

PARISH NOTES (MAY, 1957)  
Loders, Dottery and Askerswell.

The Lateness of Easter, combined with the mild spring weather, had a marked and not at all unpleasing effect on the floral decoration of our churches. Instead of the unrelieved yellow of primroses, daffodils and forsythia, we had a tinting of tulips, cherryblossom, bluebells and polyanthus, and at Loders the entire bowl of the font was done in cowslips, which are normally an Ascensiontide flower. Again we are indebted to the ladies who made our churches so festive, and to the children who made of Loders porch a Joseph of Arimathea's garden, complete with pond and ducks. The Easter weather was all that could be desired, and enabled friends who had come from the cities to see the countryside at its best. Services began with a seven o'clock communion at Loders. As the wind was in the right direction, the early risers were met on the church path by the music of Bridport St. Mary's bells, greeting the greatest day in the year with a Resurrection fanfare. At Dottery a large and bright morning congregation were waiting for the Easter communion, and at Askerswell the quiet approaches to the church were gay with wives and daughters in their Easter finery. At Loders a score of Scouts who were camping in the park staked an early claim to the seats in the Ladye Chapel, and people who came later - including a lot of old friends on holiday whom it was delightful to see - had much difficulty in finding billets. Indeed, we are credibly informed that in some pews, if you did not rise and sit in unison, motion was impossible. This constriction might well have muted the Easter shout, but it did not, neither did it impair the liveliness of the choir's anthem. Out of a total population of 700, the attendance at church on Easter Day was well over 500, and those who made their communion numbered 171 (Loders 99, Askerswell 40, Dottery 32). The collections on Easter Day came to £45.2/- (Loders, £23.12.3d, Askerswell £16.5.9d, Dottery £5.4/-). These collections represent the part of the incumbent's stipend paid by the parish, and at the vestry meetings he expressed his thanks for them. The Easter offering included a bottle of sherry, delivered apologetically in a plain wrapping before the parish was properly astir. Nothing to apologise for in this. Need we add that the author of this act of sublime intuition was a woman?

Farm Sunday, which is the local name for Rogation Sunday, falls this year on May 26th. There will be the time-honoured farm service in Loders Church on that day, attended by the Loders Agricultural Discussion Club, the Askerswell & District Young Farmers and Farm Workers. As many of the congregation come from a distance, and as farmers, like parsons, now find that Sunday is the day on which they have to work, the time of the service will be 7 p.m. May we remind our readers that everybody, and not farming people only, is welcome at this service?

An "Easter Offering" of £2 has been sent from Great Bromley by a friend of Miss Wilkinson, who knows Askerswell, towards the bell fund. It is some tribute to Miss Wilkinson that her friends should espouse the causes she has at heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Youngs are now settled in retirement at Dottery, after a lifetime of farming at Broadoak. Their terrace at Dottery bids fair to be a little colony of Broadoak; for they are now living next to Mrs. Hutchins, who also comes from Broadoak. They consider that if they find Dottery only half as nice as Broadoak they will be satisfied.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Head (nee Rosemary Hyde), who now live in Tottenham, brought their infant daughter to Loders Church, where they were married, to be christened on Easter Day. The large company of friends who came with them included Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hyde, and the paternal grandparents. After service there was an adjournment to Mrs. Hyde's cottage at Waytown, where the banquet proved that Mrs. Hyde did not forget her cooking when she left Matravers. The baby's names are Ann Cobden.

"All For It". Askerswell Church is heated - and sometimes scented - by a Gurney stove, consuming coal and coke. The gentlemen of the parish look askance at her, like hen-pecked husbands, when they come into church. And with good reason. In return for her winter warmth, she exacts a heavy toll of stoking and water carrying, which the gentlemen discharge by rota. She is their bete noir. She makes the house of prayer a house of bondage. One of the gentlemen, with an eye to the future, has gone so far as to clean her out voluntarily every week. He does not say so, but our surmise is that he trusts this may reduce his time in purgatory. Our readers can imagine the ray of hope that flickered on the beaten brows of these gentlemen when it was announced at the Easter Vestry that it might be possible to convert the Gurney to oil, and dispense with the stoking. Never were churchmen so sure that the necessary funds would be forthcoming, and the secretary was asked to investigate the possibility without delay.

Askerswell Easter Vestry was pleased to learn that Mrs. Spiller had taken over the church cleaning from Miss Pam Fry, who has left the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gale, of Uploders, are rejoicing in the birth of a son, Michael. He was born in Bridport Hospital.



