

Where to Live. In 1963 nobody died in Loders and there was no funeral. The winter of 1963 was the worst of the century. Rather a remarkable combination of facts! There was only one other year in this century in which nobody in Loders died, and that was 1911. The Askerswell register might produce many more instances of funeral-free years there are many years in which Askerswell had no marriages - but curiously few in which it had no christenings. By way of contrast, Dottery is prolific in funerals for a place of its size. We trust that this information will not cause an exodus of the maturer ladies who are pillars of the church there.

Christmas has come and gone in the usual way - before we could look round. But it leaves pleasant memories. It came first to our two schools. At Askerswell a large audience of parents and friends watched a nativity play, beautifully done, and exquisitely dressed. At Loders parents crowded into a scintillating like an Aladdin's cave to see another nativity play, for (school which the children had well learnt by heart long passages of scripture. At Askerswell the children ended the term with a carol service, and both schools had parties. Loders Choir serenaded the parish with carols, combining the business of collecting for the Children's Society with the pleasure of sampling the hospitality of several kind households. Illness robbed the party of some of its members, notably the organist and the bass, but the youngsters, on their mettle, acquitted themselves admirably, rising even to descants. A hurricane lamp, borne on a pole by one of the lads, imparted the authentic touch. They would like to record their gratitude to General and Mrs. Rome and Mrs. Lenthall for welcome refreshment in Uploders (and to Mr. Herbert Bartlett for good intentions upset by his having to assist the police); and to the Hon. Mrs. Alexander Hood and Mrs. Hammond in Loders. The call on Mrs. Hammond was unexpected. The mud in her lane usually daunts the carollers, but this time it was frozen hard, and their unexpected call was rewarded with a lavish libation of home-made wine.

The Christmas Day Weather was not conducive to churchgoing, but even the heavy rain of the morning could not keep people away. The midnight service at Loders attracted a large congregation. At Dottery it was nice to see so many former parishioners home for the festival. At Askerswell the faithful brought with them to church the friends they had staying with them - as also happened at Loders. The feature of Loders matins was the carol singing by the Sunday School children at the tree in the chancel, after which they received the sweets and crackers put there for them by the Mother's Union. The good attenders at Sunday School also received prizes. Owing to illness, the choir was thin, but gave a good account of itself. Miss Ruth Willmott kindly deputised for Mr. Tiltman, the organist, who was laid low with quinsy. It is rare for illness to get him down, but we were surprised - and pleased - to see him back on the organ stool the Sunday after Christmas.

£.S.D. The Mission Sale raised the usual £25 for the work of the Church overseas; the Women's Institute Sale made £23 for Institute funds; and the carollers collected £11. 11. for the C of E Children's Society.

There were two christenings in December. On the 8th the now rather large, bouncing son of Mr. & Mrs. G.H. Crabb, of Middle Pymore, was baptised Andrew Roy at Dottery. On the 15th the former Brenda Foot, now Mrs. A.D. Dunham, brought her son to Loders where he was baptised Christopher Douglas.

The late Miss Ethel Charlotte Fooks was buried in the family grave at Askerswell on Dec. 7th. She was a native of Askerswell but had lived away for many years, in domestic service. She died in Harrison Hospital.

Loders Ringers held their annual meeting at the Farmer's Arms. The retiring officer's all seemed determined to let the youngsters have a go this time. Mr. Harry Crabb declined the captaincy. Mr. George Hyde the vice-captaincy and the secretaryship which he had held for more than a quarter of a century; and Mr. Reg. Dennett the tower wardenship. Mr. John Mead was elected captain; Mr. Harry Crabb vice-captain (under protest, but nobody took any notice of this); Mr. Bill Maddison secretary and treasurer (again under protest, but was given no option); and Mr. Tommy Dennett tower warden. Mr. Tommy Dennett and Mr. David Gill learned to their surprise that they had volunteered to extract the annual bounty which a grateful parish bestows on its ringers. Whether they do or not will be a test of their upbringing.

