

Loders, Dottery & Askerswell.

Askerswell Fete. was an instance of how pleasantly money may be raised for a diserving object by this ancient device, given good weather and the right place. The June afternoon was perfect, and so was the home of Group-Captain and Mrs. Newall, under Eggardon, where the ladies could serve tea against sun-drenched old walls barnacled with honeysuckle. At Mr. Millington's bottle tombola the winning numbers seemed to have sunk to the bottom of the barrel, out of sheer inertia: indeed, your correspondent drew thirty-two blanks, and wondered whether there were any numbers at all in the barrel - until he saw Mrs. Fooks making off with the sherry and a couple of less desirable beverages, all for half-crown. Mr. Millington had obviously been caught napping. He was even larding Mrs. Fooks with the usual condolences, and assuring her of better luck next time. The fete made a profit of £140 for the church organ fund, which is round about the record created by the previous one when allowance is made for the £70 odd which Miss. Edwards's working party added to the total on that occasion. This time there was no working party because of the indisposition of Miss. Edwards and some of the members. Here are the takings:- Aunt Sally 1-15-8; Bargains 17-18-1; Children 7-3-10; Gate 5-1-6; Hidden Treasure 1-8-0; New Stall 28-9-8; Photographs 2-6-0; Fete Profit Competition 10-3; Produce 12-5-0; Roll-a-penny 15-4; Roulette £2-0-11; Skittles 15-15-0; Donations 3-10-0; Teas 5-7-11; Tombola 13-18-0; Ices 5-0-0; Fortunes 2-0-0; Lawn Skittles 1-14-0; Competitions 7-5-6. Expenses were practically nil.

Christenings. At evensong at Askerswell, in the presence of a large congregation, the infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Foot, of Nallers, was baptised Annette Elizabeth, on June 3rd. At the children's service at Loders on Whit-Sunday the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wilds (nee Chubb), of Sturminster Newton, was baptised Rachel Caroline Martha; and Andrew George Cornish, of Wellplot, who had been baptised in hospital, was received into church.

Lady Le Breton. All her friends in Loders will like to know that she is now comfortably settled at the Grange, Goring-on-Thames, within easy reach of her sister, Miss Audrey Sawbridge, and not far from her ancestral home. She entertained the Vicar and Mrs. Willmott right royally the other day, and was avid for news of Loders. She has since written in characteristic vein: "Will you be so very kind as to put a notice in your famous paper? I shall then feel so much more correct towards my old friends of forty-five years's standing." The notice is: "Lady Le Breton would like to say how sorry she is not to have been able to say goodbye to all her friends and neighbours as she would have wished before leaving Dorset".

Loders School jumble sale made the gratifying profit of £16 10. for the School Fund. Mrs. Scott wishes to thank all who contributed to its success.

The Repairs to Loders Church under the first quinquennial survey are completed and, but for a small contingency sum, paid for. They cost £630. At its last meeting the Church Council warmly thanked Brigadier Hammond for having acted as go-between with the architect and the builder. The architect will be doing his second survey of both Loders and Dottery churches on July 13th. The fete at Loders Court on August 4th will be to keep the repair fund replenished. A steady annual effort to meet church dilapidations has proved to be the right policy. We have not had to build ourselves a church, like new parishes. The least we can do is to keep the gift of our forebears in good repair, and the annual fete, besides being a social occasion, obviates a sudden large and frantic appeal.



At the church council meeting which arranges the fete, Mrs. O. Legg, Mrs. Osborne offered again to do the teas, Miss Ruth Willmott the sideshows, Mrs. G. Randall the stalls, and Mr. Sanders & Mr. Thomas the gate. Mrs. Cecil Marsh again undertook the Dottery stall, to save parishioners being plagued by one stallholder after another calling on behalf of her stall, the Vicar will do his usual round of the parish, take what each house can offer, and deliver it to the appropriate, stallholder. Articles needed for the stalls are: cakes, eggs, grocery, produce, china, glass, flowers, things for the "new" stall, toys, jumble, and the material for tea. Every house in Askerswell contributed a bottle of some sort to their bottle tombola. It would be fine if Loders could do likewise; for the bottle stall is a great money spinner.

Loders Ringers are going on a mystery tour by coach on Saturday July 7th. They have some vacant seats at 10/- each. The person to see about these is Mr. George Hyde, of Uploders.

Vandalism, or Act of God? After morning service one bright Sunday in June, the Askerswell congregation gathered round an altar tomb on the south side of the tower, to try to figure out how one of its sides had come to be stove in, and another to be badly cracked (The tomb belongs to the Chick family, formerly of South Eggardon). The charitable were inclined to think the damage had been caused by the vibration of the pneumatic drills working nearby in connection with the new water supply; the religiously-inclined put it down to lightning, although nobody could remember when Askerswell last had any lightning; and the realists saw the handiwork of hooligans with a lust for destruction. It may be relevant to recall that some of the altar tombs in Loders churchyard had their walls knocked in and tops lifted a few years back, and this turned out to be the work of mischievous young men.

The Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, patron saint of Loders, falls this year on a Sunday, July 22nd. To make the event there will be another of the summer evensongs, and at 7 p.m., which suits some of those with farm work to do. The last evensong was well attended. There is a restfulness and a wistful beauty about Loders Church which the evensong hour, and no other, captures on a nice summer's day.

The Successors of the Hansfords at Loderland are now well settled in, and liking their new abode. They are Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Matthews, and their three children - John, a cabinet maker working in Bridport, Christine a pupil of Colfox School, and Tony a pupil of Askerswell School. Mrs. Matthews senior is also there for the time. The family were at Nettlecombe, farming for Mr. Crawford. It looks as if Christine might continue the Loderland connection with Askerswell bells. She has begun to ring, and is showing promise.

The great event in Loders in June, and a rather sad one, was the sale of the surplus furnishings of Loders Court. To the "foreigners" and dealers it was a sort of fete day. Some of the selling was in the open air, the Court was at its loveliest in the sunshine, and for those who had not brought sandwiches to eat on the lawn there was a refreshment van at the front door. To the villagers it was the end of an epoch, warranting a day off, and many bought mementoes of the old squire for their own homes. Like most sales it had its surprises. A small picture which the uninitiated would not have looked twice at was run up to £200 in a few seconds, and that, we suspect was not the limit of its ascent. But the great mahogany dining table went for a song and suffered the indignity of having its legs sawn off and thrown in a corner. The purchaser only wanted the wood.

#### SERVICES IN JULY.

Loders. 1st. HC8&12, Matins 11, Children 2.

8th HC8, Matins 11, Children 2.

15th HC8&12, Matins 11, Children 2.

22nd. (St Mary Magdalene) HC8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.

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

Askerswell. 1st Evensong 6.30. 8th Matins 10. 15th Matins 10.

22nd. HC10. 29th Matins 10.



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August the Fourth. Arrangements are taking shape for the fete at Loders Court on this date. Beaminster Band, who served us so well at previous fetes, could not come this year for the adequate reason that they are nearly defunct, but St. Swithun's Band has promised to come instead. This is a relief; for the band is the making of the fete. That very busy and cheerful person, the District Nurse (Miss Punshon), gave us a nice surprise by calling at the vicarage and offering to show at the fete her fine collection of local colour slides, and to run a tape recording service so that we can pay to a good cause for the horror of hearing our own voices as they sound to other people. Mrs. Christine Newbury is running a hair styling competition for the ladies, which she and the bright young things of the village consider will be highly entertaining. She might let those of our young males who are stylish above the ears join in the competition if they ask nicely. We had hoped that the Hon. Mrs. Alexander Hood might have opened the fete and thus had a chance of meeting her neighbours-to-be all at once, but she will be in Westmorland that week.

There are so many new parishioners in Loders that it would be only a courtesy to give them the rationale of the fete. Its purpose is to raise funds for keeping the church in repairs, and at the same time provide a pleasant social occasion. The running expenses of the church, which get increasingly heavy, are still covered by the offerings of those who attend the services. But the maintaining of a fabric which with its organ and bells is worth many thousands of pounds could not fairly be left to those who already meet the running expenses. Hence the fete. The vast majority of Loders people are church people, and take the reasonable line at fete time. They know that they have equal rights in the church, and therefore equal responsibilities, with the regular attenders, and know that the church is all theirs for christenings, weddings, funerals and harvest festival. They know that the parishioners as a whole are liable for the repair of the church, and the good order of the churchyard. They are also aware that volunteers save the public purse a tidy sum by doing such jobs as maintaining the bell frame and trimming the churchyard in their spare time. So they rather welcome the fete for the opportunity it affords of doing their bit towards keeping their church in repair. The Vicar is hoping that these Notes may be out by Monday, July 30th, when he reckons to begin collecting saleable goods for the stalls at the Uploders end of the parish. It would be a help if householders could have their things ready, so that he doesn't need to call again - for which there is not really the time when goods have to be collected from a scattered parish, sorted, and delivered to the stallholders, all in four days. Giving to the fete is nothing like the mental agony of choosing a wedding present. There is no limit to what may be given - anything eatable, anything drinkable, anything wearable, anything useful in the home or nursery, and cash from them who prefer the easiest way. Above all, let nobody confuse the words "give" and "discard". Getting rid of something that is no use to you or anybody else is not giving. A member of Loders Choir, just back from a holiday in Eire, was in a parish where the church fete made nearly £500. The cake stall alone took £51. The almost incredible thing about this fete was that it had been organised by a country church consisting of eighteen families! These people understand the meaning of giving. The test of giving is that it hurts.

Early Birds. When the Vicar went down to Loders Church shortly after eight the other morning he found Reggie Drake and his sister Sheila, whose family left Loders ten years ago, showing a party round. They had called at Loders en route from Portsmouth to Charmouth. Reggie is now a grown man, and had his fiancée with him.



Sheila is married, and had her husband and son with her. When the Vicar last saw them they were Sunday School children. Before they left the church of their childhood, the party knelt down of their own accord, which rather shows that Sunday Schools achieve more than is always apparent.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rudd, of Corfe Farm, brought a large assembly of godparents and friends to Loders Church on June 30th for the christening of their son David.

