

Parish Notes (July, 1953)
Loders, Dottery & Askerswell

The Diocesan Service of Thanksgiving for the Coronation took place as planned at Old Sarum, and is already a treasured memory of the thousands who took part in it. Such is our English weather that the organisers must have been on tenterhooks right till the time that the great service began. Heavy rain had fallen in the morning, and the afternoon was palled over by a mist which could not decide whether to condense or evaporate. But the organisers were men of faith, and their gamble on an open air service rather than on one in the cathedral was blest by a perfect evening. Some of our readers may be unaware that Old Sarum is a vast mound two miles north of Salisbury. It is a "windswept height", chosen the site of the first city of Salisbury because it could be easily defended. In process of time the inhabitants of Old Sarum decided that draughts were the worst enemy of all, so they built another city, the present Salisbury, near the river Avon. But Old Sarum still contains the ruins of the Castle, and the site of the first cathedral. So it was to Old Sarum that a multitude of worshippers from the far-flung diocese of Salisbury came on the evening of July 1st. to identify themselves with the Queen's act of self-dedication to God in the Coronation.

The scene was vaguely reminiscent of Elijah's contest with Baal on Mount Carmel. The skylarks, who normally have the hilltop to themselves, rose up in a frightened chorus from beneath the foot of the first intruder, who saw coaches cars and pedestrians converging on them from all points of the compass. Soon the old cathedral and its surrounds was peopled by a congregation the largest it had ever known, and a long procession of white robed choristers, clergy in the colourful hoods of their degrees, and three mitred bishops, moved down the open nave to an altar, high and lifted up. When the Bishop of Salisbury turned west to face the congregation and begin the service, a blue clearing broke in the clouds above, the sun came out gloriously, and the evening was perfect. In moments of religious fervour, the sublime and the ridiculous may blend unobtrusively. The ancient clergyman in cassock, surplice, hood, and trilby hat (which he had forgotten to remove) was no longer an oddity, and the resplendent generals of Southern Command seated in the transepts were doubtless thinking it was meet and right that the Air Force wallahs should be making the mess they were of the amplifying. Our Dottery churchwardens raised an eyebrow when they found the collection being taken by two gentlemen with sacks, and our Vicar permitted himself to observe that of faith these gentlemen might have none, their charity might even be in doubt, but their hope never.

A coachload of thirty-one persons from our three parishes attended the Old Sarum Service. But they had first made a day of it by visiting Stourhead, and viewing the treasures of Longleat House. They partook of a picnic lunch at Heaven's Gate, the beauty spot overlooking Longleat, where Bishop Ken wrote "Glory to thee, my God, this night", and other famous hymns. Here was a wooden seat, and when the announcement was made that the old people might have the first refusal of it, there were suddenly no old people. Mrs. Lenthall, the head of our Mothers' Union, has marked this phenomenon, and turned it to good use; for when she wanted ALL the Mothers' Union to help in spring cleaning, the church, she appealed to the younger ones only - and got everybody.

The Dedication Festival of Loders Church is on St. Mary Magdalene's Day, the 22nd. July, but it will be kept up on the following Sunday. The main object of the festival is to thank God for having given us such an old and lovely church as Loders. If ever you pass some of the churches which our generation has provided, you will grasp the extent of our indebtedness.

Mrs. Newall was elected a manager, and correspondent, of Askerswell School at a recent meeting of managers. She succeeds Miss Edwards as correspondent, who, to our regret, has been ordered by her doctor to give up some of her work.

A World Champion. To the best of our knowledge, world champions in any of the arts are not in the habit of visiting Loders, and therefore the fact that the world's champion bell ringer conducted a peal on Loders bells, in honour of the Coronation, qualifies for mention in these notes.

He is Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, author of the standard textbook of campanology, and of the standard history of the bells of the world. (It was he who wrote the article on bellringing in the new Chambers Encyclopedia). His peal at Loders was his 1,243rd. Nobody in the world is known to have come near this record. The shortest peal averages three hours of non-stop ringing, which requires a high degree of concentration. Some of Mr. Morris's peals are longer than three hours: his longest was just under nine hours. (Sir Edward, who gets the full blast of Loders bells, must be saying "The man is a menace, as he reads this?"). The composition which Mr. Morris conducted at Loders bears the intriguing title of "Five thousand and forty changes of doubles in the method of April Day, Plain Bob and Grandsire".

