

The Parish Party was an unqualified success. Nearly all the families in Loders were represented at it, and so many came from Dottery that they had to engage the town bus to carry them. The competition for the best disguise attracted many entries, and lent colour to the assembly. Had the criterion of judgement been the prettiest dress, or the most original the judges would have found a decision difficult to come by, but the winner was the one who was the last to be recognised by the audience. This turned out to be Mrs. Harper, of Uploders. She was wearing an old dress uniform of a major of the King's Own Highland Regiment, and with the help of fierce moustachios she cut a very military figure indeed. It is said that the uniform once belonged to Major Bradwell, of Loders Court. The high light of the evening was the appearance of the Symondsburys Mummers, whose play on the floor of the hut occupied a full hour. They gave us a pleasing sample of the fun made at Christmas by the rustics of the Middle Ages. We trust that the frothy tankards of ale brought in by three stalwart men of Loders, when the Master Mummer called for small beers, were to the Mummers' taste. Refreshments were abundant, and seemed to be circulating throughout the latter part of the evening. If some people missed their ham sandwich, it was the Vicar's fault. Forgetting that they were in limited supply, he fed them to the Mummers lavishly. But they deserved it.

The profit on the parish party was £9. 0. 0. this being largely due to the industry of Mrs. H. Legg and her helpers, and the generosity of the parishioners. The refreshments not only cost us nothing—they contributed £2. 10. 0. to the profit. Miss Barlow has received £5. 0. 0. for Loders School Fund, and the remainder of the profit has gone to the churchwardens for church expenses.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs. Edward Randall on the birth of a son, who is doing well, and to Mr and Mrs. Randall senior on their entry into the noble army of grandparents.

Easter, being so early this year, will pose a problem for church decorators who will find flowers scarce, but we can depend on our ladies to make our two churches beautiful for the Queen of Festivals. The Easter services in Loders will be, Holy Communion 7, 8 and 11.45 a.m. Matins 11, Children 2.15 and Evensong 6.30. At Dottery there will be Holy Communion at 9.30. and Evensong at 3.30.p.m.

The Prayer Book asks all confirmed members of the Church to make their Communion on Easter Day. In practice, about two and a half million do so. The compilers of statistics perversely insist on limiting the membership of the C of E to these. They ignore the fact given by the latest Registrar returns that 67 out of every 100 children born in England are baptised in the Church of England, and that 70 out of every 100 couples married in England are married in the Church of England. These figures suggest that the nominal memberships of the C of E is about 70% of the population. Trade Unionists and members of the C of E have this in common, that they do not bother to attend their meetings.

The Woman's Institution Party in the Hut enlivened an otherwise cold and miserable February evening. Bradpole W.I. were the guests. They tended to enter all their heavy weights for the competitions needing quickness of manoeuvre, which lost them the races, but stoked up the fun. Miss Alison Scott is a genius at producing amusing charades without much rehearsal. Her team of performers blushed to hear her apologise to the audience that the rehearsals had been "not many".

Three sets of banns are being called at the same time in Loders Church. A perusal of the registrars (admittedly not very thorough) suggests that this has never happened before, even when the population of Loders was double what it is now.

A shock for Loders. The news that the 19year old flying officer son of Mr and Mrs. C. Chard had been killed in an air crash in Rhodesia came as a personal blow to everybody in Loders who had followed the career of this promising lad. The deepest sympathy is felt for his parents in the loss of their only child, and for his fiancée, Miss Wyatt, who so often partnered him in exhibition dancing at parish socials.

Mrs. Gale, of Dottery, wishes through these notes to thank those who enquired kindly after her double accident, from which she is now happily



recovered.

Church Business for the past year will be settled at the Easter Vestry, to be held in the Schoolroom on Wednesday, March 28th, at 7.30p.m. when our treasurer, Colonel Scott, will present the annual statement of accounts, This meeting will also appoint churchwardens, sidesmen, and church council. It is hoped that the interest shown in previous years may be maintained by a full attendance.

Prodigious Appetites. There is speculation as to how much a Litton Cheney man normally eats. When visiting ringers held a meeting in that village, the Litton ringers' wives provided a free tea. They had been told to expect fifteen ringers. But to their dismay and alarm, no less than forty-three sat down to the tea they had laid for fifteen. The forty-three found, however, that they could entirely satisfy their hunger, and leave much over of the tea that the Litton wives thought adequate for fifteen. In consequence, some Lodgers wives are feeling thankful that they don't have to forage for a Litton man.

