

PARISH NOTES (MARCH, 1959)
Loders, Dottery and Askerswell

The interest of Loders people, and to a less degree of Askerswell, was engaged during February by two weddings and three funerals. Dealing with the cheerful events first, Miss Eileen Tilley, whose home is in Uploders, but who is nursing in Bristol, was married at St. George's, Brandon Hill, to a budding doctor, Mr. Keith Davies, who will shortly be taking his finals at Bristol University. It had been Miss Tilley's ambition to be married in her home church of Loders, but this would have created transport difficulties for the bridegroom's family, who live at Ebbw Vale, in Wales, so Bristol was settled upon as being about half way between Bridport and Ebbw Vale. By chance, the Saturday afternoon chosen for the wedding was also the time of the enthronement of the new Bishop of Bristol. The Vicar of St. George's had to attend the enthronement, so he asked the Vicar of Loders to take the wedding, which the latter was very pleased to do. From start to finish the proceedings went happily. It was a cold afternoon, but the mere sight of the bridesmaids, in their Father Christmas scarlet trimmed with ermine, created a warm glow in the beholders, and the youngest bridesmaid, little Michele Barnes (late of Loders), shewed commendable commonsense by doing warming exercises while the grown-ups were doing the marrying. From church the party moved to the Royal Hotel, adjoining the Cathedral, for the reception. There the industrious best man consigned the task of extolling the bride's merits to the Vicar of Loders, and of the bridegroom's to the latter's old schoolmaster. Neither parson nor schoolmaster lacked straw for their bricks, nor failed to drop some. Outside, the newly restored bells of the cathedral were ringing a three-hour peal in honour of the new bishop: inside the hotel, they made a pleasant background to the feasting. Mr. and Mrs. Davies are lucky to have secured a flat in Bristol. She will continue nursing for the time being.

The other February wedding was in Loders Church on Shrove Tuesday, and had the distinction of being between a widow and a widower. The bride was Mrs. Amelia Jane Masters, of Matravers Farm, and the bridegroom, Mr. Harold Edmund Lester, of Spring Gardens Farm, Frome-Selwood. It appears that the bride and the groom had been childhood sweethearts - as, by rare coincidence, had been their deceased partners - and they saw no reason why their conjunction should occur at eight in the morning, which is the preference of many in like circumstance. This wedding took place at mid-day, in a well filled church, with the prescribed matrimonial hymns led by the choir, and the wedding march on the organ. Outside the porch the happy couple faced a battery of cameras, both official and unofficial, as the bells in the tower above chimed over them, and the livelier guests prepared a fusillade of confetti. The reception was at the Women's Institute Hall, in Bridport. Mr. and Mrs. Lester are living for the present at Spring Gardens, but hope to gravitate to these parts later.

The late Mrs. Letitia Fooks, of Askerswell, was buried in her husband's grave at Askerswell, after a "quiet" service. She was born at Chideock, in the palmy days when most country parishes had a resident incumbent, and often a curate too, and went, as a girl, to Symondsburys, as nursemaid to the family of the Rev. Henry Bryan, who was curate. When Mr. Bryan was presented to Askerswell, she moved with the family, and remained in its service till her marriage. The Bryan children who she nursed remembered her as a strict upholder of law and order, albeit the decree that the children should be taken out and exercised every morning before breakfast, winter or summer, rain or shine, was the Rector's, not hers.

The late Mrs. Collier-Marsh, of Matravers, was buried in the grave of her first husband, in Loders churchyard. The service was choral, and was attended by a large congregation. Mrs. Collier-Marsh came of an old, and large, Loders family, the Symeses. She was a keen participant in village life, and no whist drive or jumble sale or social seemed itself if she was absent, which was not often, and always had a very sufficient reason. She was nursed through a long and trying illness at Matravers by her husband and daughter, Mrs. May.

Very deep sympathy was felt in this locality for Mrs. Tom Hyde, at Waytown, and her family, when it was learned that her husband, who had been nursing her in illness, had died while washing up the tea things on a Saturday afternoon. Fortunately, their daughter Rosemary had just arrived from London. Mrs. Hyde seems fated to shocks; her only son John died in an accident in 1923, when he was two years old. Mr. Hyde was buried in his son's grave in Loders churchyard, at a choral service attended by a large congregation. At Mrs. Hyde's request, several who would have sent flowers sent instead a subscription to Loders Church funds, which benefitted by the sum of three average Sunday collections. Tom Hyde was born in what is now Yew Tree Cottage, Matravers, where his mother was born before him. He went to work in the bakery which was then carried on at Hembury in Askerswell, moving from there to a bakery in Piddle-trenthide, and finally to another bakery in Bradpole, where he married. During the Great War he served as a gunner, in France and at Gallipoli. After the war he settled in Matravers, next door to where he had been born, and was there for thirty-four years, as handyman, first to Mr. Lesser, and then to Commander John Streatfield. Six years ago he and his family moved to Waytown, but they have always maintained a lively connection with Loders Church.

