a warm, moist soil, broken into a fine tilth by the frosts and there is little doubt that it will grow rapidly and soon make up for lost time.

BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION

Mr. Ayling will give a talk on gardening at the Branch Meeting on April 17th in the W.I. Hut at 7.30 p.m. Anyone interested in the subject is invited.

The Annual Garden Fete will be held at White Lorrington (by kind permission of the President) on AUGUST 21st. at 3 p.m.

A. Coles, Acting Hon.Sec.

MOTHERS' UNION - BERE REGIS BRANCH

The Quarterly Corporate Communion will be held on Thursday April 11th. As this is Maundy Thursday the Service will be at 7 p.m. instead of 7.30 p.m. Members are asked to take particular note of the change of time.

FAMILY SERVICE

Held the second Sunday in every month. For the family - Fathers Mothers and children . Plenty of room for prams, bring them right into the Church. The next Service is at 3 p.m. on Easter Day. After our most successful start of last month, I hope for a really good number on Easter Day.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

SPECIAL PREACHERS

PASSION SUNDAY, March 31st.	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Giles Clayton, (on behalf of the Additional Curates Society).
PALM SUNDAY, April 7th.	6.00 p.m.	Rev. E.W. Davies (Rector of Piddlehinton and Rural Dean)

Distribution of Palm Crosses at all Services.

HOLY WEEK

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	7.00 p.m.	Compline.
Maundy Thursday	7.00 p.m.	Holy Communion.
Good Friday	11.00 a.m.	Devotional Service.
	7.00 p.m.	Evensong.
EASTER DAY	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Mattins
	12 noon.	Holy Communion
	3.00 p.m.	Family Service
	6.00 p.m.	Festal Evensong.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Easter Sunday	Mrs. Tranter
April 21st.	Miss A. Lys.
	Miss E. Lys.
April 28th.	Miss McFall.
	Mrs. F. Lys.

REMEMBRANCE LILIES FOR EASTER

The list is now on the Visitors table in the Church. Will intending donors please fill in their names as soon as possible so that we can have some idea of how many to order.

The list will be removed after Church on Palm Sunday evening.

I am afraid it is still impossible to give the price of the Lilies until we hear from the Wholesaler.

This notice also applies to Winterbourne Kingston.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 22

THE CHURCH BELLS (continued)

The sixth or tenor bell bears this inscription :-
"JOHN OUGHTRELONEY VICKER, JUSTENYEN EKINS AND JOHN HASZARD CHURCH WARDENS. CLEMANT TOSIEAR CAST MEE IN 1698. THIS BELL WAS THE GIVEFT OF MARY DYET".
Clement Tosier was the Salisbury bellfounder at this time, and there

are 14 other bells in Dorset cast by him or Thomas Tosier. The following entries relevant to the casting of this bell are extracted from the churchwardens account for 1698 :-

	£	s.	d.
pd. for Expenses at Sarum wn. ye bell was carryed	2.	0.	3.
pd. John Sargent for Horse hyer to Sarum	-.	3.	0.
pd. for Beere when the Bell was first hung up	-.	2.	6.
pd. for Beere when the Bell was cast	-.	3.	0.
pd. Tosier for Casting the Bell	16.	0.	0.
pd. Tosier for 83 lb. of mettle, put in the Bell	4.	13.	10.
pd. him more by ye parishes Order	4.	10.	0.
pd. Robt. Aplins Bills the whole time	4.	8.	7.

From other items in these old accounts, it would seem that Robert Applin was a Blacksmith, so that his charges were probably connected with hanging the bell and other incidental works.

As this bell weighs more than 18 cwt., it is obvious that an older bell was recast, 83 lbs. of new metal being used to make up the deficiency. The inscription on the bell states that it was the gift of Mary Dyet, so perhaps she presented the original bell. She seems to have taken no part in the financing of the recasting in 1608, so perhaps the word "was" in the inscription is significant.

The fifth bells bears the following inscription :-
"ROBERT FRAMPTON THOMAS FRAMPTON. ANNO DOMINO 1709.
THOMAS KNIGHT WILLIAM KNIGHT"

Thomas Knight and his son William succeeded the Purdues at the Closworth foundry near Sherbourne in 1709, so that this bell must have been among the first they cast as proprietors of this foundry, Thomas Knight having been an assistant to Thomas Purdue before this date.