An Eightieth Birthday. To celebrate this event in the life of the Salesbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers, Mr. Harry Crabb, captain of Loders ringers, arranged for a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes) to be rung on the bells of Askerswell, which are ideal for such exercises, on July 20th. Mr. Joe Barrett, of Beaminster, conducted. The team were: Treble, Harry Crabb, Loders; Second, Rev. O. L. Willimott, Loders; Third, Charlic Lathey, Bridport; Fourth, Joe Barrett; Fifth, Jessie Davis, Netherbury; Tenor, George Hyde, Loders. The proceeds of the Dottery stall at Loders go to Dottery Church, and are relied on to make ends meet. Mrs. Cecil Marsh is already well ahead with her collecting. It is noble of her to undertake this job that nobody wants year after year.

Changes in Uploders. The cottage vacated by Mrs. Swaffield has been taken by Mrs. Frampton, a widow, formerly of Burstock Grange. She is no stranger to these parts, and is an old friend of Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs. Lenthall. Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Moore tell us the sad news that they will be leaving Uploders shortly for Southend, where they will be within easy reach of several members of their large and united family. Mr. & Mrs. Moore have had a lot of illness to contend with, although one would never infer as much from their healthy looks and unfailing cheerfulness. It is vexing to have to lose such good parishioners, but our very best wishes go with them.

Mr. Arthur Whittle, formerly of Loders, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Swan, near Southampton, and was buried in the grave of his wife at Loders cemetery. He was ninety-two, and was in possession of his remarkable faculties right to the end. He will be gratefully remembered for a benefaction to the repairs of Loders Church equal to the profit of a fete, and for the gift of a radiogram to the Women's Institute.

Askerswell & Loders Schools did a combined coach trip to Cheddar Gorge and Bristol Zoo, which they much enjoyed. Small wonder that children like school these days.

Ringers Relaxing. Loders ringers and their friends took this year's outing off the beaten track. Avoiding the traffic on the main roads occasionally landed them in delicate manoeuvres with lime lorries in country lanes, but close-ups of villages like Martock made this worth while. After a halt in Wells, they made for the Castle of Comfort, in the Mendips, which used to be presided over by a widow in a white linen costume and an Ascot hat. A notice saying "No coaches" greeted their thirsty eyes, and a landlady who was not the widow came out and shoo'd them off as she saw Mr. Harry Crabb getting out of the coach. But when she saw the Vicar following, she called them back, and Harry's life was saved. The route thereafter lay through Cheddar and Wedmore to Burnham-on-sea, thence to a little old inn under the Polden Hills, and finally to the village of Trent, where the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Fisher of Lambeth, has just taken up residence. But it was not his lordship's house that the coach parked outside of. (Harry could not have seen the recent picture of the present Archbishop broaching a gerkin with the Durham miners who called on His Grace.)

#### Services in August.

Loders. 5th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

12th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

19th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

26th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.

Askerswell. 5th, Evensong 6.30. 12th. Matins 10.

19th, Matins 10. 26th, HC 10.

Dottery. 5th, HC 9.30. 12th, Evensong 3.

19th, Evensong 6.30. 26th, Evensong 3.



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Another Successful Fete. This year's fete at Lodgers Court had two remarkable features. First, the weather. Fete day was one of the few bits of summer this year has managed to produce, and it was sandwiched between a series of tempestuous wintry days that rained chaos and destruction on many open-air events in the neighbourhood. It was too much to expect that our luck would hold for the sixteenth year in succession. If it had not, we were in the fortunate position of having the empty rooms of the Court to move into, thanks to its new owner, the Hon. Alexander Hood. But this contingency did not arise. The day was glorious. With band blaring, stalls doing a roaring trade, sideshows up to the neck in all the fun of the fair, the scene presented was typical of an English village fete. The second remarkable feature was, that with the Court painfully bereft of the family who had always been an integral part of the fete, with the Park void of Scouts who had always made it populous in August, and with no Vic Oliver to draw the crowds, the gross takings exceeded £255, and the net takings £228.16. 8. actually beat last year's all-time record by one shilling and one penny. This happy state of affairs may be due to a gentle spurt in the general giving to the stalls, and to the unfailing loyalty of a large circle of friends who make the fete one of the "musts" of the August holiday. A pleasing feature of the fete is that it always brings letters of encouragement and donations from former parishioners who return their soft spot for Lodgers. We heard from Mrs. Grace Hyde, Mrs. Rosemary Head, Mrs. Rice-Oxley, Mr. & Mrs. Ian Forbes, and Miss Marjorie Randall in distant Tanganyika. We also had good wishes and a donation from the sick bed of Mrs. Clem Poole, who is now with her daughter in Dorchester. Some former parishioners home on holiday volunteered a helping hand in the loading of chairs and tables on to a lorry after the fete. These loaders even included a lady who had lately done a long spell in hospital! As we muse over these tokens of affection for Lodgers Church, we are not unmindful of all the work and giving done cheerfully by our present residents. They are written in the Vicar's Book of Life. Group-Captain Newall and the committee who ran Askerswell Fete would like to endorse the thanks the Rector expressed at service on the Sunday following to all who had given so generously of their time and substance to the fete. Seeing that Askerswell parish is only a quarter of the population of Lodgers, its achievement in making £130 was proportionably greater.

