New type. Vol. 4. No. 6. May 1965.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

Owing to lack of space this month I must restrict myself to a short letter.

I am sure you will all be pleased to know that thanks to the efforts of Miss Llewellin and several generous friends of this parish the very beautiful brochure that was produced in the launching of the 'Friends of Bere Regis Church' scheme has cost the Church absolutely nothing - even the postage bill has been met without calling on Church funds in any way. This is really quite splendid and I am, as I am sure you are also most grateful.

I am also most grateful to Brigadier and Mrs. Tadman for the gift to the Church of three beautiful stoles - one green, one red, and one white for festivals. These have been given in memory of Miss Joyce Tadman. They are in the course of being made, and if they are ready in time I hope to dedicate them at the 8 a.m. Celebration at Whitsun.

Many thanks to all those who helped to make our Churches so beautiful for Easter - the Queen of Festivals.

I should also like to say how grateful Mrs. Tranter and I are for the most generous Easter offering you so kindly gave us at Eastertide. We appreciate it greatly.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

THE EASTER LILY LISTS WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR MAY

May 2nd.	11.00 a.m.	Brigadier D. Tadman.	Col. A. Barne.
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. L. Bartlett	J. House.
9th.	11.00 a.m.	Mr. W.F. Lys	Lt. C. Maunder
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. M. Barne	P. Wyatt
16th.	11.00 a.m.	Mr. F. Marsh	Brigadier D. Tadman
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. D. Poore	H. Pitfield.
23rd.	11.00 a.m.	Messrs. R. Smith	W. F. Lys
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. R. Barnes	P. Mintern
30th.	11.00 a.m.	Lt. C. Maunder	Brigadier D. Tadman
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. P. Wyatt	L. Bartlett.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

May 29th.	Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party at the Old Parsonage.
June 12th.	Congregational Church Garden Fete at the Cedars.
June 26th.	Bere Regis Church Garden Party at Summerrods.
July 3rd.	Skittles A.O.F. Championship. S.W.D.
July 10th.	Bere Regis Carnival.
July 21st.	British Legion Garden Fete 3 p.m. White Lovington.

N.B. It was found impossible to alter the date of the Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party so it has been fixed for the original date, May 29th

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SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

May 2nd.	Mrs. J. Applin	Mrs. Woolfries.
May 9th.	Miss Smith	Miss McFall
May 16th.	Mrs. Roffey	Mrs. R.Barnes
May 23rd.	Miss A. Lys	Miss E. Lys
May 30th.	Miss Llewellin	Mrs. Higgins

There will be a meeting of the Sanctuary Flower Guild in the Vicarage on Thursday June 10th at 3 o'clock. It is hoped all Members will attend, and any new Members will be welcomed.

C.T.T.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

Owing to the Archdeaconry Festival Service at Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday May 13th, there will be no local Branch meeting this month, as this important Service will take the place of the usual meeting.

CONTRIBUTED BY A LOCAL SCHOOL BOY

APRIL AND EASTER

I was born in April and love it best of all the months. The month which shouts with confidence, which fills the air with the fragrant new-mown grass and sends the startled blackbird protesting over the hedge. The Missel-bird has built her nest in the fork of the apple-tree, the chaffinch ripples sweetly down the scale among the budding trees. The aubretia droops blue down the old wall, daffodils lift their yellow heads and throw back their white collars in the wind. A cluster of early blue-bells on the bank peep coyly above the long grass, timid, uncertain whether to shrink back again in fear of being the first risers to a new world

Easter Sunday brings the world to a joyous occasion! People flock to the Church to accept the resurrection after the long sad nights. In the

sunlit church, there is a profusion of floral colours. The Vicar is happy and alert, the choirboys far away on the concert of fun and Easter eggs. An anthem is sung "This Merry Easter anthem" the organ flares up, the choirboys begin to sing, with much urging and pushing from the Vicar.

Families celebrate in the garden. Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan have been invited for the afternoon. They all peer into the hedge. There is nothing. Mother grins at the 'blind' searchers. But Madge, the cunning hound, has his share. He scents the chocolate egg nestling in the grass and takes it, tail swinging behind, pleased. Mr. Sheridan is looking. Something yellow has caught his eye that does not blend with its surroundings, high up in a hole of a plum tree. When all the eggs have been found, they must take up their coats and go inside.

W.H.

BERE REGIS EVENING INSTITUTE

Summer Term Woodwork Classes begin on Thursday, 6th May.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 47

THE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS 1607-1740.

Having now dealt with the churchwardens' sources of income, we come now to the items of expenditure which were (and ever shall be) the more numerous.

As mentioned before, the churchwardens were responsible for keeping down vermin and other pests in the parish, and they achieved this by paying a certain sum for the heads of various specified animals presented to them. These amounts were as follows:- foxes, otters and badgers (sometimes called "grays") - 1s. 0d. per head, polecats 4d., stoats and hedgehogs 2d. and sparrows 2d. per dozen.

