

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The Bishop of Sherborne will be conducting a Confirmation Service in Bere Regis Church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday March 10th. By the time you read this Classes will have already commenced, both at Bere Regis and Winterbourne Kingston. I must ask you to try and keep this date free so that you may be able to be present to support our candidates as they take this big step forward in their lives.

We seem to have a pretty big year in one way and another for apart from the Confirmation on March 10th, there is to be the Deanery Mothers' Union Service on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 8th. - the possibility of the Boy Scouts St. George's Day Service on Sunday afternoon April 19th and the Deanery Missionary Festival at 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday June 17th. So there will be quite a bit of organising to be got through by the time we reach the Garden Party on the last Saturday in June.

You will find in this issue the list of the special arrangements for Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter. As usual I have arranged a number of extra Services which I hope you will loyally support. I do wish Church people would make a fuller use of Lenten arrangements It is such an opportunity for the dispensing of the Spiritual life which should not be neglected. Owing to the extreme earliness of Easter, it is very difficult to make all the arrangements in time for this magazine. But I am trying to provide one or two special Preachers. If not in time to be printed they will be announced in Church in due course.

I am, this year, having Lenten Saving Boxes in the Church for you to take away and use for your Lenten offerings. They should be brought to Church on Palm Sunday. As you will see from the boxes, all that is given will go to the Church Missionary Society - the oldest and the largest of the great Missionary Societies. I hope you will use the boxes as a means of self-denial during the Lenten Season.

As time goes on, you will be hearing more and more about 'Friends of Bere Regis Church'. What it means we shall find out later.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Paul Tranter.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD

Feb. 2nd.	Mrs. Harding.	Mrs. Terry.
9th.	Mrs. Talbot.	Mrs. Tadman.
16th.	Lent	
23rd.	Lent	

SIDESMEN S ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 2nd.	11.00 a.m.	Brig. D. Tadman & Mr. S. Endacott
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. P. House & P. Wyatt.
9th.	11.00 a.m.	Col. A. Barne & Mr. R. Smith.
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. M. Barnes & D. Poore
16th.	11.00 a.m.	Messrs. F. Lys & F. Marsh.
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. R. Barnes & L. Bartlett.
23rd.	11.00 a.m.	Mr. S. Endacott & Brig. D. Tadman.
	6.00 p.m.	Messrs. P. Mintern & H. Pitfield.

TWO DATES TO REMEMBER AT BERE REGIS CHURCH

Feb. 9th.	3.00 p.m.	Family Service for the family- young and old.
Feb. 23rd.	6.00 p.m.	Community Hymn Singing. Suggestions as to Hymns welcomed.

BERE REGIS MOTHERS' UNION

The monthly meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. Thursday, February 13th at the Women's Institute Hut.

The speaker this month will be Mrs. Aldis of Hamworthy.

P. J. T.

VILLAGE CALENDAR

1964

Feb. 20th.	7.30 p.m.	British Legion Women's Section Party In the Drax Hall.
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VILLAGE CALENDAR (continued)

March 10th.	7.00 p.m.	Confirmation Service in the Parish Church to be taken by the Bishop of Sherborne.
April 1st.	7.00 p.m.	Annual Congregational Church meeting.
April 8th.		Mothers' Union Deanery Festival Service in the Church.
April 9th.	3.00 p.m.	British Legion Women's Section Jumble Sale in the W.I. Hut.
May 12th.		Bere Regis and District Floral Society Annual Outing
May 30th.		St. Nicholas Garden Party
June 6th.		Bere Regis Carnival
June 17th.	7.15 p.m.	Bere Regis Deanery Missionary Festival in the Church.
June 27th.		Bere Regis Church Garden Party
July 15th.		British Legion Garden Fete at White Lovington.

BRITISH LEGION. WOMEN'S SECTION

The next Branch Meeting will be held on February 19th at 2.30 p.m. in the W.I. Hut, and on the following day, February 20th, the party in the Drax Hall at 7.30 p.m.

There will be a Jumble Sale on April 9th in the W.I. Hut.

A. L. Coles. Hon. Sec.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTERBERE REGIS

<u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u>	February 12th.	
	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	7.00 p.m.	Evensong
<u>EVERY THURSDAY DURING LENT</u>		3.00 p.m. Lenten Service.
<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u>	March 8th.	2.30 p.m. Special Family Service
<u>SPECIAL PREACHERS DURING LENT</u>		
	LENT II Feb. 23rd. 11.00 a.m.	Rev. F. C. Griffiths, on behalf of the Children's Society.

