

PARISH NOTES (JANUARY, 1961)

LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!! Because it is the nature of these Notes to be a diary of local events, and because there is much to record this month, your editor will forego his undoubted right of propounding a new year solution of all the world's problems, and will only ask whether it is proper for a christian to desire a happy new year? Happiness, if directly sought, is a will-o-the-wisp that always eludes. The thing to wish for is that we may put duty first, duty to God and then to our neighbour. From duty done will come the happiness that was not asked for, deep and satisfying.

A PESSIMIST CONFOUNDED. The Vicar was convinced that Christmas would be a thin time at church. One after another of his parishioners said that they would be going away to their families this year instead of the families coming to them (and incidentally to church). And go away they did. Yet the congregations generally were bigger, and included many nice old faces that had come back to the home church for the feast. The number of communicants was not far short of the two hundred mark, there were more people than ever at the midnight service and at matins of Christmas Day a large "family" sort of congregation listened to the carols of the children grouped at the tree under the chancel arch, and warmly approved the giving to them of the fruits of the said tree, after the singing.

A RECORD. When Loders choir went carol singing they collect £12.6.9d for the Children's Society, the most ever. A party of carollers from Bridport preceded them the night before, but obviously did not queer their pitch. The parish discerned between the sheep and the goats. At Uploders Place, General and Mrs. Rome listened to them with an encouraging array of refreshments in the background, so that when they arrived at Upton Peep, a little further along the road, the walk had not been long enough for justice to be done to Mrs. Lenthall's hospitality. On the following night they began by singing to a house party in Loders Court, and ended at a bowl of punch before the big log fire in the Vicarage.

THE BREAKING-UP PARTIES at Askerswell and Loders schools, with their plays, present-giving, teas and Christmas trees, gave as much pleasure to the parents as the children. Loders children went so far as to give their mothers presents this year. We have not heard that the fathers got any. Being one, we should have been surprised if they had.

ANOTHER RECORD. The Loders children's mission sale produced £34.6.4. this year. There went before it a nativity play, most beautifully done, and creditable to Mrs. Scott and the children alike. It had not occurred to us that angels could be dainty. Had we not seen little people sleeping soundly on Christmas Eve, and on such manifestly hard beds, we would not have believed it.

BOYS TO THE FORE. Mr. & Mrs. Savage of Askerswell Post Office, are rejoicing in the birth of a son. Of the five babies recently christened in Loders Church, four were boys - Adrian John, son of Mr & Mrs Arthur Crabb; John Travers, son of Mr & Mrs Alfred Gale, now of Bristol; Ian Charles, son of Mr & Mrs Clifford Pitcher; and Alan George, son of Mr & Mrs Raymond Pitcher, now of Pucknole. The girl was Linda Jane Crabb, daughter of the former Shirley Foot now of Bridport.

"Who said that a December wedding cannot be pretty?" demanded the best man at the wedding feast of Mr. Keith Ellis and Miss Alison Rudd, and we echo the question. Loders Church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, the weather for once was dry, and the sensible red velvet of the bridesmaid prevented anybody from feeling cold. Underpinning the outward ceremony was the warm conviction that the parties to it were thoroughly nice and sincere young people.

Shortly before Christmas the body of well-known character, Mr. George Ellery, was brought home from Bridport to be buried in the family grave in Loders Churchyard. The chief mourner was his eldest brother Alfred, formerly a gardener at Loders Court, and a chorister and bellringer of Loders Church, who is now over eighty. Although for some time Mr. George had been domiciled in the old men's home at Stoke Abbott, he was always back in Loders when he could be.

His visits followed a pattern. He toured the homes of his friends in expectation of a tip which was seldom disappointed, and timed the end of the tour to coincide with the opening of the Lodgers Arms, where he sat in his old corner and awaited developments. His tour always began at the vicarage, and always when there was a bustle, as on the morning of fete day. George would stroll into the kitchen as if he owned it, invoke a "Peace, be still" on the confusion, spread himself round the stove, take a draught of strong tea thickly sugared, light up his evil smelling pipe, and then through the pall of smoke bombard the lady of the house with kindly questions about the family. He had no eye for other eyes looking anxiously at the clock. Eventually he would go, but the stink of twist tobacco, and the not unpleasant aura of George would stay on for days.

The Gardener's Arms at Dottery has been vacated by Mr. Trump, who, we gather, has gone to live in Bridport. To save a scramble, we might add that possession has now vested in Mr. Scadden, next door.

Mrs. Holland's Cottage at Askerswell, refurbished and now the last word in convenience, has for its new occupants a widow, Mrs Mabb, and her two adopted children Kirsty (a girl) and Richard. Mrs Mabb's late husband was with Shell. (This is our fourth connection with oil, and it gratifies us that oilmen should find our localality so attractive) Mrs Mabb has already discovered her neighbour's virtues. We hope she will also find the quiet she would welcome after much travel in India and China, and being a prisoner of the Japanese in Hong Kong.

Lodgers Ringers at their annual meeting elected Mr. Harry Crabb captain after the tribute to the memory of their late captain, Mr. Harry Legg. Mr George Hyde now combines the office of secretary with that of vice-captain; Mr Bill Maddison is treasurer, and Mr Reg. Dennett tower warden. The Vicar acknowledged the constant service of the bells owed to the young ringers, Peter Cowburn, Tommy Dennett, David Gill, and Brian Hyde.