Rising Costs of production have made these humble Notes a bedfellow with the illustrious Dorset Echo and Bridport News. When our financial year ends in July, our price will have to be 2½d. The cost of our paper has been doubled, and our small profit has been turned into a loss. Even with that, we suspect that our printers are letting us down very lightly.

Gloomy Month. Everybody is glad to see the last of February, with its ceaseless rain, its illness, and its accidents. Close on Tony Chard's death came the news that Tony Wells, of the Post Office, had been thrown from his motor cycle by a skid, and was in the Weymouth district hospital. At the time of going to print he was still unconscious. Mr. Tilley's youngest brother was also the victim of an accident. His motor cycle ran into an unlighted timber truck, and, at the time of going to print, he was lying between life and death in Taunton hospital. Of illness we have had our share. Flu has captured our worthy parish clerk, and church service seems all wrong without the punctuation of his resounding Amens. Our organist has also been laid low, and the people's warden of Dottery, and too many parishioners to mention by name. One of our sidesmen has been laid up for weeks, and another had to take two days off work for the first time in his life. Yet, "come wind, come weather" the Sunday worship of Almighty God has been maintained by a small but faithful band.

A Reminder that the service in Lodgers Church at 11 a.m. on Good Friday will be conducted by Canon Clare.

The local broadcaster, Mr. J. B. Thorburn, will be one of a team which will try to answer Any Questions at an open meeting in the Uploders Room on Friday, March 9th, at 7.30. p.m. Everybody will be welcome, questions to be handed in at the door.

#### Parish Registers

Holy Baptism, 4 Feb., Peter Thomas Wadner  
" 11 Feb., Isobelle Jane Ward

#### Services for March

Loders 4th, HC. 8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Memorial 6.30.  
11th, HC. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.  
18th, HC. 8, and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.15.  
23rd, Good Friday, Litany 10, Matins 11.  
25th, Easter Day, HC. 7, 8, 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.

Dottery 4th, HC. 9.30, 11th Evensong 3.30, 18th Evensong 6.30., Good Friday, Evensong 6.30. Easter Day, HC. 9.30. Evensong 6.30.



The Easter Communicants numbered 102; a slight reduction on last year.

Parish Finance. The accounts for 1950, presented by Col. Scott at the Easter Vestry, showed that Loders Church had received £308. 19.8., and spent £290. 8. 7. The balance of £18. 11. 1. is the highest on record. Offertories, at £193. 15. 10. were also the highest on record, being £21. 12. 10. more than the previous year. Had expenses not been a record also, the bank balance would have been much fatter than it is.

The Churchwardens for 1951 are as for 1950. Colonel Scott (Loders) and Mr. C. Marsh (Dottery) accepted nomination as Vicar's Wardens, and Mr. E. Lenthall (Loders) and Mr. F. Cleal (Dottery) were unanimously re-elected People's Wardens. Messrs. H. Sanders, O. Gale, D. Thomas and Commander Streatfeild were elected sidesmen, and Miss A. Scott and Mrs. B. Osborne were appointed delegates to the Euri-Decanal Conference.

The Church Council is very much the same as last year. It now consists of Mrs. R. Pitcher, Mrs. H. Legg, Mrs. H. Bishop, Mrs. Randall and Mrs. Streatfeild, Sir E. Le Breton, Commander Streatfeild, and Messrs. D. Thomas, H. Sanders, H. Legg, R. Drake, G. Hyde, S. Tilley O. Gale, A. Rice-Oxley, and H. Crabb. Miss Muriel Randall was unanimously elected secretary of the Church Council to succeed Mrs. Edgar Bishop, who has left the parish.

A loss to Loders. The Easter Vestry paid a warm tribute to the work done for the parish by Mr and Mrs. Edgar Bishop. She had been secretary of the Church Council, and a member of the Choir and of the Women's Institute; he was (and still is, for the time being) leader of the Young Farmers and secretary of the Discussion Club. The best wishes for the future will go to them to their new home in Chideok, and we shall still hope to see them occasionally at our meetings.

Miss Audrey Greening, who was recently married to Mr. William Green, of Bradpole, at a very pretty service in Loders Church, will not be following the usual example of brides in leaving the parish. She and her husband have made their home in the old groom's quarters at the Court.