DISTRIBUTION OF PALM CROSSES AT ALL SERVICES ON PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 22nd.

HOLY WEEK

Monday	March 23rd.	7.00 p.m.	Compline
Tuesday	March 24th.	7.00 p.m.	Compline
Wednesday	March 25th.	7.00 p.m.	Compline
Maudy Thursday	March 26th.	7.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
Good Friday	March 27th.	11.00 a.m.	Mattins
		7.00 p.m.	Devotional Service
<u>EASTER DAY</u>		8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		11.00 a.m.	Mattins
		12.00 noon	Holy Communion
		2.30 p.m.	Children's Service
		6.00 p.m.	Festal Evensong

BERE REGIS FLORAL GROUP

The speaker at our next meeting on February 11th is to be Mrs. Morrison of Weymouth, who is well known as an exhibitor and prize-winner at many of our Shows, and is also the author of many articles on floral work in the Press. Her subject will be "The use of Accessories in Floral Work".

As well as giving a practical demonstration, Mrs. Morrison has promised to show some coloured slides illustrating her work, which should be extremely helpful to us all, and particularly those who may be competing at our forthcoming Spring Show on March 10th.

P. Lloyd. Hon. Ass. Sec.

HISTORY OF BERE REGIS - 32THE CHURCH (continued - 16th Century work)

The lower part of the vestry screen on the nave side is early 16th century linenfold panelling, and may have originally formed part of a screen, or possibly nave seating. Some 16th century bench ends still exist, and had been incorporated in the reading pew prior to 1875, but they now form panels in the backs of the front blocks of nave pews. They are beautifully carved with arabesques and tracery, and one depicts an eagle feeding its young, while another bears the date 1547 in Roman numerals, MCCCCXLVII. Another bears the inscription JOH DAV WARDEN OF THYS CHARYS, Joh Dav being John Dau or Daw, who also appears in the Bere Regis muster roll of 1542. A namesake, and doubtless a descendant of this John Daw was churchwarden here in 1656.

The old pulpit in use until 1875 belonged to the later part of the 16th century, and what appears to be the remains of it, are mounted as

panelling on the north wall of the vestry.

The Turberville window in the south wall of the south aisle belongs to the early part of the 16th century, being a good example of Tudor work, with three centred arch and soffite and reveals internally carved with tracery.

The two canopied altar tombs of the Turbervilles in the south aisle belong to this century, but as the brasses have disappeared, no exact date can be put upon them. They are both in Purbeck marble, carved with typical Tudor ornament, but both have suffered badly from damage and decay. There were two similar tombs at the east end of the north aisle, the brasses of which were missing by about 1770 when Hutchins visited the church, but he considered them to belong to the Willoughby family of Turnerspuddle. Sir William Willoughby, Nicholas Willoughby and Leonard Willoughby, between 1512 and about 1570, all ordered their bodies to be buried in this church. The remains of one of these canopied tombs are built into the north wall of the north aisle, and consist of the back on which the brasses were mounted, and the carved underside of the canopy.

The Skerne canopied altar tomb, attached to the north wall of the chancel, is similar in most respects to the others, but is in white stone and in an almost perfect state of preservation. The brasses are all intact, and we therefore know that it was erected in 1596, and around the edges of the slab are mortises which originally held iron trefoil guards, one of which remains in a flattened condition. The Skerne family held land at Winterbourne Kingston, and had descended from a branch of the Spanish kings of Castile and Leon. They were established at Winterbourne Kingston at least by 1458 when Robert Skerne held the manor there. John Skerne, whom this monument commemorates, seems to have been the last of his line. He died in 1593, and his wife Margaret in 1602. The brasses comprise John Skerne's coat of arms, quartered with those of his wife's family, Thornhull, effigies of himself and his wife in Elizabethan costume, and a quaint verse:-

IF EACH THINGS END, DOE EACH THINGS WORTH EXPRESSE
WHAT IS MANES LIFE BUT VAYNE UNDERFECTNES
HOW SWIFTLIE RENE WE TO OUR FATALL ENDE
WCH HAVE NO HOPE IF DEATH BE NOT OUR FRENDE
I SKERNE DOE SHEW THAT ALL OR EARTHILIE TRUSTE
ALL EARTHILIE FAYERS AND GOODS & SWEETS ARE DUST
LOOK ON THE WORLDES INSYDE AND LOOKE ON ME
HER OUTSYDE IS BUT PAINTED VANITIE.