Askerswell Bells were put into service by the Bishop Of Salisbury with due pomp and ceremony on Dec. 3rd, Miss Croxson and Mr. Waley junior, part donors of the new bell, were present, but the other donor, Mrs Plummer, was represented by her husband and children, she herself having the misfortune to be in hospital again. However, she was able to hear a good tape recording of the service which had been taken for her. Thanks to help from Lodgers and Litton Cheney ringers, the bells have been rung for every service since the dedication. Thanks to Mrs Samways and Mr Peter Cowburn, some promising young Askerswell ringers are being trained to bring the band up to strength, so that outside help may not be needed. Learning to swing a bell methodically takes much practice and a steady nerve. The trainees have not only this, but enthusiasm, points which should alleviate any annoyance that dwellers round the church may feel when unmelodious noises issue from the bells.

The Way to Address a gentlemen. Sir Edward Le Breton received a Xmas letter from his old batman in India. The superscription is "Your Majesty Sir Sahib Bahadur Lord Le Breton - Salaam". ("Sahib Bahadur" means "The Lord, the Brave One") The letter continues "Your slave Jaghul urges that I am quite well here, with your grace. And I always pray God you may live long and keep sound health, Sahib Bahadur. I am still in the service, and I would have become retired after two years more service, and until I will live alive I would have been sent my best compliments in your service. I am full of confidence that you would have been replied of my letters. I would have become very grateful to you for ever. Pay my best respects to Lady Sahib. Pay my salaam many times to your Sahib and Miss Sahib. Salaam and best respects to all of you from my wife and son. I would be very grateful to you for reply soon. Your old humble servant Jaghul" Sir Edward's amused comment on his slave's letter was "He is the only one who address me properly!"

Services in January.

LODERS. 8th. HC 8, matins 11, Children 2.

15th. HC 8, matins 11, Children 2.

22nd. HC 8 & 11.50, matins 11, Children 2.

29th. HC 8, matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL:

DOTTERY:

8th, Evensong 6.30. 15th, matins 10.

8th, Evensong 3. 15th, Even. 6.30.

22nd, " 6.30. 29th, HC 10.

22nd, " 3. 29th, " 3.

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell.

A Hardy Annual. Neither illness at Loders Court, nor the atrocious weather, nor even the lack of school children, prevented the annual party given by Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton from pursuing the even tenor of its way. Indeed, the children with long experience of these parties voted it the best ever. Although there are at present not many more than a dozen children in Loders School, there is no lack of babes and toddlers. As these and their mothers were invited to the party, the sumptuous tea-tables were well furnished with guests and the cheers called for by David Skeats for the host and hostess rose lustily from sixty throats. Master Edward Laskey was not present this year to give out the half crowns and oranges as the guests departed, but they received them all the same, and the coach as usual, was waiting at the gate to take the distant dwellers home. The children enjoyed the punch and judy show which is invariably part of the entertainment. So did Lady Le Breton. She tells us she noted with satisfaction that Mr Punch's morals had improved. This year it was a crocodile he beat and not his wife. Obviously the civilising influence of Loders Court is beginning to be felt. But what a tough old boy is Mr. Punch. He resisted it successfully for forty years.

The Christmas Carol Service at Loders Church fell this year on New Years Day. The weather prevented many people from attending. It was blowing half a gale, with icy rain. But the nave was surprisingly well populated, and for the first time all the lessons were read - and very creditably - by the Sunday School Children.

A Dottery Christening. Two ex-parishioners of Dottery Mr & Mrs Adrian Scadden, brought their first-born, a girl, to be baptised on New Year's Day. She was named Ruth Elizabeth.

An Indication of the esteem in which the late Mrs Ethel Youngs was held was the size of the congregation which attended her funeral. Dottery Church was almost full before the cortege arrived. When the mourners came in, some of the congregation left their seats to make room, and stood at the back, and some people had to stay outside. Mrs Youngs came of a large farming family at Broadoak. She was a skilled maker of butter and cheese. She also had the reputation of being a hard worker, who continued whether she was feeling up to it or not. In their comparatively short time at Dottery, she and her husband had made a niche among their neighbours, and she will be sorely missed by them.

Under New management After a term under the supply teacher, Askerswell School is now in the amiable control of its new head, Miss L.M. Grigg. She comes from Kew Stoke school, Somerset, where she was responsible for sixty children. The small number at Askerswell must call for a lot of adjustment on her part. She and her colleagues have already established a happy understanding with each other and the school seems set fair for good progress.

Holes. A local builder had to be engaged to assist the recent instalation of Askerswell bells. His job was to knock eight holes in the tower walls to take the new bell frame, and to seal up the holes when the frame was in. He did this to everybody's satisfaction. But what is not so satisfying is that he also knocked a hole in the £100 raised by the Christmas fair. His bill for the eight holes was £54. This would seem rather expensive, but the knowledgeable say that it is not out of the way. The scaffolding had to be erected and dismantled twice, and the walls are so hard that the work really needed a pneumatic drill. Two electric lights, which had to be put in the tower, have cost another £9. These are non-recurring items. The most annoying expense is the one that comes with every gust of wind - for the replacement of fallen slates from the church roof. We shall not rid ourselves of this till we do as the architect says and re-slate the roof. Those poor old slates have done well.