The first such item occurs in 1612, when one fox head was paid for. The numbers then gradually increase year by year, until taking the two year period of 1719 and 1720 as an example, there were 33 foxes, 7 otters, 6 badgers, 68 polecats, 21 stoats, 40 hedgehogs and 336 dozen (4,032) sparrows, in addition to a few which are not specified, making a total of £7. 8s. 2d. expended on the destruction of vermin. Even more was spent in the two year period 1729 and 1730; it cost £8. 17s. 0d. to destroy 23 foxes, 1 otter, 5 badgers, 82 polecats, 61 stoats, 82 hedgehogs and 524 dozen (6,288) sparrows! It is not surprising that this practice was discontinued in 1734, as such sums, which were large by 18th century standards, must have been a heavy burden on parish finances. It seems that Thomas Gould, one of the churchwardens in 1736 had been unaware of the new ruling for he paid out on :-

"9 dozen of sparrows heads.....1s 6d." and this note appears at the end of the account :-

"It was some time past agreed to pay for no sparrow heads or other vermins but Mr. Gould not knowing of yt agreemt pd for 9 Doz. & therefore it was allow'd of by ye Vestry".

From about 1700 to 1734 payments for vermins heads were at their peak, and as can be imagined, there are a great number of such items in the accounts. These items are of no particular interest in themselves, but they are of interest to genealogists, as in almost every case the name of the person receiving the payment is mentioned. To illustrate this, here are a few of such items for 1703 :-

"pd. Vine Stanley for a foxhead	1s.	0d.
pd. for a badgers heade to Robt Sexey	1s.	0d.
pd. Thomas Trew for 6 doz. of Sparrows heads.....	1s.	0d.
pd. George Battrick for a pollcatts heade	-.	4d.
pd. William Hellyars boy for a Pollcats head	-.	4d.
pd. Tho. Trew for 5 dozen. Sparrows heads	-.	10d.
pd. Thomas Applin for 2 doz. Sparrows heads	-.	4d.

There are 40 other similar items for this year alone, and each one gives the name of the recipient, as the above extracts. Due to some of the odd ways of spelling the word "dozen", one item for sparrows heads in 1715 looks rather amusing:-

"Aplins Boy and a nother Boy six dozing sparrows..... 1s. 0d.

(to be continued) F.P.P.

THE BERE REGIS 'DIG'

The archaeological "dig" on the Roman farmstead site on Bere Down near Bagwood Coppice is being continued again this summer between 7th and 28th August for one more season. Finds last year particularly from the well on the site, which was excavated to a depth of 70 feet, enabled us to state confidently that the inhabitants practised a mixed farming economy for a continuous period from about 80 AD to 350.

As the Portland Borstal Institution will not be participating this year, I should like to open up the dig much more as a local venture, and would very much welcome anyone who is interested in joining us in digging on the site, whether it be with pick, shovel or trowel. Previous experience is not at all necessary, and help for even a short time would be appreciated.

May I also ask if anyone would be prepared to accommodate two boys (aged between 16 and 20) on a bed-and-breakfast basis during this period, so that our visiting diggers can stay in the village ?

If anyone is able to be of assistance in either of these ways, I should

be grateful if they would write to me at -- "Fieldfare", Tidcombe Lane, Tiverton, Devon.

G.S.G. Toms.

RAMBLINGS

Foreigners always say that the British never seem to have any topic of conversation except the weather. This may be true, but perhaps we are more aware and appreciative of the effects of weather than people of other countries.

How could anyone ignore that beautiful weather we have had in the last week of March and this first week of April. Maybe we are also a little apprehensive that later in the year the Weatherman may say "well you've had your ration of sunshine" and present us with one of those rare, cold, wet summers.

On the third of April a swallow arrived and sat on the telephone wire against the house. By the way he knew his way around I have no doubt that eight or nine months ago he sat in that same place, resting after his first exciting flight from the West. Since then he has flown down to South Africa and back here - Twelve thousand two hundred and forty miles. I find considerable difficulty despite our expensive education and modern navigational instruments, in crossing the channel in my boat; yet this small bird with a brain smaller than a dried pea goes down to the southern hemisphere and returns to the same garden and garage where he was hatched nearly a year previously.

The swallow of course is a fast, tireless flier spending the whole day on the wing, but the little Wheatear, that white rumped bird now arriving on the Heath and on the Downs and any other of the fast disappearing open spaces of England, flits from hummock to hummock, ten or twenty yards in a flight; and yet those that breed up in Finland also winter in South Africa, so apart from their flying to and fro nest building and feeding their young, in twelve months they fly no less than sixteen thousand miles.

