

Bream Parish Magazine



Church of St. James A.M.

Vicar Rev. CHARLES VERNON, A.K.C.
Churchwardens Mr. S. R. MILES, Woodside, Bream.
 Mr. W. O. DAVIES, "Kia-Ora," New Rd., Bream

Church Services

Sundays 8 HOLY COMMUNION (Said)
 10 HOLY COMMUNION (Sung)
 3 CHILDREN'S SERVICE
 6.30 EVENSONG

Weekdays HOLY COMMUNION. Tuesday at 8.
 Wed. & Thurs. at 7.30.
 Fridays at 9

EVENSONG daily at 6. (Sung at 6.30 p.m. on Wed.)

CHOIR PRACTICE. Wednesdays 7.

BAPTISMS : CHURCHINGS : WEDDINGS : BURIALS

by arrangement with the Vicar.

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VICAR'S LETTER

My dear friends,

The choosing of hymns for the Sunday services is a more complicated business than most people realise. According to the season of the year (Christmas, Lent, Easter, Harvest-time, etc.) certain perennial favourites choose themselves, of course. But of the remainder, a few are very popular indeed, a large number are well-known but less popular, and quite a few really good hymns are not known at all by many church people.

So the vicar's choice seems to consist in including the popular hymns at regular (but not too frequent) intervals, and to help the congregation to become familiar with the others so that our repertoire gradually increases.

It is interesting that one of the most popular here is comparatively little known elsewhere. I refer to number 761, which begins: "Come ye yourselves apart and rest awhile." It is a fine hymn, and emphasises the necessity for all of us to go apart sometimes, from the bustle and activity of our daily lives, and in quietness recollect the presence of God. I think we should all agree that this is necessary, otherwise we just go on with the "trivial round and common task," and apart from joining in worship on Sunday evenings (more or less regularly, according to circumstances), and saying rather hasty morning and evening prayers, we give very little thought to God from one week's end to the other.

Lent is a very good time to start to remedy this. I say "start," because it will not be much good if we leave off again as soon as Easter comes.

May I suggest a few ways of doing it? The first, and most obvious, is to use the church more. It is a pity that, with the shift of population, this church (like many village

churches) is not in the middle of the village. But still, it is very easy for most people to reach, and when one is worried or unhappy, or facing some difficult problem, or full of some joy or happiness, how natural it should be to go for a few minutes to the church, and kneel there in God's presence, and tell him what is in our mind and, to quote the hymn,

“Then, fresh from converse with your Lord, return
And work till daylight softens into even:
The brief hours are not lost in which ye learn
More of your Father and His rest in Heaven.”

Another way is to pause from whatever you are doing and just stand in prayer for a few minutes when you hear the church bell. It often rings in the mornings and evenings, and when it does so, it means that a few are gathered together in church, to pray not only for themselves but for all of us—for those who are ill or at work or otherwise prevented from coming, to pray for those who do not find time, or do not care, for God in the world today. In your own home, you can join that prayer, just as many people like to do when religious services are broadcast.

Again, when the passing bell is rung—it is surprising how it can be heard in quite distant parts of the village—do you pause for those few minutes as the bell tells the years of another soul who is taken back to God? Do you pray for that departed soul (it does not matter whether *you* know who, for God does) and for those who are left in the sadness of mourning? Do you remember perhaps the soul of one who is still dear to you, for whom one day that bell was also tolled?

These are some ways, which can help us quietly to remember God's presence in our daily life; and, finally, I am sure there are many who would find great help in their lives if sometimes (especially in Lent, but also all the year round) they went to one of the weekday services to refresh in themselves the grace which they receive each Sunday—and more particularly, if anything prevents them from going to church on a Sunday, to use the church on a weekday to make good the loss. God bless you all.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

Charles Vernon.

CHURCH SERVICES IN LENT

WEEKDAYS—HOLY COMMUNION: Wednesdays, 8; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30; Fridays 9.30.

EVENSONG: Tuesdays (sung) 7; Wednesdays (said) 6, followed by address and quiet prayer; Thursdays, 6; Fridays, 5.45. Sunday services as usual.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19th (Lent IV) is Mothering Sunday. Sunday School meets at the church at 3 p.m., and parents are invited to come with their children at 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. for the special Mothering Sunday services.

SUNDAY APRIL 2.—Palm Sunday. Palm Crosses will be distributed at the Holy Communion services.

PASSION PLAY (see separate notice) in church at 3 and 6.30 p.m.

PASSION PLAY.—The service of hymns and nativity tableaux at Christmas was so well received, and seems to have been so helpful to many people, that we are proposing to produce a Passion Play on Palm Sunday.

This is considerably more ambitious. The Bishop has read and approved of the script, and given the venture his blessing. The scenes follow the gospel story of some of the events at the end of our Lord's life on earth, and will be acted and sung by the boys and girls of the choir. Production on Palm Sunday will, it is hoped, serve as a preparation for those who take part, and for the congregation, to help realise the great significance of Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter Day. Once again, the congregation will be asked to join in the singing of some of the hymns. It is hoped also to produce the play in BROCKHOLLAND'S HALL during Holy Week.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sorry, boys and girls, but there just is not room for a full page this month! I have had some entries for last month's competition and hope to publish the winner's name next month. Some of the efforts are very good. This month, I want to find out if we have any budding poets. The best hymns are usually the simplest, and so I want you to write a hymn (not more than 16 lines), about anything you like. I suggest it could be about Lent, or, rather easier, about Jesus rising from the grave on Easter Day. At first, you will say it is too difficult, I expect. But you never know what you can do until you try, so see what you can do.

CONFIRMATION

It is hoped that some candidates will be presented for confirmation at Christ Church on Monday, March 13th, and others, who cannot be fully prepared by that date, at St. Briave's on May 1st. The Bishop will not be coming to Bream for confirmation this spring.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

HOLY BAPTISM

Jan. 29.—Margaret Ann Woodward, of Gloucester.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Feb. 18.—Joseph Clifton Dobbs (Yorkley) and Eveline May Morse (Parkend Road, Bream).

HOLY BURIAL

- Jan. 29.—Stanley Roberts, of 51, Parkend Road, aged 57.
Feb. 2.—Ronald Douglas Phillips, of 25, Parkend Road, aged 30.
" 5.—George Kear, of Clements End, aged 78.
" 10.—George Edwin Burley, of Whitecourt, Uley, aged 86.
" 12.—Willitm Edward Kear Hoare, of Mill Hill, aged 81
" 14.—Ruth Jenkins, of Mill Hill, aged 80.
" 23.—Selina Elizabeth Burley, of Woodside, aged 52.

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