Progress Report. The young people who are learning to ring at Askerswell have made such headway that in mid-January they were able to man the bells for Sunday service unassisted. Of course,

their performance is not yet a polished one, and cannot be expected to be, but it is serviceable, and holds future promise. The kindly interest of Loders ringers has been quite touching. Some Sundays they have cycled to Askerswell to ring at 9.30 a.m. and back to Loders to ring at 10.30. Other Sundays they have cycled to Askerswell to ring in the evening after performing at Loders in the morning.

A Change In Shipton Lane. Mr & Mrs Green have left Hillcrest, the smallholding in Shipton Lane, and it is good to report that their successors are no strangers, but Mr & Mrs W.G. Hunt, of Nine Bottles. How nice it would be if always parishioners leaving Askerswell went no further than Loders, and vice versa.

Mr William Henry Brooks, who died in Stoke Water House at the age of 76 was buried in Loder Churchyard, in the grave of his mother. Mrs Brooks is remembered by some of the older inhabitants. She used to stay with old Mrs Brown in the now vacant cottage opposite the school. Her son visited Loders Churchyard last summer, and asked to be buried with his mother when the time should come. One occasionally hears the righteousness of the Vicar questioned for allowing burials in a closed Churchyard. Some think it discriminating and unfair. One down-to-earth lady roundly declared it was "taking trade away from the cemetery". But the Vicar has not much say in the matter. When the churchyard was formerly closed, the proviso was made that any family having space in an existing grave might fill it up, and that the closure did not effect the burial of cremated remains. The taking in of good agricultural land for burials is such a potential menace that surely it is only commonsense to conserve the resources of the new cemetery for as long as possible?

Anti-Shock Tactics. To save the Church councils of Loders and Askerswell a heart attack at their next meeting, we take the liberty of breaking it gently to them that the increase in quota that they suffered last year was not the once for all they fondly imagined it to be. Circumstances alter cases, and all quotas for 1961 have been increased, by the same amount. The amount is large. It is 21 %. Which means that Loders quota will now be £109, and Askerswell £37. The figure for Askerswell is not to hand, but Loders quota in 1947 was only £24. 8. 3. The steep increase is really only a measure of the inflation that besets the whole economy, and of the Church's effort to train more ordinands and increase stipends. If we would reflect that this £109 per annum is only a fraction of what goes into one average cottage or farm, we should pay up and thank God he is demanding so little.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 15th. This question was once put to a divine of the English Church; "Since the life of every Christian ought at all times to be under the rule of God, is it not superstitious to set apart a particular time for this purpose?" To which he replied: "Indeed it ought to be the endeavour of a Christian at all times to have his duty to God in his eye. But considering the frailty of our natures, and how often we transgress it is very happy that we have a solemn season calling loudly upon us to reform our lives. That which is a duty at all times cannot be less so when we are required to give outward demonstration of it."

Services in February

LODERS: 5th. H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
12th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
19th. H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
26th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL: 5th, Evensong 6.30. 12th. Matins, 10.
19th. Evensong 6.30. 26th. H.C. 10.

DOTTERY: 5th. H.C. 9.30. 12th. Evensong 3.
19th. Evensong 3. 26th. Evensong 3.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Loders 9 & 10, Askerswell 11, Dottery 7.30.

Loders, Dottery and Askerswell

Church not big enough? Three times within the last two months Dottery Church has found difficulty in accommodating all the mourners at a funeral. In January it was packed for the funeral of Mrs Youngs. Last month it was packed again for Mr George Rendall and Mrs Harriet Wensley. Mr George Rendall had a very large circle of relations and friends. In the days before horses had been ousted by the internal combustion engine, Mr Rendall ranged all over the West country as a horse dealer. Many are the tales about his enterprise. Those who know him say he drove a hard bargain, and yet outside business was warm-hearted, and much given to surreptitious acts of generosity. One acquaintance of his from boyhood says he was "straight and dependable", which is as good an epitaph as any. For the last thirty years he had farmed Colley, but horses were still his true love. Like many a good Englishman, he was not very partial to the practice of religion, but in his daughter's family at New Close Farm he bestowed on Dottery Church a sizeable body of loyal supporters. Mrs Wensley had been vergers of Dottery from 1940 till 1954. No church ever had a more devoted servant. It seemed a sacrilege to step on her burnished chancel floor. The altar, and, outside, the borders up the church path, testified to her passion for flowers. She was a shining example of those who are made perfect by suffering. She had the sorrow of seeing three of her children sicken and die before her, and she had to work hard for a living. Yet it was to her that all the locality went when they needed a helping hand, and she never refused. In her religion she found a mainstay. Frail though she was, and in her eighty third year, she got friends to help her along to the service to within a few weeks of her death. At Higher Pymore Farm there is a deep well of pure, cold water that Mrs Wensley resorted to in her working days there. Shortly before her death, she expressed a wish to taste of this water once more. Mr Cecil Marsh sent her up some.

Christenings. Mr. & Mrs Derek Barnes, now of Burton Bradstock, brought their infant daughter, Jeanette Loraine, to be baptised at Lodors on Jan. 29th. The daughter of Mr & Mrs Heard, of Church Farm, Askerswell, was baptised Karen Margaret at Askerswell on February 5th.

