

Parish Notes (July, 1952)
Loders, Dottery & Askerswell.

Loders Church Roof. The work that has been in progress for the last month has not been mentioned in these Notes because the Notes travel far and wide, and we did not wish to kindle illicit interest in our lead. The lead is now safely delivered to a foundry near London, and the brow of Constable Edrich is smoother in consequence. It is hoped that the lead will pay for our new roofs of slate and bitumen. Had we succeeded in selling it before the price of lead fell, we might have got a capital sum for roof endowment as well as new roofs. That we did not achieve this object was none of our fault. Architects, builders and licensing authorities are too high minded to be hurried by considerations of £. S. D. It seems that only parsons think of such things. However, we are extremely lucky to have had two hundred years of wear out of our lead roof, and then to have got a new roof by selling the carcass. Our neighbours in Bothenhampton have reason to envy us. The stone tile roof of their church has re-acted to the sea air, and the parish must raise £2,000 to replace it.

Worn Out. Our roofs had been leaking badly for years, and had defied all efforts to mend them. The architect reported that it was a waste of money to cobble the lead any longer, and that the damage to timbers and walls by water was such that the longer new roofing was delayed, the more expensive would it ultimately become. His plan for selling the lead, and re-roofing with slate and bitumen, was considered by the building experts on the Diocesan Faculty Board and fully approved by them. This should allay the fears of those who were disturbed by paragraphs in the press alleging that vicars were unwisely selling their church lead to raise funds. No incumbent may sell church lead without the consent of his Faculty Board. This Board is advised by experts, and is much too jealous for the well being of church fabrics to allow an incumbent to do anything rash. Lead has little intrinsic value. Before the war it fetched only £5 ton, and was one of the cheapest roofing materials. Rearmament is responsible for the present price. Those who feel that because of its antiquity (it was used by the Romans) lead is the proper roofing material for a church, may find consolation in the fact that bitumen is still older. It was used for the flat roofs of the Babylonians and of the Assyrians before them. It was also the roofing material of Noah's Ark.

Sheep dogs at Loders Fete. Mr. White of Washingpool Farm, has kindly consented to bring his champion sheep dogs Lassie and Pam, to Loders Fete, on August 2nd. They will show what dogs can do with sheep. We hope we may also see them putting the ducks to bed, but this depends on whether the ducks, being Aylesburys, can keep out of the way of green peas between now and then. Mr. Sanctuary and his team of Square dancers will also grace the fete, and so, we think, will the children of Loders School, who hope to do country dancing. In previous years the fete has fizzled out at six o'clock, and given way to a dance in the hut. The plan this year is to have the fete in two parts - stalls, sideshows, flower show, children's fancy dress and dancing and teas in the afternoon; and sheep dog trials, square dancing display, slow bicycle racing and jousting from 7 p.m. onwards, all in the park of Loders Court.

The Offertory Box in Askerswell Church was found by Mr. Adams, the treasurer to have been forced open and robbed. He regrets that it contained at least two shillings, but comforts us with the news that Litton Cheney has suffered likewise. A further comfort is that Mr. Adams has produced a handsome new box in place of the old.

Dottery's Preference. As a rule, the weather has to be just so for church-going. If it is fine, people must go to West Bay; if it is wet, they must stay at home. But nothing brings Dottery people to church better than a howling wet night - and the walk for some is a long one. The other Sunday night was typical of November and not of June, and it filled Dottery Church with worshippers. This is now the norm for Dottery.

A Whitsun Wedding. Shewing their usual feeling of goodwill to those entering matrimony, the decorators of Loders Church hurried to be finished in time for the wedding of Miss Avril Greening and Mr. Gill on Whit Saturday, with the result that the church was looking as comely as the bridal party. Mr. Tiltman was at the organ, and the bells chimed as the congregation left church. Like so many young couples Mr. & Mrs. Gill are waiting for a place of their own to live in.

All shoulders to the Wheel. Following on the offer of Mrs. Aylmer to organise a Christmas Sale, and of Miss Robinson to get up a children's concert, towards reducing the debt on the general account of Askerswell Church, comes an offer from Miss Edwards and her Guides and Brownies to hold a jumble sale on her lawn for the same purpose. The offer was quickly accepted. Guides and Brownies will soon be round collecting jumble

Loders Women's Institute celebrated its fifth birthday with a party and a cake. The local Mothers' Union had reached the great age of 21 in the previous month, and had had a party also. The W.I. went all out to make a big thing of their birthday, feeling that extreme youth was something for a female institution to be proud of. Much of the entertainment of a very happy evening derived, however, from the venerable Lady Pinney, who talked about her travels. The male guests were somewhat stupefied in the presence of her inexhaustible reserves of eloquence, and marvelled that so many ladies could listen to one of their sex with such relish for so long. We presume that the ladies were trying to fathom the secret of perpetual motion of the tongue. The male guests derived their pleasure from the excellent refreshments and from Mrs. Taylor's funny sketch, which it is hoped she may repeat at Loders Fete.

