

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

Clerk of the Weather's Favourites. "You Loders people have the devil's own luck with your fetes. When we at Powerstock try to do anything out of doors we start up a second Flood". This was the comment of a gentleman of Powerstock who came to our fete at Loders Court, and enjoyed an afternoon of warm sunshine and caressing summer breezes. Our good fortune becomes increasingly apparent as the weather goes from bad to worse, putting in his place that wizard of the Sunday Express who promised us a hot, parched summer, and who will now be rueful of the gale damage in his garden, if he has one. We hit upon a really nice day in a nasty month, and the number of those who responded to the call of the fair must have been well over four hundred. But it was a day on which beasts that sting had "a down" on churchwardens. Mr. Cecil Marsh, churchwarden of Dottery, was so badly stung in the face by bees that he could not sit at the receipt of custom. Captain Aylmer, churchwarden of Askerswell, was caught by a wasp just as he was executing a delicate backing manoeuvre in the car park. Mrs. Telford's car, which was the one behind, had reason to be thankful that it was the Navy, and not some excitable lady driver, that stopped the enemy dart; for it made the difference between a dented fog-lamp and a concertina'd engine. For the first time in our history the children had a donkey to help the pony in giving them rides. Miss Elizabeth Forbes brought him all the way from Lower Sturthill. He was in one of his stubborn moods until he met the swish of holiday traffic on the Dorchester road. This seems to have stimulated all his latent Derby instincts, and he arrived at the fete in great style. There he shewed what donkeys are made of by earning £2 at riding delighted children at the pre-war rate of threepence a go. The children were again in their element in dressing up as street vendors. By next year they will have invented cries of Loders appropriate to their wares. The hilarity of the procession of pies obscured the fact that there was some first-class cookery in the pies, but many households became aware of this at Sunday dinner. We had doubted that any wife would entrust her person to the hazards of the pram derby, or that any husband would commit anything so precious to such a hurly-burly, but they did, and a Gadarene rush of husbands, antique prams and wives down a steep slope to the church ended the fete in a roar of laughter.

Takings of the fete were £222.11.9d, expenses were £38.13.8d, and profit was £183.18.1d. As there was no social this year, and the skittles were for a week instead of a fortnight, the financial result of the fete really exceeded last year's record.

The Balance Sheet is as follows :- Gate £15.11/-; Cakes £9.15.6d; Housewife's Surprise £2.2/-; Jumble £11.5.7d; Ices £8.4.6d; Gifts £14; Children £6.12.1d; Produce £9.8.8d; Dottery Stall £15.1.7d; Flowers £3.5/-; China £7.18/-; Teas £28.16/-; Electric Railway £2.13.3d; Donkey £2.0.3d; Dottery Surprise parcel £3.12.6d; Dottery fruit £6.6/-; Dottery Coffee urn £1.9/-; Chicken £3; Lawn skittles £6.6/-; Treasure chest £2.8.6d; Roll-a-penny £3.3/-; Rifle Range £2.16/-; Cake £4.4.6d; Roulette £20.0.11d; Pie Comp. 12/6d; Pram Derby 7/-; Fishing £4.7.5d; Clairvoyant £2.14/-; Cutlery container £1.9.6d; Skittles week £20.9.6d; Donations £2.12/-; Total Receipts, £222.11.9d. EXPENSES:- Teas £9.5.4d; Roulette prizes £8.16.8d; Fishing prizes £1.0.11d; Advertising £1.13/-; Printing £1.10/-; Amplifier £1.15/-; Treasure chest hire 14/-; Prizes £1; Hire of skittle alley £3; Skittle prizes £7.8.9d; Bus £2. Total expenses, £38.13.8d.

Helping the Cause. The winner of one of the fete prizes was a Bristol schoolgirl. When the Secretary posted the prize, she received the following reply "Dear Miss Randall, Thank you very much for the ten shillings prize, which came as a complete and a pleasant surprise. As I am going to a high school after the holidays, I am going to get a book, which costs eight shillings. Will you accept two shillings for your funds? Wishing you every success in the future. Sincerely yours, Elizabeth Goodcliffe, 8 Bath Street, Bristol."

A double Christening. The twin daughters born to Mrs. Denis Laskey at Summerlea Court, Dorchester, were christened at Loders Church on August 21st in the presence of a large family gathering. They were named Ellen Charlotte Le Breton and Audrey Nancy Le Breton. The hymns chosen for the occasion were "O God, our help" and "Who would true valour see", with Mrs. Tiltman at the organ. Juliet Willmott read the Gospel. The twins assisted by being perfectly quiet, although they were both wide awake at the crucial moment.