The Balance Sheet of Lodgers Fete is as follows:- Gate 16-9-9; Teas 28-12-4; Donations 18-14-11; Cakes 19-11-10; New Stall 20-4-4; Ices 6-10-0; Flowers 5-11-0; China 6-17-4; Jumble 8-2-6; Books 1-0-0; Photos 1-2-6; Toys 2-18-6; Produce 9-12-6; Bottles 23-14-0; Dottery stall 21-10-0; Skittles 6-9-9; Roulette 19-13-4; Fishing 5-15-9; Hidden Treasure 2-10-6; Ping-pong 19-11; Chinese Laundry 2-5-6; Rifle Range 1-3-0; Colour Slides 2-2-6; Darts 2-0-0; Pennies-in-bath 11-5; Pony Rides 1-19-0; Fortunes 3-1-0; Hairstyling 7-0; Budgerigars 5-3-3; Port 5-2-6; Chocolates 3-8-6; Bath Set 2-6-0; Total Receipts £255 - 10- 5d. Expenses, Printing and Advertising £2. 2. 0; Band 9-0-0; Teas 5-7-9; Prizes 10-4-0; Total Expenses 26-13-9; Balance £228-16-8.

While we are on the subject of money, it is pleasant to record that the collection for Lodgers Sunday School outing and Christmas prizes produced £14; for which the children wish to thank the kind donors. We were not keen about asking for the Sunday School so soon after the generous response to the fete, but once when we refrained from doing so there were many protests, and the sum now given shows that these were sincere. At present the Sunday School is so flush with children that the seniors have become a Bible Class which the Vicar takes in church, and Mrs. Willmott takes the



tiny tots at the vicarage. This arrangement allows of meat to the young lions, and milk to the babes. Another and not inconsiderable benefit of segregating the babes is that the vicarage offers facilities for dehydration which the church did not. Askerswell School. One of the prices Askerswell has to pay for keeping a school in the village is a part of the repairs to the school building. The obligation is met by paying an annual premium to the Dorset Voluntary Schools Association, who thereupon shoulder all the ordinary repairs. The parish gains by this arrangement; for the Association always has to spend more on the school than it receives from the parish. But the parish is now in arrears with the premium, and a jumble sale will be held in the near future to rectify the position. There is no doubt that the sale will rise to what is required of it; as Mr. Sidney Fry once said, the village would be dead without the voices of the children coming from the playground. The managers are grateful to Miss Edwards and Mrs. Bartlett for donations towards the deficit.

The late Mr. Joseph Parsons, of New Road, Uploders, who died in the Allington Hospital after a long illness, was a native of Netherbury. He began his working life at Mangerton Mill, continuing it at Mangerton Farm, and then at Swanage. He came to Vinney Cross fifteen years ago, and worked at Uploders Farm. The marvel was that he contrived to be so excellent and tireless a worker. For thirty years he was doubled up with arthritis, and rarely out of pain. A large congregation paid him their respects at the funeral service in Loders Church, and much sympathy will be felt for his widow.

A Quick Worker. Mrs. Keith Ellis (nec Alison Rudd, of Corfe Farm) was helping with the bottle stall at Loders Fete on August 4th, was delivered of a handsome daughter (Rachel) on August 6th, was in, Loders Church to return thanks on August 12th, and was there again with her husband and family on August 20th for the christening, with poise altogether undisturbed, a marvel of efficiency. The prospect of making a home in Sheffield had been an accelerating influence. Our best wishes go with them, and we shall hope to see them back in their pew for the festivals. Dottery Harvest will begin on Thursday, Sep. 27th, at 7.30 p.m. and continue the following Sunday at 3. Askerswell harvest will be on Oct. 7th, and Loders on Oct. 14th.

A Near Miss. Mr. Jack Verrinder, of the Crown, Uploders, reached the semi-final in the Dorset County Pairs Championship, in bowls. He and his partner, Mr. C. Mercer, of Lyme, were beaten by two internationals. Had he won, Mr. Verrinder would have gone to London for the national championship.

The Return of a Native. The Vicar received the following letter from Mrs. Annie Laurie Peck, of Sturminster Newton, whose maiden name (which might help Loders people to identify her) he does not know:—"My husband and I would like to thank you, and the choir, not forgetting the organist, for the really lovely service we enjoyed in Loders Church this morning. Fifty five years ago I used to come to Loders Church with my Grand-Father and Aunt, who undertook my up-bringing after my father's sudden decease. He and my dear grandparents lie at rest in the churchyard. You can imagine how my thoughts wandered back to the morning when as a small girl of 4½ I wriggled round in the same pew to admire a large ruby ring on the finger of a gentleman in the seat behind. Thank you all so much for a very happy morning. I think you were brave over the sermon on "Visiting," I loved it." Comment: All sermons have to be brave. They are merciless self-revelations of the preacher.

#### Services in September.

Loders. 2nd. H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

9th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

16th. H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

23rd. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2. Evensong 7.

30th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Askerswell. 2nd. Evensong 6.30. 9th. Matins 10.

16th. Matins 10. 23rd. H.C. 10. 30th. Matins 10.

