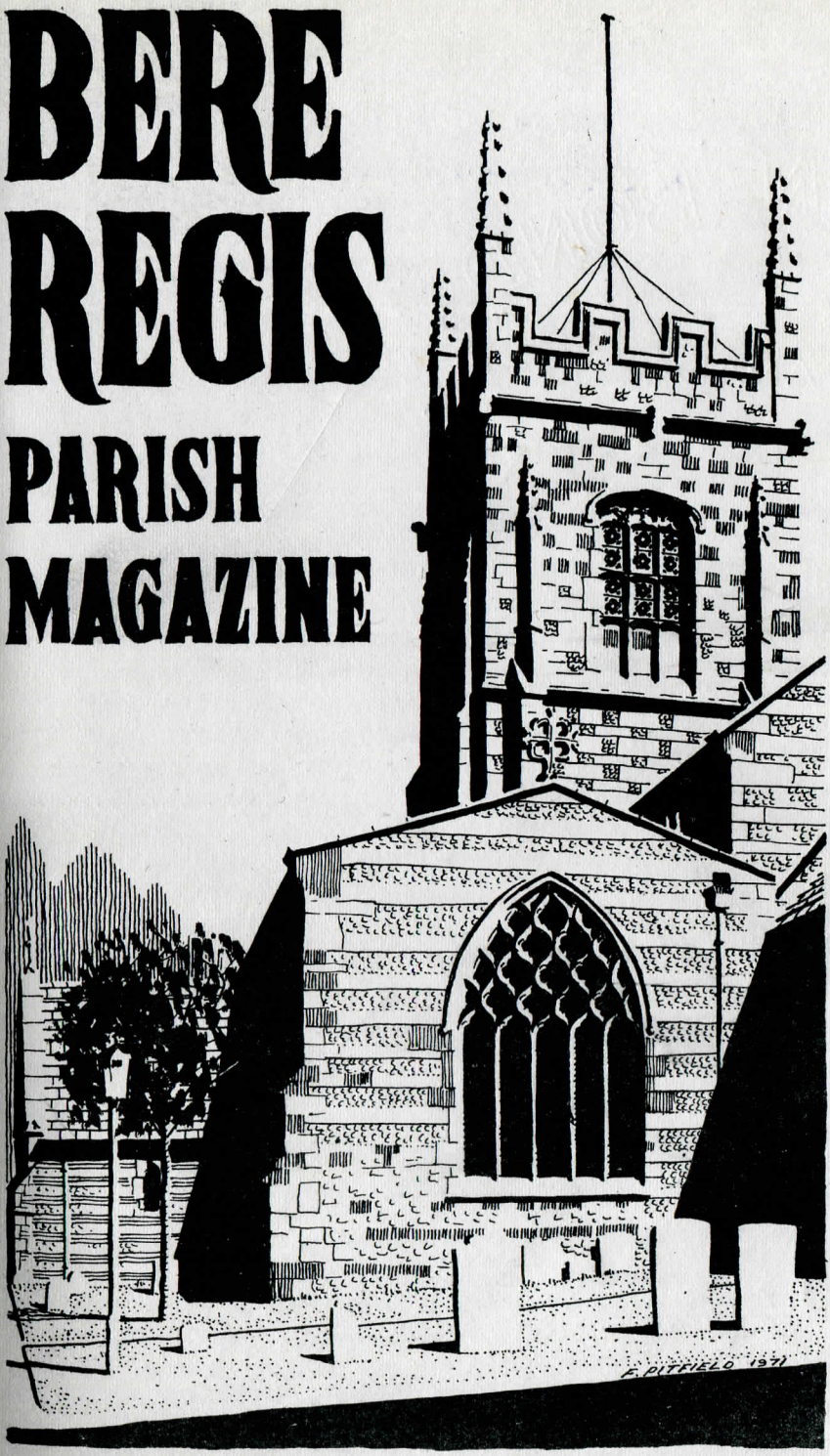
BERE REGIS

PARISH MAGAZINE



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THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

Up to the moment of writing this has proved a terribly sad month for a great many people. I do not know when I have had to record so many deaths, and some of them at a comparatively early age. First of all Mr. Jack Hewitt, who was only 55 years of age and he was followed only a few weeks later by his sister Mrs. Brown of Egdon Close.