Mr. Horace Read, the under gardener at Loders Court, was married to Miss Molly Pavitt, of Allington, at Allington Church, in early August, and he and his bride have set up home in the cottage lately vacated by Mrs. Hyde (who now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Wilfred Crabb). Loders Choir were quick to note that Mrs. Read is a member of the Bridport Operatic Society, and without a doubt are eager to promote her to higher service.

Newcomers to Dottery. Mr. and Mrs. Scadden and family, of Burton Road, are now established in the cottage vacated by Mrs. Dowsett. The family consists of a son, Adrian, who is devoted to the land and works at Broadoak, and a daughter, Genevieve,

who has just left school for a Bridport office. As a late chorister of Eype church, Genevieve's movements are being closely followed by other hungry choirs.

Parting Gifts to Sister Fooks. Miss Dorothy Fooks left her Askerswell home a few days ago to begin work with the Grenfell Mission in Labrador. When her mother last heard from her, she had arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, after a rough passage, thankful (said her letter) to be a good sailor because she would not have liked to miss the excellent food. Miss Fooks received many tokens of esteem before leaving Hawkesbury, where she had been District Nurse. The village presented her with a cheque for £53.11/-; the local clinic with a travelling rug; her Sunday School class with a handsome Prayer Book; and the local doctor with a Parker pen and pencil.

Sergeant Edrich, erstwhile our parish constable, is home on leave from Cyprus, and his many friends in this locality have seized the opportunity of getting an intelligent appraisal of the present situation in that troubled island. Sergeant Edrich joined the Sunday School outing to Weymouth, and gave a welcome hand in piloting the tea through the teeming traffic to the beach - nearly as tricky a job as handling terrorists. He was interested to be told by the Governor of Cyprus, Sir John Harding, at an inspection of the Cyprus police force, that Sir John, as a boy, learnt to swim at West Bay.

A party of sixty filled two coaches for the Sunday School outing to Weymouth, and they were again lucky in picking a fine day out of a bag of wet ones. An adventure which greatly appealed to the boys was a boat trip to the submarines at Portland. Tea was partaken of on the sands, under an improvised Sunday School banner, and before starting back for home there was the usual last fling on the fun fair. The children wish, through these Notes, to thank the kind subscribers to the outing, and to apologise for its coming so soon after the fete.

Changes in Lodgers. Mr. and Mrs. Hansford have moved from 37, Lodgers, and are getting settled at Cherry Tree Cottage in Uploders. The late occupier of Cherry Tree Cottage, Mr. Kemp, has returned to the vicinity of Yeovil. A cheerful Irish family, Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, and their young children, Mary and Patrick, are now at 37, Lodgers. Mr. Cannon has the enviable knack of turning his hand to anything, and he is giving the interior of the old cottage a face lift. Major Tolley's house in New Road is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Moor, who commended themselves to certain local children by giving an "adorable" white rabbit to the fete. Mr. Moor is a retired naval man. His wife belongs to the well-known Bridport family of Fenwick. Both he and his wife have the distinction of belonging to a family of eleven children. The late Mr. Stevens' bungalow in New Road has been purchased by Mr. Percy Elliott, of Milborne St. Andrew, who does not reckon to be moving in for some weeks yet. Mr. Elliott is no stranger to these parts. In the 'twenties he lived at Rookhams, below the Travellers' Rest, and carried on a milk round. Later, he was at Home Farm, Shipton Gorge. Mr. and Mrs. Gale and family have left Croads to make room for Mr. Dennett and family, who will be moving in from Matravers. Who said that country people were "stick in the muds"?

Harvest Festival. Dottery will begin the harvest thanksgiving with a service at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26th, and will continue it with a service at 3 p.m. on the following Sunday. Askerswell harvest will be on Sunday, Sept. 29th, with Holy Communion at 10 a.m. and evensong at 6.30 p.m. The harvest gifts may be purchased (to the benefit of church funds) on the following afternoon. Uploders Chapel will also hold harvest thanksgiving on Sunday, Sept. 29th, at 6.30 p.m. It will be followed by the usual service, and sale for chapel funds, at 7.30 p.m. on the 30th. Lodgers harvest will be in October.

A son was born to Mrs. Maddison, wife of the licensee of the Farmer's Arms, at Bridport Hospital. Both mother and babe are doing well.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Holme, of Seymour Cottage, Allington, brought their infant son to be christened at Lodgers Church, where he was given the names of Alistair Neil, from which it will be rightly inferred that Mr. Hulme is a Scot. He is an engineer, working at the wireless station on Toller Down, and fellow members of the BEC staff attended the service.

Mr. Alec Peach of Uploders, is in Dorchester Hospital, recovering from an operation for perforated appendix.

Other Hospital News. "Chuck" wishes to thank the kind people who kept his locker full of sweets and fruit, and made his time in hospital "like Christmas Eve".