ERECTED AND FINISHED BY MARGARET SKERNE HIS WIFE,
WHICH CAUSED THIS WORKE TO BEE MADE ANNO DNI 1596.
The other old memorial brass which still exists, also belongs to this century. It commemorates Robert Turberville who died in 1559, and

bears a Latin inscription which was originally fixed to a floor slab at the east end of the south aisle.

(to be continued) F. P. Pitfield.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON CHURCH

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER

<u>EVERY THURSDAY DURING LENT</u>	7.30 p.m.	Evensong.
<u>MOTHERING SUNDAY</u> March 8th.	3.15 p.m.	Special Mothering Sunday Service
(N.B. There will be no 7.15 Evensong on this Sunday)		
<u>PALM SUNDAY</u> March 22nd.	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	3.15 p.m.	Evensong
Distribution of Palm Crosses at both Services.		
<u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> March 27th.	3.00 p.m.	Devotional Service
<u>EASTER DAY</u> March 29th.	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	7.15 p.m.	Evensong.

WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON MOTHERS' UNION

The monthly meeting will be held at 2.45 p.m. on Ash Wednesday February 12th in the Reading Room. The speaker this month will be a Probation Officer, Miss Silverwood Lamb.

P.J.T.

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

The new Revised A. & M. Hymn Books are now in use. The Vicar and Church Committee are most grateful to those, near and far, who have generously made such useful Christmas gifts to the Church - 44 have been given.

At the next service of congregational hymn singing, which has been announced for the fourth Sunday in the month, at 7.15 p.m. a selection of new and old hymns will be sung.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Annual Sunday School and Church Christmas Party, for children, their mothers, members of the Mothers' Union and Church Helpers was

enjoyed by a large number. Each child received an attendance book prize, distributed by the Vicar, as well as prizes for the best kept Stamp Album. We thank all those who contributed to the Party in various ways.

MILE OF PENNIES

Mr. Simpson has handed a further sum of £3. 3. 9d. to the Treasurer, making a total of £15. 18. 1. The jar on the counter at The Stores is still available for your odd pennies!

CHURCH CLEANING

Grateful thanks are due to the lady members of the Church who keep it so beautifully clean, giving of their time voluntarily to this very necessary part of Church work.

The rota for 1964 is given below :

January	..	..	Mrs. D. Legg
February	..	..	Mrs. Symes
March	..	..	Mrs. Thrush
April	..	..	Mrs. Bentley
May	..	..	Mrs. Bulteel
June	..	..	Miss Robertson
July	..	..	Miss Sheppard
August	..	..	Mrs. E. Legg
September	..	..	Mrs. Pickering
October	..	..	Mrs. Rolls
November	..	..	Mrs. E. Vincent
December	..	..	Mrs. P. House.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

WHY SHROVE TUESDAY ?

WHY 'PANCAKE DAY' ?

WHY ASH WEDNESDAY ?

Two special days appear in the Church Kalendar for February. The first of these is Shrove Tuesday, often referred to as 'Pancake Day',

which this year falls on the 11th February.

Why is it called Shrove Tuesday and why 'Pancake Day' ?

It was the custom in bygone times for people to go to church on this particular day to confess their sins, telling God they were sorry for their wrong doings. The Priest heard their confessions and gave them absolution. This rather long word, absolution, means 'to set free from', so that those who confessed their sins were set free from them. It so happens that the Old English word for 'absolve', from which the word 'absolution' is derived, is shrove. Therefore as the Priest would be giving absolution throughout the day, it became known consequently as 'Shrove Tuesday'.

The Pancake has become associated with this day, because when the members of large families went to Church, they were coming and going all day long, so that it was impossible to have a meal together. The mother of the family made a large bowl of batter, and as each one came in she put a ladle of the batter in a pan and fried it - making of course a pancake.

When we have our pancakes on Shrove Tuesday let us remember this ancient custom and its association with our Church.

The following day, Ash Wednesday, is as you know, the first day of Lent. But why does the word 'Ash' precede Wednesday ?

Here again it is connected with the confession of sins. It was the custom of days gone by that the Palms which had been blessed and used in Church on Palm Sunday, the previous year, were burnt; and the Priest made a tiny cross with the ashes on the forehead of everyone who repented their sins when they attended Church on this first day of Lent. It is from this that the day gets its name.

E.M.S.

"SMALL ADS"

(2/6 for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING BY QUALIFIED STYLIST. MRS. LAMB,
'MERRYDOWN', SITTERTON, BERE REGIS 308. RING BEFORE 9.30 a.m.
FOR APPOINTMENT. REPRESENTATIVE FOR AVON BEAUTY PRODUCTS

ESSE COZY STOVE FOR SALE. COAL OR COKE BURNING.
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