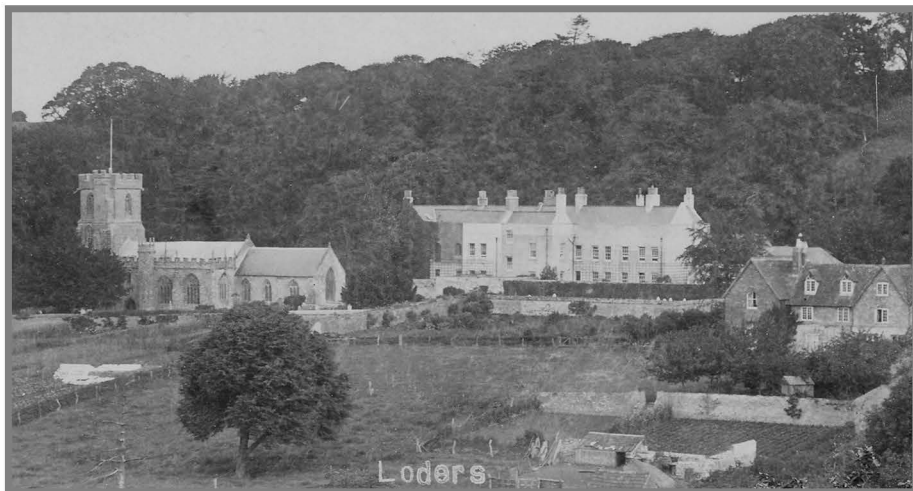


## Loders Court, the Church and the Vicarage

These are all located at the west end of Loders. The Court is on the site of a Priory founded by the Abbot of Montebourg by a Charter granted in 1108. In 1414 Henry V decreed that all foreign monasteries in England be dissolved. Following this the Priory became a farmhouse and later the manor house..

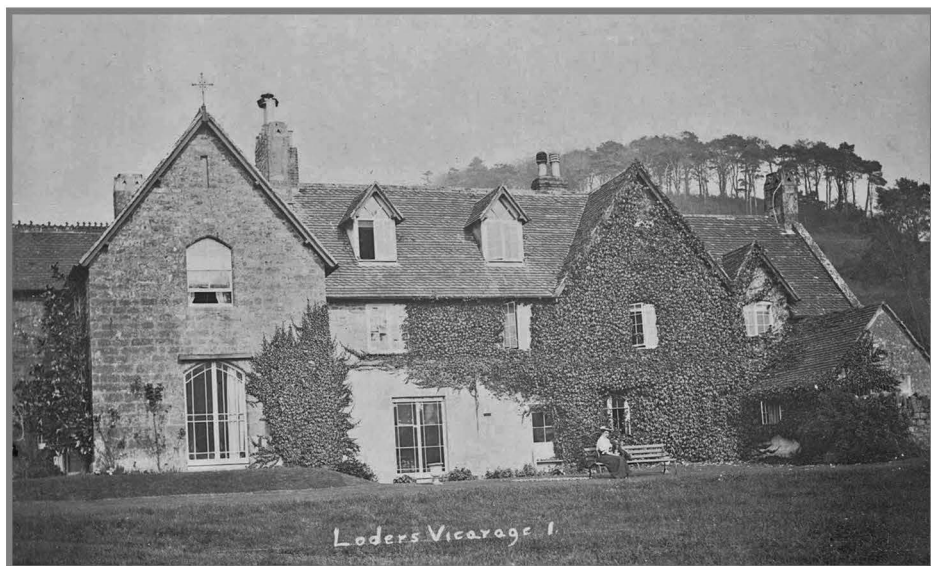


From the left, the Church of St Mary Magdalene, the Court and the Vicarage in about 1920. The eastern end of the Court was demolished in 1969.



The footbridges over the river and millstream link the footpath from the north side of Boarsbarrow to the village alongside the Vicarage. Someone is hanging out washing near the big tree so maybe the photograph was taken on a Monday, the traditional washing day. The card by R D Barrett was posted in 1906.

## The Vicarage (Now Loders Hall)



The rear of the Vicarage in the early part of the 1900s. The Vicar from 1887 to 1914 was David Thomas. A lady in Edwardian dress, the Vicar's wife Mrs Thomas perhaps and her dog are sitting on the seat on the lawn.



