THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

This year those attending the Open Air Service on Bulbarrow came from a much wider area than last year and some 2000 - 3000 people gathered together for the Service, in spite of an evening of thick mist. The weather was certainly better than that of last year, but was still very bad. The Bishop, when giving his Sermon appeared as a kind of spectral figure in the distance, and could only just be distinguished in the clouds of mist as he spoke to the crowd.

I rather gather that men suffered more than women on this occasion for those who were bareheaded the moisture condensed on their hair and ran down in between neck and collar in rivers ! I hesitate to say that a 'good time was had by all' but it was inspiring in its own way and all got away on this occasion without having to be pulled out of the mud. Unfortunately, for one reason and another, not so many went from this parish as last year - but I hope that on the next occasion perhaps we shall do better.

Please note the arrangements for the Harvest Festival listed on a later page. I am sorry the Supper has had to be moved from its usual date, but it just could not be helped.

I know you will wish me on your behalf to send our warm sympathy to Mrs. Day and her family on the death of Mr. Day at the comparatively early age of 67. Mr. Day had spent much of his life abroad and it was this that caused much of the ill health from which he later died.

There have been quite a number of people in hospital both from Bere Regis and Winterbourne Kingston and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

We have also had quite a spate of new babies in the parish recently, three of them belonging to our own new Church families and we warmly congratulate the Broxhams, the Camdens and the Englands on the safe arrival of their respective babies. May they be a great joy and blessing to their parents.

You may be interested to know that the Memorial Chapel which is being furnished in St. Nicholas Church in memory of Mrs. Sheppard is taking shape. We have had a number of gifts to help adorn it, and hope that it will not be too long before it is ready. I will not mention those who have made or given gifts at the moment but say

'thank you' at a later date when the Chapel is complete.

I am most grateful to Brigadier Lipscomb for his generosity in paying for a new rope to be fitted to the flag pole at St. Nicholas, to replace the rope which was shot through when we were trying to get rid of the pigeons which were fouling the tower and bell chamber !

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Sept. 3rd.	Mrs. Wyatt	Mrs. Janes
Sept. 10th.	Mrs. Roffey	Mrs. R. Barnes
Sept. 17th.	Mrs. Woolfries	Mrs. Applin
Sept. 24th.	Mrs. Lys	Mrs. Benjafield.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3rd	10.	Brig. D. Tadman	&	Mr. F. Lys
	6.	Messrs. D. Poore	&	P. Wyatt
10th	11.	Messrs. K. Woolfries	&	I. Mullins
	6.	Messrs. M. Barnes	&	J. House
17th.	11.	Messrs. A. Harding	&	S. Borton
	6.	Messrs. R. Barnes	&	L. Bartlett
24th.	11.	Mr. M. Lys	&	Brig. D. Tadman
	6.	Messrs. J. House	&	D. Poore
Oct. 1st.	10.	Messrs. F. Lys	&	K. Woolfries
	6.	Messrs. P. Wyatt	&	M. Barnes

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Sept. 3rd.	Sun.	10. Family Communion
10th.	Sun.	3 p.m. Family Service
11th.	Mon.	7.30 Parochial Church Council, Vicarage.
13th.	Wed.	Mothers' Union Meeting for Winterbourne Kingston Branch. 7.30 at 'Crofters'.
15th.	Sat.	Visiting ringers will ring at Winterbourne Kingston 9.15 - 10.15. Bere Regis 2.30 - 3.
22nd.	Fri.	8 a.m. Holy Communion for the Bere Regis Deanery Clergy Chapter. Parishioners warmly welcomed.
25th.	Mon.	7.30. Ruri Decanal Conference, Puddletown Village Hall. All welcome.

Sept.	29th.	Fri.	Michaelmas. 9.30 Holy Communion
Oct.	1st.	Sun.	Harvest Festival
	3rd.	Tues.	7 p.m. Harvest Supper. Drax Hall
	23rd.	Mon.	3.15. School Managers' Meeting
Nov.	8th.		Poppy Day Whist Drive. 7.30 Drax Hall (Wed)
	12th.	Sun.	Remembrance Sunday. Service at War Memorial 10.45.
	16th.	Thurs.	Bishop of Salisbury's visit to the Bere Regis Deanery commences.
Dec.	17th.	Sun.	6 p.m. Annual Carol Service of the Nine Lessons by Candlelight.
1968			
June	3rd.	Sat.	Winterbourne Kingston Garden Party
June	29th.	Sat.	Bere Regis Garden Party

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The first meeting of the Autumn Session will take place at the Vicarage. Thursday September 14th 7.30 p.m. As this is election year we shall not have our usual garden meeting, but the election of Committee and officials will be held at this meeting. I do hope you will all make a point of coming and giving us your help.