Loders has a new police constable. He is Mr. Ronald Parham, and has a wife and two small daughters. He has been in the police force for three years. He comes from Weymouth. His wife and he find the country a very different place to live in, but think they will like it.

Mr. and Mrs. George Churchill are now settled in to their cottage near Traveller's Rest. They come from a farm near Hardy's Monument. Mrs. Churchill is no stranger to these parts or people. She is a sister of Mr. Reg. Pitcher was born at Powerstock, and lived for thirteen years at South Eggardon. Neither is Mr. Churchill. Though a native of Halstock, he is a brother of Mrs. R. Pitcher. The connection with the Pitchers does not end even there. Their daughter is the wife of Mr. & Mrs. R. Pitcher's son Raymond. The family have already found a pleasant meeting place in Mr & Mrs. Churchill's new home. Mrs. Churchill is a great believer in the virtues of farmhouse butter and cheese - and continues to make it for the delight of a select circle of friends.

Taking the Initiative When something for the public weal needs doing, some people's reaction is "to bring it up" at a public meeting; other's is to do something about it themselves. We like those people better whose disposition is to do something rather than "bring it up". Church seats, for example, are hard to sit on. We admire the do-it-yourself type who says nothing, but comes to worship armed with cushion as well as prayer book. We admire still more the person who upholsters the entire pew, pro bono publico. But the truly devout use their knees as well as their seats in the divine service, and these are ill catered for in Loders Church. Mrs. Doris Rudd (with perhaps the example of the Askerswell ladies in mind) asked if she might do something about it, and was swiftly given permission by one who knows the virtue of striking while the iron's hot. The outcome is the appearance on your editor's desk of a charming little paragraph for insertion in this month's Notes:- "General and Mrs. Rome invite anyone interested to a coffee morning at Uploders Place on Thursday, Jan. 9th, 1964, from 10.40a.m. onwards, to inaugurate a scheme for making hassocks for Loders Church. Coffee & Biscuits 2/- Bring and Buy Stall "Footnote" I don't know whether you think 2/- too much for coffee - perhaps you need not say a price."

Another paragraph gives your editor much pleasure to insert; for adults who will give time to youth work are rare birds these days:- "The 1st Bradpole Brownie Pack will be starting again Friday, Jan. 3rd. 5.30 to 6.45 p.m. in the Forster Institute. All girls from 7½ to 11yrs will be most welcome to come and join the pack. Mrs. Cross, of Rustic Glen, Uploders, is willing to take and return home any girls in Uploders and Loders who would like to join the pack".

One final Notice - There will be no carol service at Loders this year because the Vicar is helping at Bradpole in the illness of their Vicar. But Loders people are warmly invited to the Bradpole carol service at 6.30.p.m. on Sunday January 5th.

Services in January.

<u>LODERS</u>	5th	HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
	6th	Epiphany, HC 8.
	12th	HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
	19th	HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
	26th	HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL All services 10a.m. Holy Communion 19th.

DOTTERY All services 3p.m.

PARISH NOTES. FEBRUARY, 1964. LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL.