Then I have to record the death of Mr. H. Carter-Jonas of Hyde Woods, after a very long and trying illness, most patiently borne. He was a most generous supporter of the Church up to the time of his illness: was a member of the Parochial Church Council for some time when his advice and wisdom was always greatly appreciated. This was followed by the sudden death of Mrs. G. Phillips of North Street. She was at the Harvest Supper a few days before her death and though she had not been well and had had a spell in hospital, her death came as a great shock to all of us.

And now there has come the death of Mrs. James, a person so well known to all the village. She had been in failing health for some time, but the end was none the less unexpected. Mrs. James was a much loved and respected member of the village and over many years played a very large part in practically all village activities. She was never missing from her accustomed place in Church, and had a hand in every Church activity. A long standing member of the Mothers' Union; for many years Vice-Chairman of the Ladies Section of the Royal British Legion; prominent in the Women's Institute and so much else besides. She will be greatly missed not only for what she did but for what she was.

To the relatives and families of all these people we send our sincere sympathy and our prayers that God will comfort them and sustain them in their sadness and loss.

We send our good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs. Rawbone and Mrs. G. Hewitt, both of whom broke a hip almost on the same day and found each other in the same ward in Poole Hospital.

We badly need a new Union Jack for the Church, which is flown from the Church Tower on State occasions. The old one has now nearly gone past repair. Would anyone of our readers care to give us one to fly on the occasion of the wedding of Princess Anne on November 14th?

I have been asked by several people as to how it is decided whether St. Georges flag or the Union Jack is to be flown. The position is this: St. Georges Flag is flown on all occasions which relate to the Church - such as Easter, Christmas, Whitsunday etc. - while the Union Jack is flown on all occasions which relate to the State - such as the Queen's birthday, etc. I hope these few words will clear up any confusion that may exist

in people's minds.

Your sincere friend and vicar,

PAUL TRANTER.

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SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD.

November 4th. Mrs. Barne.
" 11th. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY. Mrs. Barne.
" 18th. Mrs. Barne.
" 25th. Mrs. Barne.

There will be a Meeting of the Sanctuary Guild in the Vicarage on Wednesday, 12th December at 2.30 p.m. We are always glad to have new Members.

C.T.T.

SIDESMEN'S ROTA FOR NOVEMBER.

Nov. 4th.	11 a.m.	Mr. K. Woolfries.	Major M. Knowler.
	6 p.m.	Deanery Evensong at Swanage.	
" 11th.	10.45	Mr. W. F. Lys.	Major J. Hudson.
	6 p.m.	Messrs. H. A. Bloomfield & H. Dashwood.	
" 18th.	11 a.m.	Messrs. I. Mullins & K. Woolfries.	
	6 p.m.	Messrs. M. Barnes & M. A. Bloomfield.	
" 25th.	11 a.m.	Col. A. Barne & Mr. W. F. Lys.	
	6 p.m.	Messrs. J. House & R. Barnes.	
Dec. 2nd.	11 a.m.	Mr. K. Woolfries & Major M. Knowler.	
	6 p.m.	Messrs. H. Dashwood & M. A. Bloomfield.	

VILLAGE CALENDAR.

Nov. 5th. Mon. 3 p.m. School Managers.
" 8th. Thur. R.B.L. Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning - 10.30 a.m. Legion Club.
" 11th. Sun: Remembrance Sunday - Service 10.45 a.m. at War Memorial.
" 13th. Tues. Women's Guild Sale - 2.30 p.m. Congregational School Room.
" 14th. Wed. Royal Wedding. 7.30 Mothers, Union at Vicarage.
" 19th. Mon. 7.30 Parochial Church Council - Vicarage.
" 27th. Tues. Floral Group Christmas Fair.
Dec. 7th. Fri. Conservative Evening Party - 7.30 p.m. Drax Hall.
" 12th. Wed. 2.30 Sanctuary Guild - Vicarage.
" 23rd. Sun: 6 p.m. Carol Service by Candlelight.
" 24th. Mon. Christmas Eve. 11.45 Midnight Communion.
" 25th. Tues. Christmas Day.

