

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

Easter as the Parson saw it. Noting that he had ten services to conduct in his three churches on Easter Day, some of our readers, remarked that the Vicar would be glad to see the end of it. Well, he was and he was not, for the day was happy as well as strenuous. To see why it was happy the gohtle reader must accompany the Vicar on his Easter itinerary. The day began at Lodgers with a seven o'clock Communion. The morning sun gave promise of a bright warm day. It lighted up the spring flowers that bedecked the church, and made the muster of early worshippers admire the beauty of the place. At 7.30 the bells pealed out, and drew another congregation to the 8 o'clock service. Then followed a hasty journey to Dottery for 9 o'clock Communion. (He who thinks that the lanes are clear at this hour is unacquainted with the habits of milk lorries and strolling cows.) What delight it was to burst into another beautifully decorated church, and to find practically the whole communicant strength of the hamlet waiting. There was little time for the usual after-service chat. To the road again, and a six mile ride to Askerswell. Here the stately tower was sending out the sweet chimes of its disabled bells, and in the festive church beneath, the faithful of another hamlet were waiting. So numerous they were that the organist suggested a couple of hymns, and these were sung with vigour. The after-service scene of men and women in gay summer frocks, chatting in the churchyard, was a genuine bit of old England. And so to Lodgers. Cars parked all along the road to the church implied that the congregation might be large. The church turned out to be packed full. There were many visitors, who are always welcome, and, best of all, there were pew upon pew of familiar village faces. The memorable points about this service were the choir's unaccompanied singing of "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us", to the Grand Chant, and the number of worshippers who stayed behind for late Communion. If the reader's patience is not short, space is, so we must go quickly through the remaining services. The children's service at Lodgers was followed by a well attended evensong, at Dottery, at which Mrs. Roper's first grand-child was baptised. (This is a boy, Nigel - his parents now live at Weston-super-Mare). Lodgers had a sizeable congregation for evensong, and so did Askerswell. The new Askerswell choir gave its first anthem, the descant being sung by the Misses Doreen and Sheila Allport. If the young men of Askerswell would come in and balance the ladies, we might get a first class choir. Lodgers also could do with more men.

Statistics. The number of Easter communicants was 153 (Loders, 93 Dottery, 26 and Askerswell 34). The Easter Offering, which is part of the benefice income, was £34.11.4. (Loders £23.17.4. Dottery £2.14. and Askerswell £7.) Askerswell's Easter Offering goes this year towards reducing the church debt. The Vicar takes this opportunity of thanking the congregation's for their generosity. The Vicarage hens wish it to be known that they also are grateful for an offering of corn.

On his perch. The weathercock is back to duty on Lodgers church tower. He looks much improved by his long holiday. His plumage is now buttercup yellow, and the fiery red of his comb, unlike the naughty twinkle in his eye, is quite visible from the grass beneath. We have Mr. Charlie Gale to thank for his recuperation. One gale took him away. Another put him back O.K?

Farm Sunday, which is our own pet name for Rogation Sunday, falls on May 18th. The farm service at Lodgers Church has become an institution. Discussion Club, Young Farmers and Agricultural Workers attend in state, and a plough is put in the chancel as a reminder that life depends on agriculture, and God's yearly miracle of growth. Please note the time of the service. It will be at 7 p.m.

In Triplicate. Three new babies have arrived since the last Notes. Our duty herewith to the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Laskey (Grand-daughter of Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton), to the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown, and to the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Record. The infant son of Commander and Mrs. John Streatfield was recently baptised in Lodgers Church, the Rev. B.N. Carver officiating in the absence of the Vicar.

How is it done? Askerswell people, like others, are short of cash, yet Mrs. Fooks, local treasurer of the C.M.S., got more out of them than ever before in her house to house collection - £13.4.9. to be precise.

The Question that greeted the Vicar's return from military duty was not as often "How did you like it?" as "Did they cover up the potatoes and valet the sitting hens?" (See Notes for April). "They" certainly did her stuff. "They" was midwife to three goslings and ten ducklings, "they" not only nursed the early potatoes but dutch-hoed the garden, and distempered half of the Vicarage. His Reverence was not at all displeased with "They". He tried not to notice that the lawn was up for mowing.

The new altar frontal which made the east end of Askerswell Church so pleasant to look at on Easter Day was given by Mrs. Aylmer and worked by Miss Edwards. Here is further proof of the maxim 'if you want anything done, go to the busiest people'. Miss Edwards runs the Guides and the Brownies, manages the church school, and ministers to a garden which vies with Miss Martin's to be the pride of Askerswell.

Mr. Moss, who took services in the Vicar's absence, writes "Loders Church is very beautiful, and it was most cheering to have such a large and responsive congregation". Mr. Carver, who took the Dottery services, said that he enjoyed them. We mention this to save Askerswell from spiritual pride.