Nobody in Bere Regis except perhaps Tommy Marsh on his vast milk round, and Doctor Benjafield in the course of his travels, is likely to do anything like that mileage in a car in one year; yet this small bird with little appearance of being a long distance flier achieves regularly what man has only lately discovered a means of achieving.

We may gasp with wonder at the Russian and American Astronauts, but close by us in Nature there are many more amazing feats.

By the way the name Wheatear comes direct from the Celtic tongue - maybe two or more thousand years ago.

The white rump being so conspicuous the ancient people called it white arse and wheat-ear is closely connected and derived from the old name.

So next time you see a wheatear, and when the swallows and martins appear just give a thought to their wonderful capabilities. You might even make a variation in your conversation.

A.M.B.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A most enjoyable party was held on March 16th attended by members and friends and a number of members of other Institutes. Entertainment was provided by members. The next meeting will be held on May 18th.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The Demonstration on May 11th is named "Fun with Flowers". This is being given by Mrs. Pink (Wimborne Group) who is a delight to watch. Her colour harmony, and the charm of her arrangements are not to be missed, so remember to come.

The Programme for June 8th reads "Outing". We have been invited by our President, Mrs. Barne, to visit Culeaze on that day when, it is hoped, the garden will be at its best. Tea will be served during the afternoon, and for this a charge of 2/- will be made which will be put into a fund to help with flowers when the Group decorate the Church next year.

There will be a Bring and Buy and Plant Stall. There will not be another until the Autumn, so please bring something - anything. (The April Stall was well supported and made £1. 5. 0d. which helps our funds). Wet, or fine, we meet at Culeaze in June.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

Owing to the Archdeaconry Festival Service at Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday May 13th, there will be no local Branch meeting this month as this important Service will take the place of the usual meeting.

W INTERBOURNE KINGSTON

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY at THE OLD PARSONAGE

(by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jones)

ON SATURDAY, 29th MAY, , TO BE OPENED at 3.0 p.m.

VARIOUS STALLS. MANY ATTRACTIONS. TEAS.

SKITTLING Friday 28th May from 7.0 p.m. continuing Saturday.

PRIZES - INCLUDING LADIES PRIZE - AND ONE FOR HIGHEST SCORE ON FRIDAY.

STALLHOLDERS WILL BE GLAD TO RECEIVE GIFTS OF ANY KIND.

COME AND JOIN US IN THIS DELIGHTFUL GARDEN

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

OUR PRAYER BOOK

During the last two months we have been thinking about Thomas Cranmer and Miles Coverdale, two great personalities connected with the Prayer Book. Now, we are going to consider more of the history of "The Book of Common Prayer."

Following the first and second Prayer Books of Evward VI, 1549 and 1552 very slight alterations were made during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, in fact the Elizabethan Prayer Book of 1559 was almost the same as the Second Prayer Book of 1552, except for a few, but nevertheless important, changes.

When James VI of Scotland became James I of England, the Puritans petitioned him for a revision. A conference was called, known as the Hampton Court Conference, but the Prayer Book of King James I 1603/4 differed very little from its predecessor. However, the main outcome of this Conference was the decision to make a new translation of the Bible, which produced the Authorised Version of 1611.

After the execution of Charles I in 1649 came the Great Rebellion, when the Puritans triumphed and the use of the Prayer Book, even in private, was made a crime. When, however, Charles II was restored to the throne in 1660, it was again thought necessary to make a revision of the Prayer Book, and a number of minor changes were made, including some new collects. The new Prayer Book received Royal Assent on May 19th, 1662 - 303 years ago this month - and this is the actual Prayer Book we use today, although of course a great deal of its contents date back to well over 400 years. Its full title is a very long one - and even this does not tell you all that is in the Prayer Book.

> "The Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the Use of the Church of England, together with the Psalter or Psalms of David, pointed as they are to be sung or said in Churches; and the Form or Manner of Making, Ordaining, and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons."

You can find this on the Title-page of your Prayer Book - do read it for yourself.

The first words of the Title, "The Book of Common Prayer" means it is the book which we use when we say our prayers in Common or in Public, but we can use it also when we say our prayers privately in our own home or elsewhere. "The Book of Common Prayer" means as well, that it is a book of worship which everybody uses; Christians all over the world use it; and you will realise this more fully when you know that the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has provided the Prayer Book in whole or in part, in two hundred languages and dialects for the Church overseas.

How we should value and treasure such a Book.

E.M.S.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM

March 28th Paula Phillips

BURIAL

April 1st. Dorothy Amy Drake, 74 years.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON

HOLY MATRIMONY

April 3rd. Roy Percival Way and Carol Ann Parsons.

' SMALL ADS '

(2/6 every three lines)

FOUR BERTH CARAVAN TO LET ON SITE OVERLOOKING SEA, OR TOURER FOR SELF-TOW. APPLY RYEMOUNT, RYE HILL BERE REGIS.