A Loss for Loders. Alas, there is no need for your editor to ask himself what to begin the Notes with this month. Major-General and Mrs. Rome are leaving Uploders Place at the end of the month, and returning to the neighbourhood of their old home in Berkshire. It is not that their love for Loders, and its church, has grown cold, but that the domestic conditions under which they took Uploders Place have changed, and become more than they can cope with. And so Loders loses two of the nicest and best parishioners it can ever have had. By Christian precept we should be thanking the providence that brought them here for four years, but actually we are feeling mighty sorry for ourselves. As wife of the officer commanding a paratroop division and later governor of the British sector of Berlin, Mrs. Rome had that care for the men's families which has been a tradition with the wives of British C.O's. In Loders she carried on with her public service, helping to operate the "meals on wheels" for old people opening her home to Mother's Union and Women's Institute, and doing her bit in local institution's like the Floral Society, the Musical Society and the Askerswell Lectures. She had a genius for making her neighbours, and newcomers to the parish, feel at home with her. "Do-gooders" are not always easy to get on with, but she was everybody's darling. The fact that the General used to hide himself or get out with the dogs when his house was full of Mother's Union did not imply disapproval. In the sphere proper to a gentleman he emulated his lady's good works. The local Scouts Association found him more than a figurehead, and Service association's were always trying to bag him as an after-dinner speaker. Like St. Paul, he condescended to people of low estate - with the condescension conspicuously lacking. At least one small boy will be eternally grateful to have graduated from worm to fly fishing under the General's tutelage. But it is at Loders Church, where he was one of the church wardens, and a lesson reader, that he will be most missed. There will be an aching void in the church council, too. Perhaps without knowing it, he was there a great time-saver. He would ask the chairman to give briefly, in English, what perhaps two or three pages of official letter from Salisbury meant, and would then say he was "for" it, or "agin" it, and usually the councillors would have the wisdom quickly to follow suit. So ends this obituary notice, and your editor relishes the sweat the General will be in when he reads it. For one of his virtues - great and rare in a holder of high office - is that he hates publicity.

The Coffee Morning at Uploders Place gave all the ladies, and the leavénings of gentlemen, who attended it, a pleasant hour, and furnished Mrs. Rudd with £20-7-0d to buy the material for the working party who have offered to make hassocks for Loders Church. Good business woman that she is, Mrs. Rudd led an expedition of advisers to the carpet factory at Wilton, and bought wool and canvas on advantageous terms. These are to be turned into hassocks at Thursday afternoon sessions under the kindly roof of Mrs. Olive Legg. Mrs. Dennett, of Eype, has been roped in to give the party the "know how", and Mrs. Radley, of Uploders, is applying her great artistic talent to a design. Meanwhile, the sparsley upholstered members of the congregation are secretly hoping that this activity may eventually issue in relief for seats as well as knees.

Dottery congregation gave Mrs. Cleall a warm welcome when she returned to church after her long and distressing eye trouble. Mrs. Ward, of Lynch, is now at Herrison. But those kind neighbours who would like to call on her are advised to delay their visit for a while. Mr. George Bryan is safely home at Askerswell after an operation in Bridport hospital. His active nature is finding it hard to be reconciled to a period of convalescence. Mr. Harold Spiller also of Askerswell, is having trouble again with his foot, and is off work. He tried for a Sunday to continue playing the organ, and managed to get through a service, but in considerable pain. Miss Grigg came nobly to his rescue the following Sunday and played for him. The only Loders parishioners we know to be in hospital is Mrs. Gill, of the Old Cottage. She has had an operation on her eyes at Exeter. The Vicarage twins, both nursing at Exeter, visit her, and give a good account of her progress. Group - Captain Newall tells us that his son Robert, who broke a leg skiing, is doing well, and hopes (hardly the right word for a boy) to be back at School before long.

Lent is early this year. Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 12th. At Loders there will be children's service 9 a.m. & communion at 10 a.m. The service at Askerswell will be for children and adults, at 11 a.m. Dottery will have the communion service at 7.30 p.m. The thought of Lent is hardly one to warm the cockles of the heart. It is too cluttered up with its long tradition of mortification. But it ought really to be a heart-warming thought.

Lent is no other than the Saxon word for Spring, and Spring is a bright energising thought. Lent is a reminder that we have souls as well as bodies, that the soul's business is also to spring into life and grow. This the soul cannot do any more than can the body without nourishment. Prayer, bible reading and public worship are the food of the soul.

Newcomers to Loders are Mr. & Mrs. Victor Skipp, who are next door neighbours to Mr. & Mrs. Horace Read. Mr. Skipp works for Mr. House, at Powerstock. He and his family come from Weymouth. The family is a large one. The eldest son, aged 21, is working away from home; the second, aged 18, is in process of finding a job locally. Then there are Penny, 16; Sean, 8; Melvin 5; and Toni 2. Sean and Melvin are to be congratulated on clocking in at Sunday School on their first Sunday in Loders. It is nice these days to find new arrivals getting to church before church, in the shape of the vicar, gets to them! After all, the obligation is on both parties.

