THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Owing to the printing of the Easter Lily lists in this issue and the consequent shortage of space there just is no room for my usual letter.

My warm thanks to all those who helped to make our Churches so beautiful for the lovely Festival of Easter.

One preliminary notice - I am proposing to hold a Mission in the parish at the end of September, lasting a fortnight. This will be conducted by a Society called "The Village Evangelists" who are specialists in work among parishes such as ours. We shall have here for the fortnight three laymen and one priest. In due course I will let you know what preparations we must make but in the meantime I hope you will remember the Mission in your prayers.

I dare not write any more this month.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

May	5th.		Miss Smith
May	12th.	Mrs. Cobb	Mrs. Goldsack.
May	19th.	Mrs. Cobb	Mrs. Goldsack.
May	26th.	Miss Llewellin.	Mrs. Applin.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 23

THE CHURCH BELLS (continued)

Following are further particulars of the bells :-

	Diameter	Weight	NOTE	Date.
1st or treble	2ft. 10 ins.	6cwt. 79 lbs.	C	1919
2nd	2 ft. 10½ ins.	8 cwt. 12 lbs.	B flat	1656
3rd	3ft. 2½ ins.	10 cwt. 62 lbs.	A flat	1875
4th	3ft. 3¾ ins.	10 cwt. 54 lbs.	G	1602
5th	3ft. 8 ins.	13 cwt. 84 lbs.	F	1709
6th or tenor	4ft. 1 ins.	18 cwt. 73 lbs.	E flat	1698

Before 1919 the bells were hung on an old oak frame, which had become so faulty that the bells could only be chimed instead of rung in the usual way. In that year they were taken down and sent to the foundry of Mears and Stainbank at Whitechapel where they were re-tuned; originally the bells were in the key of D, but they were all raised by a semi-tone at this time, and are now in the key of E flat. It was thefirst time most of the bells had left home for some hundreds

of years, and when they returned they brought back a brand new addition to the family with them in the form of a new treble bell, and were re-housed in a new steel frame to replace the old oak one. I am told that a temporary bell was hung on a tree in the churchyard whilst the bells were away.

The tenor bell had previously weighed more than a ton, but by retuning and various other alterations to the stock, it was reduced to its present weight, 18 cwt. 73 lbs.

The old churchwardens accounts furnish much interesting information about the bells, apart from those items already quoted in previous articles. For example, between 1607 and 1740, the period covered by the old accounts, the bells were not run for Sunday services as they are now, but were only rung on certain days in the year, All Saints Day and November the fifth being among them. On these occasions beer was provided for the ringers, although they were sometimes paid cash instead. At a vestry meeting held on 24 December, 1733, "It was resolved and agreed that no Churchwarden of Beere Rs shall at any time hereafter pay any of the parish moneys for ringing of the Bells at any time whatsoever". This must have been a most unpopular decision, and one feels that the hands of the churchwardens must have been forced in some way, because less than a year later, on 21 October 1734 we find - "It is agreed by us at this Vestry whose names are under written that the Churchwardens shall pay such Money for Ringing upon such Days as it hath been paid before." As an example, the following items have been extracted from the Churchwardens' account for 1736 :-

Pd. for Beer for ye Ringers on Coronation Day	0.	2.	6.
Paid for Beer for the Ringers All-Saints day	0.	2.	6.
Paid for Beer for the Ringers Gunpowder-Treason Day . .	0.	5.	0.
Pd. for Beer for the Ringers at Christmas	0.	5.	0.
Pd. for Beer for the Ringers New Year's day	0.	2.	6.

It should be noted that there were five ringers at this time, and that beer was 2d. per pint.

(to be continued) F.P. Pitfield.

MOTHERS' UNION - BERE REGIS BRANCH

Owing to the Diocesan Festival Service at Salisbury Cathedral being held on May 9th, our usual meeting at which the speaker was to have been the Rev. B.P.H. Ball, will not now take place, but we hope Mr. Ball will be able to come on another occasion.

P.J.T.

BERE REGIS EVENING INSTITUTE

Summer Term begins on Thursday 9th May at 7 p.m.

F. Marsh. Organiser.

IN AND AROUND BERE REGIS

by Parishioner.

Throughout April the rain has continued to hamper work on the farm and in the garden and sometimes it seems we shall never make up for time already lost due to the frosts. Not only has April been wet but it has not been particularly warm so that soil temperatures are still below normal and plant growth is greatly retarded.

Most of the hay is finished and the improved strains of Italian Ryegrass, which provide early spring grazing on most farms, have been severely checked or killed by the frosts. It is difficult to find enough grass to graze at present and it looks as if many fields which were destined for silage or hay will have stock over them first.

Despite all this there is no better time of year than late April and early May in the countryside. Woods and copses are carpeted with Dog's Mercury and Wood Anemones followed by Primroses and Bluebells and the air is filled with the songs of the blackbird, nightingale, willow warbler, and many other birds. Catkins envelope the withybeds in a haze of green from which the tireless notes of the reed warbler pours forth by day and night.

