

Parish Notes (March, 1952)
Loders, Dottery & Askerswell

The Late King George VI. London paid to George the Sixth the ceremonial honours due to a great King, but the simple tributes of the countryside were no less sincere and affectionate. If the dead know what is happening in this world, then the late King, whose heart was in the countryside, must have been touched by the way in which his country subjects flocked to the village churches to commend him to God. At Loders, Dottery and Askerswell the memorial services were on the Sunday following the King's death. There were large congregations at all three churches. On the day of the funeral some people went to church to keep the silence, and others joined in a short service in Loders Church in the evening. Loders ringers rang muffled peals. They "turned in" the tenor bell, which, with the muffles, gave the music a rare and solemn effect. Much has been said, and written, of the late King. This, which was said of him by a native of the British West Indies, hits the proverbial nail on the head - "In this humble and dutiful King we may see writ large the value and importance of the average man of decent instincts..... This sudden and sad event has focussed a spotlight on virtue, as opposed to brilliance and force and power". We generally make the mistake of regarding the Archbishop of Canterbury as temporal head of the English Church, when actually it is the reigning Monarch. By living out the Christian faith so quietly, but so steadfastly, in "the fierce light that beats upon the Throne", George the Sixth was a true disciple of his Master, and an example for which the English Church is grateful. He ranks with King Edward the Confessor as a Defender of the Faith.

Loders had a connection with the Royal funeral in Sir Edward Le Breton. As a member of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms he did guard duty in Westminster Hall and at Windsor. He performed a similar office for King George V, and was one of the cadet guard which lined the Mall for the funeral of Queen Victoria. He missed the funeral of King Edward VII by being in India. Seeing him immediately on his return from the funeral of King George VI, a person of peccable manners might have remarked that some physical strain attaches to the wearing of the uniform of the Gentlemen at Arms for sixteen hours a day.

Our Oldest Worshipper. Dottery is concerned at the misfortune which has befallen Mrs. Scard, who, at 86, is the oldest member of the congregation. She slipped on a step and broke her forearm in several places. At Bridport Hospital she was exercising her native independence of spirit when she fell again, and broke her thigh. She was taken to Portway Hospital, Weymouth, and operated on. At the time of writing, the hospital says her condition is precarious.

Once in Four Years. The Bishop of Salisbury and his suffragan find that the counties of Wiltshire and Dorset make such demands on their time that they must restrict confirmations in village churches to one in four years. The last confirmation in Loders was in 1948. The Bishop has given notice that he will be coming at the end of October this year, and is not likely to come again until 1956. Those who would like to be confirmed this year should see the Vicar.

Accommodating Parishioners. The Vicar appreciates the helpful spirit shewn by worshippers in adjusting themselves to the new times of services made necessary by the inclusion of Askerswell in his charge. The new three o'clock service at Dottery draws a good congregation, and so does the six o'clock at Loders. Askerswell has responded splendidly to Communion at 9.30 on all Sundays excepting the first in the month, and evensong alternatively at 6.30 and 7. Some at Askerswell prefer matins as a matter of choice, but they put the interest of the church before personal taste, and join the majority, which is for evensong.

Mrs. Fooks, who has long been the backbone, and sometimes the only bone, of Askerswell choir, is pleased to have acquired some flesh. There are now ten members of the choir. Mr. Harold Spiller continues at the organ, and Mr. Cecil Legg is choirmaster.

Budding Orators. Our Young Farmers' Club got into the finals of the debating contest at Sherborne. The team consisted of Miss Elizabeth Butler, and Messrs. Clifford Pitcher, Guy Bryan, Dennis Halford and David Roberts. Their coach was Miss Muriel Randall.

As Chaplain of the Bridport hospitals, Canon Clare used to declare that always every other patient was from Loders. Last month he was not far wrong, for there were five Loders people in hospital - Mr. Brown the road contractor, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Slade, Miss Pearce and Miss Avril Greening. Mrs. Lane is home, having recovered from a dislocated shoulder, and the others are making good progress. The one who does not take kindly to what the Americans call 'hospitalisation' is Mr. Brown.

Much sympathy will be with Mrs. Elizabeth Legg in the loss of her daughter Mrs. Harvey, of Chideok, at the early age of 37. Mrs. Harvey leaves two children. She used to teach in the Sunday School at Askerswell.

Mr. Bengeree and his family have left Uploders to live nearer his work in Bridport. We wish we could have kept them in the parish. However, Jennifer still comes on the bus to school, and a fine Sunday morning bring Mr. Bengeree to matins.

Their Lucky Day, Five of the prizes at the Young Farmers' whist drive at Litton Cheney went to the Pitchers of Boarsbarrow and their relations. Mr. Clifford Pitcher will assure you that this does not happen so often that it is not news.

