

An Apology. Last months Notes were nearly three weeks late in making their appearance. This was due, partly to the Easter Holidays, and partly to the acute shortage of paper. Having run out of the proper paper, our printers tried a substitute which was not satisfactory. They had to scrap these copies, and wait for a new supply of the usual paper. The incident served to show, that however much these Notes may be disagreed with, or even ridiculed, they have a niche in the local scheme of things. Our distributors had their work cut out to pacify irate readers who came demanding to know what had happened to their copy. So besieged with enquiries was Mrs. Gale, of Dottery, that she thought of seeking relief in a disguise.

The Farm Service. will be held in Loders Church on Trinity Sunday, May 20th, at 7 p.m. Farmers and their men, especially those living at a distance, have found it rather a rush to get to church at 6.30., so this year it will be half an hour later. By right the service should have been on Rogation Sunday, but the wetness of the season had held up ploughing, and it would have been unrealistic to pray for a blessing on supposedly growing crops which had not been sown. Last month, the continuous rain made it appear that the ground could not be ploughed in time for spring sowing, but a fortnight of drying weather, combined with dawn to dusk ploughing, has saved the situation. A shoulder of Boarsbarrow has just been ploughed, and from the valley beneath it looks as if the long straight furrows are running right into heaven.

Like Piccadilly Circus. The other evening, the road outside Loders School suddenly became alive with cars. There seemed to be cars everywhere. The Askerswell bus had difficulty in getting through, and the need for a policeman on point duty was too apparent. Every cottage window along the route was manned by every available head, and somebody asked whether this galaxy of cars might not mean that the Food Office had come to give out ration books. But the observant, noting, the sprinkling of knights, baronets, parsons, farmers, doctors, architects, and captains in the crowd, declined to support this theory. As a matter of fact, the crowd and the traffic congestion was nothing more than a meeting of the Church Councillors of Allington, Bradpole, Askerswell and Loders with the Archdeacon of Sherborne and the Bishop's Pastoral Reorganisation Commission. The Commission wanted to know what the parishes concerned thought of a proposal that Bradpole, Loders and Askerswell should be ministered to by one parson (with the help of a lay reader), and that West Loders, commonly called Dottery, should be joined to Allington. The number of councillors who responded to the Archdeacon's summons shewed how lively was the topic. Chairs, even bedroom chairs, had to be borrowed from the cottage of Mrs. Whittle, opposite the school, and the councillors still left standing consoled themselves that at least they were on the right side of the door.

What the Parishes Think. After a long discussion, it became clear that Loders and Bradpole were not very willing to lose the exclusive right to a parson, and Askerswell did not mind throwing in its lot with Loders, provided Chilcombe came with it (Now Chilcomb is betrothed to Burton Bradstock). If the Commissions once believed that Dottery did not care to whose star its wagon was hitched, they do so no longer. For Dottery provided the surprise of the evening. Mr. Cecil Marsh, Warden of Dottery, who is not normally given to oratory, made the speech of his life, showing why Dottery should not be severed from Loders, and why he thought the principles on which the Commission was working were wrong. The Archdeacon, had he not been stunned by the force of Mr. Marsh's argument, might have thought it odd that half of the crowded room should consist of Dottery "Councillors", with feet and tongues and hands loud in support of Mr. Marsh, when the latter, officially, has only one Dottery Councillor to support or disagree with him. The Lay Rector of Loders (Sir E. Le Breton won the undying gratitude of Dottery by a fighting speech in which he made much of the iniquity of joining a part of a Low Church parish like Loders with a High Church parish like Allington. This speech lost something of its force when the meeting learned that Sir Edward's own Vicar was a near-papist, and the Vicar of Allington was an ex-Baptist. (This on the open confession of the Vicars themselves.)

"What will happen now?" is the question being asked by the parishes concerned. Nothing can happen till one of the three present incumbents leaves, and who knows which that may be. The Commissioners have little choice. They must eliminate one parson in this rural deanery if the Church's manpower is to be reorganised. Looking at this rural deanery,

they see one parson working Burton and Shipton, one working Powerstock Poorton and West Milton, one working Bothenhampton and Walditch, two working Bridport St. Mary's, St. Andrew's, West Bay and the hospitals, and one working Symondsburry, Eype and Broadoak, when they get to our neighbourhood, they find one parson serving the one parish of Bradpole, and one serving the one parish of Loders. Here, obviously, is the only field for economy in the Bridport Rural Deanery.