When the Easter Vestries came to appoint officers for the current year, they plumped for their old and tried servants, with the result that the list of officers is not greatly changed. Mr. C. Marsh and Mr. Lock are churchwardens for Dottery, Captain Aylmer and Mr. Spiller for Askerswell, and Mr. McDowall and Mr. Sanders for Loders. Wing-Cdr. Newall, Capt. Aylmer, Mrs. B. Osborne and Brigadier Hammond are representatives on the Ruri-Decanal Conference. The Askerswell sidesmen are Miss Edwards, Wing-Cdr. Newall, Mr. F. Marsh, Mr. D. Marsh and Mr. N.C. Adams (who was also re-elected secretary and treasurer); and the Loders sidesmen are Messrs. D. Thomas, W. Graves, F. Gill, H. Crabb, M. Gill and R. Dennett. The composition of the parochial councils has not yet been elucidated, because several councillors were absent from the meeting, and it had to be discovered whether this was their Dorset way of saying they did not wish for a further term of office.

The New Comet has been clearly visible in our neighbourhood. A telephone message from Mrs. Lumby sent the Askerswell Easter Vestry out of the council chamber to look at this wonder of the night sky, and to debate the truth or otherwise of Shakespeare's dictum "When beggars die there are no comets seen; the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes". One Loders family left their beds in night attire and climbed a hill to see the comet. Motorists returning late to roost saw them. We should like to know what the motorists thought they saw.

Church Finance. Here are the chief items of interest in Loders Church accounts for the year ended 31st December last. Church Collections £275.11.5d; Receipts from other sources £275.2.2d: Total Receipts £550.13.7d. The expenses were: Salaries £54: Payments to Diocese £62.2/-: Church Expenses £72.16.10d: To special objects £53.10.5d: To Missions £53: Transferred £230.11.10d: Total Expenses £526.1.1d. This left a credit balance on the year's working of £24.12.6d. Thanks were accorded Mr. Harold Brown for auditing the accounts.

A Loders Mill Wedding. When the banns of marriage of Mr. Douglas Rex Loveridge, of Buckland Ripers, and Miss Margaret Ann Barnes, of Loders Mill, were called, the people of Loders looked for a wedding on the grand scale to relieve the tedium of their existence, and the father of the bride, Mr. Hamilton Barnes, did not disappoint them. The sun shone, the bells pealed, and so greedy were the cameras of beauty still more beautifully attired that the bridal party took the best part of ten minutes to get from the church gate into the church, while the congregation stood and waited. The church, in all its Easter glory, was full of friends and clients, and the Vicar of Buckland Ripers was there in the chancel to assist the Vicar of Loders in hallowing the contract. To the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March, from "The Midsummer Night's dream", the great company took carriage to the Greyhound Hotel, where bride and groom were toasted in champagne, and a waggish Master of Ceremonies told the father of the bride to cheer up - he still had two marriageable daughters.

Askerswell Church Accounts, as presented at the Easter Vestry, shewed collections of £104.1.2d, and receipts from other sources at £56.15.4d, making total receipts of £160.16.6d. Expenses were £113.4.11d, but there were some bills outstanding. Mr. Barker, now of Burton Bradstock, was warmly thanked for auditing the accounts. Several Parishioners had experience of hospital last month. Master Christopher Russell cycled out of Limbury on to the main road and collided with a car. He might have been killed, but was released from hospital after a day there, with only light injuries. Mrs. Gordon, of Uploders Place, had to spend a week in hospital after a heavy fall, and is now making good progress. To the sorrow of the hospital staff, Mr. William Graves, landlord of the Crown, and sidesman of Loders Church, is home again after a successful operation. His scintillating humour, and essays in Dorset dialect, transformed the hospital into a kind of Lido, and made some of the patients better before they meant to be. From his sick bed he sent a letter which made even the Easter Vestry laugh. Long may he make people laugh. At Taunton Hospital Mr. Geoffrey Randall is still under observation. Miss Christine Harris, of Uploders, has had hospital experience of another sort by starting her career as a nurse at Weymouth Hospital. She keeps faithful to her old place in Loders Church on her off-weekends.

Dottery Church Accounts shewed receipts at £65.19.8d and expenses at £37.1.11d. Reserves were drawn on, and the current account nearly emptied, to meet a repair bill of £179. Mr. C. Marsh was warmly thanked by the Easter Vestry for making the current account solvent by paying in £15 in memory of his parents.