Each day the cornfields become greener, the blue-green of barley contrasting with the darker greens of wheat and oats. In many fields of barley, during May, diamond shaped patches of light and dark appear. I have heard this ascribed to mineral deficiency and to the play of light on the crimped leaves of the barley but I do not think anyone knows the answer.

Our Summer visitors do not seem to have been deterred by the lateness of the season. I saw wheatears in the third week of March and swallows and chiffchaffs before the end of the month. Swallows seem to be in no hurry to nest and although they may be in the vicinity of their nesting site it is sometimes weeks before they build and lay eggs. Presumably they are waiting until there is sufficient food on which to raise their young.

As one goes around the country one sees more and more plantations of deciduous trees being felled and replaced by conifers. It is a pity that economics dictate this trend because coniferous trees, besides lacking the beauty of the oak and beech, impoverish the soil, may affect rainfall and change the flora and fauna of the locality.

BERE REGIS Y.P.C.

The Young People's Club wish to thank all the people who contributed towards their Jumble Sale. The Sale was a great success as present funds were more than doubled. £22.12.9d. being raised.

BERE REGIS

REMEMBRANCE LILIES FOR EASTER

Given by :	In Memory of:
Mrs. C. Stickley	Cecil Richard Victor Stickley (Husband)
Mrs. K. Woolfries	John and Florence Mary Joyce (Parents)
	Lewis Joyce (Brother)
Mrs. Deakin and Mr. and	(Mr. C.H. Deakin, Mr. Philip Jesty
Mrs. John Jesty	(Mr. Fred Jesty.
W. Standfield	Wife
F. Standfield	Mother
K. Standfield	Mother
P. Standfield	Mother
Mr. A. Barnes	Richard and Jane Barnes
Mr. M. Barnes	Richard and Jane Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Garton	Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Garton
Mrs. C. Toms	Son
Mrs. F. Hawkins	Mother
Mrs. W. Legg	Father
Mrs. Batt	Fred Batt
Mrs. J. Snook	Cecil Richard Victor Stickley (Father)
Mr. E. Snook	Hilda Kate Snook (Mother)
Mr. C. Snook	Hilda Kate Snook (Wife)
Mr. R. Barnes	William Barnes (Father)
Mrs. R. Barnes	John Pitfield (Father)
Mrs. R. Barnes	Kate Pitfield (Mother)
Mrs. R. Joyce	Mr. and Mrs. T. Brown.
Mrs. Terry	Mother and Father
	Uncle and Aunt
The Vicar and Mrs. Tranter	Adrian Tranter
J.A. Drew	Amy and James Pattison Brown
K.M. Clarke	W.J. and M.K. Clarke
M. Roffey	Richard Roffey
	Maureen Heycock
J.D. Talbot	Basil Talbot
Mrs. R. Poore	Thomas, Fanny, Petty and Edith
Mr. R. Poore	William and Amelia Poore, and Elsie
M. Llewellin	William Wigan Llewellin
	John Jestyn Llewellin
F. Marsh	Frank Hewitt
H. Rawbone	Percy Battrick
E. Rawbone	Margaret Rawbone
Mrs. Smith and Family	Francis Charles Smith
	Edwin Pollard.

Mrs. Harding	-
Mrs. Osmond	George Osmond
Mr. and Mrs. Davis	John (Son)
E. and A. Lys	George and Nora Lys
Mrs. F. Hewitt	Husband
P. Mintern	Father
Mrs. P. Mintern	Father
A.W. Hewitt	Dorcas Ida (wife) Cynthia (Daughter)
T. Woolfries	Sister
A.M. Stickland	Mother
A.L. Prince	Father
W.R. Goldie	Mother and Father
Mrs. M.J. Jesty	For Mother. Mrs. Allen.
Mrs. W. Percy	Roger William (Son)
Miss McFall	Albert William McFall, Annie McFall,
	Vera Anne Eileen Hoult
	Ellen Mary McDonald.
Mrs. Collison	Mrs. Hoare
Mr. Hoare	My wife

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The Bere Regis Floral Group will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday, May 14th at 2.30 p.m. in the Drax Hall.

The speaker will be Mrs. Inglis, who will be demonstrating "Small Arrangements" suitable for use within our own homes.

Mrs. Inglis will be remembered for her two delightful arrangements at the rood screen at last Summer's Flower Festival. She has also won many prizes at Poole and district shows, & very recently helped the Parkstone Group with their prize-winning entry in the Group Competition at the Dorset Spring Flower Show at Dorchester.

Please therefore make a special effort to come on May 14th, and be assured of a most enjoyable and rewarding afternoon.

P. Lloyd. Hon. Asst. Sec.

BERE REGIS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We meet again on Tuesday May 21st at 7 p.m. to hear Mrs. Trethewey talking about 'Listening to Music'. The competition is for a head dress made from kitchen utensils!

All new members and visitors are very welcome.

Hostesses for May are Mrs. Griffen, Jnr., Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Beasley, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Wyatt.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

WHEN? SATURDAY - 15th JUNE

WHERE? IN THE GARDEN OF THE OLD PARSONAGE, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor.

