

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell

Choosing a Date for Askerswell fete was a task which the recent Parish Assembly found none too easy. To every suggestion somebody managed to raise an objection. One date would clash with haymaking, and another with corn harvest. Another date was no good because The Ladies would be away. A long process of elimination proclaimed May as the only possible month, and the 22nd. as the only feasible date. So Saturday, the 22nd. May, it is to be, and the invitation of Wing-Com. and Mrs. Newall to hold it at South Eggardon has been gladly accepted. Mr. Allsop, the carrier, has kindly agreed to ferry passengers from the Square to the fete. Experience has proved darts and skittles to be efficient money raisers. The landlord of the Travellers' Rest has consented to run a dart week at his establishment, with a bottle of whisky given by Captain Aylmer as top prize. The landlord of The Three Horseshoes, has agreed to a skittle week at Spyway, with the top prize of a pig given by Mr. Biss. Two hundred pounds is the target which the fete committee hope to hit. This is the minimum that the Bell Fund will need.

Easter in our three churches, was what only Easter of the festivals can be. Skilful hands had made the buildings more beautiful with spring flowers, notably the primroses and wild daffodils that had been gathered on Good Friday. Congregations were very large, and the choirs of Loders and Askerswell had produced anthems worthy of the occasion. Only sunshine could put the finishing touch to human endeavour, and of this there was abundance, for Easter fell in the midst of an official drought. By noon 171 people had made their Easter Communion - Loders 103, Askerswell 35 and Dottery 33. Dottery's was easily the best achievement; for 33 represented practically the whole of its communicant strength. Matins drew a large crowd to Loders Church. People had to be packed in, and the long line of cars outside shewed how big a proportion were visitors. It is a pity that all the old families of Loders cannot feel the affection for their parish church that so many visitors do. The Easter congregation included a family from Bedford who had arranged their holiday so as to be able to attend Loders church at Easter, and a family who had come over from Bournemouth. It also included ex parishioners who had come from Dorchester and Netherbury. Yet to many born and bred in Loders Easter made no appeal. Some who had been in the habit of making an effort at Easter failed this year. Why? The weather was no excuse this time. Is the parson losing his grip, or are they losing their faith?

A handsome new altar book was used at Loders for the first time on Easter morning. It had been given by the parish clerk, Mr. David Thomas, to replace one which had become dilapidated.

The Easter Offering, which represents the proportion of the Vicar's stipend contributed by the congregation, amounted to £24. 5s. 7d. (Loders £21. 3. 10, Dottery £3. 1. 9.) At the Easter Vestry the Vicar expressed thanks for this, and also to several parishioners unable to attend church on Easter Day who had sent their collection.

Easter Vestries, are much better attended than they used to be. Both Askerswell and Loders vestries were held on evenings so beautiful that it seemed sin to be indoors, and yet the attendance was good. In the old days Loders vestry used to draw an attendance of six; this time it was thirty. This may mean that the parishioners are not as ready to accept on trust what the church-wardens do with the collections, or it may mean an awakened interest in the business side of church affairs - the latter, we hope. All the churchwardens were reappointed, Capt. Aylmer and Mr. Spiller at Askerswell, Mr. Marsh and Mr. Cleal at Dottery, and Mr. Sanders at Loders with Mr. McDowall as a new acquisition. Askerswell sidesmen and council were re-elected, and so were Loders, with an infusion of new blood in the persons of Mr. Gregory (sidesman) and Mr. Howell and Mr. Gill (councillors). The statements of accounts call for some comment. Askerswell had an income (approx.) of £95 and spent £107, a deficit of £12 on the year's working. Loders had an income of £308 and spent £306, leaving a modest balance of £2. Dottery had an income of £41, and spent only half of this £21, leaving a balance of £20. Dottery is in the enviable position of having only a small income and yet being able to retain half of it; Loders receives the large sum of £308 and can only retain £2 of it, and Askerswell spending more than it received, has to raid the kitty. Dottery is lucky in having very small overheads, e.g. 5/3d. for electric light and 7/10d. for

heating, and in contributing only £7. to the work of the Church at large. Askerswell and Loders have heavy overheads, and their contributions to the work of the Church at large are appreciable. Askerswell is in the sorry position of having a church nearly as large as Loders to maintain, with only a quarter of Loders population. We must remember this on May 22nd

Early Birds. The Dottery churchwardens came to Loders for the Easter vestry a week too early. They adjourned to The Crown, and debated whether they should wait - there, of course.