#### Services in May

<u>Loders:</u>	5th.	H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.
	12th.	H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.
	19th.	H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.
	26th.	H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2: <u>Farm Service 7.</u>
<u>Askerswell:</u>	5th.	Evensong 6.30.
	12th.	Matins 10.
<u>Dottery:</u>	19th.	Evensong 6.30.
	26th.	H.C. 10.
	5th.	H.C. 9.30.
	12th.	Evensong 6.30.
	19th.	Evensong 3.
	26th.	Evensong 3.



Growing in Popularity. When the ancient Rogationtide service of prayer for the growing crops was revived in Loders Church ten years ago, there was not, to our knowledge, any comparable service in the neighbourhood. But the idea has since "caught on", and every year sees an increase in the number of churches observing Rogationtide, which is all to the good. This year a chapel, the Bridport Congregational, made history by taking a leaf out of the Church's calendar. It arranged a special agricultural service for the evening of Rogation Sunday, and invited the local branch of the N.F.U., and the Askerswell Young Farmers - which together comprise most of the local farming community - to attend. Apparently the promoters of this service saw nothing incongruous in bringing country people into town for a country occasion, but it struck us as odd that farming people who for the past ten years had been in the habit of attending Rogation in Loders Church should be requested by their local N.F.U., and by the Askerswell Y.F.C., to attend the Bridport Congregational service. The N.F.U., of all people, should have known that you must always order a countryman to do the opposite of what you really want him to do. The effect of this request to attend service in Bridport was to make the Loders service more crowded than ever, and to make the collection a record. The service was memorable for its singing, and for excellent reading of the lessons by Mr. C. Gale (Chairman, Loders Discussion Club), Mr. R. Dennett, and Mr. P. Baker (Vice-Chairman, Askerswell Y.F.C.). Once again we are indebted to Mr. Wilfred Crabb for the loan of his old horse plough for the chancel.

The Abbeys of Sherborne and Glastonbury are two great shrines of the Christian faith in the West Country. A pageant of history was recently staged in the choir of Sherborne Abbey by the Youth Fellowship, and a party of young people from Loders went to see it. Afterwards they were shewn over the Abbey, including the tower, where they saw the 2½ ton tenor bell being rung in peal. Saturday, June 29th, is the day of the pilgrimage to Glastonbury Abbey. Allington Church have chartered a large coach, and are willing to take any of our people. It will start at about 8 a.m. and return at 8 p.m., the fare being, children 5/- and adults 7/-.

Application for seats may be made at Loders Vicarage.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Foot, of Nallers, on the birth of a son, and to the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Fry, on this further step in their patriarchal progress.

All Dottery seemed to go into mourning for the funeral of Mr. George Henry Parker, and the church could scarcely contain the congregation. This was some measure of the sympathy felt with the widow and her two daughters in their great loss. Up till Christmas Mr. Parker had seemed the strongest and halest man in Dottery, but a rapid decline, which he bore with fortitude, carried him off a few days after his fifty-second birthday.

Askerswell Bell Fund acknowledges with gratitude a donation of five guineas from Mr. Squires, who has lately sold his house and left the parish.

The wedding of Mr. Clifford Pitcher and Miss Joyce Woolmington in Loders Church was meant to be "quiet", but a large congregation turned out, and friendly hands made the chancel gay with May flowers. The congregation included members of the Askerswell Young Farmers, and the Loders Discussion Club, in both of which the bridegroom takes an active interest. The wedding feast was held at Boarsbarrow Farm. While the guests were regaling themselves with good things in the farmhouse, a fox, who had not been invited, regaled himself in the poultry house, at a cost of twenty choice pullets. One can see why foxes are not invited to weddings. A few days later, it was reported to the local big game hunter, Mr. Neave, that a fox had been seen sitting near the poultry house. Mr. Neave concealed himself in a hedge overlooking the poultry house and waited. It is lucky for the Vicar that he is not as foxey looking as some people we know; for it was he who emerged from behind the poultry house into the muzzle of Mr. Neave's gun. A jittery man might have fired, but Mr. Neave is cooler than the cucumbers he grows, and nothing that a vicar could do would surprise him. The fact that the Vicar was armed also might have helped to steady him. The Vicar was stalking pigeons, and it was lucky for Mr. Neave that he looks more like a pheasant.

New Church Councillors. Mrs. Sidney Fry has been co-opted to Askerswell Church Council, and Mrs. Rudd (senior), Mrs. Greening and Mrs. Poole to Loders Church Council.

Mrs. Wallbridge, of Uploders, is home again after treatment in the Weymouth Eye Infirmary. Her eye is slightly better. Mr. Collier Marsh, of Matravers, is now making fast recovery from a serious illness.

