

Target for 1951. In wishing our readers a happy and a prosperous new year, we follow the example of the Press, and season the wishes with good advice. The parish might well take as its motto for 1951 the opening verse of one of the Psalms, "Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren, to dwell together in unity". Nothing is more effective in spoiling the life of a small community like ours than an undercurrent of bad feeling between neighbours. If we in the parish of Loders, with all our great blessings, cannot be one happy family, how can we expect the nations of the world to be one? It is no use wishing for the time when war shall be no more unless we get to work and eradicate from our hearts our warlike disposition towards neighbours whom we happen not to like. World peace cannot be got for us by any conference of statesmen. It has to begin in our own hearts and in our own parish.

A Children's Christmas. Loders children say, with good reason, that they have had a very happy Christmas. They got a free tea at their missionary sale; they had another tea, and presents from Father Christmas at their school breaking up party; at church on Christmas morning they received packets of sweets from the Christmas tree; at the Court on the last Saturday of the old year they had the grandest party a child could wish for; and then the Junior Choir were taken to the pantomime at Weymouth and given tea. Even the County Council joined in the conspiracy to give the children a good time. The school meals department sent, at the end of term, an iced Christmas cake, and Christmas puddings with sixpences in them. This was on the rates, of course, but it is likely to be one of the few items of County Council expenditure which nobody will begrudge.

Disappointed. The party which Dottery children were to have had at the Vicarage, and the gathering of Dottery congregation round the Vicarage fire after the Loders carol service, both had to be cancelled on account of scarlet fever, which put the Vicarage in quarantine. Bridport had a minor epidemic of scarlet fever before Christmas, affecting nearly all the Bridport schools. It reached Loders on Christmas Day, when Janet Bond and Ruth Willmott went down with it. These were taken to the Bridport Isolation Hospital. Then it caught Mr. Bond, Godfrey Elliott and Evelyn Elliott, who could not go to hospital because it was full. At the time of going to press, Loders is in a state of mild alarm. Parishioners who suffer from a morbid fear of germs have boxed themselves up, and those who would like to be in the fashion are borrowing the Vicarage thermometer.

The sale of needlework done by Loders children for the Church Overseas made the creditable sum of £19, and was enlivened by plays which delighted the large assembly of parents and friends who filled the schoolroom to capacity. David Crabb's fishing pond attracted many anglers, and produced a good catch for the funds. There was lively competition for the exquisite toy cradle, made and given by Mr. Fred Taylor.

The Midnight Communion on Christmas Day is still growing in popularity. The congregation which filled the nave was the biggest ever. Worshippers had the pleasure of a walk in frost and moonlight. Those who got to church early had an unusual experience of the church. There was no other light save that of the two candles on the altar, the coloured lamps on the tree, the lamp in the crib, and a soft moonlight suffusing the windows. It was indeed "Silent Night, Holy Night".

Mrs. Pearl Symes gave the Christmas tree which stood in church, Mr. Billy Darby arranged the lighting of the tree (and also the stage lighting at the school), Mrs. D. Crabb made the paper flowers which relieved the green of the church decorations, and Miss J. Scott made the traditional "kissing bunch" of iron hoops, evergreens, apples and candles, suspended near the chancel arch. The other decorators were Lady Le Breton, Miss J. Crabb, Miss V. Legg, Mrs. Tiltman, Mrs. Streetfield, Miss A. Scott, Mrs. Willmott, Janet Symes and Pat Irons.

A wet night did not prevent the choir from singing carols in Uploders before Christmas. On the following night, when they serenaded Loders, the weather was dry but bitterly cold, which made the subsequent refreshment and ghost stories round the vicarage fire more than usually welcome. The collection amounted to £8.14.6d.

A Paradox. As times grow harder, and money gets tighter, the annual tea and entertainment given by Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton to the youth of the village, seems to become more sumptuous. As a gale roared outside, the young folk of Loders sat in the noble dining room of the Court, at tables loaded with sugared doughnuts, cream buns, iced buns, and pyramids of pink and white meringues. The children had come in from the billiard room, where they had been highly entertained by a Bournemouth conjuror. When the feasting was done, and cheers for the host and hostess had been called by Frank Good, the children went through the hall to the motor coach which was to take them home, but Father Christmas waylaid them, and bestowed on each guest an orange, chocolate biscuits, crackers, and a half-crown.