Dottery. 2nd. H.C. 9.30. 9th. Evensong 3. 16th. Evensong 3.

23rd. Evensong 3. 27th. Harvest 7.30. 30th. Harvest 3.



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Harvest Festival made a good start at Dottery on the last Thursday in September. The decorations, which have to be concentrated at the west and east ends, were admired by a large congregation, which included several former parishioners and a large number of children. The west end looked like a well dressed florists window. Perhaps it was interest in this that accounted for the children's good behaviour. Askerswell harvest follows on the first Sunday in October, with the usual Communion service at ten, and Evensong at seven. Evensong has been put at seven because some of those who have to milk say this is a better time for them. On the Monday afternoon following, the produce will be sold for church funds. Loders Choir have again kindly volunteered to sing an anthem at the evensong. Loders harvest comes rather late this year, on Oct. 14th. The ladies who decorate are convinced that the recent gales have robbed them of the necessary flowers, but it will be surprising indeed if the gales diminish the harvest splendour, of Loders Church, or Askerswell, whose ladies are in the same boat. At Loders the services will be as on an ordinary Sunday, with the addition of evensong, also at seven.

A sign of the onset of winter is that the Lectures will begin in Askerswell School on Monday, Oct. 8th, at 7.30p.m. This year's subject is French painting, and it will be illustrated by slides. Anybody interested will be welcome.

Loders Sunday School hadn't the best of days for their coach outing to Swanage, but at least it was dry, and the fog patches in route were of short duration. Everybody enjoyed themselves - the mothers perhaps a little too strenuously for their liking. The proprietors of the paddle boats refused to let children out in them without an adult. The attraction of forbidden fruit is well known. This embargo prompted many children to want the paddle boats, and once out, they were loth to come in. Poor mothers were kept at it like ducks all the afternoon, and some were forced into port by exhaustion.

The jumble sale in aid of the premiums for Askerswell School raised the gratifying sum of £30, and, incidentally, gave the ladies of the parish a chance of meeting each other, and competing in friendly hagglement for the good of the cause. The effects of a jumble sale are felt long afterwards, one is the difficulty of recognising a familiar figure in another familiar figure's clothes. Another is the sudden drop in temperature that occurs when one lady says "Look at this lovely leopard skin coat I got for ten shillings", and the other lady says "Yes, it was mine".

The fall of the year seems to have produced the usual change in personnel of our parishes, and we welcome several new arrivals. At Dottery Mr & Mrs. Proudlock have taken over the Blue Ball from Mr & Mrs. Cooper, and the local maltworms are taking kindly to the new dispensers of comfort. Mr. Proudlock is a native of Newcastle, and his wife of Hampshire, with a sister at Seatown. He served a year's apprenticeship under his brother at the Red Lion, Crewkerne. In Loders Mr & Mrs Reginald Matthews and their three children have returned to the parish which they left some ten years ago. He was then working for Mr. Harold Bishop at Yondover: now he is at Boarsbarrow. In Uploders the cottage vacated by Mrs. Ellis late mother is taken by Mr & Mrs Tait and their two year old son Michael. They have come from Liverpool via Yeovil. Like Mr Hine in Loders, Mr. Tait is an agent for Silcocks. At Legg's Mead in Askerswell the cottage which housed Mrs. Burt is now the home of a seven - strong family, that of Mr and Mrs Keith Pryer, from Miles Cross. There are three girls and twin boys. The eldest child is four. Those who bemoan the small number of children available for the village school have taken hope.



A shadow was cast over Dottery harvest festival by the news that Miss Wallace, who had gone to London for a few days with her friend Miss Hornsby, had fallen and broken her leg. It was the third time she had broken this leg, and this time the break was above the knee. If prayerful good wishes can assist her recovery, then it will not be an age before she is back in her pew at Dottery. And if former demonstrations of pluck and cheerfulness are anything to go by, it will not be long before she is on her garden again. Askerswell, like Dottery, has been under a shadow. It could scarcely credit the news that Mr. Stanley Matthews, of Loderland, who seemed to be in the best of health, and was only forty-seven, had been rushed to hospital and had died, all within four days. The harness that he had been polishing up for the horse he had entered in the Molplash Show still hangs in the porch, as he left it. As if to press home the truth of the proverb that it never rains but it pours, his widow was taken ill at the same time, and was unable to attend the funeral at his native Chideock. She has since been operated upon at Dorchester, and is, we are happy to say, making good progress.

Two christenings of infants of "old girls" of Loders Church took place in September. On the 16th Mr. & Mrs. Wilkins (nee Janet Symes) brought their son from Westbury to be baptised Neville Richard Charles. This son, following a daughter, makes Mr & Mrs Charlie Gale great grandparents twice over, but at the service they looked anything but well stricken in years, as the Bible puts it. On the 23rd Mr & Mrs Crabb (nee Shirley Foot), came from Bridport, with an escort from her old home at Travellers Rest, to christen her son Mark Aubrey. He showed early promise of a chorister's voice. Miss Marjorie Hanfall has finished her three-year appointment in Tanganyika, and is back at her home in Uploders. Unchanged herself, she is full of wonderment at the changes that three years have wrought in Loders.