Loders Ringers are planning a coach trip to Wells, Cheddar, Weston-Super-Mare and Bristol on Saturday, July 18th. Seats may be had on application to Mr. George Hyde, Uploders.

Loders Fete will be at Loders Court on Saturday, August 1st. by kind permission of Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton. Fetes mean a lot of hard work for a few, but Loders is fortunate in that the few never fail. Mrs. Masters is again organising the stalls, with the help of Mrs. Lenthall; Mrs. Harry Legg is doing the tea; Miss Randall, the evening social in the Hut; Mr. Sanders, the gate; and Brigadier Hammond, who made a great success of the Coronation sports, has been inverghled into doing the sideshows. The financial object of the fete is to repair the leaded windows of the church.

We take it upon ourselves to offer the congratulations of Loders to Sir Edward Le Breton on his receiving the M.V.O. in the Coronation Honours list. By a coincidence he will be coming direct from the Queen's Investiture to give his talk on the Coronation to this month's meeting of the W.I.

The Wesleyan Chapel in Uploders has been re-opened for a fortnightly service. The new Methodist minister in Bridport, and the lay preacher in ~~Bradport~~ who is his chief assistant in the enterprise, are advocates of anything but a defeatist policy, and feel that a shut up place of worship is a reproach. They are bolder spirits than the previous Minister, who took no further step after circularising Uploders with a letter saying that the re-opening of the chapel was contemplated, and asking whether support would be sufficient to meet expenses of maintenance. Our own sympathies lie with the bolder spirits. We wish them good luck in the name of the Lord, and hope that they may be able to rekindle the spirit of public worship in Uploders. They are well placed to do this.

Times of Services. Will Askerswell please note new times of service? Loders evensong will be henceforth at 6.30 p.m.

Services for July.

Loders. 5th. H.C.8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
12th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.
19th. H.C.8 and 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
26th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.

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

Askerswell 5th. Evensong 7.
12th. Matins 10.
19th. H.C. 9.30, Evensong 7.
26th. Matins 10.

Parish Notes (August, 1953)
Loders, Dottery & Askerswell.

Eyes on the Weather. The day of Loders Fete, Saturday, August 1st., is almost upon us, and we are wondering what treatment we are to receive from the clerk of the weather. Last year we were the subject of one of his scurviest tricks. On the morning of the fete he pelted down rain, and when the fete had been moved to the Hut, he gave us a sunny afternoon. May we take this opportunity of announcing that if the weather is wet, the afternoon proceedings will be in the School! We hope this precaution will not be needed for, given a fine day, Loders Court is the perfect setting for a village fete. Mrs. Pavey and Mrs. Bunnell are still open to receive entries for the children's fancy dress; Mrs. Rudd is on the lookout for home made works of art to shew in her handicraft exhibition; and Miss Peggy Pitcher's appetite for entries in her flower show can never be sated. Mr. Eli White, of Bradpole, has kindly loaned us his grandfather's "penny-farthing" bicycle. We shall see whether the young bloods who flash past us on motor bikes and racing cycles are equal to this antique form of locomotion. In the evening there will be a social and dance in the Hut. A small concert party belonging to Bridport Industries have kindly undertaken to enliven the evening with a variety entertainment. We toyed with the idea of engaging the Allington Band for the afternoon, and of running coconut shies, but these would have been expensive items. The fete is unlike the Coronation festivities in that we are out to make money and not spend it.

The money we are out to make is for the repair of the fabric of Loders' ancient church. People who attend its services contribute about £200 year to the collections, but these are wholly absorbed in running expenses. The proceeds of the fete are always relied on - and never in vain - to meet the cost of repairs to the church. Step by step, as the money comes available, we are making good the ravages of time. Since the last fete we have re-roofed and re-decorated the church. This cost £1760. The next job, in order of urgency, is to take out some of the windows and have them re-leaded before they fall out. The old lead has perished. It is hoped that this year's fete will pay for the windows. Incidentally, the windows contain some precious panels of medieval glass which need making safe.

The late Miss Emma Hinks. The trio of sisters living in Court Cottages, Loders, has been broken by the death of Miss Emma Hinks, which came unexpectedly, although at the end of a long illness. For seven years Miss Hinks was bedridden, and was nursed with great devotion by her sisters, whose own health was not of the best. The passing of Miss Emma Hinks will lighten their labours, but it has left them with a deep sense of loss.

Lent Boxes, produced £4. 3. 2. for the work of the Church overseas.
(Loders £3.5.2., Dottery 18/-.)