Services in September

<u>Loders:</u>	8th. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	15th. H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	22nd. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	29th. H.C. 8: Matins 11, Children 2.	
<u>Askerswell:</u>	8th. Matins 10.	15th. Evensong 6.30.
	22nd. Matins 10.	29th. (Harvest) H.C. 10: Evensong 6.30.
<u>Dottery:</u>	8th. Evensong 6.30.	15th. Evensong 3.
	22nd. Evensong 3.	26th. (Harvest) Evensong 7.30.
	29th. (Harvest) Evensong 3.	

Thanksgiving for the harvest was led off by Dottery with the customary Thursday night service. That afternoon the church had buzzed with activity as the ladies of the congregation employed flowers and fruit in decoration with pleasing effect; and in the evening many of the crowd that attended service stayed behind afterwards to make a closer inspection of the decorators' handiwork. Practically every family in the parish was represented at the service. Some families were complete, from grandparents to grandchildren in arms, and there were four generations of one family. Former parishioners, now living elsewhere, came to join their old friends, and were given a warm welcome. The festival was continued on the following Sunday, and again a preponderance of young life was remarked upon. Askerswell harvest coincided with St. Michael and All Angels, which is the church's dedication festival. A double event of this magnitude called for something out of the ordinary, so some of the heavy artillery, in the person of Canon Carew Cox, was brought up to deliver the sermon. His thoughts were deep and beautifully phrased, and some of us realised we were getting a sermon of cathedral vintage. (Canon Cox, who is the Master ringer of the Diocese of Salisbury, was last in Askerswell Church when he inspected and reported on the bells at the request of the late Canon Daniell. He was glad to learn that the bell fund has now topped £400). Askerswell is like Dottery in regarding harvest as the family gathering of the year, and the clans were there in strength. Somebody began to count the Frys present, but soon gave up. It was a delightful service, and, of course, much of the atmosphere derived from the decorations, which are done year by year by more or less the same ladies (discreetly reinforced as need arises) with ever increasing skill. On the afternoon following, parishioners who could do with vegetables and the like, came and took their choice, leaving a contribution to church funds. The contributions amounted to £5 odd. The Uploders Chapel had its harvest the same night as Askerswell. This little chapel holds fond memories for some of the older Loders people, and they saw to it that the service was well furnished with congregation. The preacher was the Rev. W. Porri. The auction of harvest produce, which is the chief source of chapel funds, was conducted by Mr. Charlie Gale, whose powers of persuasion disposed of bananas at half-a-crown each. The cycle of harvest services will end with Loders on Oct. 13th. Again the Askerswell Young Farmers have asked if they may attend evensong at 6.30 p.m., and they have been welcomed. Between now and then, Loders school will have had its own harvest festival, and Port Bredy Hospital has expressed willingness to receive the offerings.

A Jumble Sale in aid of the children's Christmas party will be held at Loders school on the afternoon of Oct. 18th. Gifts of anything saleable may be left at the school, or with Mrs. Hinde at 3, Wellplot. Cakes now look like outdoing clothes in marketability, so these would get a special welcome.

Christenings. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Crabb, of Yondover, was baptised Rosemary Ann on Sept. 22nd, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Maddison, of The Farmers' Arms, was baptised Nicholas William on Sept. 29th, both in Loders Church. The Women's Institute sale raised £15.15.6d. This will be used to fill a purse for a presentation of purses at Weymouth, in aid of W.I. County funds.

Mrs. Hutton, widow of the late Rev. Bertram Hutton, Vicar of Loders from 1914 to 1935, died at Bournemouth, and was buried in her husband's grave at Bridport cemetery. Lady Le Breton and some of Mrs. Hutton's old friends in Loders attended the service. The Vicar was prevented from attending by a prior engagement.

A wedding at Askerswell is notable in any event because weddings in this small community are rare, but that of Mr. Leslie Thomas Hile and Miss Pamela Anne Fry was little short of epoch-making, because of the immense popularity of the bride, and universal approbation of the bridegroom. "Pam", as everybody knew her, was esteemed for her charm, her skill in the domestic arts, and her loyalty to Askerswell Church. Many homes in Askerswell, beside her own at Sturthill, learnt to rely on her in times of need, and she took pride in keeping the interior of Askerswell church all ship-shape. Small wonder that the church was filled with wellwishers for her wedding. Everybody was pleased that the departure of her family from the parish had not prevented her being married in Askerswell. Flowers for the decoration of the church came from the bride's home at Milton Abbas, and from several gardens in Askerswell. Mrs. George Bryan did the transport, and Mrs. Adams, Miss Edwards and Miss Thwaites did the decorating, with Miss Wilkinson giving helpful advice from a seat in the nave. The bride's mother asks us to thank these kind ladies, and those who gave flowers. Among the guests attending the reception at the Askers Road House were the bride's grandparents, who were on the eve of celebrating their golden wedding. They are Mr. and Mrs. Alford, of Weymouth. Her marriage has brought Pam back to this locality, for she and her husband are making their home on his father's farm at Bradpole.