Dec. 29th. Sat. Forresters Carol Service.
Jan. 13th. Sun: 3 p.m. Plough Sunday Service.
1974.
June 29th. Sat. Bere Regis Garden Party.

MOTHERS' UNION.

Mr. Wheeler,s talk at our September Meeting on the work of a hospital Chaplain was very greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

The next meeting will be held on November 14th, Wednesday, at the usual time of 7.30., but in place of the usual speaker we shall be having some slides on the work of the Mothers' Union abroad, in their Mission School at Ano, Nyapata.

We are apt to think of the M.U. as being an organisation only concerned with work in England. It is, of course, a world wide organisation and these slides should show us something of what it does in a far off country.

PHYLLIS TRANTER.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP.

The November meetings of the above Group will be held on Fridays, the 9th and the 23rd at 19 South Mead, the home of Dr. & Mrs. Boyd. The study of St. Mark's Gospel will continue.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 11th.

The Service of keeping the two Minutes Silence will commence at the War Memorial at 10.50 a.m. (weather permitting) and afterwards in the Church.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our non-conformist bretheren at this service, when we can remember together men and women from the village who gave their lives during two world wars.

The Last Post & Reveille will be sounded from the Church Tower. The names of those on the Roll of Honour will be read at this Service and they will also be read at Evensong at 6 p.m.

CREMATIONS.

It has come to the Vicar's notice that people are not always informed by their Undertakers as to what they are entitled as parishioners when there is a death in the family, and the person who has died is to be cremated rather than buried.

Some people have evidently been given the impression that the service must be taken completely at the Crematorium and by the clergyman provided by the Crematorium authorities.

This is quite incorrect. If relatives so desire, the body may be brought into the Parish Church for the main part of the Burial Service with just the actual Committal to be carried out at the Crematorium.

Again, the Vicar wishes it to be known that if the relatives so desire, and if it is possible he is always willing to go right through with them to take the final committal at the Crematorium.

FAMILY SERVICE.

All parents and children are invited to our Family Service normally held on the Second Sunday in the month.

The next family service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday November 11th.

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP.

On a glorious October afternoon there was a riot of colour in the Drax Hall when the Floral Group staged their Autumn Show entitled "Autumn Medley" - Dahlias, Chrysanthemums & Berries were widely used to produce the colourful scene in the various classes which included the Magic of Autumn, Forever Amber, Halloween Party etc. The judge was Mrs. Joan Dunne (Bournemouth) and winners of the trophies were - Most number of points in the Show: Mrs. Herridge & Mrs. J. House (Tie) Best Exhibit in Show - Mrs. Herridge. Most number of points in Novices Class - Mrs. Parks. Modern arrangement - Mrs. Herridge.

On November 13th there will be a demonstration of Christmas Decorations by Mrs. Kingsmith of Christchurch and visitors will be welcomed. On November 27th we shall be holding our Christmas Fair when there will be Christmas Decorations for sale, also many other Stalls including a Hat-Scarf and Accessories Boutique.

A. L.

AUTUMN LEAVES - OVER 60's

50 Members enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon's trip through the New Forest for our October Meeting. We stopped for tea at The Tally-Ho Restaurant at Cadnam, where we all were welcomed by Mr. & Mrs. Witt.

The 1st Prize Raffle was won by a visitor who immediately put it back up for Auction and was bought by Mrs. Percy of Sitterton Close.

The nearest Birthday was our committee member Mrs. Collison of West Street.