The sum of two pounds odd of Askerswell public money which Mrs. Bryan Senior has been guarding since the coronation celebrations of King George the Sixth, is beginning to weigh on her conscience. She proposes handing it over to the School Managers towards the school improvements, plus interest which will bring it up to five pounds, provided nobody lodges a valid objection between now and March 14th. Objections after that date will be useless, because the original sum, augmented by Mrs. Bryan's very generous rate of interest, will then have gone into the land of no return. Objections before that date will not be exactly welcomed, by the school managers, at any rate. Be it said that any holy objection might expose its author to excommunication, and any profane objection would certainly lead to a duel with the chairman of the managers, in the Pound. And every pigeon knows how quick he is on the draw.

Improvements to Askerswell School. Readers may recall that our last number reported that the School Managers were to consider the provision of cloakroom facilities, as proposed by Miss McCombie, approved by the Dorset Voluntary Schools Association, and estimated to cost about £160. The Managers have since met, and have decided that as these improvements can be secured at so small cost to the parish, they shall be proceeded with. At present a Government grant meets half of the cost, and there is a good chance that the grant may shortly be raised to three-quarters. With the money already in hand, the Managers will need £40-£50, and less, of course, if the rate of grant is increased. Loders School has had wash basins since the early nineteen-fifties, and the Askerswell Managers felt that local patriotism would strongly support their efforts to bring their school up to Loders standards. Miss McCombie has arranged a super jumble sale which, it is hoped, will go a long way towards the £40-£50 target. It will be held at the school on Saturday, March 21st, at 2 p.m., and gifts of anything saleable, especially cakes, will be welcomed.

The Bishop has arranged a confirmation service for our three parishes on Sunday, October 18th, at 3 p.m., in Loders Church. Quite a number of young people have signified their wish to be confirmed, and so have several adults. The Vicar will be pleased to hear of any more. There is no age limit to confirmation. With a good number of adults coming forward, there is no reason why any grown-up who missed confirmation in his youth should be shy about putting himself right now.

It would be sad for village life if the whist drive passed away. In the past it has done good work in bringing parishioners together for an evening's fun of their own making, and it was once a potent instrument for raising money for good causes. But whether the whist drive can survive is now a very debateable question. Money is tending to be lost, instead of made, by whist drives. The Askerswell Young Farmers' Christmas Whist drive, though well supported, produced a loss, and we gather that the Loders Discussion Club Christmas drive only made £2.10/-, which, when all the donations are considered, is tantamount to a loss. The Askerswell Community Club whist drive in aid of the children's outing made only £2.13/-. It is true that the Club's previous whist drive, on behalf of the school, had raised £18.7/-, but this is nothing like the value of the contributions made towards the drive by almost every house in the village. The reason for the present position of the whist drive is obvious enough; it obstinately refuses to raise its admission price from the traditional half-crown, notwithstanding that the refreshments alone - the meat sandwiches, the cake and the coffee - take half of the half-crown. As with the Englishman's church collection, so with his whist drive - the price must remain static. But can it remain static? To pay a half-crown for whist today is really to be paying less than the same half-crown ten years ago, just as a half-crown in the collection today is nothing like as much as it was before the war.

We mention Easter last, so that it may linger in your mind. The list of services of this Queen of Seasons is appended, and it is the one day when all the confirmed are duty bound to make their communion.

Services in March

Loders:

1st. H.C. 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.
8th. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.
15th. H.C. 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.
22nd. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.
Good Friday. Litany 9: Devotional 11.
Easter Day. H.C. 7, 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.

Askerswell:

1st. Evensong 6.30. 8th. Matins 10.
15th. Evensong 6.30. 22nd. Matins 10.
Good Friday. Devotional 10.
Easter Day. H.C. 10: Evensong 6.30.

Dottery:

1st. H.C. 9.30. 8th. Evensong 3.
15th. Evensong 3. 22nd. Evensong 3.
Good Friday. Devotional 7.30.
Easter Day. H.C. 9: Evensong 3.