Mrs. Tiltman of New Road, was prevented by illness from assisting with the Easter decorations of Loders Church. She always does the bell in the chancel, and this was the first time she had missed in fifteen years. Mrs. Masters, of Matravers, kindly deputised for her. The other decorators to whom we owed such a beautiful church at Easter were Lady Le Breton (altar and sanctuary), Mrs. D. Crabb and Miss J. Crabb (chancel), Miss V. Legg (pulpit and Ladys Chapel altar), Miss J. Scott (lectern), Miss A. Scott, Mrs. Streatfeild, Mrs. Willmott, Mary Elliott and Margaret Drake (windows), and Janet Symes and Pat Irons (font and window).

Dottery Decorations, like Loders, did not reflect the scarcity of flowers at Easter. Mrs. Wensley's crosses made as brave a show as ever, and Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Wensley did not fail to make the baptistry look like the window of a West End florist's shop. Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Cleal, and Mrs. Gale saw to it that the glory of the west end did not overbalance the east.

The great congregation at Loders on Easter morning included many visitors who were warm in their praise of the singing and the organ. The soloists in Wesley's anthem, "Blessed be the God and Father" were Miss V. Legg (soprano) and Mr. S. Tilley (bass).

How Many of the people at matins on Easter morning knew that Mrs. R. Pitcher was in church, with her husband? She had been given special leave of absence from the Weymouth Eye Infirmary



to attend this service. She has been in the Infirmary for three months, which must be a trial, even for a nature as strong and calm as hers. We wish that she had not tucked herself into one of the dim corners of the church, where none of her many friends would look for her.

Thanks to the good offices of Mrs. Parsons, of Vinney Cross, the Loders school mistress, Miss Barlow, has secured a furnished cottage in the parish, Miss Barlow is now Mrs. Clerk. She was married at Loders in Easter week, the festive appearance of the church doing its best to atone for the wintry weather. The school children gave their teacher an electric iron and a bag. They and their parents came to church to the wedding, notwithstanding its early hour.

Dottery children delighted the congregation on Easter Sunday afternoon by their rendering of a kind of junior anthem. They had been coached by their teachers, Miss Thelma Cleal and Miss Doris Parker.

Fraternal Ringers. Powerstock ringers joined Loders in a recent Saturday afternoon tour. They rang at Toller, Rampisham, Evershot, and Maiden Newton, and came back to their Sunday ringing heavily fortified by the fish and chip supper for which Maiden Newton is becoming famous. Maiden Newton rang at Loders a few days later.

The sige of the congregation that attended the memorial service of the late Pilot Officer Cadet Tony Chard left no doubt of the esteem in which he was held, or of the measure of sympathy felt for his parents. The Air Force have sent Mr and Mrs. Chard photographs and a detailed account of Tony's funeral in Rhodesia. In this sad affair the Air Force have shown a niceness of feeling which one does not look for in the war machine.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Kathleen Hughes, of Loders, on being selected out of many applicants for a lecturer-ship in the University of London. She will take up duty in the autumn as assistant lecturer in medieval history in Holloway College.

Mr and Mrs. Pearce have left Yondover to live with their children in Florida, and so increased the number of Loders folk who have exchanged their native village for the new lands beyond the seas.

Mr. Phillip Symes, of Uploders, had leave from the Royal Navy at Easter to marry Miss Constance Rice, of Bridport. The wedding took place in Bridport Parish Church.

Skilful Needlework on the part of Mrs. Wensley has converted an old curtain into a new alter cover for Dottery Church, and saved church funds.

The long-suffering of Mr. Harold Brown in good causes was again demonstrated at Easter. He had just got in to a late tea from the arduous work of mapping footpaths, when a caller brought him Loders Church accounts for a quick audit. This made him a bit wary of the accounts, and he and his lady wife checked them extra carefully. They finished, at 8.30.p.m., the tea they had begun at 6.p.m., and were no less gracious.

A matter of interpretation. Our good neighbour, the Vicar of Powerstock, told us in one of his Lent sermons that he had had over a hundred applications for the headship of Powerstock School, and that he interpreted this as showing a fedupness of the teaching profession with town life, and a desire for the simplicities of country life. The teaching profession showed no such yearning for the simplicities of country life when the headship of Loders School was advertised last year. We had only three applications. But then, we hadn't, like Powerstock, a house to offer!

Miss Ruth Palmer, daughter of the former Vicar of Loders, has been staying at Loders Court. She showed the Mother's Union photographs of Mr. Palmer's home in New Zealand.