Mrs Burt has left Askerswell and gone to live in Punknowle. We do not like to lose sight of the old familiar faces. In twenty-four years hers had become part of the Askerswell scene. In Punknowle she will be among friends, and will have less housework to do. Our best wishes go with her.

The organ at Askerswell Church is to be dismantled and overhauled. Work on it is scheduled to begin in January, and is expected to take six weeks. Two-thirds of the cost is in hand. The Church Council hope that a coffee morning or two may bring in the remaining hundred pounds by the time the job is done.

Mr Harry Crabb, Captain of Loders ringers, has a burning ambition to ring the trouble bell in a full peal of Grandsire Doubles, which takes 2½ hours non-stop ringing. His first attempt the other Saturday was dogged by bad luck. After twenty minutes, trouble developed in the conductor's rope, and a fresh start had to be made. After forty minutes of the second attempt the bells got crossed and ground to a halt. The team then went for a quarter peal, which they obtained. Altogether they had been ringing for about two hours, not so very short of the length of a full peal. The team resorted to the Farmer's Arms for tea, and assuaged their sorrows in Mrs Maddison's delectable apple tart. The bells of both Askerswell and Loders have lately been in demand from bands of ringers on tow. Ringers from Surrey and East Coker have performed in each.

Hospital has lately been claiming more than the normal quota of our parishioners. Mrs. Mary Gill, Mrs. Rogers & Kenneth Miller have been in and out, to their advantage; Miss Brown and Mr George Crabb are still there, at the time of writing, and Mr. Robert Newbery is waiting to go in.

#### Services in October.

Loders. 7th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.  
14th, Harvest, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.  
21st, HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.  
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Askerswell. 7th, Harvest, HC 10, Evensong 7.  
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## Loders, Dottery &amp; Askerswell.

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October this year must have been one of the loveliest in living memory. So were our harvest festivals. At Askerswell a fine autumn evening, with a moon to light the way, enticed everybody to service. It was the biggest gathering of the clans for many years, and the congregation numbered more than the entire population of the village. Several old boys and girls of Askerswell were there, and then Loders choir and Loders ringers, who had come to assist their respectation arts, swelled the number. After service people seemed reluctant to leave. They stood renewing old acquaintance, or walked about bestowing well deserved praise on the decorations. We observed that loyal old son of the church, Mr. Norman Adams, drawing the attention of fellow gardeners to his shapely bunch of carrots in the chancel. Next day the sale of the vegetables brought in a useful £ 6 odd for church funds. Loders was blessed with an equally auspicious day for its harvest on the following Sunday. There had been no late frosts, so there were flowers in profusion, and vegetables, to make the church seem like an old tithe barn all set for harvest supper. The floral beauty of the nave was crowned by the chancel, where the scheme was of monstrous yellow dahlias nesting in brown bracken, and sheaves of all kinds of grain, and a small hayrick, and a Dorset corn dolly. The morning congregation was large, and it could listen to the anthem, and sing itself, in comfort. That was not altogether true of the evening, when people were packed like sardines. Rather than go up into the chancel, where there was room, some endured being ten in a pew, and having to rise and sit in unison if they were to do it at all. Yet the singing did not suffer. In the final hymn, "Now thank we all our God", the congregation really "let rip". Loders organ is a powerful one, and the organist had to draw out the stops to keep control. The result was a veritable thunder of harvest melody. As the congregation surged up the churchyard path afterwards, guided by the quaint oil lampstand fulfilling its function after years of disuse, they found they had not done with harvest melody; for the bells were merrily winging them on their way home.

November brings us to another great occasion in the church's year, but one which appeals to very different emotions, the honouring of the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the world wars, Remembrance Sunday, Nov 11th. Our services will be at the times customary to this day, Askerswell 10a.m., Loders 11a.m., and Dottery 7.p.m. Collections will be for Earl Haig's Fund. We hope our people will keep the national promise, made in the hour of deliverance, "At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them".

The Black Angel was busy in October. He robbed Loders of three of its most valued parishioners. First was Mr. George Crabb, an invalid of years and yet surviving to the ripe age of 84. He was the last of the old-time shepherds of the parish, who had lived here nearly all his long life, and given it exclusively to sheep. Nobody knew this countryside as he did, in the changing seasons, and in all its moods, by night as well as day, and nobody had a deeper reverence for nature than he. In a sophisticated and greedy world it was a delight to have one who prized the simple and abiding things, and who was an infallible weather prophet to boot. George Crabb was quickly followed by his near neighbour, Mrs. May Poole, who had been devotedly nursed through a long illness by her daughter Betty at Dorchester. People of a sunny and neighbourly disposition like hers are not so plentiful that they are not missed. Her special significance to Loders Church was in her being the wife of a husband who once combined the offices of sexton, chorister and bellringer, and mother of a daughter who was a chorister. She herself was



invariably one of those who served teas at fetes and socials. She was buried in her mother's grave in Loders churchyard. A muffled peal was rung on the bells on the evening of her funeral, which is the local custom for a ringer's wife. Finally there was Mr. Robert Newbery, who lived, as it were, in the suburbs of the parish at Uploders Farm, but had a firm place in the citadel of its affections, as was appropriate to one so shy and yet so transparently good. His legacy to us was the example of his doggedness in meeting and overcoming a succession of misfortunes, which, instead of souring him, made him all the kinder to other unfortunates, and deepened his faith in God. The extreme discomfort of the malignant illness which carried him off could not extinguish his wry humour, nor dampen his affection for his sheep, which used to gather outside the window of his sick room at his whistle. He died at Weymouth Hospital. One of his messages home was to be sure to send corn to Loders Church for harvest.