Next meeting has been brought forward one week and will now take place on November 7th, as on the 14th our original date 14th Nov. is Princess Anne's Wedding Day and members said they wished to see the full ceremony on TV.

There will be a Whist Drive and game of Dominoes at the next meeting.

*** A U T U M N B A L L *** B O V I N G T O N ***
in aid of AUTUMN LEAVES - 27th OCTOBER.

COMPETITION: Largest Potato.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - POPPY APPEAL.

A Coffee Morning will be held at the Legion Club - on Thursday, 8th November at 10.30 a.m.

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BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL.

Prior to the usual business of the Council meeting held on Oct. 2nd., the Council was privileged to have a long and most informative discussion with Lt.Col. G. W. Mansell, C.B.E., Chairman both of the present County Council and of the new and Enlarged Council from April 1974, from which time he will also represent the Parish on that Council.

This discussion largely resolved itself into two subjects, Secondary Education and various road matters. Regarding Education, the Council was given a very clear picture of the problems facing the Education Committee and how it was proposed to deal with them to the best advantage, with particular reference to the needs of the children of Bere Regis.

Road matters put forward by the Council included the following proposals:-

A pedestrian crossing in West Street; weight restrictions on vehicles using certain unclassified roads; and a new aspect of the proposed by-pass which could give considerably earlier relief to North Street residents if undertaken and a plan of which Col. Mansell took with him to put before the County Council technical staff for consideration.

During the subsequent business it was reported that visibility at the Green Close opening onto Rye Hill was at last to be improved by the District Council, that the "Plant a Tree in ,73" Sub-committee was well ahead with its work, for which a number of subscriptions had already been received which the Council gratefully acknowledges; that the matter of leakage of effluent from the piggeries at Sitterton was under investigation by the Public Health Inspector, and that certain difficulties arising from Cemetery maintenance were being dealt with by that Sub-Committee.

It was decided to take up with the Regional Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence complaints regarding the speed of vehicles driven through the village and the damage caused to some of the houses by certain of them.

With regard to the Development off West Street, including the sheltered housing for the elderly, the District Council reported more delay due to certain amendments called for in plans, but it was also reported from another source that the plans could be ready for consideration shortly and that a more speedy start to the work was likely than seemed probable until recently.

THE LOVE OF GOD ?

A Story by Francis Bingham.

Life was grey in the Institute. Ezekiel had lived there for thirty-five years, since the day his Mother, realizing his abnormality, had put him on the doorstep. His body had grown and the dangling limbs strengthened sufficiently for him to amble along and use his hands a little, but his mind remained cloudy, vainly reaching for ever-elusive clearcut perceptions. Perhaps it was lucky for Ezekiel that his mind was cloudy; he minded his surroundings less, but deeply struggling for recognition was an unformed need of love and affection.

He had a quarter of a pound of biscuits given him each week. They were very precious, for they belonged to him. He was haunted by a fear of losing them, for then he would possess nothing. Every morning he would heave himself up in bed, open his tin, caress the biscuits with his wasted fingers, peer at them lovingly, take a tiny nibble from the serrated edge of one, and then put them all back again, counting each as he did so. This gave him a nice pink feeling, similar to the one he got in church.

On Sundays Ezekiel led the inmates of the Institute to church, his hands hanging loosely in front of him like a dog begging, a fatuous smile on his face and the usual perplexed vacant look in his pale blue eyes. Church to him was warmth; not only physical warmth but a rich enfolding cloak of security. He liked the colours of the stained glass windows, the altar cloth, and the vestments; but above all he loved the music which echoed the hospitality of God and flooded him with gratitude.

He struggled to sing his thanks, his mouth opened and shut, his adam,s apple bobbed frenziedly up and down, while his whole body shook with the effort of trying to sing; but no sound came. He knew it would not come; but as the notes of music faded away, he smiled childishly, happy in the knowledge that God had heard his still-born song of praise.