Sunday School group on the Vicarage lawn with the Reverend Hutton who is standing at the back gazing away from the camera. He was the Vicar of Loders from 1914 to 1935. The little girl on the left, in the second row from the front is thought to be Annie Hawker (Paull), my mother. If so it would be about 1924.

## Loders Sunday School during the Second World War



The older Loders Sunday School children on the Vicarage lawn in about 1942. (Back from left) Margaret Darby, -?- (evacuee), Dennis Yarde and Phillip Symes. (Middle standing), -?-, -?-, Mrs Palmer and Queenie Carr (evacuee). (Sitting), Doreen Watts, Jessie Crabb (Barrett), Kenny Eddison, -?- (evacuee), Avril Greening, Margaret Bourne (head down), Jean Rogers (Cornish), Peggy Pitcher.



The younger members with the Reverend Beardmore, Miss Elizabeth Hinks the infants' teacher, and Miss Vera Legg at the Vicarage. (Front row from left) -?-, -?-, Dorothy and Geoffrey Dean, Doreen Barnes. (Second row from left) Arthur Crabb, John Lee. Further back, Maurice Crabb, with his eyes shut, is in front of the child in the big white hat. Others presumed to be in the pictures are Sally Glyde, Derek Barnes, Tony Chard and Peter Gee.



## St Mary Magdalene's Church

The Church, built in the local limestone, dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and has some Norman features. From 1107 to 1410 it was the church of the adjacent Priory. It was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



(Above) The Church from the east by the local Bridport photographer, Hare. The white headstone on the left is dated 1906 so the photograph must have been taken soon after then. Five well trimmed yew bushes line the pathway to the church. The oil lamp lit the path on dark Sunday evenings. Although unused they remained until the 2000s.



### Harvest Festival

(Left) The Church decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables for the Harvest Festival service. Oil lamps hang from the ceiling. Otherwise the interior remains largely unchanged from what it is today.



Interior of the Church prior to restoration in 1901 showing the box-pews. If you have sat in a box pew for more than a few minutes you will know they are not comfortable! The lectern and ornate oil lamps are to the right of the pulpit.



This card, posted 7 August 1928, was probably from a scout, camping in the park by the river at Loders Court. It reads, "I am writing the card while Mr Prior is taking kit inspection". The picture was taken from just inside the main door and shows the font, the pews, and the altar and the low-slung oil lamps. A big change from the earlier picture the pre-1901 layout.



The Reverend David Thomas with the ladies' choir outside the Church door c1908. From the left (back) Reverend Thomas, Millicent Crabb, Ella Randall, Frances Curtis, Jessie Brown, Gladys Blackler, Gladys Brown, Hilda Russell, Miss J Thomas. (Middle) R Gale, M Lee, E Budden, D Russell, B Samways. (Front) M Crabb, Flora (Hetty) Hyde, M Read, A Pitcher, M Budden.



In 1933 a number of girls from Lodors were confirmed at a Confirmation Service held at Bothenhampton Church. Those identified are;- (left) Mabel Symes (Skeats), (sixth) Annie Hawker (Paull). (First on right) Pearl Gale (Symes), (third) Winnie Read (Ward). Centre at the back is Doris Rowe.

## Loders Court

Parliamentarian Denzil Holles, Earl of Clare, held the Manor when Charles II fled through the parish on his way from Bridport to Broadwindsor. In 1799 Sir Evan Nepean, former Governor of Bombay and Secretary of the Admiralty, purchased the estate and remoulded the house as it is shown below. Nelson is said to have stayed here several times with Sir Evan.