The wedding of Mr. George Bryan of Askerswell, and Miss Eileen Cornick, of Toller, was a great occasion, to which justice has been done by the press. From the ecclesiastical viewpoint, what was impressive about the bridegroom was not his farming pedigree, but his being a worthy representative of the order of church stokers. These are rare birds, threatened with extinction. The Askerswell congregation have reason to be thankful that when nobody could be found for the job, Mr. Bryan did not think it unfitting that the master of Court Farm should stoke the church stove.

Campanology. An attempt to ring a peal of Grandsire Doubles on Loders bells, to mark the fiftieth birthday of the vice-captain, Mr. Harry Crabb, was not successful. It is almost unnecessary to add that this failure did not damp the celebrations.

Her many friends will be interested to learn that Miss Daphne Marsh, of Askerswell, has gone for a six months course in shorthand at a rehabilitation centre in Exeter. Her long and arduous fight against the consequences of infantile paralysis has been followed with admiration. She seems now to be well on the road to recovery, and hopes to be at work by the end of the year.

Askerswell Easter Vestry, was very well attended, and the meeting seemed ready to sit all night. Mr. Adams' balance sheet shewed receipts at £90.8.5., and expenditure at £93.16.5, with a debit balance on the year of £3.8.0., and an accumulated debit balance of £47.12.3. An offer by Mrs. Aylmer to run a bazaar in the autumn, and another by Miss Robinson of a concert by the school children towards reducing the debt, were gladly accepted. Officers for the ensuing year were appointed as follows:- Rector's Warden, Mr. S.B. Studley; People's Warden, Mr. H.I. Spiller; Sidesmen, Mrs. Fooks, Capt. Aylmer, Wing-Comm. Newall, Messrs. N.Adams, F.Marsh, and D. Marsh; Church Council, Miss Edwards, Miss Small, Miss Martin, Mrs. Aylmer, Mrs. Lumby, Mrs. Studley, Mrs. Newall, Mrs. Barker, and Mr. C.Marsh; Vice-Chairman Church Council, Capt. Aylmer; Secretary, and Treasurer, Mr. N.C. Adams.

Services for May

Loders. 4th. 8 & 11.45 H.C., 11 Matins, 2 Children, 6 Evensong.
11th. 8 H.C., 11 Matins, 2 Children.
18th. Rogation Sun. 8 H.C., 11 Matins, 2 Children. 7 Farm Service.
22nd. Ascension Day, 10. H.C.
25th. 8 H.C., 11 Matins, 2 Children.

Dottery. 4th. 9.30. H.C. 11th. Evensong 3.
18th. Evensong 3. 25th. Evensong 3.

Askerswell.
4th. 7 Evensong.
11th. 9.30. H.C., 6.30 Evensong.
18th. 9.30. H.C., 6 Evensong.
22nd. Ascension Day, 11 a.m.
25th. 9.30. H.C., 6.30 Evensong.

PARISH NOTES (JUNE, 1952)

LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL

Colonel Scott, now happily recovered from a sharp illness, shews a balance sheet for Loders Church for 1951 which the harrassed Mr. Butler might well envy. A year of heavy expenditure ends with a balance on the right side, of £30. We have the good sense of the congregation to thank for this. They know that the expense of running a church goes on rising, and they give accordingly, without having to be asked. A happy consequence of this is that the subject of money is not often raised in our services, and they are the better for it.

A Stitch in Time. The parish may be wondering why the Loders annual church meeting decided to hold a fete on Saturday, Aug. 2nd, when the finances are so healthy. To which the answer is that the running of the church laps up most of the collections, and there is nothing left to keep the church itself in repair. The annual fete is now coming to be relied on to cover the annual deterioration of the church building. Business people always make annual allowance for depreciation, and the Apostle warns Christians against being slothful in business. It is as well to recognise that a church, like any other property is wearing out. By keeping a church regularly inspected, by renewing a rotting timber here, and a crumbling battlement there, its custodians nip trouble in the bud, and save heavy expense later on. The sums now being asked for to do urgent repairs to churches run into thousands of pounds. Had the church councils concerned been depreciation-minded, they - and the public - might have been spared these appeals.

The funeral of the late Rector of Askerswell, Canon Daniell, took place at Litton in a setting which he, as a lover of the countryside, would have liked. It was a perfect May morning. The church seemed to be as full of flowers as it was of robed clergy and mourners, and his moss-lined grave beneath the towering trees of the churchyard was studded with bluebells. Many of his old parishioners from Askerswell were present. They took with them two large wreaths, one from the church council and the other from the school children. The flowers had been collected from the gardens of Askerswell, and skilfully made up by Mrs. Fooks.

Footing It. With fine contempt for the townsman's habit of queuing for ten minutes for a bus to take him ten yards, some people walked from Nine Bottles, in Askerswell, to the farm service in Loders Church. Others walked from Pymore and Powerstock. The congregation was one of the biggest, and surely the singing was the heartiest Loders has heard. The choir were in fine fettle, and the congregation were quick to respond. The lesson readers also did their part well. We are indebted to Mr. Wilfred Crabb for the loan of the old horse plough, and to Mr. Clifford Pitcher for hauling it to and from church.