Generous New Zealanders. Sir Edward Le Breton writes:- "Would you kindly put in your monthly news sheet a note to the effect that another consignment of gift food from the generous New Zealanders has recently arrived, and the items allotted to this parish are 9 tins unsweetened milk, 6 tins cream, 11 tins minced beef, 12 tins sweets, and 23 packets pea and ham soup. I have been asked to collect these and distribute them. It is obvious that only a few of the 500 parishioners can benefit, and I propose as far as possible to give them out to people convalescing from illness, and needy pensioners. I hope this course will meet with the approval of the village."

Another Birthday. It would reflect sadly on Loders of the birthdays of M.U. and W.I. were celebrated heartily and the birthday of the parish church neglected. We do not know when Loders Church began, but there is some evidence that it was nearly a thousand years ago. We regard July 22nd. St. Mary Magdalene's day, as the birthday of Loders Church, but we shall keep it up on the following Sunday, July 27th., calling it the Dedication Festival.

The Jackdaw of Askerswell. At the top of the spiral staircase in Askerswell tower are two bushels of sticks, blocking the doorway to the roof. On the sticks sat a jackdaw. Between her and the sticks were three baby jackdaws. When the rector's face appeared at nest level, she flew at him, and forced him down the steps. Possible, in his dark suit, she took him for a trespassing rook. Days later, when the faces of Mr. Studley and Mr. George Bryan appeared at nest level, she fled in a flurry of feathers. It would be interesting to know what she thought they were.

Services in July.

<u>Loders.</u>	6th.	H.C. 8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
	13th.	H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
	20th.	H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
	27th.	(Dedication Festival) H.C. 8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.

<u>Dottery</u>	6th.	H.C. 9.30,	13th.	Evensong 3.
	20th.	Evensong 6.	27th.	Evensong 3.

Askerswell

6th.	Evensong 7.
Other Sundays	H.C. 9.30, Evensong 7.

Parish Notes

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell (August, 1952)

A Full Programme. In this year's fete, at Lodors Court, on Saturday 2nd. August, an effort has been made to meet the old complaint that there is not much to see or do. The children are coming in fancy dress, and their dancing will include a minuet in period dress. At 6.30 p.m. there will be slow bicycle racing, jousting, sheep dog demonstrations, square dancing and a sketch by the Women's Institute. There is no reason why anybody should not be pleasantly occupied from early afternoon till night-fall. Competitors in the flower show have been occupied for weeks in trying to ensure that their exhibits shall be at their best on the show day. Gardeners declare that a carrot is harder to bring to perfection than a Dorset Down.

Death Watch Beetle in Lodors Tower. When the contractors who are re-opening Lodors Church got to the tower roof, they found that the timbers supporting the lead were all rotten, and that the vibration of the bells was likely to bring down the entire roof. Water seeping through the perished lead had softened the oak timbers and made food of them for the death watch beetle. The timbers of the priests' room were also completely rotten, and so were parts of the nave roof. It was impossible to gauge the condition of the roof timbers before the lead covering had been taken up, and in consequence we find that the architect's estimate of £100 for new timbers is inadequate. He tells us that we shall be lucky if the receipts for the lead cover the cost of the new roof.

The Ladies who have so kindly given up time to going round Lodors collecting for the fete have more than once been asked whether the Church really needs the money? You may judge for yourselves. When the re-roofing has been done, the plaster of the ceiling has to be made good, and whitened; the leaded lights of the Ladye Chapel windows are perished and must soon be replaced; the tower arch has to be filled in with leaded lights the stone path in the churchyard must be repaired; and then, as if this were not enough, the organ tuner told us brightly that the organ must soon have £200 spent upon it. A country proverb needs revising - the one that says "There are three ways of losing money: Gambling is the quickest, wine and women is the pleasantest, but fattening bullocks is the surest". Having in a builder is now the quickest and the surest.

Wedded in Bridport. A wedding often means that a parish loses a useful parishioner, so we are happy to note that the wedding of Mr. Albert Gale to Miss Marjorie Blandford has enriched Uploders by adding a new home to it. They are living in the cottage lately occupied by Mr. Tudball, the outward appearance of which gives no clue to the transformation wrought within. The indisposition of the Rector of Bridport had this one happy result that Alberts' own Vicar had the pleasure of officiating at the service in St. Mary's.