Court Cottages, Lodors, have a new tenant in the family of Mr & Mrs Gerald Adlam, who have arrived, with their three small children from New Milton. The thing about Lodors that pleases Mrs Adlam most is the Church bells. For one living so close to the belfry, this might seem odd. But the answer is that New Milton, lacking bells of its own, has to be content with a gramophone record of bells broadcast from the tower, and according to Mrs Adlams, this is a poor substitute for the real thing.

Mr. Gerald Aylmer's Book. We have been aware for some time that Mr. Gerald Aylmer (son of Captain and Mrs Aylmer, of Askerswell House) was working on a book, but we were not to know that its publication would cause such a stir. For some weeks now it has been impossible to open a respectable magazine or newspaper without meeting a review of it, and all the reviews we have seen have been highly favourable, which is rather unusual. Sir Charles Petrie seems to sum up informed opinion in the London Illustrated, where he writes: "An immense amount of research has gone into this book, and it is no exaggeration to say that it will henceforth be indispensable to all students of English history in the 17th century..... Mr. Aylmer has written a penetrating social and economic analysis of the period..... It is extremely refreshing to find an author who is prepared to approach the subject both objectively and with the humility of the real scholar." So glory has at last come to Askerswell. When a blue stocking said the other day to the Rector "Of course, you will have read the book - he's one of your parishioners, isn't he?" the Rector replied, with becoming modesty: "Well, he does me the honour to sit under me in Askerswell Church, when he is home on holiday, but I am

afraid the reading will have to wait until it gets into the public library, or is reduced to a Penguin - it costs 56/-! The title of the book is "The King's servants: the civil service of Charles I, 1625-42," and it is published by Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Death of Mr Ernest Hawkins. We learn, from sources usually reliable, that Mr Ernest Hawkins died at Stoke Water House recently, and was buried in Dorchester, the home of his niece. He worked for years for Mr & Mrs Walbridge at New House Farm, Yondover, and lodged with Mrs Wallbridge at Shatcombe until she left the parish. He was the custodian of the famous parrot, upwards of a century old, who, we gather has gone to live in Litton, her appetite unimpaired by the death of her master, and her vocabulary, if anything, increased.

The late Mrs Ethel Howe. The ten years in which she had been away from Uploders in hospital had been so long that when people who noted the new grave near the south porch of Loders Church asked whose it was, some of them had to think hard before the name registered. Mrs Howe's late husband (in whose grave she was buried) was a naval man, and while he was in the service she lodged with her brother, Mr George Tolley, in the-cottage-in-the-field, at Upton.

A distinguished campanologist visits Askerswell. Mr Ronald Dove, the Ringing Master of Leeds Parish Church, and author of a standard work of campanology, "Bellringers' Guide to the Church bells of Britain," was one of a ringing party which visited Askerswell in February. He had read of the restoration of Askerswell bells in "The Ringing World", and being in the neighbourhood, wanted to try them. His judgement was "first class - a lovely little ring." With the party was a man who had rung in every tower in Cornwall, every tower in Devon, every tower except two in Somerset, and who only needed Askerswell to make every tower in Dorset.

Breaking the ice. At his annual visitation the Archdeacon never fails to urge parishes to take advantage of the State's willingness to refund to churches the income tax paid on what has gone into their collections. Many churches have been doing this for years, to the great advantage of their finance, but Loders has always had an irrational prejudice against it. Now a start has been made in the right direction. One parishioner has contracted with Loders Church Council to give his collections under covenant. It is hoped that others paying income tax at the full rate will follow. Five pounds paid into the collections by a 7/9- in-the-pound taxpayer, in the ordinary way, remain five pounds; but five pounds paid by the same person under covenant would bring £8-1-3; for the inland revenue would refund to the church £3-1-3. One church in this vicinity regularly collects upwards of £100 per annum from the Inland Revenue under covenant. There is no trouble for the prospective covenantor. It is largely a matter of book-keeping, and the secretary of the PCC sees to that. The covenantor need not fear involving his heirs; for his death would dissolve the covenant; nor having to pay beyond his means; for if his tax rate fell below standard, the covenant would automatically lapse.

Mr & Mrs Peck of Uploders, have a special interest in the BBC famous trials series on March 2nd. The case then featured will be that of the murderers Browne and Kennedy. Browne was at one time a neighbour of the Pecks, and well known to them. Before Browne tried conclusions with the hangman, he had a bout with Mr Peck, and learnt a thing or two; for Mr Peck had not been a boxer in the navy for nothing.

Services in March.

LODERS: 5th HC 8 & 11.50, Matins 11,	ASKERSWELL: 5th Evensong 6.30,
Children 2. 12th HC 8, Matins 11,	12th Matins 10. 19th Evensong 6.30
Children 2. 19th HC 8, & 11.50,	26th HC 10, Good Friday 10.
Matins 11, Children 2. 26th HC 8,	
Matins 11, Children 2.	DOTTERY: 5th HC 9.30.
Good Friday. Litany 9, Matins 11.	12th Evensong 3. 19th Evensong 3.
	26th Evensong 3. Good Friday 7.30.

Mothering Sunday: March 12th, service for parents and children, Loders, 2 p.m.