Misleading. A change has come over the farms of this neighbourhood since the war. The tired old sheds where the cows used to be milked have given place to spik and span milking parlours. The latest milking parlour is at a farm in Dottery. A lover of animals was pleased to see lace curtains at a window of this parlour. He took it to be part of the now general recognition that cows are ladies, presumably with a feminine weakness for lace, and an abhorrence of being milked by unshaven men. But his congratulations were lost on the puzzled farmer, who had put up the curtains as a precaution against witchcraft. That, at least, was what he implied when he said he was afraid of being overlooked.

In Demand. Some of our young people are reminding us that we have had no parish social this winter. We will have one on Tuesday, March 18th. at the Hut, at 7.30 p.m. Admission will be adults 2/- children 6d.

Uploders has lost its picturesque and efficient cobbler, Mr. Tudball, who has just gone into retirement at Waytown, Netherbury. He came to Uploders in 1932, but he has been cobbling for 68 years. The very day he started has not slipped his memory. It was a fourth of February, and the big difference between cobbling then and now is that there were no shoes to cobble when he began; both women and men wore boots. One would think that at 84 Mr. Tudball had earned a rest. But no, he hopes to dig half an acre of garden and keep pigs and fowls. It hurts him to part with Uploders people because (he says) they are a "nice lot".

"The Crown", Uploders, has changed hands again. Bad health compelled Mr. Vaughan to terminate his short tenure, and the new licencees are Mr. & Mrs. William Graves. Coming from Stourpaine, Blandford, they like the country, and hope to get rooted here. Mr. Graves has had a varied career. He served in the R.A.F. for eleven years, including the last war, has been a school-master, and now works for an accountant at Dorchester.

Services for March.

LODERS 2nd. H.C. 8, & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
9th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
16th. H.C. 8, & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
23rd. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
30th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
Annunciation, 25th. March. H.C. 10.

DOTTERY 2nd. H.C. 9.30.
9th. 16th. 23rd. 30th., Evensong 3 p.m.

ASKERSWELL
2nd. Evensong 6.30.
9th. H.C. 9.30. Evensong 7.
16th. H.C. 9.30. Evensong 6.30.
23rd. H.C. 9.30. Evensong 7.
30th. H.C. 9.30. Evensong 6.30.

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

A Little Logic Needed Here. Remembrance Sunday is one of the most solemn days of the year. Muffled peals are rung, dead marches played, and people flock to church to honour the lives laid down in the world wars. Yet Good Friday, the day when Jesus laid down his life for us all, has become a holiday. Those who are not out to enjoy themselves, or at least to put in the early potatoes, are regarded as being somewhat odd. Surely a little straight thinking is needed here. From one angle Good Friday is a joyous day, because on it Jesus achieved our salvation. But the cost was so great that nobody with a sense of decency can do other than stand in spirit at the foot of the cross and say "This was my fault".

- And Here. Harvest means more to us than any other festival. Something in the golden cornfield stirs the imagination. We enthuse over harvest because we appreciate the yearly miracle that gives us food and clothing. But our bodies, which harvest feeds, do not last for long. Clear thinking would make Easter the first of the festivals, because Our Lord's Resurrection opens up the vista of eternal life. Those who are stirred by the cornfield, and not by the spring flowers rising again out of the dead earth, think too much of their stomachs.

The Anglican Church imposes few rules on its members, but one of them is that those who are confirmed shall make their Communion at Easter. Please look at the list on the back for the times of services.

Why Not? The news that the Vicar is a Z Reservist, and is about to be called up for fifteen days' training, has evoked surprise, and expressions of sympathy. But it is something to be thankful for that the fighting services look on the Church as integral to their scheme of things, and give the shepherds facilities for being with the sheep. If the training is fifteen days of idleness and boredom for the lay Z Reservist, it is anything but that for the Army Chaplain. He is expected to give a half hour's talk on Christianity, followed by a half hour of answering questions, to four different companies of men each day, and on the Sundays to take services at camps scattered over a big area. It really is good of the Army thus to put the youth of the country in touch with the Church. We must pray that the best use may be made of the opportunity. The Vicar's only grouse is that this heavy programme of missionary work comes on top of Easter. He goes to a camp in North Wales on Easter Monday, and begins work the following day. Time alone will tell whether the Vicarage ladies can be trusted to cover up the early potatoes on frosty nights, and valet the sitting hens.

