

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell

Looking Back. The weather for Lodgers Fete on August Saturday was unfavourable for the first time in five years. It was not bad, but merely capricious. It led the organisers a dance, and then gave them the best profit they had ever made on a fete. The other prophets, those who deal in the weather, were not conspicuously helpful. The B.B.C. told us before the event that it was going to be wet, and it was not. The local prophets, whose oracle may be a sensitive toe or a lumbagious back, told us, after the event, that they had known "all along" that it was going to be fine. So between them we found ourselves holding a fete in the Hut, where the heat was melting Lady Le Breton's ices, and Mrs. Harry Legg was plying tightly packed multitude with tea, while outside the sun was shining, and the cool lawns of Lodgers Court were beckoning. To stave off annoyance we had to keep reminding ourselves that fetes and flower shows have to be laid out in the morning, and that this cannot be done in heavy rain. We felt sorry for the children's fancy dress and for the flower show, which lacked space above everything and also for the bicycle racing, which had to be abandoned. Much work had been put to all these. But the Women's Institute play, and the Square dancing were better in the Hut, where they delighted a large crowd; and Mr. Wilfred Crabb's field, being on a slope, was ideal for the sheep dog demonstration.

Dottery and Askerswell people rallied nobly to the support of Lodgers Fete. Lodgers people will remember this when Askerswell holds its Christmas Sale, which, it is hoped, may settle the church debt.

The Gross Takings of the fete were £133.17.9., expenses £22.19.6. and profit £110.13.3. The stalls made nearly £63, practically the same as in 1949 and 1950, when rationing was tight, and too much money was chasing too few goods. Doubtless it was a love of Lodgers Church that inspired such generous giving, and if we know Lodgers people, this will continue until church and organ are restored to a state of good repair. Receipts were:- Donations £7.10., Children's Stall £7.7.11., Cakes £6.11., New Stall £17.3.11., Produce £9.11., Ices £4.17.10., Jumble £12.16.3., Flowers £4.1.11., Teas £20.8.2., Skittles £9. Handicap £1.1.7. Bagatelle. £1.2.6., Fishing 9/3., Hoopla £1.12.1., Fancy Dress 6/3. Fortunes, £1.10., Sheep dogs £2.18.8., Buttonholes 7/6. Flower Show £3.19.8., Competitions £10.1. Expenses were:- Advertising £3. 6., Prices £6.5.6., Cakes etc., £10.8. Hire of skittle alley and hut £1.10., Hire of amplifier £1.10.

Forty Flower Pots, of many sizes (some very large) and all in good condition are for sale in aid of Lodgers Church repair fund. Also an excellent pair of lady's shoes, size four. They were given to the fete, and may be seen at the Vicarage.

The Collection made by Mrs. Bunnell and Mrs. Willmott for Lodgers Sunday School and Junior Choir outing produced £16.5. The writer of these Notes admires their courage in collecting so soon after the fete, but they say they were received very cordially, and the result confirms this.

Mrs. Clark wishes to thank those who contributed to the presentation made to her on relinquishing the headship of Lodgers School. She, and the pupils received a welcome visit from Miss Wilkes, the former head teacher, last term. Miss Wilkes lives in Bournemouth, but says that her heart is still in Lodgers.

The juniors of Askerswell Choir began their outing in unpromising weather, but soon ran into sunshine, and apart from one shower when they were in the shelter of Cheddar Caves, they had a perfect day. They saw Glastonbury Abbey, and the swans on the moat of the Bishop's palace at Wells which ring a bell when they are hungry. Having reached Wells a few minutes after eleven, they missed the hourly antics of the cathedral clock, and insisted on waiting till twelve. At Bath they joined a tour of the Roman baths, and saw the hot springs, which eject half a million gallons of water per week at a temperature of 120 degrees F. In the Pump room they drank the warm mineral water favoured of ailing Kings, and said it wasn't a patch on Mrs. Norman's Corona, or even on the tea at Theobald's, where they refreshed themselves before the long journey home.

A great grand-daughter of the Mr. Cox who was Rector of Askerswell in 1842 visited the church the other day. She lives in Australia. She said that Mr. Cox was chaplain of the ship on which Livingstone sailed to Africa.

To the question "May Loders people attend the institution of the new Rector of Askerseell by the Bishop of Sherborne on Saturday, September 6th., (at 6 p.m.)?" The answer is an emphatic affirmative. They will be received with open arms by the churchwardens, who are not unaware that the collection is to be for the church debt.

Bereavement at Askers. Much sympathy was felt for Mrs. Block in the death of her mother, Mrs. Ada Watkin, who had been living with her. Mrs. Watkin was 83. Her late husband was a sea captain of the old type, and was drowned at sea. Mrs. Watkin was cremated at Weymouth, and the ashes scattered in the sea off Portland.

Polio. Mr. & Mrs. Down, of East Hembury Farm, Askerswell, are having an anxious time. Their daughter an only child, Mrs. Ruby Hurford, has contracted poliomyelitis. She lives at Beaminster, but is now in hospital at Weymouth. Fortunately the attack seems less severe than some.