New School Managers. Miss Wilkinson and Mr. Ronald Fry have been elected to the Management of Askerswell School. Miss Wilkinson brings to her new duties long experience as a teacher. Mr. Fry has graduated from being an old pupil of the school, and is a parent of a prospective pupil.

Miss Janet Symes, of Yondover, has joined the staff of the Church of England Children's Society's home at Brislington, Bristol.

Miss Mary Norman, a popular member of Askerswell choir, celebrated her twenty-first birthday recently.

Spring Weddings. Three of our young parishioners have lately got married. Mr. Albert Hilton, of Gribb, was the shyest of them. His centre of gravity is Weymouth, where he works. He married a Weymouth girl, Miss Joan Stone, and is making his new home in Weymouth. Mr. John Marsh, of Dottery, is well known as secretary of the Discussion Club, as a member of the Young Farmers, and as a regular member of Dottery Church. He was married at Wembley to Miss Melvany Truman, who was an energetic church worker there, and it is Dottery's good fortune that they are now living in the parish. The only wedding of the three to take place in Loders was that of Miss Doreen Barnes and Mr. Frederick Doble. This turned out to be the social event of the season. The church was still in its Easter dress, there was a great bevy of bridesmaids, a large congregation, bright music, and the bells rang at intervals through the afternoon. At the reception in the Greyhound Hotel a most efficient Master of Ceremonies kept the convivial spirit at a high pitch by proclaiming at frequent intervals, in the best Mansion House style, that "the bride and groom wish to drink wine with so and so". When he announced that the bride and groom wished to drink wine with all the feather-bedded farmers present, there was no response but when he said the bride and groom wished to drink wine with all the overworked and underpaid farmers present, the company rose as one man.

The Annual Farm Service will be held in Loders Church on Rogation Sunday, May 23rd., at 6.30 p.m. It is attended by the Discussion Club, the Young Farmers and the Agricultural Workers, whose representatives read the lessons. But anybody and everybody is welcome.

The Infant Son of Mr. & Mrs. F. Legg, of Uploders, was christened on Easter Day, and given the names Clive Nicholas Ralph.

The Mothers' Union have been specially energetic of late. They attended the great Lady Day service in Sherborne Abbey, and last month they visited the headquarters of the M.U. in London, the Mary Sumner House. They were impressed by its chapel, where they attended a service, the offices from which the world-wide activities of the M.U. are directed, and the accommodation available for members happening to be in London. In Easter week two new members were admitted at a service in Loders Church.

SERVICES FOR MAY

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

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

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

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Without Hesitation. The writer of these Notes usually has to think out which item of news to begin with. This month he is relieved of the thinking; for the first item cannot be other than Askerswell church fete, whose resounding success is the main topic for miles around. A village whose population is officially 127 set out to raise £200 towards, rehanging its bells. At the time of writing, it has raised £220, and the darts, which are still in progress at The Travellers' Rest, are not yet concluded. Some expenses have to be paid, but these are not large. The fete was lucky indeed to have made some £70 before it began. The working party which had been meeting at Miss Edwards' since early spring had made a profit of £50, and the skittling for a pig at Spyway had made £20, both before the fete day. The day itself produced £130, and the remainder has dribbled in since. Some people are speculating as to what the result might have been in kinder weather, but we doubt that it could have been better. All Askerswell seemed to be there, and many well-wishers from neighbouring parishes. The rail strike was more of a worry than the weather; for the fete was insured against rain, but for insurance purposes the rain was to be measured by the company's rain-gauge, which had not arrived. With a deluge in prospect, the rain-gauge was of first importance, and the secretary, Miss Bryan, moved heaven and earth - successfully - and got one. After all this effort, the rain that fell was negligible, and yet was enough to prevent the full enjoyment of Wing-Com. and Mrs. Newall's lovely home. Another casualty was the ice-cream, which also got held up in the strike, but thanks to the kindness of Bridport Woolworth's, the fete was furnished with this vital commodity, which is now the staff of life. People are asking whether there really is enough money in hand now to rehang the bells. The answer to which is, we hope so. But we cannot be sure. The bell founders have not yet submitted their estimate. We have been guided by the cost of similar repairs to the five bells of Powerstock.

People are splendid at raising money for the church, but are not as good at attending. It was therefore deeply satisfying to have Lodders Church packed full for the Rogationtide service. Reading the lessons must have been an ordeal for the lady and the two gentlemen who did it, but they acquitted themselves well, and, incidentally taught the clergy a lesson. The music on this occasion was magnificent. The choir were on top of their form, the congregation joined in with gusto, and, as always the organist put the finishing touch. As the congregation left church to the music of the bells, we found to our delight, that it had included the Grand Old Lady of Uploders, "Granny" Hyde, who is now in her 89th. year. She had been brought by a nephew who lives at Salwayash. Mrs. Hyde is now somewhat deaf, but she said she had heard and joined in the singing, and had enjoyed it all.