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell

Prophets Confounded. The rare sight that the countryside offered in March was of holly trees covered in big red berries, and the insidious ivy clustered with black fruit finer than the best Dartmoor wortleberries. On a turning of the road into Whitchurch Canonicorum was a holly bush so astoundingly scarlet that it made the corner dangerous - motorists were bound to goggle at it when their eyes should have been on the road. But what of the proverb that an abundance of berries foretells a hard winter? The berries are still here, and the winter has been mild, so mild that the heating bill for Loders Church in the winter quarter was £4 less than the corresponding quarter of last year, despite an increase in the price of electricity. The local oracles warn us against crowing too soon. Each one of these March fogs we have been having in abundance is supposed to signify a frost in May, and the frosts have begun already. June-like weather had brought out the daffodils and even bluebells before their time. This preternatural glimpse of summer had to be paid for, and it was, dearly, when we looked out at our lattice on lawns white with frost, and the upstanding borders of yesterday sprawling with drunken daffodils. The ladies and children who decorate the churches for Easter are wondering whether the spring flowers may not be over. But every year they have their doubts, and never do they fail to coax the spring flush of the countryside in the church for the Resurrection. We hope that the thoughts of all the confirmed are preparing for the Easter Communion which the Prayer Book says is a "must". At one or other of our three churches there is bound to be a time for Communion on Easter Sunday morning that will suit everybody - from the seven o'clock for mothers who have to get breakfast, to the twelve o'clock for the older people. The full list of Easter Day services is :-

Loders, Holy Communion 7, 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2;

Dottery, Holy Communion 9, Evensong 3; Askerswell, Holy Communion 10, Evensong 6.30.

Housekeeping. Churches, like our homes, have their business side. Heating, lighting, caretaking, insurance, have to be paid for, and officers appointed to manage affairs. This business is done at the Easter vestry meeting, and it is the duty of every adult churchman to take an interest in it. Loders vestry will be held at the school on the Wednesday before Easter, March 29th, at 7.30p.m.; and Askerswell vestry on the Wednesday after Easter, April 5th, at 7.30 p.m. in the school.

Four fairly recent newcomers to Uploders are settling in and finding their neighbours pleasant, helpful people. Mr & Mrs. V. Berry, a retired builder from London, who had lately farmed at Chideock, and is hoping to farm again eventually, has taken the former Forge, and already worked a miracle of transformation inside. A sow has produced a litter where the former blacksmith plied the bellows and smote the anvil. Mrs Gergen's cottage is now the home of Mr & Mrs. Cooper and their three year old child, from Guildford. Mr. Cooper works with the milk Marketing Board. Mrs Cooper is a sister of Mr. Bill Symes and no stranger in these parts. The bungalow known as "Woodville" has had its name changed to "Quiet Waters", as a tribute to the agreeable stream at the bottom of the garden, and Mrs Price, whose late husband owned it for some eighteen months before his death, has come to take up residence. Mr Price was also a builder, with a business at Southampton. His widow is left with a son, who is a graduate of Edinburgh University and an atomic scientist; and a daughter of twenty. Mrs Price likes the country. She is interested in music and sketching. "Rustic Glen" lately vacated by Mr. & Mrs Hallett, is now occupied by Mr & Mrs Albert Brett - a builder (need it be said?), from Watford. They rejoice in five children, two of whom are married, and three grand children. Their youngest child, Lyn, is eight years old, and has started at Loders School. One son is at home, and they hope soon to be joined by their daughter Valerie, who is great with horses, and may be available for riding lessons. In Watford Mr Brett's kindness to old people earned him the nickname "The poor man's Builder"

"The Grape-vine," for some unaccountable reason, failed to let us know that a daughter was born to Mr & Mrs Norman Marsh, of Askerswell, on January 23rd, at Bridport Hospital. Our belated congratulations!

Christenings. Mr & Mrs. A.J. Bearpark (nee Dorothy Grace Harris) brought their infant son from Wootton Fitzpaine to Dottery to be baptised on March 12th. The congregation were pleased to welcome back their old friends of the Harris family. The baby was named Christopher Nigel. The infant daughter of Mr & Mrs Rodney Symes, now of Bradpole, was christened Mandy Georgina, privately, by the Vicar of Loders, on March 16th. She was very ill at the time, and to the great grief of her parents, died the following day. However, they were spared the prospect of her growing up a life-long invalid. Dottery Congregation were delighted to have the people's warden, Mr Lock, in church again on March 19th, after a long illness. He had been away since September 25th, 1960.

Miss Dorothy Fooks has returned to her home at Askerswell Post Office, after three and a half years of nursing with the Grenfell Mission in Newfoundland. Her plan is, first a well-earned holiday and then work in England which, as an S.R.N., an S.C.M., and a qualified health visitor, she should have no difficulty in finding. In fact, dentistry might not be out of her research; for inland where the visits of doctors were widely spaced, and dentists were almost non-existent it often devolved on her to draw teeth. The thing she most appreciates about England at the moment is its greenness.