Loders Church is still feeling keenly the loss of Mr. Eli Lenthall, its people's warden. The empty seat seems very empty, and the back of the church, where he did his duties before and after service, seem unpopulated. If the size of a funeral is anything to go by, no local farmer was held in greater esteem than he. The body of the church was full, with many standing, the chancel seats were full, and then there was another congregation outside unable to get in. Our ringers were in tune with popular sentiment by taking time off work to ring muffled peals before the service, and choir and sidesmen turned out in strength. Mrs. Lenthall is now at the melancholy task of acknowledging 250 letters of sympathy.

Mr. John Pearce, who left Yondover to live with his children in Florida did not enjoy that paradise of film stars for long. He died suddenly, while playing with his grandchildren. Mr. Linee senior, lately on the staff of Loders Court, has also died, at Didcot. He was a great sufferer.

July 22nd. was a significant date for two Loders households. Mrs. Green presented her husband with twins, a boy and a girl, each tipping the scales round the seven pound mark; and a daughter Helen Mary, was born to Mrs. Tom Pitcher's son and his wife in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. Mrs. Pitcher is a devoted grandmother, and this happy event seems to have helped her recovery from a long illness. Mrs. Greening is proud to have been elevated so decisively to the rank of grandmother.

Confirmation Classes will begin about the middle of this month, at a time which will be told the candidates, and they will be held in Loders, Dottery and Askerswell. Many names have been received, and there is still time for more. There is not likely to be another Confirmation in Loders till four years hence.

Our Harvest Festival will begin at Dottery on Thursday, 25th. Sept., and be continued there on Sunday the 28th. Askerswell harvest will be on Sunday October 5th., and Loders on October 12th.

Loders Women's Institute gave their summer treat to the children on the Vicarage lawn. It was a lovely afternoon, and the chances are that the adults enjoyed themselves as much as the children. All were well filled with cakes and ices, and the children went home with sixpences and packets of sweets.

Believe it or not. A housewife at the beginning of evensong in Askerswell Church remembered that she had xome away and left a pan of eggs boiling. She communicated the fact to her husband in writing. He stole out of church, and hurried home - a not inconsiderable distance. What we ask you to believe, because it is true, is that he also hurried back, and was in time for the sermon, and incidentally, the collection.

Loders

Services for September

7th. H.C. 8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.

14th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2. 21st. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6. 28th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Dottery 7th. H.C. 9.30, 14th. Evensong 3. 21st. Evensong 3. 25th. (Harvest) 7.30. 28th. (Harvest) 6.

Askerswell. 6th. Institution by Bp. of Sherborne. 6. 7th. Evensong 7.

Autumn Migration. The fall of the year is a recognised time for farms and farm cottages to change hands. But rarely are the changes on the scale now impending in Loders. The two biggest farms and some of their cottages are losing the present tenants, and so many non-farming residents have caught the urge to move that it approaches a mass migration. The houses to change hands are those occupied by Mr. Peckham, Mr. Edes, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. Edwards, Colonel Scott, Mr. Drake, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Goldie, Mr. Allsop, Mr. Harwood, and Mrs. Lenthall. Other moves are being considered. Added to those that have taken place fairly recently, they make a large number for a small village. Dottery presents a striking contrast. Its inhabitants change but rarely. Mrs. Rolleston's is the only move at present contemplated, and hers is back to America. Why does nobody (except a few old established families) stay long in Loders, and why does everybody stay in Dottery? Is the atmosphere of Dottery pleasant, and are the people there fond of each other? We doubt the truth of the suggestion that they are too satisfied with the Blue Ball to leave it, estimable as that hostelry is.

Askerswell is not entirely immune from the migratory infection. Mr. Studley is leaving to take charge of a big farm at Frampton, Miss Martin has gone to live in Bridport, and Miss Small has moved to a sister's at Ludlow. These are ill affordable losses for church and state. Miss Martin and Miss Small were church councillors and Sunday School teacher and magazine agent respectively. Mr. Studley was rector's warden, chairman of the community club, and the presiding genius of the whist which kept the village out of mischief on dark nights. Mrs. Studley was a valued member of the choir. As if these losses were not enough, there are rumblings in the Post Office. Were these to develop into an eruption, ejecting Mrs. Fooks, we should all want to pack our bags and leave.

Loders congregation will be asking whether their losses have been overlooked. These are too big for that. The Scotts, the Bishops, the Drakes, the Hughes and the Shaws will leave gaps hard to fill. But our sorrow at their departure would be selfish if we forgot to wish them happiness in their new homes.