Easter Vestries. The absence of the Vicar in the second half of April means altered dates for the Easter vestries. Loders will have its vestry in early May (which is legally incorrect but unavoidable) and Askerswell on Tuesday, April 8th., at 7.30 p.m. in the school. Askerswell seems to be in the habit of leaving the Easter Vestry entirely to the Church Council. The Council merits this confidence, but would like to be saved the embarrassment of having to re-elect itself. The Easter Vestry is meant to be the annual meeting of all churchpeople of eighteen years and upwards. This year's is unusually important because it will deal with a situation which has arisen without the knowledge of the majority of Askerswell people, and was known only to the faithful few who have had to bear the burden of church expenses. The situation to be remedied is this: Askerswell has raised nearly £300 towards acquiring a village hall, and nearly as much towards rehangng the bells. But for some years its church has been in debt. Collections have not met running expenses, and the debt is now almost £50. When the treasurer gets a bill say for electricity, or coke, he has to borrow to pay it. A perusal of the accounts shewed that many collections were being sent to various societies. These societies are all most worthy of support, but they will not receive any more from Askerswell until the church is out of debt. To support Christian missions is an urgent duty, but we cannot give them the money owing to the coal man. The general account of Askerswell Church needs £100 - £50 to wipe off the debt, and £50 to give the treasurer a working balance. The Easter Offering at Askerswell, which is normally part of the benefice income, will go this year to church expenses.

New Pastures. There is a general feeling of regret that Mr. Elston Paul and his family have ceased to be part of the Loders scene. All his working life had been spent at the Court, apart from war service, and the Court will

seem different without him. Besides, amiable and placid dispositions are not so plentiful that his can be easily done without. On his last Sunday of bell ringing the Captain, Mr. Harry Legg, presented him with a book token from his fellow ringers, and the Sunday School gave Jennifer a Bible, and Christine a book of Bible stories. The family has gone to live near Guildford, which will put Mrs. Paul within easy reach of her old home London.

Mr. Tommy Bryan, of Court Fram, Askerswell, was lately married to Miss Jean Roberts in the Presbyterian Church in Hull, and has brought his bride to live at Stancombe. We offer them our congratulations and good wishes. Members of the Agricultural Discussion Club and the Young Farmers are wondering what Mr. Eli Lenthall will now find to make speeches about at their annual dinners. It seemed to worry him beyond measure that Tommy shewed no sign of being matrimonially minded. However, we venture a guess at the theme of Mr. Lenthall's next speech. His churchwardenly eye cannot have failed to notice that Stancombe is half in Askerswell and half in Litton, which, when the master of Stancombe is not at the Askerswell service, gives him the benefit of the supposition that he is worshipping at Litton - and vice-versa.

Her Majesty the Queen promises to be as unsparing of herself as was her late father. With her own hand she has signed letters of thanks to all who did guard duty at the lying in state. Sir Edward Le Breton has received one of these.

Congratulations to Commander and Mrs. Streatfield on the birth of a son.

The Mothering Sunday rites, now a tradition with Loders Sunday School, were rather damped this year by the rain, but they were carried out more keenly than ever. In spite of the rain, there was a full attendance of children and mothers at church. Flowers were so plentiful that some children brought armfuls. Some also brought presents for their mothers. After service the children went through the village delivering the flowers at the homes of the sick and the aged. Will those recipients who were shaken by the suggestion that they came within either categorys please be comforted? There were so many flowers that they were bestowed on most houses, and the children did not stop too long to think.

A Lent Wedding. Normally, Lent is a "Close" season for weddings, but that did not deter Miss Audrey Tucker, of Uploders, and Mr. Robert Jones, of West Bay, from being the chief participants in a pretty wedding in Loders Church. Mr. Tiltman was at the organ, and the bells were chimed. Lady Le Breton had made the altar specially beautiful with flowers for the occasion. Mr. & Mrs. Jones are making their home in Bridport.

New Faces in Uploders. The bungalow opposite The Crown has been taken by a widow, Mrs. Aland, and her widower brother, Mr. Hughes. They have both been farming in the Cotswolds, near Moreton-in-the-Marsh. They find this part of Dorset attractive. It strikes them as newcomers that so many of our farmhouses are built close to the road, where modern traffic threatens to shake them down or knock them down. We can assure Mr. Hughes that Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bishop, perched dangerously on the Yondover bend, never lose sleep on this account. Mr. Hughes has four children, and each one was born on a Sunday. This must be unique.

Mrs. Scard. Since our last issue, Mrs. Scard, the oldest worshipper at Dottery Church, has died and been buried with her late husband. It seems a pity that her passing should have been marred by an unnecessary inquest which could only disturb the young nurses at Bridport Hospital. Old people are often difficult, and it ill becomes those who are spared the task of ministering to them to be critical of those who are not.

Services for April

Loders. 6th. Palm Sunday, H.C.8. & 11.45. Matins, 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
11th. Good Friday, Matins 11.
13th. Easter Day, H.C.7,8, & 11.45. Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
20th. Matins 11, Children 2.
27th. Matins 11, H.C.11.45, Children 2.
Dottery 6th. Palm Sunday H.C.9.30, 11th. Good Friday 6.30.
13th. Easter Day, H.C.9, Evensong 3.
20th. Evensong 3, 27th. Evensong 3.
Askerswell. 6th. Palm Sunday, H.C.9.30, Evensong 7.
11th. Good Friday, Matins 10.
13th. Easter Day, H.C.10, Evensong 7.