A Lent Wedding. Miss Christine Harris, of New Road, Uploders, chose a day of perfect summery weather for her wedding in Loders Church. Her bridegroom was Mr Christopher Owen Morgan, a draughtsman, of Styvechale, Coventry. Miss Harris had just completed her training as a nurse at the Weymouth & District Hospital, though she met her fiance as a National Service man not as a patient. Having her and her husband at the altar made the Vicar feel his weight of years. When he first knew her she was a tot of seven, who used to follow her mother's bicycle on a tricycle to church. At the age of discretion she joined Miss Poozey Willmott in running the junior Sunday School, and was the leading light at the annual mission sale. Her home will now be in Coventry.

The First? On March 16th six men rang a peel on Askerswell bells which lasted for two hours and thirty three minutes non-stop. So pleasant was their music that nobody living near the tower has complained. The method rung is known to ringers as "Plain Bob Minor" and the number of changes was 5040. Mr Joe Barrett, of Bemainster, rang the treble; Walter Poole, of Hardington, the second; Raymond Selway, of Hardington, the third; Sidney White, of Hardington, the fourth; Denis Bishop, of Evershot, the fifth; and William Turner, of Hardington, (who conducted the peal) the tenor. This was certainly the first peal on the six bells of Askerswell. On the afternoon of Easter Day the Guild of Ringers of Oxford University hope to do a few touches.

Mothering Sunday was observed by a large congregation of mothers and children at Loders. Mrs Willmott took the service, which included a distribution to mothers of presents brought by their children. Afterwards the children did their usual tour of the village, leaving bunches of flowers in various households.

SERVICES IN APRIL

LODERS: 9th; HC 8; Matins 11; Children 2.
16th; HC 8 & 12; Matins 11; Children 2.
23rd; HC 8; Matins 11; Children 2.
30th; HC 8; Matins 11; Children 2.

ASKERSWELL: 9th; Matins 10. 16th; Evensong 6.30.
23rd; Matins 10. 30th; Matins 10.

DOTTERY: 9th; Evensong 3. 16th; Evensong 3.
23rd; Evensong 6.30. 30th; Evensong 3.

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell

The summer evensongs at Loders Church will begin on Sunday, May 14th, but the time will be 7p.m. The time is later than usual because this service will also be the annual prayer for God's blessing on the growing crops, and some of those who attend have to do the milking first. May we repeat that this service is for everybody, whether they have a direct interest in farming or not.

The Vicar would like to thank all those nice conscientious parishioners who contributed to his stipend through the Easter Offering. This year the total was £65. 15. 1d. (Loders £42.15.6d; Askerswell £17.7.7d; Dottery £5.12.) It is a welcome sign of the times that members of the C of E in this locality are now paying their pastor over £1 per week. Nonconformists have always had to pay their ministers. Members of the C of E were spared this by the generosity of their forebears - until inflation made the old endowments inadequate.

The Easter services are pleasant to look back upon. Thanks to those who went picking primroses on Good Friday, and to those devout ladies who spirited the choicest blooms away from their husband's gardens, the churches looked their best for the Queen of Seasons. There were long lines of communicants to the altar rails, large congregations, good singing and merry peals on the bells. The nine grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs Sidney Fry, and their parents, made history by attending the Easter evensong at Askerswell for the first time as one body, some of the children are small, but their behaviour was good.

Babies in the News This has been a great time for babies. Askerswell, once described as 'a place where the young cannot live and the old cannot die', has had as many as three christenings in a month. The daughter of Mr & Mrs Norman Marsh, of West Hembury, was baptised Diana Ruth on the afternoon on Palm Sunday; the son of Mr & Mrs Anthony Savage, of the Post Office, was baptised Andrew William James in the presence of the Matins congregation on the Sunday after Easter; and the daughter of Mr & Mrs Peter Wykes, of Spyway, who came to church with an impressive bodyguard of relatives and friends, was baptised Tina Patricia (although Tina Georgina might have been more evidently patriotic) on St. George's Day. At Dottery the Union Jack was run up the clothes post at Mr John Marsh's bungalow to welcome home his wife Brenda, triumphant from Dorchester with her first baby boy, after two girls. Mrs Marsh had had as a neighbour in hospital Mrs Maurice Crabb, of Yondover, who was quite content with a second girl. At New Road, Mr & Mrs Bernard Harris, welcomed their first child, a girl, and so transferred Mr & Mrs Clifford Harris to the order of glamorous grandparents.

Mr. Colin Foot, of the Travellers' Rest, was married to Miss Jennifer Anne Smith in Allington Church on April 29th. They will be making their home in one of the farm cottages at South Eggarden.

Newcomers There are several of these, to whom we owe a welcome this month. The picturesque cottage opposite Loders School is now the home of Mr & Mrs Charles Miles, and their promising young family of three boys and a girl. They come from Cullompton in Devon, where the two elder boys were in the church choir. These boys are now taking an interest in Loders choir. They attend the Colfox School. Their younger brother is nearly old enough for Loders School. Mr Miles is a salesman, with his base in Dorchester. Mr & Mrs Gerald Marsh and family are back in Uploders, this time in the Cottage-in-the-fields at Upton. They have with them Gerald's father, Mr Ernest Marsh. He is 81, and in poor health. His wife, who is also poorly, is living with their eldest son. In his younger days Mr. Ernest Marsh farmed in Loders. His father Charles farmed at Askerswell. Mr Ernest has no opinion of modern farming, which, to him, is "only cows and kale and throwing artificial about". He wants to see the rabbits back. The other arrivals are at Nine Bottles. They are Mr & Mrs Douglas Gardner, with their four children; and Mr & Mrs Jehu Wellman, with their two small sons. Mr & Mrs Gardner are from Haselbury Bryan. Their son Robin goes to Askerswell School. The Wellmans are from Bishop's Lydeyard.

