

## Parish Notes (November, 1953)

### Loders, Dottery and Askerswell

"Witchies, Darkies and Spectres". The Eve of All Saints is reckoned to be a spooky night. Weird things are supposed to happen in churchyards, and by the use of the proper spells, lovelorn maidens may discover the man they are to marry. These old superstitions are the theme of a parish party to be held in the Loders Hut on Tuesday November 3rd., at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Nathaniel Pinkett, who made such a roaring success of the Coronation party, consented with alacrity to run this one, and is bringing from Bridport a troupe of dancing skeletons. No order, however unusual, defeats the resourceful Mr. Pinkett. We are not so certain, though, that Mrs. Harry Legg's refreshments will not defeat the skeletons. Charges for admission will be, adults 2/-, children 6d. The Committee appointed by the parish meeting have asked - and been granted - to take advantage of this convivial occasion to make a presentation to Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton. The presentation will be made just before the refreshment interval by the chairman of the parish council.

Our Cycle of harvest thanksgiving is now completed, albeit reluctantly, leaving a memory of perfect autumn weather, with the morning sun lighting up the ancient arches of Loders Church, and a massive congregation raising the harvest hymns midst a plethora of autumn flowers, and a warm, fruity smell, as of a greengrocer's. It was the most vigorous harvest Loders Church has known for years. The church was filled for matins, and again for evensong by congregations who were highly appreciative of the work done by the small army of decorators, and of the choir's offering. Many people asked who had made the wheatsheaf of bread which graced the lectern. It was Mr. Gregory; and the enormous chrysanthemums on either side were grown by Mr. Baker. The Parish Clerk and the Vicar noted with satisfaction that Mr. George Randall had assumed the mantle of the late Mr. Eli Lenthall in sending two sacks of chicken corn to adorn the chancel, and these may have caused the extra fervour discernable in the Parish Clerks "Awmens". At Dottery Church the space round the font had been converted into a display of flowers, fruit and vegetables of which a window dresser might have been proud, and the chancel vied with it. The size of the congregation raised the temperature very considerably, and one farmer was heard to lament, after service, that he could not take his jacket off to "We plough the fields and scatter". Mrs. Wensley had sat inside the door counting the flock as they came in to service, but her health not being what it was, she gave up at 83, long before the little church was full. In spite of the scarcity of eggs, fourteen dozen were included in the decorations of the three churches. The old people to whom these were given wish to thank the donors. The Vicar is grateful to the Vicar of Bradpole for preaching both at Dottery and Loders. Church people are not famous (in a complimentary way, at any rate) for their response to the alms dish, but the harvest collections of the three churches totalled about £25 (Loders £13, Askerswell £6 and Dottery £6.)

A Request. Will the kind people of Askerswell who subscribe to Mrs. Fooks' C.M.S. fund please leave their contribution for 1953 at the Post Office where Mrs. Savage has consented to receive it? We are late this year. This is one of the many ways in which we miss Mrs. Fooks.

The men to the rescue. Faced by the possibility of an unheated church this winter, some of the men of Askerswell have made a rota for manning the stove. Capt. Aylmer will light it for the first Sunday in the month, Mr. George Bryan for the second, the Rector for the third, Mr. Fred Marsh for the fourth, and Mr. Barker for the fifth, when there is one. But the ladies cannot be quite done without. To save the men several journeys, Mrs. Peter Rogers, who lives near the church, has nobly undertaken to keep the fire in.

The Parish Assembly and the Community Club of Askerswell have each decided to contribute chairs to the public seating of the village, which is lacking in quantity and quality. The parish assembly will pay for theirs out of the Coronation surplus, and the community club hope to make a jumble sale pay for theirs. Samples of chairs were tested at the parish assembly. The back of the cheaper chair was found to aggravate that part of the anatomy which we sing about unblushingly in the Psalms as "the reins", so a decision was made in favour of the

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dearer article, which had the added advantage of a curved seat.

The Jumble Sale organised by Miss Bryan for the funds of Loders School made £9.14. This sum will be used for the Christmas party and for other "extras".

Mrs. Pearl Symes contributes the following note on the Uploders Chapel Harvest:- The chapel was tastefully decorated by Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Driver and Mrs. P. Symes, the most interesting item being a loaf representing the five barley loaves and two small fishes, made to the order of Mrs. Charlie Gale. Parties from Bridport, Bradpole and Shipton came to the Sunday service, and the downstairs part of the chapel was filled with a congregation numbering 52. The collection reached £5. Mr. Gray of Mappercombe, who conducted the service, took advantage of the number of children present to give them a preliminary talk on Temperance. His sermon to the adults was an excellent one on the message of the harvest hymns. On the following evening the harvest gifts were auctioned by Mr. Gray for chapel funds. Bananas sold for a shilling each, and the sale realised £10. A crack has now appeared in the chapel ceiling, and it is hoped to raise £50 for repairs.