Harvest Festival is about to begin, as these Notes go to press. The offer of Loders choir to do an anthem at Dottery has been gladly accepted. The choir have prepared another anthem for Loders harvest on October 12th. Kindly note that the harvest evensong at Loders will be at 6 p.m. Askerswell choir also have an anthem for their harvest on October 5th. The Askerswell harvest evensong will be at 7 p.m. Wing. Com. and Mrs. Newall revived a nice old country custom by inviting their farm workers and helpers to a harvest supper. A company numbering two dozen sat down to a feast by candlelight in the ancient dining hall of South Eggardon, and then moved from the past to the present by adjourning to the drawing room to see and laugh over home-made films of their own harvesting. Farmer Barnes of Dottery, used to be keen on maintaining the custom of harvest supper, holding it in his farmyard at Belshay when the last load of corn came in. Now he is content, year by year, at a Christmas party which is a pale ghost of its former self, to sing the old song "If I could plant one tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart," with both eyes on our own Mrs. Gale.

The Bishop of Salisbury will have about fifty candidates to confirm when he comes to Loders Church on Sunday October 26th. The service will be at 6.30 p.m. This should be one of the occasions when we could wish for a bigger church. Seats will be reserved for the candidates, but their relatives must trust to getting to church in good time.

Lynmouth Relief Fund. Loders W.I. raised nearly £30 for this fund by a whist drive and stall. The collection made by Mrs. Allsop in Uploders produced £14.8., and Askerswell Community Club is running a whist drive for the same object.

Loders Sunday School rather surprised themselves by choosing a perfect summers day for their outing. They, and a large company of parents, went by coach to Weymouth. The beach was crowded, but Mrs. Willmott, with the assistance of Mr. George Hyde, had made a big flag, with "Loders Sunday School" painted on it, and this, fluttering bravely over the sands, helped to keep the party together. Even so, one child managed to spend much of the day in the lost children's nursery, and two others kept the heart of a devoted mother palpitating while arduous search was being made.

Everybody rallied to the flag, however, for a tea provided with the help of Mrs. Darby (of Hodges, the confectioner), and brought direct from Bridport. Loders Junior Choir were taken on a boat trip to view the ships in Portland harbour.

Out of some forty applicants, the managers of Loders School chose Miss Barbara Bryan, of Askerswell, to be the new head teacher, succeeding Mrs. Clark. Miss Bryan comes with excellent testimonials, and with the blessing of the County Education Officer, from a large school in Blandford. She is no more a stranger to responsible posts than she is to us. During the war she was in charge of the A.T.S. who ran the signals department of Mr. Churchill's underground headquarters in Whitehall. Miss Bryan specialises in infant training, and the present assistant, Miss Wickham, holds an exceptional qualification for the teaching of juniors. The school should benefit from having teachers each in her own element.

The first assault on the debt which hangs round the neck of Askerswell Church like the old man of the sea will be made on Saturday October 11th., in the School at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Aylmer is directing operations, and her weapon will be the jumble sale, that ancient terror of church debts, and the deadliest form of jumble sale at that - one with tea continually on tap. To make the fate of the old man doubly sure, there will be a white elephant stall as well. Our reporter asked Mrs. Aylmer the difference between jumble and white elephant. With the precision of a born commander she replied: "Jumble is clothes, and white elephant is all that is not clothes". A dichotomy which makes either jumble or white elephants of us all.

Self Help. Four gentlemen of Loders Church Council, viz., Mr. Tilley, Mr. O. Gale, Mr. Sanders and Mr. G. Hyde, devoted a recent Saturday to preliminary repairs to the church path. These have certainly achieved their limited objective of rendering the path safe for the winter. It is pleasant to walk down the path and think what the work did NOT cost.

Miss Robinson informs us that the course of winter lecturere in Askerswell School has had to be postponed till February, owing to a serious accident befalling Mr. Lloyd Jones, the lecturer.

Miss Pearl Peckham, and her bridegroom, Mr. Douglas Hansford, had the unpleasing experience of seeing a week of glorious weather end in clouds and rain on their wedding day. The rain had the grace to hold up for the wedding, and for the progress from Loders Church to the feast in Loders School. We regret to say that we have lost Miss Peckham in the autumn migration. She is making her new home in Walton, Somerset.

A notable Induction. For those who can concentrate on the business in hand, and be aware at the same time of irrelevant details, the recent induction of a new Rector of Askerswell by the Bishop of Sherborne was of unusual interest. First, the large congregation contained a gentleman who is 106 years old. Nobody would have guessed that, for he looks only half his age. He is an uncle by marriage of Dr. Waight, Curate of Bridport. The only outward evidence of his great age is deafness. The other item of interest was the evidence the service gave of what the collection means to a good churchwarden. Our churchwardens simply lost control of themselves in the presence of so much potential revenue. They made two distinct attempts to get in the collection before the sermon. None of the violent signals from the chancel could restrain them, and when they sat down to listen to the Bishop it could be seen in their faces, that satisfaction at having reaped half the collection was fighting with anxiety for the half unreaped. Their zeal made a profound impression on the Lord Bishop.

Services for October.

Loders. 5th. H.C.8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.
12th. Harvest Festival, H.C.8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2,
19th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2. /Evensong 6.
26th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2, Confirmation 6.30.

Dottery 5th. Evensong 3.
12th. H.C.9.30.
19th. Evensong 6.
26th. Evensong 3.

Askerswell
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