A gift to the parish. Miss Enid Allen, sister of the late Capt. Allen, of Callington, who has just left the parish, has given an invalid wheel chair for the use of the parish. It will be stored at the Vicarage, where application for the loan of it should be made. We are grateful to Miss Allen, and our best wishes will go with her to her new home. Her successors at Callington are Mr. Atkinson, of Newton Abbot, his mother and his cousin, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

A Mother's Union Occasion. Plans are well advanced for the holding of the annual rally of the Bridport Deanery M.U. in Loders on June 21st. The 250 mothers who usually attend this rally will severely tax the capacity of Loders Church, especially so because there is always a small army of banners and bearers who process to the altar. Tea on the lawn of Loders Court will present problems of another kind, but they should be surmounted. The May meeting of Loders M.U. will be at the Vicarage on Thursday the 17th, when the speaker will be Mrs. White, of Toller.

No cause for alarm. When the verger, Mr. Thomas, opened Loders Church one morning, he found a seagull, which had evidently spent the night there. Mr. Thomas considered this an omen of high significance, and so did other village sages to whom he confided his discovery. Some thought that it pointed to the death of the Vicar, who it may be guessed, is less allergic to seagulls than he now is to dogs. However, there is no cause for alarm. Our good witch, who helps us at fetes, says there is no occult significance in the event. Now (says the witch), had it been a magpie, the village might well be shuddering.....

PARISH REGISTERS.

Holy Baptism.	11th March,	Martin Lewis Hillier
	25th March,	Denise Jean Miller
	2nd April,	Oliver Nicholas Bogle Willmott
Holy Matrimony.	17th March,	William Thomas Green and Audrey Hilda Greening.
	29th March,	Eric George Clark and Margaret Mary Barlow

SERVICES FOR MAY

Loders 6th, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15., Evensong 6.30.
13th, (Whitsunday) HC 8, Matins 11, HC 11.45., Children 2.15.,
Evensong 6.30.
20th, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15., Farm Service 7 p.m.
27th, HC 8, Matins 11, HC 11.45., Children 2.15.

Dottery 6th, HC 9.30., 13th, Evensong 3.30.
20th, Evensong 3.30. 27th, Evensong 6.30.

Loders & Dottery Notes (June, 1951.)

The annual Gymkhana and Fete is to be divided into two separate events. The Fete will be held in July, and the Gymkhana in September. It is hoped that this arrangement may satisfy those who are not interested in gymkhanas, and who object to paying gymkhana prices for admission to a fete. A bigger thing will be made of the gymkhana. Considerable support is expected from the Cattistock Pony Club, which will be in camp in this neighbourhood at the time. And no effort will be spared to make the fete more attractive. If Miss Joan Scott succeeds in winning the co-operation of gardeners both professional and amateur, a flower show will be one of the sidelines of the fete; and if Mr. Lince can spare us the time, we may have a Whirligig House, a rustic counterpart of those in the Festival Fun Fair. Dancing by the school children never fails to delight the grown-ups, and we are hoping that Mrs. Clark's exacting duties at the school may allow of her putting on a "show." The following have kindly consented to be in charge of departments - Col. Scott gymkhana, Mrs. Streatfield stalls, Mrs. H. Legg teas, Mr. Tilley sideshows, Miss J. Scott flower show, Miss V. Legg dance, and Messrs. R. Drake, H. Sanders and F. Cleal gate.

Dottery people are at liberty to have a stall at the fete and keep the proceeds for Dottery Church funds. The rest of the profits are for Loders Church expenses. At the fete time the inhabitants of the parish recognise that the old church of Loders belongs to them all, and that they must help to keep it going.

We are lucky in having Loders Court for big functions, and occupants who are as ready to help us as Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton. We hope they will survive the ordeal of being the hub of the universe three times this summer. The fete and the gymkhana will be at the Court by their kind consent, and so will the summer rally of the M.U. branches of the Bridport Rural Deanery, on June 21st. Add to that the usual invasion of Scouts in August, and it is clear that Loders Court is not as far from the madding crowd as its position on the map might suggest.

Annual Subscriptions to these Notes are due for renewal next month. We regret that the rising tide of prices has raised them from 2/-, to 2/6d. The sea is as salt for sprats as it is for whales, and we find our circumstances the same as the big daily papers, who have raised their prices. They have given up trying to play Canute, and we are not starting.