Yet another christening took place at Dottery Church when the infant son of Mr. & Mrs. F. Read, of Pymore, was baptised Graham Peter. This makes the fifth christening in three months, a rare number for a small community like Dottery.

The late Mr. John Whitehead, of Uploders, was buried in Loders cemetery. He and his widow (with whom much sympathy is felt) were comparative newcomers to these parts, Mr. Whitehead being the son of a Midlands tobacco manufacturer. He bore a painful illness with fortitude, and never let his worries get the better of him.

Askerswell Bells. There is a ray of hope that the restoration of these derelict bells may not be the formidable task envisaged by the two firms of bellfounders who reported on them and put the estimated cost in the region of £700. Brigadier Hammond, of Loders, whose experience as an engineer gives weight to his opinion, kindly spent an afternoon in examining the bellframe, and reports that the wooden frame could be repaired, and the bells rehung on it on ball bearings without going to the expense of a new steel frame. This might halve the cost. Brigadier Hammond's opinion has since been confirmed, with reservations, by another expert, and the new plan is about to be submitted to the bellfounders, who, naturally, will not be keen on it. Meanwhile, the Church Council has commissioned Messrs. Spiller, of Crewkerne, to fit a new Vulcanite roof to the tower to arrest the damage being done to the bellframe by water.

Loders Church Council has placed a contract with the Weymouth glaziers, Webb & Major, to remove the valuable crown glass of the Ladys Chapel windows from the decayed lead frames, and set it in new lead.

Herewith a word of appreciation of the local branch of the South-western Electricity Authority. Shortly before Loders harvest evensong, the nave lights were found to be defunct. Answering the call with their usual promptness, the electricians discovered that the wiring in the pipes under the roof had been corroded by rain water which had come through the former lead covering. To repair this at short notice was a considerable job, but the electricians obliged us by getting it done in time for harvest. Which poses the question what matters it whether enterprise is private or public as long as it is enterprise?

Lest We Forget. Remembrance Sunday will be observed on November 8th. with services at 10 a.m. at Askerswell, 11 a.m. at Loders and 6.30 p.m. at Dottery. Collections will be for Earl Haig's Fund.

#### Services for November

Loders. 1st. H.C. 8 & 11.45. Matins 11, Children 2.  
8th. H.C. 8, Remembrance Service 11, Children 2.  
15th. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.  
22nd. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.  
29th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Askerswell. 1st. Evensong 7. 8th. Remembrance Service 10.

Dottery 15th. H.C. 9.30, Evensong 7; 22nd. Matins 10, 29th. Evensong 7.  
1st. H.C. 9.30, 8th. Remembrance Service 6.30. 15th. Evensong 3.  
22nd. Evensong 3; 29th. Evensong 3.



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Our Christmas Programme. If the instinct of New Year's Day is to look forward, then the instinct of Christmas is to look back, and dwell on the wonder of God coming to earth as a child, which he did to show us what God is, and what we need to be like. The backward looking instinct of Christmas makes us dwell on old times, old customs and old faces, and it is the time above all others when we like to do what we have always done before. It shall not be said of us that our feet strayed into unfamiliar paths. We shall do what we did last year, and the year before. In Loders the choir will serenade the parish with carols, and, as usual, the little box that Miss Peggy Pitcher presents at your door will be for the Waifs (not Waits) and Strays. At midnight on Christmas Eve there will be the Communion service with carols. It is the only service of its kind in the year, and the large congregation who love it attest that the stillness of the night, the dimness of the church, and the fairy lights on the Christmas tree, take them in spirit to the crib of Bethlehem. The eleven o'clock service on Christmas morning has more of the spirit of the English 18th. century - "the rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir". The choicest moment in this service is when the children flock from their pews to the chancel step, to sing carols. They return with sweets from the tree (put there by an indulgent Mothers' Union), which they have solemnly promised on the previous Sunday not to eat before they get outside. Christmas in Loders Church ends with the carol service of the lessons, at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, December 27th. Lessons are read by representatives of parish organisations. The Christmas Day service in Askerswell will be at 10 a.m. The carol service of the lessons, with the choir's new anthem, will be on Sunday, January 3rd. at 7 p.m. It is possible that the choir may sing carols round the village in aid of the bell fund. At Dottery the Christmas Day service will be at 9 a.m. (please note the time), and on the following Sunday Dottery congregation will join their mother church of Loders for the carol service.

Remembrance Sunday Collections, for Earl Haig's Fund were £12.3.3. (Loders £8, Askerswell £2.13., Dottery £1.10.3.). The weather on Remembrance Sunday was atrocious, but it did not keep our people from church. At Askerswell the newly formed Wolf Cub pack paraded with Brownies and Guides, and seemed to take a vicarious pride in the bemedalled chests on the other side of the aisle. Loders service was memorable for the organists' performance of the Dead March from "Saul".