A more cheerful subject. Mr. Graham Roper, recently back from national service abroad, was married to Miss Mary Jean Smith in Little Bredy Church on Oct. 6th. They are lucky to have found accommodation for the time being a few doors away from Graham's home in Dottery.

Dottery people will be glad to hear that Miss Wallace, who fell and broke her leg in London, is making progress, and hopes to be home before long. Mrs Mathews is back at Loderland from Dorchester Hospital.

Askerswell PCC are grateful to Mr. Herbert Bartlett for a donation of £5 towards the organ fund. This fund will be the object of another "coffee morning" in the near future. By the way, the result of the jumble sale was the splendid sum of over £32, and not that which we were first told. The school managers are grateful to Miss Grigg for running it. The school repair premium is now assured for next year, and some new books for assembly prayers are in prospect.

The new caretakers of Loders School are Mr. & Mrs. Bradshaw, who kindly came to the rescue when the post was relinquished by Mrs Dora Legg, who has served conscientiously since 1959. Nobody seems to want this sort of job nowadays.

Major and Mrs. Dickson have taken the Fitzpatrick's' half of Uploders Place for the next two years, and are now settling in. Major Dickson serves with the R.E.M.E. at Piddletrenthide.

Dr. and Mrs. Morgan, of Uploders, seem to be enjoying their town of Australia, according to their latest letter. Their caravan has already covered more than ten thousand miles. As doctors are in short supply in Australia, Dr. Morgan has found himself doing more locum tenencies than he bargained for, but is rather enjoying the experience. Once he had to officiate for the famous Flying Doctor at Charters Towers, the gold mining town. They sail for England on Jan. 20th. A warm welcome awaits them from the many friends they have made in this neighbourhood.

Letting in the light. Mr. David Crabb and Mr. Horace Read have given their skilled assistance in removing a few of the many yew bushes in Loders churchyard. The effect of the clearance is to show up the remaining bushes and the church to better advantage, and to reduce the wearisome business of trimming the bushes, which wielders of seven-pound electric hedge-cutters will applaud. The removal of one bush restored to proper prominence the Victorian oil lamp near the top of the stone path. A slight hint to Mr. Spillman that the lamp would not mind a coat of paint, and he, with characteristic thoroughness, gave it a whole wardrobe of paint. He also had the oil part working for harvest evensong.

#### Services in November.

<u>Loders.</u>	4th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.	
	11th. HC 8, Remembrance 11, Children 2.	
	18th. HC 8, & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.	
	25th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.	
<u>Askerswell</u>	4th Evensong 7	11th. Remembrance 10
	18th Matins 10,	25th HC 10
<u>Dottery</u>	4th HC 9.30	11th Remembrance 7.
	18th Evensong 3	25th Evensong 3.



UNSEASONAL WEATHER. It looks very much as if November is a reader of these Notes, and that our last month's waffle about the beauties of October goaded him into having a shot at the headlines on his own account. He certainly hit them. The few of us who manage to get up before Sunday is half spent found ourselves on that memorable November the eighteenth looking out on a world thickly blanketed with snow. The known versatility of the English climate robbed the scene of some of its surprise, but the sight of trees in all the glory of their autumn leaves against a background of snow was something the oldest inhabitants could not remember. A further surprise was in store. Turning the switch did not produce the electric light. Examination of fuses, and the electric clock having stopped at 3.10 a.m., both pointed to a power cut, and the absence of the customary Sunday morning light from the window of the parish clerk seemed to confirm this. The cut lasted till after one o'clock. Dottery and Loders were affected, but most of Askerswell escaped. Chaos reigned in the cowsheds, except at the vicarage, where the undercarriage of Primrose, the house cow, does not know the luxury of electrical manipulation; and except at those farms which had not discarded their old oil engines. Upton Farm had to get down to milking ninety odd cows by hand. In Loders Church the electrical heating was out of action, but the several valiant worshippers were compensated by a co-related absence of sermon. The cooking of Sunday dinner posed a problem. In Uploders the distinguished ex-commander of the Sixteenth Paratroop Division was reduced to a frazzle by an unco-operative primus stove. In Loders Mrs. Frank Gill, the lucky possessor of a non-electric cooker, was kindly offering to cook anybody's goose; and at the Post Office the genial Mr. Albert Wells was dispensing hot stew to neighbours who were unable to cope with the strange world in which they had just woken up. But the medal must go to Miss. Wallace of Dottery. Her broken leg is still in plaster, and she was due to return to London that day, by car, for further treatment. Fortified, in the absence of tea, by an "inner warmth" we would like to know more about, she and her friend, Miss. Hornsby, set forth bravely in the snow. At Askers Road House they met a scene to deter the strongest will - cars and buses across the road and a snow plough trying to clear a way. Most of us, even without the prompting of a broken leg, would have returned home to Dottery - but they took the advice of a bus driver, tried the Yeovil route, and after negotiating several trees across the road, reached London safely, where they laughed at their adventures.