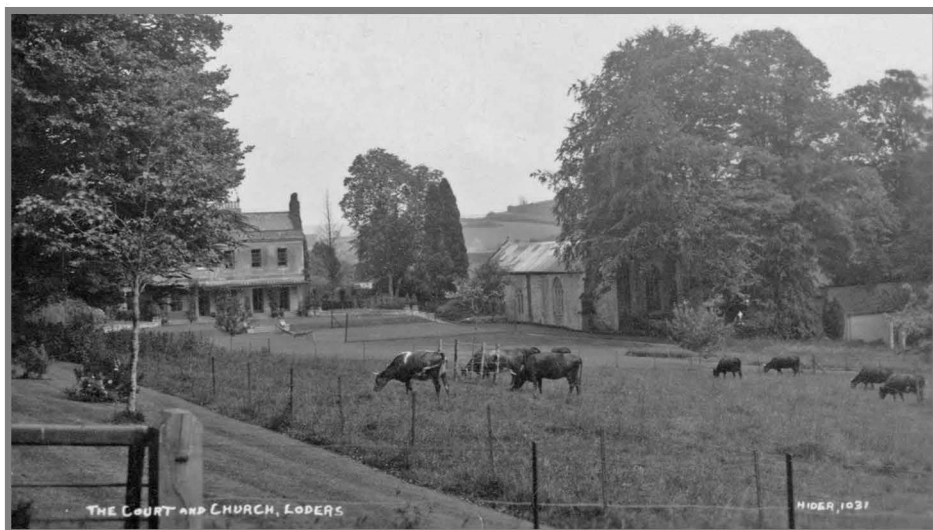


Viewed from the north c1935 showing the original Georgian building with its Victorian extension on the left. The latter was removed in 1969 thus returning The Court to its original and more pleasing Georgian proportions.



This garden is between the old east wing of the Court and the churchyard. The Church is on the left and the Court, as it was pre-1969, is on the right.





Loders Court and the Church viewed from the west. The picture, by Claud Hider, dates from c1930. The area between the road and the grazing, on the left, is a garden area. The Church tower is hidden behind the large horse-chestnut tree.



(Left) The Head Gardener David Crabb with Percy Darby, Elston Paul and Bill Saunders standing beside the recently constructed pond. It was one of several that ran down through the garden towards the river.

View from the Court looking towards the Vicarage, on the right, and beyond to the hills at Yondover.





## Rehearsals at Loders Court c1893

These pictures below are all described on the backs as 'A Rehearsal in Loders Court Garden' for various Tableaux due to be held at Loders School. One of the cast is Mary Weldon who, on another picture, is described as daughter of the Reverend Weldon, Rector of Bridport, a position he held from 1891 to 1895.



(Left) The Italian Floral Dance arranged by Maria Chigi. Maria is second from the right,

At the time of the 1891 Census, Marchese Angelo Chigi of Siena, was at Loders Court and recorded as a great nephew of Sir Molyneux Nepean. On the deaths of Sir Molyneux and Lady Nepean, The Court



passed to him as their closest surviving relative but he never took up residence.

Rehearsing for Sleeping Beauty are, from the left, G.G.Williams (Good Fairy) M.Cross (Nurse with Royal Baby) Maria Chigi (Queen) J.A.Williams (King), Agnes Cross (Bad Fairy). The corner of the Church tower can just be seen on the left of the picture.



Cinderella's Ball: E.F.Parkinson (Good Fairy), Maria Chigi (Princess Cinderella), F.Maunsell (Prince Charming), G.G.Williams and J.A.Williams (The Sour Sisters).

## Loders Fête 1886 and 1908

The Fête is a social occasion to raise funds for the Church and other organisations in the Parish and Benefice. With the kind consent of the owners it has for many years been held in the grounds of Loders Court. The earliest reference to the Loders Fête appeared in the Bridport News in 1886.

### BRIDPORT NEWS 11 JUNE 1886

*THE FETE AND GALA AT LODERS — The first fete of the Nepean Lodge of Oddfellows, to be held on Whit-Monday, promises to be one of the best ever held in the neighbourhood. The members of the local Court of Foresters and the Great Western Lodge of Oddfellows (as will be seen in the advertisements in our column) have decided to join the brethren at Loders so that, unless the weather should unfortunately prove wet, there will be a large concourse of persons. The Bon-Bon Brothers, the marvellous high wire rope walkers, will give three performances, which will be quite a novelty in this neighbourhood. There are other attractions, including arrangements for dancing, and above all the beautiful grounds of Loders Court. Sir M. Nepean will preside, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. W. Knight. A large attendance of both patrons and visitors is expected.*



This postcard was posted on 24 October 1908 which means that this fête was in 1908, or earlier. At first glance it could be a recent fête. The location is the same, only the clothes have changed. The musicians and the crowd gather to watch an attraction on the lawn. All are dressed in their Sunday best. Quite a fashion display, the ladies in long frocks and picture hats and men in their best Sunday suits and hats. The card was sent to a Miss Cross in London. The message reads, "Many happy returns of the day. from Uncle".