Jennifer Paul has sent some knitted articles for the Loders children's mission sale, which is held each year in December. The interesting point about this is that Jennifer has now lived for some time in Surrey, but has not forgotten the annual effort that her old schoolmates make for the church overseas. The sale has also been remembered by ex-members of the Sunday School, who have made and sent most acceptable articles, and by kindly ladies of the congregation. Mr. Harold Bishop has sent a large stock of little-used household linen which will doubtless find a ready sale. Teas will be available, and the children will do recitations and songs. All they hope for now is a fine afternoon and plenty of buyers. The sale will be at the school on Saturday December 12th., beginning at 2 p.m.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Fred Legg, of Uploders, on the birth of a son, and to Mr. & Mrs. R. Joy, of Pymore, on the birth of a daughter. Both were born in Bridport Hospital.

Too Strong. The bell which Sunday by Sunday proclaims to the neighbourhood of Dottery Church the imminence of Divine service is tolled by Mrs. George Gale. The other Sunday the bell suddenly stopped speaking. Thinking this to be somewhat unnatural (bells being females), Mrs. Gale gave the rope a good shaking, without effect. Looking rather nettled, Mrs. Gale suggested to that part of the congregation already assembled that the bell must be suffering from old age, having been "up there seventy years and more". But somebody remembered that the bell on the chancel step at Loders was 300 years old, and could speak as well as ever. So the congregation trooped out of church, and looked up at the open bell turret. Nothing appeared to be wrong with the bell, except that it had no clapper. The congregation returned to their pews, mystified. A Bridport firm were successful in finding the missing clapper and fitting it to the bell. But it would take more than that to convince Mrs. Gale that



it was other than "contrariness" on the bell's part. Mrs. Gale knows more of the ways of females - and bells are females - than she does of the strength of her right arm.

Winter Activities, of Askerswell and Loders are now in full swing. The fortnightly whist drive at Askerswell is going strong, as the locals say, and the classes in square dancing draw an average attendance of two dozen. The Community Club birthday party was a happy event. Wing. Com. Newall shewed a film of the Coronation of his own taking; Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. H. Crabb gave a dialect sketch and Brenda Foot and Valerie Gillingham did a duologue in period dress. The birthday cake was cut by Miss Barbara Bryan and Mr. Donald Marsh, first and present secretaries of the club respectively. Mr. Biss was the M.C. Loders Mothers' Union began its winter session with a service which filled the Ladye Chapel, and has since taken part in a Deanery meeting at Bridport and a religious film show at Melplash. The Women's Institute made the useful sum of £22. by its annual sale, and incidentally gave the children a rollicking afternoon, rounded off by a visit from Santa Claus. Mrs. Taylor has resigned the presidency after holding it with distinction for three years, and is succeeded by Mrs. Howell. Mrs. Wells continues as secretary, and Mrs. Gregory is treasurer. The Discussion Club, with Mr. John Marsh as Secretary, is fast becoming a social club as well, having lately taken two coachloads of members and friends to a theatre in Exeter. The Young Farmers are at the peak of their glory, and are now exercised in keeping there. They have won almost every trophy there is to win. People who saw Mr. Clifford Pitcher presiding over the big meeting in Bridport Town Hall, supported by his committee sitting in the seats of the magistrates, could not but remark on the good work done by the Y.F. movement, in fostering purposefulness and a sense of responsibility in its members.

The Congregation which filled Askerswell Church on a Monday morning for the funeral of Mr. Charlie Marsh shewed his widow and children how highly he was esteemed, and the measure of sympathy felt for them. As a family they have had much to endure. They have set an example of courage and steadfastness which has not gone unnoted.

The Hallo'een Party drew the biggest attendance to Loders Hut of any social. The party had reason to be grateful to the awfulness of the weather for keeping a few people away and giving more elbow room. But those who could not face the weather missed an exceptionally pleasant evening, which was a credit to the organising ability of Miss Muriel Randall, and the popularity of Mr. Nathaniel Pinkett and his Revellers. Mr. Pinkett's nicest bit of humour was unconscious, when with all the sincerity of a Peter Quince explaining that the lion was only Snug the joiner, he explained that the spectres who were about to do a dance were not real spectres, and that anybody who was frightened could go outside - where the night was inky black and the rain was pelting down. These uncongenial elements outside made Mrs. Legg's hot sausage rolls and mincepies (a credit to Mr. Gregory's bakery) all the more acceptable, and we marvelled at her prodigality in producing three refreshment intervals and an issue of jelly before the dance of the spectres. With out thanks to her we couple our gratitude to the heroes who brought the piano from the school and took it back again. The presentation to Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton has been fully reported elsewhere. They must have been surprised at the welcome of such a crowd on such a night.

#### December Services

Loders. 6th. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.

13th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

20th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Christmas Day, Midnight Service, Christmas Day H.C.8, Matins 11.

27th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Carol Service 6.30.

Askerswell 6th. Evensong 7, 13th. Matins 10, 20th. Evensong 7.

Christmas Day, H.C. 10. 27th. Matins 10.

Dottery 6th. H.C. 9.30, 13th. Evensong 6.30, 20th. Evensong 3.

Christmas Day H.C. 9., 27th. Carol Service Loders.