Mr & Mrs Ian Forbes have given up their farm at Lower Sturthill and are about to try their hand at catering in the hotel at Eype. In their four years at Sturthill they and their family have been loyal members of Loders Church. The multitudinous claims of the farm never smothered their sense of social obligation, and they were always active in support of village institutions. Loders Easter Vestry heard, with satisfaction, that they wished to remain on the electoral roll - for their place would have taken some filling - and promptly re-elected Mr Forbes a sidesman. We gather that Lower Sturthill has been taken by Major Hearn, of Dorchester.

It is no use pretending that any of us, least of all the clergy like to be at the giving end of the collection, but frequently it is a Christian duty to be there. We hope our readers will pay up cheerfully when the tins come round in Christian Aid for Refugees week, May 8-13th. The church collections on Sunday 14th will be for the same object. One of the chief works of the fund is to feed starving refugee children. The fact that the principal Medical Officer for Schools has just reported that the present menace to the health of English children is over-eating, should cause us furiously to think - and give.

Obituary. The late Mrs Elizabeth Jane Legg, who died in Portland Hospital, was buried at Askerswell on April 19th. Her latter years were spent at Shipton, but she is remembered as one who used to be the cleaner at Askerswell Church, the laundress of the surplices the mother of the succession of recruits to the choir, and one of the best neighbours it was possible to have.

Mr Parker, who used to live in the cottage in Loders, now owned by Mrs Morby, died in Orpington at the age of 87. He was once on the editorial staff of the Times. Mrs Parker was ill at the time of his death but is now recovering.

Mr George Thomas, son of the Parish Clerk of Loders, is home after three years in Canada. He sees little outward change in Loders. But a peep in various doors would fox him. Half the population has changed in those three years.

Askerswell Church has lately received some acceptable gifts. Mrs Spiller & Mrs Knight have smartened things up by re-covering the hassocks, stools and cushions - a work for which a firm would have charged much. Miss Edwards paid, out of the proceeds of needlework, for a new door urgently needed in the belfry to prevent accidents. Mr Ernie Samways made a new iron handle for the vestry door, and Mr Fred Samways presented the said door with a new step. At Dottery Mrs John Marsh is making a new pulpit frontal in place of the present one, which is faded and frayed.

A problem for Askerswell is how can such a very small parish maintain the fabric of such a large church, and meet its running expenses? As the running expenses are covered by the collections, it is really the repairs to the fabric that are the problem. A committee appointed to consider the matter decided that the great need of the church was for a regular income independent of the collections, so that when repairs to roof, organ, and the like, had to be done, the money would be in hand to pay for them. The scheme the committee most fancied was for each C of E parishioner who is not already subscribing under covenant, to have a years supply of envelopes, into which he puts, week by week, what he can afford towards church repairs. When he goes to church he puts the envelope in the collection; if he does not go, somebody will call for the envelope.

SERVICES IN MAY

LODERS: 7th; HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
14th; HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Farm Service 7.
21st; HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
28th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERS: 7th; Evensong 6.30. 14th; Matins 10.
21st; Evensong 6.30. 28th; HC 10.

DOTTERY: 7th; HC 9.30. 14th; Evensong 3.
21st; Evensong 3. 28th; Evensong 3.

PARISH NOTES (June, 1961)
Loders, Dottery & Askerswell.

August the Fifth will be this year's date of Loders Fete. When the question of whether to hold one or not comes up at the Easter Vestry the answer is always in the affirmative albeit reluctantly because of the work involved. What an outcry there would be if the answer were "no". When to fete is in full swing, and the weather is its usual agreeable self, everybody enjoys it. We have even heard of friends in neighbouring villages to whom the August holiday is unthinkable without it. The fact that it is the only large-scale village revel surviving is justification enough for its continuance. And there is another reason. The annual replenishment that the church repair fund derives from the fete profits has enabled repairs to be done as they become necessary, and saved Loders the fate of some parishes who suddenly have to raise a cool five thousand or so. Some of the fete machinery has been modified this year. Instead of the Vicar doing a round of the parish to invite contributions to the stalls, this will be done by Mrs Legg and Mrs Osborne as they call about the teas. He will only come round, the week before the fete, to reap the harvest of these good ladies' charm. So he will be saved one round of the village; the village will be saved one answering of the door; and those who like a nice little "tell" before they shell out will get better measure from Mrs Legg and Mrs Osborne than they do from the Vicar. Mrs George Randall has volunteered to be stalls organiser, and Miss Muriel Randall will be secretary. After his severe illness, Mr Spillman is unable to organise the sideshows this year, but is willing to be the mentor of anybody who will volunteer. The farmers are left to settle between themselves whose turn it is to give a pig for the skittles. Experience proves that a pig is a big draw. This year the fete will end with a dance in the hut, organised by the Bright Young Things of the parish in aid of the Hut fund.