Holidaymakers, and cottagers who like to spend the Easter break on their gardens, can hardly look back on this Easter with satisfaction. Surprisingly, the Church can. The weather did its worst on Easter day. But it kept very few away from service, and by contrast it made the inside of the churches seem all the more beautiful and inviting. Winter was without, but Spring was within - masses of primroses, blue and white violets, and wild daffodils, left no doubt of that. How so many flowers could have been culled from a countryside that looked so bleak was a marvel, and the lady decorators knew how to use them with telling effect. In case we should be too puffed up, it is well to know that other churches had the same experience. Salisbury Cathedral, our mother church, lacked the homely primroses and violets of a village church, but the bases of its great columns of Purbeck marble were hidden by bocages of arum lilies in keeping with the grandeur of the place, and in spite of the pelting rain, the cathedral was filled with morning worshippers. Out of all our worshippers, 150 also made their Easter communion, which is about the same as last year; and the Easter offering, of £41.14.8d, was nearly £5 up on last year. This forms part of the Vicar's stipend, and he would like to thank warmly those who contributed to it. (Detail: Loders, £23.1.4d, Askerswell £12.13.4d, Dottery £6). He would also like to thank Loders choir for making so dismal a morning bright with their anthems. Loders and Dottery churches were exceptionally well used at Easter: they were well filled, between them, for four christenings on Easter Day, and Loders had two big weddings on Easter Monday. The prospect of a triple christening is rather daunting to anybody with experience of the lung power that one infant can generate, but the trio who made their debut in Loders Church on Easter Day behaved very well, and the ceremony was altogether pleasant. They were Anthony John Hiscock, Jane Pitcher and Christopher Michael Herbert. At Dottery, Maria Elizabeth Hattam, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hattam (nee Shirley Smith) also behaved in an exemplary manner, and, thanks to her father's nursing, fell asleep in the sermon, so affording the congregation an opportunity of doing likewise which they do not often get at christenings.

Easter weddings. The first wedding at Loders on Easter Monday was that of Mr. Adrian William Scadden, of Three Chimneys, Dottery, and Miss Freda Ruth Harris, late of Dottery, and now of 60, Victoria Grove, Bridport. Church corner looked like Piccadilly Circus as car after car arrived with guests, and the church soon filled up. Late guests were punished by a severe wetting, but fortunately the bride got in while the big black cloud was re-charging his tank, and the elements were soon forgotten in hymns and the triumphal wedding march. A feast was held afterwards at the British Legion Hall in Bridport. The weather was fine for the afternoon bride, Miss Shirley Christine Foot, of Travellers' Rest, and her groom, Mr. Stuart Reginald Crabb, of 121, South Street, Bridport. If anything, Church corner was still busier with cars, and again there was practically a full church to join in the hymns, and enjoy the minstrelsy of Mr. Bill Tiltman at the organ. The large company adjourned to the Ex-Servicemen's Hut for the reception, and those with prior knowledge of mine Host Ronnie Foot's soothing ministrations found him at the top of his form.

Loders Vicarage had a visit the other day from an old Loders boy who had made good, and was desirous once again of seeing his ancestral haunts. He was Mr. Robert Maynard Crabb, of Sidney, Australia. His father was Robert Crabb, and he remembers his grandfather as one who dressed flax for ropes, and operated teams of waggons. This Robert Crabb moved from Loders to Guernsey, and eventually to Liverpool, where he died. Our visitor learnt to be an engineer in Liverpool, and took a post with the Orient Line in Australia. There he prospered and rose to be a director of the Jersey Oil Company. To our surprise (for nobody could have guessed it) Mr. Crabb announced that he was ninety, and at eighty-nine had won the International Deck Quoits championship on the way over. He has been on holiday in Bournemouth for a year, and will be returning to Australia next month. Mr. Crabb had his wife with him. He wanted to know if by any rare chance there were a Crabb left in Loders!!! We, of course, had to put our thinking cap on. After much cogitation, we were able to direct him to Mrs. Martha Crabb, of Uploders, assuring him that if anybody knew the whereabouts of any other Crabb, it would be she.

The jumble sale run by Miss McCombie in aid of Askerswell school improvements made the gratifying profit of about £30. It was well supported by helpers, and by the Uploders ladies who depend on such sales for their spring ensemble.

Askerswell Church Finances. These, as presented by Mr. Adams at the Easter Vestry, are in a healthy state. They shew receipts from all sources (except the fete) at £313.12.2d, Expenses at £230.3.5d, and a working balance of £83.8.9d. Collections increased to £103.14.9d. Thanks largely to the £223 profit on last summer's fete, the bell fund has now reached the region of £820.

Mr. Harold Spiller had the distinction of being elected people's warden of Askerswell for the twenty-fifth year in succession at the Easter Vestry, and was duly congratulated thereon. Captain Aylmer was again nominated Rector's warden, and Mr. Waley was elected to serve on the Ruri-Decanal Conference with Wing-Commander Newall, in place of Captain Mason, who is still in hospital, and faces a long period of convalescence.