The family of Mrs.M.A.Budden, had their Christmas saddened by her passing away a few days before the festival, and further saddened by the inability of her daughter Marjorie, who was sailing from Canada, to reach her before she died. Mrs. Budden was something of an institution in Loders. She had kept the village post office for years, and was known to a generation of children as a dispenser of sweets who could generally be depended upon to pity an empty pocket. She brought up a large family, and worked hard. She was laid to rest on her late husband, in Loders churchyard. Mrs. Minnie Crabb was at the organ for the funeral service.

The Ringers, at their annual meeting elected Mr.Harry Legg captain, Mr.C.Poole vice-captain, Mr.E.Paul tower warden, and Mr.G.Hyde secretary. There were several candidates for each office, and voting was close. The ringers welcomed Christmas Day with merry peals at 7.30 a.m. and rang in the new year.

A grateful farmer. Mr. & Mrs. Eli Lenthall shewed their appreciation of the good work done by the employees of Upton Manor during Mr. Lenthall's long illness by giving them, and their wives a dinner at the Greyhound Hotel, Bridport. Mr. Harry Crabb and Shepherd Steele in humorous speeches thanked the host and hostess for an excellent dinner, and toasted their health.

Mrs.Eliza Jane Marsh of Pymore Terrace, who was buried at Dottery, used to be a member of Dottery choir, and a decorator of festivals, She was also one of those who collected money for the building of Dottery Church. Her most treasured possession was a letter from the King congratulating her and her husband William (now in his 87th.year), on the diamond wedding they celebrated 18th.Feb.1950. The letter is framed, and hangs over the fireplace.

Congratulations to Mr.& Mrs. D.Miller of Loders, on the birth of a daughter, first grandchild of Mr. & Mrs. Osborne, of the Loders Arms.

Book this Date. There will be a parish party in the Hut on Tuesday, Jan.30th. at 7.30 p.m. You are invited to come IN DISGUISE. There will be a prize for the disguise which defies detection longest.

Parish Registers.

<u>Holy Baptism.</u>	Dec.31st. Valerie Christine Brown.
<u>Burials</u>	Dec.20th. Mary Ann Budden, aged 84.
	Dec.30th. Eliza Jane Marsh, aged 82.

Services for January.

Loders.	7th. H.C.8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45. Children 2.15.
	14th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.
	21st. H.C.8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45. Children 2.15.
	28th. H.C.8. Matins 11. Children 2.15.

Spring is round the corner. (This we say well knowing that winter may yet be with us for weeks). The morning light comes earlier, and the evening light stays later. The birds are singing at dawn, and the snowdrops are showing in the churchyard. Wise gardeners have been clearing their ground, and doing all the digging they can, to ease the work in March and April. At this time, when we are preparing to co-operate with nature in the bringing forth of new flowers, fruits and vegetables, the Church sets her season of Lent, which means "Spring". Her hope is that as we clean up our gardens, we may clean up our characters also, and that as we watch the buds bursting into leaf and blossom, we may ask whether the most important part of us, our soul, is also alive and growing. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?".

Parties in Lent? The outward marks of Lent in Loders will be a weekly service at three on Thursday afternoons (the first Thursday excepted); some sermons from the Vicar of Powerstock on Sunday mornings, and a sermon by the Rector of Bridport on Good Friday morning. The inward marks, visible to God alone, should be a deepening sorrow for sin, and a growing desire to be made like unto Jesus Christ, who is what human nature can, and must, be. We may go to parties in Lent, and still be keeping Lent, provided we have these inward marks.

The Ash Wednesday Services in Loders will be, School children 9.15 a.m. and Holy Communion at 10, followed immediately by the ancient Communion Service. At Dottery there will be a Communion at 6.30 p.m.

Dottery Bell was out of action for two weeks, and Mrs. Wensley, who rings it, suffered from a sense of frustration which almost moved her to summon together the faithful by whistle or drum. Thanks to Mr. Cecil Marsh, the bell is now fitted with a wire rope. The marked absence of groans as the bell rings, suggests that he also gave it a drink of oil.

Mrs. R.J. Pitcher, of Boarsbarrow, is still in the Weymouth eye hospital, making good progress. She endured great pain in one eye with the quiet fortitude which is characteristic of her. Mrs. Darby is now out of hospital, and the school children rejoice to have her peep in on them. Everybody connected with the school is grateful to Mrs. Chard for taking over Mrs. Darby's duties, and doing them so well.