Robert and Thomas Frampton were churchwardens in 1709, and the following are relevant extracts from their account.

Pd. Wm. Hellyar for Carriage of 2 bells	2.	5.	0.
Pd. him for Carriage of 1 bell	1.	5.	0.
Pd. Tho: Knight for newcasting of the 2nd and 4th bells..	17.	0.	0.
Pd. him for 162 pounds of metal at 14 d. p	9.	7.	0.
Pd. Goodman Hart half his Bill for work abt. ye Bells ...	1.	13.	6.
Pd. Geo. Smith likewise	-.	15.	0.
Pd. Expences in 2 Journeys to Closworth with the bells ...	1.	5.	0.
Pd. ye Expences of ye Journey and Horse hire to Sherbourne to pay the Bellfounder ...	-.	5.	6.

It will be seen from the above extracts that two bells, the second and fourth, were recast at this time, and when a sixth bell was added in 1919, they became the third and fifth bells respectively.

According to the third edition of Hutchins "History of Dorset", published in 1861, the third bells bore the inscription :-

"ANNO DOMINI 1709"

This is borne out by the extracts from the accounts of that year, but in 1875 it was again recast, and now carries this inscription :-
"J. TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH, 1875".
In 1919 a new treble bell was added, bringing the total up from five to six, and as bells are always numbered from top to bottom, it meant that the numbering of the existing five bells was altered, as referred to above. This treble bell bears the following inscription :-

"MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, PAX. 1919"

(to be continued) F.P. Pitfield.

GENERAL ELECTION AT BERE REGIS

WHEN AND WHERE? On Friday, April 19th at 7 p.m. in the Church

WHOM DO WE ELECT ? Two Churchwardens. Members of the Parochial Church Council, Sidesmen,

WHO CAN STAND FOR ELECTION ? Communicant members of the Church who are over 21 and whose names are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish.

WHO NOMINATES FOR ELECTION ? Any two members of the Electoral Roll. Either in writing previously or verbally at the Meeting. The consent of the person to be nominated should be obtained.

WHO CAN VOTE ? Anyone who is a Baptised Member of the Church of England and over 17 years of age, whose name is on the Electoral Roll.

HOW DO YOU JOIN THE ELECTORAL ROLL ? By filling up the form provided on the table at the back of the Church or obtainable from Mr. Smith or Mr. March.

WHAT DOES THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL DO ? It co-operates with the Vicar in the initiation, conduct and development of Church work, both within the Parish and without. What could be more important ?

WHAT DO WE WANT ON THE COUNCIL ? A stimulating mixture of the adventurousness of youth and the wisdom of age.

IF I SIGN THE ELECTORAL ROLL, DO I HAVE TO PAY ? No, it costs you nothing.

AS AN ORDINARY CHURCH MEMBER WHAT CAN I DO ? You can volunteer to visit the Sick and the Old, so that no one is left out. You can call on newcomers to the Parish and make them feel at home and sure of a welcome if they wish to come and join the Church life of the Parish. You can bring acquaintances into personal touch with the Vicar

if you think it would be helpful, and you can help in many other ways.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

First of all, many thanks to all who came and supported the Spring Show held at the beginning of March. It was nice to see such a large number of visitors enjoying the various flower arrangements and other exhibits, and most encouraging that, in spite of trying weather conditions right up to the date of the Show, the number of entries was slightly higher than last year.

The next meeting of the Floral Group will be on Tuesday, April 9th, which will be in the form of a practice meeting, and the speaker will be Mrs. Carnegie-Brown. Please bring your own container and a few flowers and foliage, and try out an arrangement, and so learn from the expert comments of Mrs. Carnegie-Brown, who is just as anxious to help the beginner as well as the more experienced flower arranger.