Pulling their Weight. Miss Marjorie Randall, of Loders, and Miss Sarah Barnes, of Dottery, did a lot to help their respective Young Farmers' Clubs win high place in the County competitions at Blandford. Miss Randall won ten points, and tied with Miss Wilcox, of Dorchester, as champion point winner, and Miss Barnes made seven. As usual, Miss Barnes vanquished all comers in the cheesemaking. Miss Randall has been awarded a travelling scholarship which will take her to Denmark for a fortnight.

A Coming of Age. Loders branch of the Mothers' Union reached the age of 21 last month, and celebrated it with a birthday party which is still the talk of the parish ladies. Bradpole M.U. were guests, and they, with the Loders members, made the Uploders room seem much too small. However, the helpers managed to thread their way between the serried ranks of mothers with jugs of tea, buttered buns and delectable cakes, without mishap. Mrs. Lenthall, the enrolling member, called on the Vicar to cut the birthday cake. He is "off" carving at the Vicarage because he can never make the joint go round. Here, the size of the cake gave his talent more scope, and he accepted the commission, though not without a feeling akin to sacrilege as he slew that masterpiece of the confectioner's art. If the ladies were shocked by the manly proportions of the slices, they were careful not to shew it by leaving any uneaten. Mrs. Nantes, speaking for Bradpole, congratulated the Loders branch on their twenty-one years of steady progress, and Mrs. Willmott thanked Mrs. Lenthall and her helpers for the work they had put into the party. Miss Juliet Willmott, who has the local M.U. for a godmother, thanked the members for their present of a writing case.

Three New Parishioners have joined us in the persons of a baby son, born to Mr. & Mrs. Peckham, of Loders; a son to Mr. & Mrs. Scadden, of Dottery, and a daughter to Mr. & Mrs. Muhl, also of Dottery. It is pleasing to have Mr. & Mrs. Goldie and family back in Loders. They are living in the cottage next the Hut.

A Trip down the River Dart. The ringers' outing on Saturday, July 12th will be by coach to Totnes via Torquay, and then by steamer down the Dart to Dartmouth. Some seats are going begging. They may be booked with Mr. George Hyde, of Willow Cottage, Uploders.

Askerswell Community Club gave the children of the parish a tea in the school playing field on a hot Saturday afternoon in May. Over forty children were there, ranging from babies in their mothers' arms to young amazons who could jump a five foot bar with ease. Miss Edwards conducted a programme of games which kept all ages amused, and the boys found extra fun in the hay which lay around them. A tea of jellies, cakes, and lemonade was followed up by a welcome issue of ice-cream and later, by bags of sweets. The children went home thinking that Community Clubs were not bad things.

In Hospital. Mrs. Gladys Pitcher, of the Farmers' Arms, Loders, is in Weymouth Hospital. She has borne a seven month illness with her native cheerfulness, and all who know her will long for her recovery. Miss Edith Hinks has been in Bridport Hospital for observation, and Mrs. Bunnell has surmounted a major operation. Mrs. Sorsen, of Dottery, has also recovered from an operation, but has to face another.

Cutting it Short. The story is told that the shortest service the late Canon Daniell conducted in Askerswell Church was on a summer afternoon when a member of the congregation told him that bees were swarming on a shrub in the churchyard. The Canon was a great bee-keeper. He got through the service in record time, and was over to Litton rectory and back again with the apparatus for collecting a swarm, at a speed not usually connected with dignitaries of the Church. The bees swarmed again the other Sunday night, during evensong. This time they were on the eaves of the nave roof, above the pulpit. The sermon was cut short on this occasion, not by the urgent desire of the preacher to collect a swarm, but by his anxiety to avoid it. Bees were invading the pulpit before he left it.

Miss Joan Bishop of Yondover, has made commendable progress in the short time in which she has been with N.A.A.F.I. She has lately been accepted for training as a district overseer.

The Evening Services at Askerswell through the summer will always be at seven o'clock. There will be one service a month at Dottery at six o'clock.

A Surprize for Both. A few weeks ago, when the nights were dark, Mr. Adams answered a knock on his front door at Folly Cottage. The time was after ten. Mr. Adams at once recognised the caller as the Bishop of Salisbury, and, to the credit of the Bishop's memory, he at once recognised Mr. Adams. The Bishop had been Mr. Adams' sergeant in their Army days. The purpose of this unwitting call on Mr. Adams was that the Bishop had lost his way to Powerstock. The Bishop has the rare distinction of having been a sergeant in the Army, having won the D.S.C. in the Navy, and having obtained a pilot's certificate in the R.A.F., before he was ordained. He will be holding a Confirmation at Loders in October.

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Loders 1st. Whit Sunday, HC 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
8th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
15th. HC 8, and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
22nd. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
29th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.

Dottery 1st. Whit Sunday, HC 9, 8th Evensong 6.
15th, 22nd and 29th. Evensong 3.

Askerswell 1st. Whit Sunday, HC 10, Evensong 7.
Other Sundays, HC 9.30, Evensong 7.