WHY? To aid the Church Restoration Fund.

PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE.

We hope to meet old friends and to make new ones on this occasion.

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

REMEMBRANCE LILIES FOR EASTER

Given By:	In Memory of:
Mr. D. Bentley	Amelia Frances Bentley
Mrs. D. Bentley	Jessie Kime
Martin Bentley	Elsa Inwood
Mrs. E. Legg	Ernest Reginald Legg
Mrs. G. Thrush	Alexander Moody (Uncle)
Mrs. T. Murray	Herbert and Edith Parker
Mrs. E. Vincent	Herbert and Edith Legg
Mrs. M. Rolls	Herbert and Edith Legg
Miss N. Lee-Jones	Harry and Mabel Lee-Jones and Francis.
Mrs. E. Painter	My dear husband
Mrs. E. Wellstead	Richard (brother)
Mr. and Mrs. J. Terry and Roland and Julia	Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Miller.
Mrs. A. Legg	Mr. and Mrs. Calder.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

It was nice to see 30 parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting held in March. We were particularly fortunate in having Mr. D.W. Keen, Chairman of the Blandford Rural District Housing Committee, with us on this occasion, as he was able to give first hand information about Housing in the area.

Thanks were expressed to those who maintained supplies of food and other necessary services during the very severe weather at the

beginning of the year.

It was reported that the Village Hall Account now stands at £1,040. 11. 8d.

E. M. Sheppard,
Clerk to the Council.

MOTHERS' UNION
WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON BRANCH

Owing to the Diocesan Festival Service at Salisbury Cathedral being held on May 9th, our usual meeting on Wednesday May 8th will not now take place. Mrs. Gooch will be coming at a later date.

P.J.T.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS. LIVES OF THE LESSER SAINTS.

MAY.

SAINT DUNSTAN

In the March issue of the magazine I referred to Archbishop Dunstan of Canterbury, and it is about Saint Dunstan of whom we think especially on the 19th May.

He was born about 914 in the Somerset village of Baltonsborough: which is not far from Glastonbury and the real greatness of Glastonbury Abbey began with S. Dunstan about 1,000 years ago. He rose to be Primate of England at a time when the Church ruled the State and he became the most powerful man of his day.

When a boy, he lived at the Court of King Athlestan, but he really enjoyed solitude, poring over books. He loved music and in fact carried a harp about with him. He was also a painter and a worker in silver and gold.

It was during an illness that he decided to follow the monastic way of life - so we think of him first as a monk; then at the age of 28 after Edmund had become King he appointed S. Dunstan as Abbot of Glastonbury, where he did much to enlarge the monastic buildings.

There were changes on the throne of England and at one time S. Dunstant had to seek refuge in a monastery in Flanders. It was King Edgar who recalled him to this country and appointed him as Bishop first of Worcester then of London. In the year 960 he became Archbishop of Canterbury and it was with the King that he undertook a thorough reform of both Church and State.

After the death of King Edgar in 975 S. Dunstan played a less prominent part in the affairs of State, His life after this was one of teaching, studying and encouraging charity among the people and he devoted much of his attention to the spiritual needs of his diocese. He died on 19th May 988 and was buried in his Cathedral Church at Canterbury.

Saint Dunstan was a truly English Saint, whose pastoral duties took him along our lovely English lanes.

I have been in correspondence with St. Dunstan's, the great Society which aids men and women blinded on war service, and they tell me that St. Dunstan's has no direct connection with St. Dunstan. There is, however, a Church dedicated to St. Dunstan in Fleet Street, London, which has a famous clock on which there are two life sized figures carved in wood which strike the quarter hours with their clubs. It was in 1830, the then Marquess of Hertford bought this clock, and set it up in a house he had bought in Regents Park. From the clock the house came to be called St. Dunstan's Lodge and many years later, the house was put at the disposal of the late Sir Arthur Pearson for his new organisation for war-blinded soldiers. This was in 1915 and of course, very soon the new organisation became known as St. Dunstan's, after the house. After St. Dunstan's had left this particular house, the clock was restored to its original home, the Church of St. Dunstan.

St. Dunstan the Patron Saint of Goldsmiths, is known to have instructed his monks to teach the handicapped crafts by which they could earn their living, and this wonderful Society likes to think that their work of training the war-blinded to live as nearly normal lives as possible, and earning their own living, would be looked upon with favour by St. Dunstan himself - as I am sure it would have been. I am indeed grateful to the Appeals and Publicity Assistant Officer for his help in giving me this information, which I am sure will be of interest to all our readers.

E.M.S.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM

April 14th.	Alison Jane Collis.
April 14th.	Andrew Paul Wallis.

WEDDINGS

March 2nd.	Michael Paul Chaldicott - Sylvia Joan Cheeseman.
March 28th.	Leo Mowbray Harrison - Pamela Eva Hyde
March 30th.	Gordon Alfred Smith - Marion Betty Clara Morgan

"SMALL ADS"

(2/6 for every three lines)

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