The Group is also sponsoring a Flower Festival in Affpuddle Church at the weekend of April 27th - 29th in aid of Church Funds. The Church will be open to visitors on the Saturday from 10 - 2.15, and 3.15 - 7 p.m. on the Sunday from 10.30 - 7.30 p.m. and on the Monday from 10 - 7 p.m. and it is hoped as many as possible will go along and see the decorations. Gifts of Flowers, and also suitable shrubs and foliage will be gratefully received in the Church on the Friday preceding the Festival.

P. Lloyd. Hon.Asst. Secretary.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS.

LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS

APRIL. SAINT GEORGE - PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND APRIL 23rd

What do we mean by the words "Patron Saint" ? They really mean the Saint under whose protection a country, a church, a society is regarded as placed, and in England, St. George has been chosen to be this Saint. How did this come about?

George is said to have been born at Lydda, in Palestine. His father was a soldier and like him, George became a soldier also. He was very brave and rose to high rank under the Emperor Diocletian. It seems, however, that this Emperor Diocletian never really understood the Christians, these men who said they were followers of "Chrestus" who had been put to death by crucifixion during the reign of Tiberius the Emperor's predecessor, these happenings of the first Good Friday which we are remembering at this time. Diocletian had to admit that these men had proved good and efficient servants, as well as brave and loyal soldiers. Then quite suddenly it happened that the Emperor issued four edicts, or four laws requiring obedience, against the Christians. The first of these four edicts was that there must be neither bloodshed nor loss of life; only the Christians must surrender their churches, their precious books had to be destroyed, and if they refused to give up their faith they would lose all their privileges. The order was given for the issuing of the edict in February 303. Hardly had it been posted up in some public place, than a distinguished soldier went forward seized it and tore it to pieces, before the eyes of the crowd who had gathered around to study it. The soldier must of course have known what would be the consequences of such an action and this unknown soldier is said to have been, none other than George. He begged the Emperor to give up persecuting the Christians, they in fact tried to make George give up being a Christian by torturing him, but whatever they did he would not give in and he gave his life courageously for the Faith in which he believed.

His connection with the dragon is of much later date and its origin is somewhat obscure. The dragon has been regarded as merely symbolical of the powers of evil. Therefore St. George an early Christian martyr and closely linked with the Cross, stands as a symbol of victory over the forces of evil in the world, and as a reminder to us of the cost of Christian discipleship.

The flag of St. George you will all know, as you will have seen it flying from the towers of our Churches, a red cross on a white background.

It was in the year 1415 after the great triumph of Agincourt, that a decree was issued that special honour should evermore be paid to St. George as the patron of England. We remember him then as one who stood against evil and endured physical suffering and it may help us to recall this courageous soldier when we are called upon to take a stand against the evil forces in the world.

E.M.S.

If you have a gold sovereign in your home, you will find that on the reverse side is engraved the symbol of St. George and the Dragon. Coming much more up-to-date with the new issue of the five pound note a few weeks ago, there you will find on the reverse side the cross of St. George.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON CHURCH

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

PASSION SUNDAY, March 31st.	3.15 p.m. Preacher: Rev. Giles Clayton (on behalf of the Additional Curates Society)
PALM SUNDAY, April 7th.	3.15 p.m. Evensong. Distribution of Palm Crosses.

EASTER DAY. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
7.15 p.m. Evensong.

MOTHERS' UNION
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON BRANCH.

The Quarterly Corporate Communion will be held at 2.45 on Wednesday April 11th when the speaker will be the Rev. H.A. Johnson, the Vicar of Affpuddle.

I trust all members will try and make a point of being present.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON
CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

HEATING FUND

As the result of a Teenagers effort £2. 10. 0d. has been raised for the fund, for which the Committee is most grateful. Our thanks are specially due to assistance given by Mrs. P. House and Mrs. E. Vincent.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

3rd. March. Stephen Edward Vater.

BERE REGIS

BAPTISM.

17th March. Nicholas White.

BURIALS.

21st February Walter Gilbert (John) Applin, aged 62 years.
7th March William George Howe, aged 74 years.

"SMALL ADS"

(2/6d for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING, BY QUALIFIED STYLIST. MRS. SOLDAN, 'MERRYDOWN', SITTERTON. BERE REGIS 308. RING BEFORE 9.30 a.m. FOR APPOINTMENT.