The Archdeacon of Sherborne tells us (unofficially) that the vigour with which Dottery opposed the Commissioner's plan to transfer Dottery to Allington has led to the plan being shelved for the time being. Askerswell is to be joined to Loders, and the fate of Bradpole and Dottery is in abeyance.

Mr. and Mrs. Ascott are the happy parents of a new baby daughter. Congratulations.

Pulling their weight. Two members of our congregation who are Yeung Farmers made a weighty contribution to the success of their respective clubs at the Dorset County Rally. Miss Marjorie Randall collected 9½ points for her club, which was the best individual effort for the whole county, and beat the collective efforts of some of the competing clubs. Miss Sarah Barnes, of Dottery, won points for her club in the cheesemaking, and bids fair to be the champion young cheesemaker of Dorset. Few Young Farmers make cheese.

From Loders to Florida. Mr. John Pearce, late of Yondover, and now of Florida, writes that his wife and he are now happily settled with their daughter - after a "very trying" voyage. They apologise for being too worn out to say many goodbyes in Loders. The postscript says "They have already dressed me up in American clothes." What a pity that Loders should never see Mr. Pearce's portly figure crowned by a ten gallon hat!

A humorous letter from Mr. Whitaker, the new owner of Callington, regrets that he hasn't yet met the Mr. Atkinson who, according to

the last number of these notes, also inhabits Callington. We apologise for inflicting a lodger on Mr. Whitaker before he is settled, and also for misleading the great British public. Indications are that Mr. Whitaker is a kindly man. To save the parish its usual labour of finding out the history and the circumstances of the latest acquisition, he volunteers the following facts: he is the son of a well known Dorset parson, he spent some of his youth in this neighbourhood, he has been a farmer all his life, excepting the war years when he was a captain in the R.A.S.C., he comes direct from a farm in the Hay Ton Valley (Dartmoor), and he thinks he will be happy in Loders. We shall do what we can to make him so.

The Farm Service, like wine, improves with age. A large congregation of farmers, young farmers, and agricultural workers, came to Loders Church in a steady downpour of rain. The rain was most welcome, but it kept at home the "footsloggers" who were coming from Powerstock, and Uploders pedestrians. The hymns, all of them old favourites, were sung with gusto, and the choir treated the congregation to an anthem, beautifully sung. Part of the interest of this service is to hear the lessons read by unfamiliar voices. To the readers, their performance is an ordeal; for some of the congregation there is sly pleasure in watching the victims go to the lectern; and for the Vicar there is anxiety lest the reader should faint. But this year's team were confident and clear, and acquitted themselves nobly. The readers were Mr.H.Crabb, chairman local Agricultural Worker's Union, Mr.C.Pitcher, chairman Askerswell and District Young Farmers, and Mr.A.J.Wells, vice-chairman Loders and District Agricultural Discussion Club. We are grateful to Mr.Bades for lending us a plough to put in the chancel, and to Mr.C. Pitcher for hauling it.

Eighty-Four Rooks fell to the guns in this year's shoot at Loders Court. A tribute to rooks (kindly dressed for cooking by Miss D.Crabb) was delivered at the Vicarage, and duly converted into pie. If there be any question as to whether rook pie is appetising, let it be settled by this, that Master Michael Willmott, still in the peevish mood that follows measles, and quite "off his oats," devoured three helpings.

Loders School. The workmen are now putting in a hot and cold water supply, which is pumped from the well in the playground by electric motor, and chlorinated. As the number of pupils has gone up to 28, we are entitled to a second teacher, and although teachers are in short supply, strong efforts will be made to get one.

We do not realise how huge a success was the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent tour of Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, said that in his 22 years of public service he had never known anyone have such enormous effect on the Australian people. The Archbishop's speech to the Cabinet, he said, made a profound impression. At one open air service in New Zealand the congregation exceeded 30,000, and this, not in a farming country like Haly, but a thinly populated agricultural country. It was the first visit of an Archbishop of Canterbury to these dominions.

Parish Registers.

Holy Baptism, 13th May, Stewart Mark Randall.

Services for June.

Loders. 3rd. 8, HC, 11 Matins, 11.45. HC, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.
10th. 8, HC, 11 Matins, 2.15 children.
17th. 8, HC, 11 Matins, 11.45 HC, 2.15 Children, evensong 6.30.
24th. 8, HC, 11 Matins, 2.15 children.
Dottery. 3rd. HC, 9.30, 10th Evensong 3.30.
17th, Evensong 3.30. 24th Evensong 6.30.