A Disappointment is in store for the gentlemen who stoke the stove of Askerswell Church. The makers of the stove, who were advertising its conversion from coke to oil, have replied to the secretary that they have not yet perfected the process, and must await the outcome of experiments being conducted by their engineers. Obviously the firm were not expecting their advertisement to be taken seriously.



A Famous Man. Dr. Martin Niemoller is already in the history books as a U-boat commander in the last war who rebelled against the Nazis, was thrown into a concentration camp, was ordained a minister in, and is now a leader of, the German Church. He is to speak in the Bridport Methodist Church at 4.15 p.m. and again at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13th, and our readers ought not to miss this opportunity of meeting one of the heroic protagonists of Christianity against Nazism. The chair will be taken by Lady North, wife of the Admiral whose career has lately been the subject of much discussion in and out of parliament.

The first general overhaul that the fabric of Dottery Church has had since it was built seventy years ago is now completed. The cost, about £230, is more than was envisaged, but everybody is pleased with the result. Outside, the colour scheme is grey, red and black, and inside, the bare, parched boarding is now glossy with varnish. The cross on the wall of the pulpit has been gilded, lending a subtle distinction to the whole scheme of decoration. How to replenish church funds after all this expenditure is a problem which it is hoped the Dottery stall at Loders Fete will solve.

All things to all men. The variety of business on which callers come to a vicarage is surprising. A few nights ago, two petty officers of the Naval Commando from Portsmouth appeared at Loders Vicarage. They had been set the task of covering two hundred miles on five shillings in thirty-six hours, and en route they were, among other things, to get the signature of the chief constable of a county, and to enter a house which had been continuously inhabited for five hundred years. It was the latter problem that brought them to Loders Vicarage. Knowing birds, these commandos. They sought the Chief Constable of Dorset - and found him - on a golf course.

Doing good by stealth. Somebody with an eye to the necessary has bought a new watering can, painted "Loders Church" on it, and installed it near the rainwater tank in the churchyard. Many thanks.

Loders Ex-servicemen's Hut. A meeting of men was held recently to try to determine the future of the Ex-Servicemen's Hut. This was an act of desperation, because the ownership of the Hut is in doubt, its deeds having been lost, and its Ex-Servicemen's Club being defunct, and yet some step needed to be taken. The meeting did not enquire too closely into its own competence to settle the fate of the Hut, but after paying tribute to Mr. Charlie Gale, Mrs. P. Symes and the late Mr. Oscar Gale for all their services to the Hut, it passed a resolution that the survivors of the original ex-Servicemen should be invited to make over the Hut to the parish, and be offered compensation of three guineas each. The original ex-Servicemen, who are thought to number about twenty, cannot question the generosity of the compensation; for according to the list in the church porch, the War Office grant of £15 which started the Hut was in respect of ninety-five Loders men who served in the Great War, which makes the original cash contribution of the ex-Servicemen only 3/2d per head. If this basis of compensation were to be applied uniformly to all who contributed to the Hut, Lady Le Breton would find herself entitled to several hundred pounds; for she gave the cloakrooms. To us it seems a pity that the issue of compensation was raised at all. Some of the men, who did most for the Hut, notably Mr. Fooks, who practically built it, are dead, and cannot be compensated. Moreover, as the Hut is badly in need of a coat of external paint, it is foolish to empty the kitty of sixty guineas and then to make a public appeal to fill it again. The matter is now with the twenty ex-Servicemen. There is nothing to stop them from declining the compensation.

New Blood. Mrs. Randall and Mrs. Lenthall are unable to take over the organisation of the stalls at this year's fete, and their places have been kindly taken by two young wives, Mrs. Derek Barnes (Loders) and Mrs. John Pavey (Uploders). Brigadier Hammond has again undertaken the sideshows; Mr. R. Dennett and Mr. J. Osborne the skittles, and Mrs. H. Legg the teas.

#### Services in June

<u>Loders:</u>	2nd. H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	9th. Whitsunday. H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	16th. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children.	
	23rd. H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	30th. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2: Evensong 6.30.	
<u>Askerswell:</u>	2nd. Evensong 6.30.	9th. Matins 10.
	16th. Evensong 6.30.	23rd. H.C. 10.
	30th. Matins 10.	
<u>Dottery:</u>	2nd. H.C. 9.30.	9th. Evensong 3.
	16th. Evensong 3.	23rd. Evensong 6.30.
	30th. Evensong 3.	