SIDESMEN'S QUARTERLY MEETING

8 p.m. Tuesday September 12th at the Vicarage. Will Sidesmen please note the alteration in day and date which is necessitated by the large number of events taking place for the Vicar in the evenings of that week.

Will ALL Sidesmen please make a real effort to attend.

HARVEST ARRANGEMENTS

HARVEST SUPPER

Tuesday October 3rd. 7 p.m. in the Drax Hall. We have had to move from our usual date owing to the Hall being already booked for other events. Tickets obtainable from Churchwarden Smith or Church Councillors. Bring your own knife, fork and spoon. Entertainment after supper.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Family Communion
2.30 p.m. Children bring their gifts
6.00 p.m. Special Harvest Service

Decoration for the Harvest Festival will take place on Saturday September 30th. Gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables etc., will be warmly welcomed for this lovely Festival.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

Members will be sorry to learn that Lady Killick cannot be with us on 12th September owing to illness. Mrs. Carnegie-Brown has been invited to come in her place, and will take the same theme - Autumn Beauty - for her demonstration. It is hoped that all members will attend

M.A.

BERE REGIS EVENING INSTITUTE

Woodwork classes begin on Thursday 21st September 7 p.m. Enrolment on first night.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 75

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (continued)

In the early days after 1662 it is not known where meetings were held, except that the private houses of members were used, and that in 1672 licences were necessary. On 10th July 1711, a house called Leckyers (or Lockyers) was licensed, and the house of Mary Batrix, (or Battrick) widow, was licensed on 10 January 1721. This latter house may have been the meeting house in Blind Street which continued in use until 1820, when it reverted to a normal dwelling house.

In 1813 a dispute of some sort arose and a section of the congregation separated and built its own chapel on the site of the present Drax Hall which was opened on 9 July 1813. Seven years later, on 17 July 1820, the two sections were re-united, when the Blind Street Meeting House was given up, and the new combined congregation met in the new chapel. This chapel seems to have been rebuilt in 1829.

In 1869 the possibility of building a new chapel was considered, but it was not possible to buy a site in the village. Eventually, in 1871, the only freehold site in the village, in Butt Lane, was purchased from a Wareham tradesman by Mr. George James Wood of Athelhampton Hall, and on which a schoolroom was built at a cost of £400. Before 1893 it seems that this building was used for a variety of purposes, including Sunday school, parish reading room and part time police station.

As the leasehold of the Drax Hall chapel was held on a life tenure basis, the lease expired in 1872 on the death of the last life tenant, After long negotiations the lease was renewed at £5 per annum, and £35 was spent on putting the building into good repair. Many members, however, felt that as the leasehold was so insecure, a new arrangement should be made, and accordingly the Butt Lane schoolroom was converted into a chapel at a cost of £255, and opened on 9 February 1893. The manse had been built on the same site in 1877 at a cost of £400, and financed by Mr. J.H. Mundell who lived near Bournemouth, but who spent most Sundays at Bere Regis as superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1894 the North Street chapel was converted into a village hall, which later became known as the Drax Hall.

In about 1770 it was said that ... "The number of hearers in the forenoon does not exceed 50 on an average, and in the afternoon from 120 to 140, though some suppose they must be near 200 ".

Mrs. Barbara Skinner of London, who died in December 1769, left £500 in her Will, to be invested for the benefit of the Minister's stipend, and £200 to be distributed among the "dissenting poor".

The Communion cup bears the inscription .. "The gift of John King to the Communicant Dissenters of Bere Regis, 1802."

In 1921, when both the Bere Regis and Puddletown chapels were without a minister, the two were combined under the new minister, and this arrangement still continues. In 1930 a vestry was added at the north end of the chapel.

F.P.P.

CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATION

I am writing to you at the request of Major J.C. Mansel, the Chairman of the local Civil Defence Committee, to ask if you can assist in the selection of one or two responsible people in your parish to help in your local Civil Defence organisation.

The events of the last months have shewn how quickly or unexpectedly a state of emergency can arise; and the Chairman feels, even at short notice and with no trained personnel in our villages, we would be in a much better position to help the civilian population to protect themselves, if we had the names and addresses of two or three local responsible persons who would be willing, in case of emergency only, to take charge of, or even just to assist with, the organisation of local efforts.

Some villages have responded well to an earlier recruitment appeal, and others not so well.

Major Mansel would be most grateful if your readers would give this problem very serious thought; and then try to assist us and your village in the manner suggested.

Yours sincerely,
C.F.J. Durant-Lewis
District Controller.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

I do trust that all those who are at all concerned with the continuation of the Winterbourne Kingston Branch of the Mothers' Union will make an effort to attend the important and special meeting called for Wednesday September 13th. 7.30 p.m. at Mrs. Murray's house, when the whole future of the Branch will be discussed.