Mrs. Willmott and the Vicar wish to thank the parishioners for the many kindnesses shewn them at the recent birth of their son. Both mother and son are doing well, and we are pleased that it is a son. As an old parishioner puts it, "Michael's sisters will no longer be able to say to him 'We have a brother, but you haven't'".

Mrs. Gale's Nose. The Mothers' Union visits to the pantomimes at Weymouth and Exeter have not been good for the nose of that good humoured and tireless church worker of Dottery, Mrs. Gale. In the teashop at Weymouth Mrs. Gale fell on her nose, and precipitated a copious bleeding. In the teashop at Exeter Mrs. Gale fell on the same nose, and nearly broke it. She made light of the exquisite pain, and now she laughs heartily at her misfortunes, assuring sympathetic enquirers that the connection between her nose and Christmas is other than might be imagined.

Mrs. Brown's Hat. The Mothers' Union trip to Exeter cost Mrs. Brown, of Dottery, a new hat. When she was crossing a bridge, her hat blew into the River Exe. No male passenger was gallant enough to go in after it, and the hat was not insured. The M.U. came back with a poor opinion of the men of Exeter. "How were they to know", queries one mother, "that there wasn't anybody beneath the floating hat?"

The Vicar writes: "I have had the good fortune to inherit a car. May I, through these Notes, thank all the kind people who have given me, and my family, lifts, and sometimes lent me their car? I am loth to mention names when I am indebted to so many, but I really must acknowledge my gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Marsh, who, for nearly four years, have fetched me to Dottery Church on wet Sundays, involving them each time in a double journey of twelve miles".

Church Heating, Question and Answer.

- Q. "They have £250 in hand for a heating apparatus for Loders Church. Why don't they put it in?"
- A. "The Ministry of Works won't grant a licence".
- Q. "But Powerstock had no difficulty in renewing their heating apparatus, and they did it quite recently".
- A. "The operative word is 'renew'. Powerstock renewed its apparatus. There is the difference. Loders hasn't had an apparatus for years, and the Ministry refuse the licence on the ground that what has been done without for years can be done without for a bit longer".
- Q. "Isn't it a pity that Loders did not put in an apparatus when there were no licences required, and when things were cheap? The money for it was given years ago".
- A. "It was indeed a pity. But rest assured that mighty efforts will be made to get in an apparatus before next winter".

Colonel Scott's hobby is the working of tapestry, and the re-covering of elegant armchairs. Fine samples of his craftsmanship are to be seen at the Old Mill. He offered to make two collection bags for use in church, and this was readily accepted. It was not until the bags had come to church, and had received their meed of admiration as being the work of a mere man, that the congregation realised how friendly they were with their graceless old collecting plates. A student of church law informed us that legally we were wedded to the plates. We could not put them away without infringing the ubric which directs the collecting of the alms in "a decent bason". So we effected a typical English compromise. We use the plates at matins, and the bags at other times. The question is being debated whether plates are less moral than bags. Aesthetically there may be a great difference between them, but ethically there is little. The plate may advertise the ten shilling note, but the bag may conceal the button, and what manner of churchwarden is he who would say "Give me the button every time"?

Houses before Schools. The Archbishop of York will be strongly supported in his request that houses should be built before new schools. We see timber, bricks, cement and other materials in short supply being lavished on the building of a new grammar school in Bradpole. Yet in our country schools, notably Loders and Askerswell, we have perfectly good classrooms that are empty. Why cannot the empty classrooms be put into use again, and the building of new schools be suspended until the housing problem is solved? Some quarters are making it a matter of congratulation that new palaces of learning are being built in hard times like these, but future generations will question our sanity when they find that we built palaces of learning, and left the teachers who taught in them homeless, and the children who learnt in them with overcrowded homes. We are under a moral obligation to find our own school teachers a house, but we haven't yet succeeded.

Parish Registers.

Jan. 21st. Holy Baptism. Tony Roland Fry.

Services for February.

- Loders. 7th. Ash Wednesday. 9.15 Children. 10. H.C. & Communion
11th. 8 H.C., 11 Matins, 2.15 children, 6.30 Evensong.
18th. 8 H.C., Matins & H.C. 2.15 Children.
25th. 8 H.C., 11 Matins, 2.15 children. 6.30 Evensong.
Thursdays service at 3 p.m.
- Dottery. 4th. H.C. 9.30. Ash Wednesday, Communion 6.30.
11th. Evensong, 3.30.
18th. Evensong 6.30.
25th. Evensong 3.30.