Mr. George Bryan and Mr. Waley were also elected sidesmen, with Miss Edwards, Mrs. Fooks, Mr. F. Marsh, Mr. D. Marsh and Mr. Adams. Mrs. Aylmer, Mrs. Newall, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Lumby, Mrs. Sidney Fry and Miss McCombie were re-elected to the Church Council. Our trusty secretary and treasurer, Mr. Adams, was not given the chance to refuse re-election by the simple expedient of not being asked. It is unthinkable that anybody else should be considered for these key posts. The meeting quietly and thankfully left him where it found him, and he was too absorbed in other matters to question the propriety of this.

The Askerswell Easter Vestry decided to make another big heave toward the final goal of the hall fund in the summer. The proposal was to hold a fete at the school, using the school field as well. This seems a good idea. It means that our kind hosts of previous years will have a holiday (much needed) from fetes this year, and if the weather is unkind, there will be the shelter of the school building to turn to.

A healthy spot? At the recent annual parish meeting of Loders, the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Harold Brown, was lamenting that there had only been one burial in the local cemetery during the year under review, making the problem of cemetery finance more difficult than ever. The average number of burials had been, until lately, nine a year, and when the cemetery was first commissioned, an average of fifteen was contemplated. The meeting tried to console the Clerk by attributing the startling reduction last year to the advance of medical science, but the furrows on his brow betrayed a lingering suspicion that the local inhabitants were not co-operating quite as they ought to. This may be so, of course, but it may also be that Loders is an exceptionally healthy spot. Other cemeteries in the vicinity did a roaring trade last year.

Loders Church Accounts for the year ending December 31st 1958, shewed a satisfactory state of affairs. At £299.6.9d, collections were the highest on record - and so were ordinary church expenses, which takes the gilt off the gingerbread. Receipts from all sources were £576.4.2d, and expenses and transfers to reserve £521.13.9d, leaving a credit balance on the year's working of £54.10.9d.

New machine for churchyard. The Easter Vestry agreed to the Church Council's proposal to buy a new rotary cutter for Loders churchyard, which, incidentally, will absorb the credit balance on the year's working. The old rotoscythe had come to the end of its life. The new one will have a stronger engine, and its belt driving should mitigate the shock of hitting stones and jars, which somehow get into the grass between each cutting. May we ask the good people who trim graves, to keep their eyes open for stones and half-submerged jam jars, and to remove them to safety if they find any? Not only are these likely to damage the machine; they might seriously damage anybody standing near when the machine throws them out. The Easter Vestry warmly thanked Mr. Gilbert Miller for his hours of work in the churchyard, and others who help.

The Officers appointed by the Loders Vestry for this year were:- Mr. M. McDowall, Vicar's Warden; Mr. H. Sanders People's Warden; Mrs. B. Osborne and Brig. Hammond Representatives to the Ruri-Decanal Conference; Messrs. D. Thomas, F. Gill, W. Graves, H. Grabb, R. Dennett and G. Miller Sidesmen; Mrs. R. Pitcher, Mrs. H. Legg, Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Lenthall, Mrs. Masters, Mrs. Carver, Mrs. Greening and Mr. I. Forbes as non-ex-officio members of the Church Council.

The drawings made by Mrs. F. Gill and put on sale in Loders Church have so far produced an excellent profit of £30 towards new lamp brackets for the church. The Vestry congratulated and thanked her. At Askerswell Vestry, Mr. Waley shewed a specimen greetings card, containing a fine photo he had taken of Askerswell tower, which he was willing to put on sale for the bell fund. His offer was accepted with alacrity. Dottery Easter Vestry will be held in the Church on Tuesday, April 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Parishioners will then have an opportunity of hearing the architect's report on their church.

The monthly summer evensong will begin at Loders Church on Sunday, April 26th.

The Mothering Sunday service in Loders Church attracted the biggest ever congregation of mothers and children, and an impressive heap of presents to the chancel step. Mrs. Willmott took the service, and distributed the presents to the mothers whose names were on them. The earliness of the season made it necessary to postpone the flower distribution through the village till Sunday, April 5th.

Services in April

<u>Loders:</u>	5th.	H.C. 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.
	12th.	H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.
	19th.	H.C. 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.
	26th.	H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2: Evensong 6.30.
<u>Askerswell:</u>	5th.	Evensong 6.30. 12th. Matins 10.
	19th.	Evensong 6.30. 26th. H.C. 10.
<u>Dottery:</u>	5th.	Evensong 3. 12th. Evensong 6.30.
	19th.	Evensong 3. 26th. Evensong 3.