The Lent Boxes. In aid of the missionary work of the Church, produced the following amounts, Lodders £5. 13. 8., Dottery £2. 7. 11., Some Askerswell boxes have yet to come in.

An Old Soldier. Mr. Charles Edrich, grandfather of the Lodders police constable, came on a holiday to Lodders on a Wednesday and died of a heart attack in the small hours of the following Sunday. Like our Capt. Welstead, he had served in the Boer War. He had also served on the Indian frontier, and had been in Kitchener's Army, the "Old Contemptibles". His funeral was in his home town of Dorchester. When the clergyman and the mourners had departed, an ancient man came to the foot of the grave, with an effort drew himself to attention, and saluted. He also was an Old Contemptible.

Mrs. Diment, who lived in the Court Cottages, died recently at Dorchester County Hospital, and was buried in Lodders cemetery. She was an energetic woman right to the end, and it was a surprise to some to learn that she was near her eightieth year.

The Uploders Chapel Ceiling. Mr. Pope, of Bradpole, who is steward of the Uploders Methodist Chapel, contributes the following note:- The Uploders parish room opened its door to an interesting sale held there to raise something towards the repair of the chapel ceiling, which needs doing urgently. The chapel ladies had collected a wide variety of items ranging from lovely tulips, cakes and preserves to oak bowls and jumble. Bargains were struck over cups of tea, and stalls were cleared with more than one laugh. Additional help had come from those who gave

donations in memory of happy times spent at the chapel. As a result of the sale, the trust fund responsible for the upkeep of the chapel has received £24, and it should soon be possible to invite estimates for the work required. The ladies' committee who organised the sale were Mrs. Charles Gale, Mrs. Symes, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Driver and Mrs. Frank Crabb.

Replenishing the Earth. Mrs. Bolton, of Loders, has lately given birth to a son, and Mrs. Burrell, of Gribb, to a daughter. Mr. & Mrs. Barnes, of Belshay, have been admitted to the noble army of grandparents, and Mr. & Mrs. Sanders of Loders, have been presented with another grandchild in Scotland.

A welcome Visitor. Who should walk into Loders School the other day but Miss Wilkes, who, until her retirement, had been head teacher for 23 years'. She received a warm welcome and her departure was warmer still, for she left a big bag of sweets to be distributed. At Miss Bryan's invitation, Miss Wilkes attended the children's Ascension Day service in Loders Church. It will please Miss Wilkes' many friends here to know that she has not changed one iota.

Bells for the Queen. The bells of Loders joined with the rest of the country in ringing a welcome home to the Queen from her Commonwealth tour. Askerswell bells could not, of course, be rung, but they chimed merrily, and were simultaneous on the wireless with the mighty peal from York Minster. Somebody asked why all this commotion just because the Queen had returned from a holiday? If the Queen's work in forging the bonds of unity between the members of the British family of nations was indeed a holiday, then it was a holiday which would have killed most people. Only those who have tasted know the strain, mental, nervous and emotional, of state occasions. The bells rang because the Queen was safely and successfully back from another phase of the hardest job in the world.

Young people in an old abbey. With the rain that we had prayed earnestly for on Rogation Sunday falling heavily, young people from all over Dorset flocked to Sherborne Abbey for an evening service on St. Aldhelm's day. St. Aldhelm was first bishop of Sherborne, in the seventh century, and his diocese covered most of Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. The present Bishop of Sherborne told the vast congregation of young people all about his illustrious predecessor, and sent them away with a resolve to imitate him. Young communicants from Dottery and Askerswell were enabled through the kindness of voluntary charioteers, to attend this service. Twenty of them went, and they are grateful to Brigadier Hammond, Mr. Charlie Barnes and Mr. Peter Billen for driving them, and refusing to take anything for the petrol. On the return journey the calvacade stopped to partake of a picnic supper, prepared by Mrs. Willmott, with the connivance of Mr. Gregory.

SERVICES IN JUNE

Loders. 6th. Whit Sunday, H.C.8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
13th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
20th. H.C. 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.
27th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.

Askerswell 6th. Whit Sunday, H.C.10, Evensong 7.
13th. Matins 10.
20th. Evensong 7.
27th. Matins 10.

Dottery 6th. Whit Sunday, H.C. 9, (please note time).
13th. Evensong 6.30.
20th. Evensong 3.
27th. Evensong 3.