False Alarm. When the wireless gave repeated warnings that England was about to be struck by the hurricane that had destroyed the sailing ship Pamir, the parish paid attention. The parish was a bit sceptical, because no warning twinges had come from

the lumbageous backs and the radio-active corns that the parish finds every bit as reliable as the meteorological office. Then the Dorset Echo came out with a front-page headline that the hurricane was imminent, and the parish believed; for everything that the Echo says is gospel. Apples were hurriedly scabbled in from the trees, fowlhouse roofs were battened down, tarpaulins were tied tight, chrysanthemums were culled in armfuls, and beds under shaly chimneys were moved to the safer end of the room. The parish lay awake, waiting for the fury to burst, but there was a great calm. The morning sun rose brightly, and the parish eyed the wireless suspiciously. The announcer still spoke of the imminent arrival of the hurricane, which had got christened en route, but discerning ears detected that he did not sound convinced of what he was saying. A night passed and another beautiful day dawned. The wireless was now talking of anti-cyclones as if it had never heard of a hurricane. The parish shrugged it off as being yet one more instance of the futility of the meteorological office. But as for the Echo, that could not be shrugged off.

Campanology. Lodgers ringers, in common with others throughout the diocese, rang touches on the bells to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Salisbury Guild of Change Ringers, of which they are members. They also attended the quarterly meeting of the West Dorset branch at South Perrott, and went from there to Broadwindsor to test the rehung bells, which evoked their enthusiastic approval.

Mr. Anthony Wells, of the Merchant Navy, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Wells, of Lodgers Post Office, was married at Bradpole to Miss Susan Margaret French, of Guildford, the Vicar of Lodgers assisting the Vicar of Bradpole. Mr. Wells' grandfather was sexton of Bradpole, and his family maintain their many connections with that parish. The reception was a jolly and sumptuous affair in the Lodgers Ex-Servicemen's Hut, and the marvel is that the bridal car ever negotiated the obstacles that fond uncles had interposed between it and the honeymoon. The uncles had not chosen the wedding hymns, but it was fitting that one should have been "for those in peril on the sea".

New Parishioners. "Orchards", in Askerswell, lately occupied by Mr. Squire, is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. G.F. Waley, who come from the region of Cranleigh, Surrey. Like others before them, Mr. and Mrs. Waley have found Askerswell a refuge from air-fields and urbanism, and have received the neighbourly welcome that Askerswell never fails to give. Mr. Waley is an old scholar of Westminster, and is now retired from the South American department of the Shell Petroleum Company. He and Mrs. Waley have a son who is a barrister, and a daughter who is a farmer's wife. Shepherd Steel's cottage in Uploders has been taken over by Mr. Sherwin, who has come to Upton as cowman. Mr. Sherwin is one of those rare birds who have both left the land and returned to it. He comes from an isolated farm between Dorchester and Wareham. His wife is a Yorkshire lass, the daughter of a Congregationlist minister, and they have a boy of two years, and another of five months.

The Departure of Mr. and Mrs. Parker from Lodgers was so quiet that many of us were unaware they had gone. We have since learned that this was because Mrs. Parker is allergic to farewells. She and her husband are staying for the time being near Orpington. They will be greatly missed from Lodgers Church, and the children passing to and from school already know that they have lost the kindly interest of Mrs. Parker and the occasional sweet. Few people were aware that her venerable husband, who greatly enjoyed his country walks, had been on the reporting staff of The Times, and when the all too rare opportunity occurred, could talk most entertainingly about Northcliffe, under whom he served. Some of his reminiscences are written in a beautiful copper-plate hand, and are deposited at the Vicarage. When the Notes are short of news, we shall be tempted to draw on them.

Conserving warmth. The classroom at Askerswell school has been fitted with a plasterboard ceiling, which reduces the area to be heated, and should make for greater comfort in the winter. The £15 which the managers had to contribute towards this was met out of the proceeds of the children's concert and sale last year.

Services in October

<u>Loders:</u>	6th.	H.C. 8 & 11.45:	Matins 11:	Children 2.
	13th.	(Harvest) H.C. 8:	Matins 11:	Children 2: Evensong 6.30.
	20th.	H.C. 8 & 11.45:	Matins 11:	Children 2.
	27th.	H.C. 8:	Matins 11:	Children 2.
<u>Askerswell:</u>	6th.	Evensong 6.30.	13th.	Matins 10.
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<u>Dottery:</u>	6th.	H.C. 9.30.	13th.	Evensong 3.
	20th.	Evensong 3.	27th.	Evensong 6.30.