A beautiful evening favoured the Rogationtide service in Loders Church, and brought in a crowd of worshippers, some of whom, have since gone out of their way to tell us how greatly they enjoyed the service. The singing of some of the hymns was a real roof-raiser. Mr Wilfred Crabb again kindly supplied an old horse plough for the chancel, and prayers, before the plough, were read by Mr John Colfox, president of Askerswell Y.F.C. The ladies of the Y.F.C. were surprisingly shy this year; they left it to the vice-chairman to read the lesson. In the absence of the chairman of the Discussion Club (Mr Clifford Pitcher, who was spending the weekend with a former Y.F.C. leader Mr Bill Ives) the Club's lesson was read by Mr Harold Saunders. Mr Reg. Dennett read the farm workers' lesson, and passed on with gusto the Deuteronomic assurance that the Lord would make them the head, and not the tail - if they behaved themselves.

Aid for Refugees. The collection from house to house in Loders raised only £4.12.9 for this very deserving object. Loders Church sent £15, Dottery Church £3, and Askerswell Church £4. We have not heard the result of the house to house collections in Dottery and Askerswell. At the time of writing, the boxes in the whole district had produced £152-12-7 and the church collections £51.19.11.

On May 7th the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Crabb, of Yondover, was christened Helen Diana, at Loders.

Whitsuntide, which tends to be the Cinderella of the festivals, was taken more notice of in our particular churches this year. Congregations were good, and included the welcome faces of many erstwhile parishioners home for the holidays. At Dottery the congregation was nearly up to harvest festival proportions, and the number of young people must have reduced the average age of those present to the salad days. To everybody's delight, Mr. Lock emerged from the shell of a long and trying illness, and was back in his familiar role as taker-up of the collection. On Whit-Tuesday twenty young mothers and their thirty-nine young children met on Loders vicarage lawn, on a nice sunny afternoon, for their usual informal tea and games. The senior children worked off steam on the top of Boarsbarrow, and got up a prodigious appetite for tea. (They did this without Sir Edward's permission, so we hope he is skipping this para.)

Hail and Farewell. After being empty for many months, the cottage at Shatcombe, formerly the home of Mrs. Wallbridge, is now a hive of activity as its new owners, Mr. & Mrs. Radley, and their two boys, settle in. Mrs. Radley greeted the Vicar, as he made his first pastoral call, with: "I suppose you are the one who went through Mrs. Wallbridge's floor?" Which was correct, and reminded him of that afternoon when he accepted Mrs. Wallbridge's invitation to step into her sitting room, which she called - rather prophetically - "The Lunge". He put his foot in the middle of a region of dry rot, and clutching at the geraniums in the window did not save him. It seems, however, to have saved the Radleys from repeating the experience in other parts of the house. Mr. Radley is a combustion engineer. He comes from Henley-on-Thames, but is not unfamiliar with these parts, having previously lived in Pymore and Bridport. Of his two sons, one is at Loders and the other at Colfox School. After living in ex-rectories, Mrs. Radley finds her new home rather confined. But imagination may help here - she has christened it "Long Lanes". We know of one small cottage whose new owners conferred on it a sense of spaciousness by calling it "Fort Belvedere", those being the days of King Edward the eighth. Further down the road in Uploders the cottage lately the home of Mr & Mrs Charles Crabb and their daughter Pamela is now empty. We gather that they have gone to live in a council flat at Burton. Mrs Haines (formerly Ann Crabb) is convalescing at her parents' home in Uploders after no less than five months of operations in a London Hospital. During that time her children have been cared for by Mrs Harry Crabb and attending Loders School. We are pleased to say that Mrs Haines is now making good progress.

May was a frolicsome time for our Mothers' Union. Early in the month they hired a bus and went to the Diocesan Festival service in Salisbury Cathedral. The weather that day was atrocious. Mr George Gale, of Dottery, was able, for once, to turn his deafness to account, and go with them to see a sick relative in a Salisbury Hospital. Later in the month the Union held its birthday party in Loders Hut. The weather was then so hot as it had been cold for the Salisbury trip, and the corrugated iron of the Hut saw to it that the members, and their guests from Bradpole and Allington, got a good grilling. A large and delicious birthday cake was the gift of Mrs. Olive Legg, who in view of the controversy about the branch's real age, wisely refrained from putting candles on it. The month ended with Loders and Bradpole branches sharing a bus and going to the Deanery Festival at Burton. The weather on this occasion was perfect, but Bradpole's arrangements were just what Loders would expect dwellers in that outlandish place to make. Loders could understand Bradpole making their picking-up place The King's Head, and the time before two o'clock; but when they saw the Bradpole veterans, with their game legs, setting out on the long march from the housing estate, and the bus sitting pretty at the King's Head, they wondered very much why the Bradpole commander-in-chief had not made the church the picking-up place. At Burton there was a fine service, and an excellent sermon from the Dean Rural's son, who was home on holiday. The Dean Rural invited the company to enjoy his rectory garden. Mercifully he did not see those Bradpole members climbing into the bus to go home with bunches of roses and various cuttings. For the honour of the M.U., our Enroling Member dared not probe their assurance that these were not the gift of the Dean Rural. She need not have worried.

Services in June

Loders 4th HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
11th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
18th HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
25th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 6.30.

Askerswell 4th Evensong 6.30, 11th Matins 10.
18th HC 10, 25th Matins 10.

Dottery 4th HC 9.30, 11th Evensong 3.
18th Evensong 3, 25th Evensong 3.