There are many matters to be discussed and in order to reach fair and right decisions it is essential that all those who are interested should be present to take part in the deliberations.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

MUSIC and WORSHIP

It was Archbishop Theodore, who came to England in the year 669 who introduced Church music in our own land. I am wanting to pick up this golden thread from where we left off last month, and to think more about MUSIC and WORSHIP.

The development of music was almost entirely in the hands of the Church, and when it was first used in the services of the Church it was the monks who sang the sacred tunes, which means of course that all the tunes were written for men's voices: after a while, however harmony was invented.

Choir-schools were started where young men and boys could have their voices trained and could study Latin, the langugage in which the service books of those days were written. It was usual for these choir-schools to be attached to monasteries, where each day seven short services were held, practically the whole of each service being chanted.

In some old churches we find curious hinged seats, which when turned up provided a little ledge upon which the singer could lean back when tired. These choir stalls are known as 'misericords'. Underneath the little ledge can often be found carvings showing quaint figures, country scenes and incidents of everyday life - it seems as though the woodcarvers were able to use their imagination as freely as they desired and the results are often interesting and most amusing. I have recently seen some excellent examples in a Church in Gloucestershire - that of St. Mary, Fairford.

When, however, the English Prayer Book was published in 1549 it contained only two daily services instead of seven, for it was Archbishop Cranmer who felt that the services needed to be made fewer But there are still choir-schools today attached to the Cathedrals of our land, and not least among these is the one in our own diocese, at Salisbury.

Organs at first of a very simple and primitive kind, were introduced into England about the year A.D. 700. Some three hundred years later a monk named Wulfstan wrote a poem describing the organ at Winchester Cathedral. It had 400 pipes but it also required seventy strong men to blow it. It was played not by striking the notes on a keyboard as on a modern organ, but by opening and closing the pipes by means of little shutters, pulled in and out. It was about the year 1200 that organs with keyboards were invented. What a contrast between the organ at Winchester built about the year 1000 and the one recently built at Coventry Cathedral, almost 1000 years later, which has 4,062 speaking pipes.

By the 13th century many of the large parish Churches had an organ and a number of smaller Churches had one by the 15th century. At the time of the Puritans there was a campaign against the use of organs and from the late 17th century to the middle of the 19th century village orchestras supplied music in our Churches, violins, flutes, 'cellos, clarinets and trombones, and even barrel organs, were used to lead the singing. The musicians occupied a gallery at the west end of the Church and these galleries can be seen in some of our Churches today, for instance there is one at Puddletown - there was one in our Church of St. Nicholas, but most unfortunately at the time of the Victorian restoration the gallery disappeared. The galleries were also used by the choirs and during the singing of the hymns those in the congregation would turn round and face the west gallery. Organs were sometimes placed in these galleries in the 18th century, when the organ began to come once more into use.

Let us not forget that the sound of music is around us all the time, in the sighing of leaves, the song of birds, the humming of bees, the roar of the mighty ocean, the rushing of the wind; for it was in these sounds that music had its origin - from the dawn of Nature.

Saint Paul and Silas when they were in prison in Philippi, while their feet were fast in the stocks, at midnight prayed and sang praises unto God. Music has always been a part of Life and a part of Worship down through the ages. Psalm 100 offers us a challenge to "Serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence with a song."

E.M.S.

BASIC

There is a good deal of talk today of bringing the Prayer Book and the Bible up to date. So that they can be read in ordinary basic English and can be easily understood. In fact there will soon be available a complete new Series of revisions of the Prayer Book with

this in mind. But the Prayer Book language is child language compared to some of the English found in Government publications and legal documents. When shall we have an end to unintelligibility.

In one of his priceless Hertfordshire monologues, Bernard Miles says: "Oi 'ad a toidy good eddiky-shun. Oi could read when Oi was 'ighteen. On'y, o' course, not to understand it." What would his farm labourer have made of this ?

"Collectivization and individuation (not autonomous, but personal) are not two contradictory movements. The whole difficulty is to regulate the phenomenon in such a way that human totalisation is carried out, not under the influence of an external mechanising compression, but through inner harmonisation and sympathy."

The tragic thing is that this assertion is not only true, but is also of vital concern to the farm labourer and the plumber's mate.

Why couldn't these chaps have it in "language understanded of the people"? One doesn't have to be a devotee of Basic English to feel that it might well have been used to inform the common man about his basic rights.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

BERE REGIS

HOLY BAPTISM

July 23rd. Darren Phillips.

HOLY MATRIMONY

July 29th. Stuart John Daniel and Frances Jane Wyatt.

BURIAL

July 27th. Edward Charles Day. 67 years.

SMALL ADS

(2/6d for every three lines)