The Bishop of Sherborne will institute the Vicar of Lodors to the Rectory of Askerswell on Saturday, September 6th., at 6 p.m. The Bishop apologises for the inconvenience of the time, and says he hopes Askerswell people will understand the amount of travelling he has to do in this big diocese, and the need to kill many birds with one stone. He will be at Mapperton in the afternoon. Our service at Askerswell will be in two parts, first the Bishop giving the Rector the cure of souls in the parish (called the Institution); then the Archdeacon, or his representative, giving the Rector possession of the church, the churchyard, and the revenues of the benefice (called the Induction).

Long Winter Nights are not welcome to most people, but they are steadily approaching, and Miss Robinson, Governess of Askerswell School, is planning to rob them of their tedium. She has arranged for another course of evening lectures, similar to last year's, presupposing that those who enjoyed them will be eager for another session, and that they will rope in their friends. The course will begin on Monday, October 6th., at 7.30 p.m. and the subject will be English Domestic Architecture.

"Under a Cloud". This hackneyed expression ill describes the feeling of Lodors people at the sad events of July. There has been such a procession of them. We were numbed by the news that Mrs. Harold Bishop, seemingly the haldest person in the parish, and one of the best liked, had come home from an evening expedition to the churchyard, taken her tea, and died. She and her family had been so conspicuous in the Lodors scene for so long, that at first it seemed that Lodors had gone with her. The huge congregation attending her funeral was evidence of the esteem in which she and her

family are held. The latter certainly shewed the way to meet sharp and sudden sorrow manfully. They are schooled in it. Close on Mrs. Bishop's death came news of that of the late Vicar of Loders, the Rev. Charles Palmer. He died on 17th. July, in Auckland, New Zealand. Miss Ruth Palmer had been helping Mrs. Palmer in nursing him through a long illness. On the day of Mr. Palmer's death the people's churchwarden of Loders, Mr. Eli Lenthall, underwent two operations in Bridport Hospital. The only hope of saving his life was a third and critical operation, for which Mrs. Lenthall was summoned to hospital at three o'clock on a Tuesday morning. At the time of writing, he has "come round" from the third operation. He is a fighter, who has won through illnesses almost as tough as this, and our prayer is that he may prevail again. We can end on a brighter note. Mrs. Wensley, the faithful verger of Dottery, who has been sorely missed from Sunday services, is feeling better. She says there is nothing wrong with her, and that she will soon be back at the rope's end of Dottery bell, where Mrs. Gale has been her kind deputy.

A Coming of Age. Miss Thelma Cleal, organist of Dottery, recently celebrated her 21st. birthday. Mr. & Mrs. Cleal gave a party in honour of it at the Allington Parish Hall. The guests, who were numerous, received pre-War hospitality, and are as unlikely to forget Thelma's twenty-first birthday as she herself is.

Mrs. Clark, the governess of Loders School, relinquishes her post this term. It is two years since she succeeded Miss Wilkes. At a gathering of parents and pupils, presided over by the Vicar, Sir Edward Le Breton paid warm tribute to Mrs. Clark's work, and Mrs. Willmott spoke for the parents. Juliet Willmott presented a bouquet, and Margaret Draked followed with a packet of treasury notes, intended to give Mrs. Clark that pastime beloved of wives and dreaded by husbands - an afternoon's shopping.

Loders Ringers look back with satisfaction on their recent outing to Torquay and Totnes, thence by river steamer to Dartmouth. The weather was perfect, and so were the Secretary's arrangements. Like other V.I.P's, the Captain never travels without a physician, and this is always the landlord of the Farmer's Arms. This year the Vice-Captain brought his physician, too, in the landlord of the Crown. To the suggestion that it might not be in the national interest for two physicians to be on the same outing, the Captain retorted that one of them was a specialist (presumably the landlord of the Farmer's Arms, who carried special physic in two little black bottles, from which he dosed nobody but himself). The party returned to Loders with the gratified feeling that their intelligence was one above Torquay, where they had seen chickens on a poulterer's slab, bearing the label "Dressed", when there wasn't a feather on them.

Dr. Ian Scott is now in the Army. He is with a Field Ambulance, bound for Malaya. We shall miss him from the Loders Matins, and our best wishes will go with him. Lieut Donald Scott is almost recovered from a long illness, and is fretting to join his unit in North Africa.

Services for August

Loders. 3rd. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
10th. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
17th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
24th. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
31st. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Dottery 3rd. H.C. 9.30, 10th. Evensong 3.
17th. Evensong 6. 24th. & 31st. Evensong 3.

Askerswell
3rd. Evensong 7.
Other Sundays, H.C. 9.30, Evensong 7.