BE THIS TIME our readers' thoughts will be all Christmassy, so we take leave to announce the Christmas arrangements. These will begin with the children's nativity play and mission sale in Loders School on Friday, December 14th, at 5.30 p.m., always a popular prelude to the festivities. The children are looking to the kind adults who help them with saleable articles to "come up trumps" once again. On the Thursday and Friday before Christmas, Loders Choir will sing carols through the village and collect for the Waiifs and Strays. On Christmas Eve, at midnight, there will be the customary service with carols in Loders Church, followed by the family service at eleven on Christmas morning, when the children sing carols at the tree in the chancel. The Christmas Day services at Dottery and Askerswell will be at nine and ten o'clock respectively. The Loders carol service of the nine lessons will be a week later than usual, on the first Sunday evening of the New Year, which happens to be Epiphany. The Mothers' Union are arranging a children's party, a continuation of the old Court party, at a later date.

AMBITION REALISED. Although Miss. Jean Harris has been gone from Belshay for several years, she was set on being married in Loders Church, as her sisters Margaret and Edna had been before her, and this ambition was fulfilled on a murky afternoon in November. Outside skies were overcast, and there was a drizzle of rain; inside the



Church there was a plethora of flowers and autumn tints; gay music with a large congregation to join in it, and a merry pealing of bells overhead. The bridegroom was Mr. James Ludford, of Allington, whose brother had married the bride's sister Margaret. The bridal couple's present Vicar, the Rev. Leonard Luker, assisted in the service. For the triumphant exit from the church, and for the photographs, a reluctant sun had the grace to show himself.

OBITUARY. November brought two additions to our abnormally long list of faithful departed. Mr. George Read, scion of an old Loders family, died at Damers House, Dorchester, after a long illness, and was buried in the grave of his first wife in Loders churchyard. He had served in the first world war. He rose to be a foreman in the service of Dorset County Council, but ended his working career in North Mill. At Dottery another of the "old brigade", Mr. George Legg, who seemed impervious to illness, was taken and gone within a fortnight. He will be greatly missed at Upper Pymore Farm; for between that and Ashingpool he had done some forty years in the service of the Marsh family, he lamented that they will never have his like again. He was an expert hedger and rickmaker, whose skill often won him awards at the Welflash Show. He was a native of Askerswell, and had an inexhaustible fund of stories about that and the Powerstock neighbourhood. For some years he was sexton of Dottery.

A PERSONAL NOTE. The Vicar writes: "My wife and I would like to take advantage of these Notes to say something about the wedding of our firstborn, Morwenna, to Mr. Richard Lloyd, in Loders Church on Saturday December 29th at 1 p.m. His frequent visits to Loders have made him well known (and, we think, well liked) at this end of the parish. To those who might still be wondering who and what he is - he is a native of Cheshire, an old boy of Rugby School, a Master of Arts of the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. At present he is assistant organist of Salisbury Cathedral and a master of the Cathedral School. More important than these, he is one whom all his friends know as "a decent chap". My wife and I were hoping that the wedding might be in the summer, so that the parishioners could have joined the family party in one big "do" on the vicarage lawn. But we cannot have our own way every time. Morwenna followed our counsel to keep off weddings until she had completed training as a nurse. Now that she, who never claimed to be good at school, has done the thing in style, coming near the top of a large class in the hospital finals, and qualifying as S.R.N. at the first attempt, we cannot expect her to wait till next summer. So the plan is this: we welcome everybody at the church, but leave them to get in as best they can. The reception at the vicarage immediately afterwards will be chiefly for the families and those from a distance. It will be continued for the parish at the Hut at 6.30 the same evening. Bride and Groom say they will delay their departure so as to be there. Could parishioners and extra-parochial members of the congregation kindly count this as an invitation to the Hut, and if they can come, give in their names by December 8th, Dottery to Mrs. Cecil Marsh; Loders to Mrs. Olive Legg; Uploders to Mrs. Osborne; and Askerswell to Mrs. Savage? We are sorry to put people to this trouble, but it is quite essential to know the number well beforehand. We are also sorry that this invitation cannot include children, but we hope to make a donation to the party which the M.U. is running for them."

LODERS RINGERS, held their annual meeting in the tower before practice, and the election of officers produced no change. Mr. Harry Crabb remains Captain, Mr. George Hyde Vice Captain, Mr. Bill Madison treasurer, Mr. G. Hyde Secretary and Mr. Reg Dennett Tower Warden.

#### SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Loders 2nd HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2

9th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2

16th HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2

23rd HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2

Christmas Day. HC Midnight & 8, family service 11

30th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2

Askerswell 2nd Evensong 6.30 9th Matins 10 16th Matins 10

23rd Matins 10 Christmas Day HC 10 30th Matins 10

Dottery 2nd HC 9.30 9th Evensong 3 16th Evensong 3

23rd Evensong 3 Christmas Day HC 9 30th Evensong 3