A Worthy Deputy. Mr. Harold Spiller, the Askerswell organist finds it difficult to attend choir practice in the haymaking season, and his place at the organ is being filled by a versatile member of the congregation, Mr. John Barker, who plays five instruments of music. Mr. Barker is the answer to those who question whether the scientific and artistic temperaments can co-exist in the same person; for until his retirement Mr. Barker was pharmacist of a big London Hospital, and a university lecturer in that subject. With Miss Wilkinson giving the choir the benefit of her knowledge of voice production, it should go from strength to strength. When Mr. Spiller resumes the organ stool at the end of hay-making (which should be about Christmas at the present rate of progress) he will think he has come to the wrong church.

The Sick List. It is pleasing to report that Mrs. Holmes, of Uploders, is home from hospital, and almost recovered from the alarming accident in which she was knocked down and injured in the head by a car. Mr. Stevens of Uploders, is also home from hospital. He was being nursed by his wife and niece at Nettlescombe, in a severe illness. He submitted to a course of treatment at Weymouth hospital which worked wonders, and as a result we can hope to see him about again. Miss Marsh, of Loders, is doing well in Port Bredy, and hopes to be home soon.

Loders Ringers had no difficulty in filling their coach on this year's outing. After calling at Wells, Cheddar and Weston their ultimate goal was Bristol, and parishioners who have friends in Bristol took advantage of this cheap way of seeing them. Some newspapers give the impression

that the populace at large finds church bells a nuisance. But this may not be too easily assumed. In Loders, for instance, when the ringers make annual appeal for financial recognition of their services, the response of the parishioners is exceedingly generous. The ringers' latest house-to-house collection brought them £24. Which proves that bells are not unpopular in Loders, at any rate.

Christenings. Michael Francis, the firstborn of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Powell, was baptised during afternoon service at Dottery; and Zoe Teresa Annemarie, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Crocker junior, of Powerstock, was baptised at Loders. Mrs. Crocker is a daughter of Mr. Studley, lately churchwarden of Askerswell.

The Vicar of Grimsby, recently on holiday in Bridport, attended morning service at Loders Church. He stayed behind after service to congratulate the choir on their singing. "I thought we at Grimsby had the best choir in England", he said, "but now I am not so sure". Our choir certainly acquits itself well, and being at the west end of the church instead of the east, induces the congregation to sing with vigour.

The Parish Notes entered on the sixth year of their life last month. The circulation is now 200 copies a month. Almost every household buys a copy, and it is safe to say that every household reads it, even if the copy is borrowed. Some copies are passed from home to home. Some find their way to distant parts of the country, and some go half way round the world. It is an awesome thought that no one daily newspaper, or Sunday for that matter, has as big a circulation in this neighbourhood as these humble Notes. The Editorial staff regrets that the form of the Notes is not up to the normal standard of a parish magazine. We are painfully conscious of our amateurish appearance. We ought to be between covers, and in print, but this would either raise the price to about sixpence a copy, or require a subsidy from church funds. So we are resigned for the time being, to be undignified, to be clamoured for if we are not ready on time, and to be financially solvent. Incidentally the Editor does not claim credit for the highly original spelling, punctuation, and syntax to be found in the Notes. He confesses that in these matters the Notes would be quite commonplace were he able to see a proof before the copies are printed.

A present for Loders Church. Mrs. Lenthall and the Mothers' Union have made and presented, new curtains to replace the old ones at the organ, the vestry, and the south door of Loders Church. The old curtains had done long service, and finished many a meal for moths. They were red in colour. The new ones are blue, and match the hangings in the chancel.

The Church Militant. Extract from provincial daily paper:- "A disturbance was caused in St. James' church, during evensong yesterday. A man at the back of the church shouted something and advanced towards the chancel, throwing off officials who tried to stop him. When he reached the Vicar, he assumed a menacing attitude. The Vicar replied with a straight left. The intruder was carried out by three sidesmen. He is now in custody, and will appear before the magistrates when sufficiently recovered".

Services for August.

Loders. 2nd. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
9th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.
16th. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
23rd. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
30th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.

Dottery 2nd. H.C. 9.30,
9th. Evensong 3.
16th. Evensong 3.
23rd. Evensong 6.30.
30th. Evensong 3.

Askerswell 2nd. Evensong 7.
9th. Matins 10.
16th. H.C. 9.30, Evensong 7.
23rd. Matins 10.
30th. Matins 10.