To-day was not tinged with pink; it was flaming. Every Tuesday he took Matron's library book into Oglethorpe to be changed, and every Tuesday he tasted love. Ezekiel nodded to the Matron, fumblingly took the parcel and shilling, touched his cap and shambled off to the bus.

The Plaza awoke from its lunchtime nap; the box-office girl dabbed her nose with a dirty powder puff and fidgeted with her hair, giving it little dabs and pushes, and then settled down to contemplating her bitten and chipped scarlet finger nails.

Above the desk she provided a brassy glamour, with her highly painted face and black satin dress. The stains were not noticeable from a distance. The glamour trailed away below, deteriorating to bare legs splashed with mud and incased in down-at-heel black suede shoes. She was depressed, and felt slightly muzzy.

"After all them ports Bert gave me last night, and it wasn't as if I liked 'im," she mused. "But what can a girl do. I gotta look as if I'd got a chap, else all the girls'll make fun of me, and if there's

one thing I 'ates it's being laughed at. I don't get the chaps as easily as I used to. They want 'em young and innocent, they don't appreciate worldly wisdom. I'm sick of the lot of them; sick of drinking with chaps I don't like, sick of pretending I got a date every night, and sick o' smiling. Oh 'ell, what's the use of life. I don't get the 'ang of this love them parsons yawp about, dunno why they make such a fuss of it."

She broke off to greet Floss, one of the programme girls.

"'Allo Floss, 'ow's things?"

"O.K. Vilet, I 'ooked that chap at the Palais last night. 'E said to me 'e said, you're no programme girl, you oughta be starring in the film. Sez you, I said. 'E danced with me all the evening and 'e's taking me to the Excelsior tonight."

She twirled on her toes. "You know, Vilet, you oughta come with us, if you can find a bloke; 'ow about that 'andsome 'arry who comes and gapes at you once a week, 'es due today!" She smiled derisively and flicked a bit of nothing off her skirt.

"Ow, shut up, Floss, I can't 'elp it if he stands gawping. He does look a scream though, don't 'e, with his mouth 'anging open like that. I'll 'ave to tell 'im to 'ook it up sometime."

They both giggled.

Ezekiel got off the bus, and having changed the library book, started the short climb to the Plaza. He had difficulty in holding the drooping bunch of wild violets and they fell from his shaking fingers. As he slowly stooped to retrieve them, hurrying feet went over them.

He gazed at their flattened and muddy petals, but as they were his only offering, he clumsily scooped them up, their sodden remains dangling listlessly over his hand. He straightened his cap which had been knocked askew by a girl pusing a pram and smiling vacantly at the disinterested hurrying crowd, continued his climb.

At last he stood in the foyer, amongst the chattering people; oblivious of their derisive or pitying looks. He felt no shame, no awkwardness, no pride, not even a sense of generosity; he had no room for thought for himself. His mind perceived one thing only - the object of his love; God, Church and biscuits combined.

The commissionaire winked at Floss, who sniggered. Violet eyed with horror the approaching figure, the shambling gait and the one-sided open mouth. The dishevelled violets were laid with difficulty where the two-and-sixpennies escalated out, a pair of painful blue eyes sought hers, the mouth below sagging to a mockery of a smile.

For one brief illuminated moment Violet forgot Floss, the commissionaire, boy-friends and port; and remembered carols, Sunday School, the childish ecstasy of giving presents, and parsons yawping in church. She gently picked up the violets, detached one, and solemnly handed it back.

The two ambulance men chatted as they drove to the mortuary. "Funny

'ow these chaps just walk onto the street wiv'out looking. Not that anyone will miss 'im by the looks of 'im. 'Ow awful to be like that. 'E was quite cuckoo, did you 'ear im singing as we lifted him into the ambulance, sounded to me like 'Praise God from 'oom all blessing flow,' and at the top of 'is voice too!"

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

Burials:

October 3rd.	Hilda Bessie Farnham.	83 years.
" 8th.	Harry Carter Jonas.	76 years.

Holy Matrimony

October 6th. Geoffrey Paul Standfield and Vivien Angela Dudley.

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