Concerning Churchyards. Lengthening days, and talk of spring inevitably turn the thoughts of parsons and church councillors to their churchyards, where the grass will soon be growing again. At Askerswell Council's last meeting it was noted that their faithful and venerable sexton, Mr. Fred Samways, now lives at Litton, and will not always be able to come over and scythe as he so valiantly did last summer. One day the job will have to be done by machine, which will mean a certain amount of levelling in that part of the graveyard round the church. It is hoped that people with gravemounds will reconcile themselves to losing them, or alternatively will begin trimming them this spring, so that when eventually a machine does come to be used, it will be clear who wants to preserve mounds, and is prepared to clip them. At Dottery, thanks to the sexton, Mr. Turner, and the smallness and comparative youth of the graveyard, there are as yet no problems. Loders churchyard continues to be cut by voluntary labour. The system that those who keep mounds must clip them continues to work well, but would be improved if the clippers would kindly remember that the machine can only cut within a foot of a mound, or six inches of a stone or curb. If clipping round the outside of a curb, or round a stone, or a foot from the base of a mound, is not done, the churchyard still looks unfinished when the rotoscythe has been over it. In the past the Vicar's wife has been doing the undone, but this is a bit much seeing there are nearly 200 mounds, stones, and curbs in Loders churchyard. A final word: Would people who bring flowers to graves during service time please do it quietly? At Dottery the disturbance sometimes is so loud, and long that the vicar gets almost to the point of suspending service and going out to ask the mourners to be considerate.

Services in February

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

ASKERSWELL

2nd.	Evensong	6.30.	9th	Matins	10.
16th.	HC	10.	23rd,	Matins	10.

DOTTERY

2nd.	HC	9.30.	Other Sundays,	Evensong	3.
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PARISH NOTES. MARCH, 1964. LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL.

"Say it with flowers" was once the order of the day. Now it is "Say it with cards". Somebody tells us you can now get a card to congratulate a friend on passing an examination, or a nicely worded commiseration on failing. These save you the effort of writing, but of course, you pay. In some parishes the vicar sends everybody a Christmas card or an Easter card, with the compliments of the season, and the times of services. These cards are usually paid for out of the church collections, and the cost is not to be sniffed at. As these Notes get into the hands of every parishioner, may they convey the vicar's good wishes to all his flock, and a reminder that Easter is pre-eminently the day when all who count themselves Christians put in an appearance at public worship? There is a lavish choice of times:- 7 a.m. Holy Communion Loders; 8 a.m. Holy Communion Loders; 9 a.m. Holy Communion Dottery; 10 a.m. Holy Communion Askerswell; 11 a.m. Matins Loders; 12 noon Holy Communion Loders; 2 p.m. Children's Service Loders; 3 p.m. Evensong Dottery; 6.30 p.m. Evensong Askerswell. "What a packet for the Vicar" you will say. Yes indeed, and he hopes you will raise enough **energy** to come to one, at least.

The Bishop of Sherborne will be holding a Confirmation at Loders in mid September. Many of those who heard him preach here last year said they could have listened all night. They will doubtless be glad he is coming again. Several who want to be confirmed have already given the vicar their names. Will others with the same wish please do likewise? Now is the time.

Our parishes are lucky in that when parson or organist falls sick there is somebody able and willing to fill the breach. When the Vicar had bronchitis there were Captain Aylmer and Captain Lumbly to take service at Askerswell, and Mr. Tiltman or Miss Juliet Willmott to take over the organ in the prolonged illness of Mr. Spiller. At Loders there were General Rome and Mr. Mc Dowall ready to oblige. They all did it so well that one and another asked afterwards why they were shirking the dog collar?

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Smith of New Close Farm, Dottery were involed in yet another wedding when their son John married Miss Shirley Norris, of Symondsburry. This kind of thing is naturally consequent on having a large family. But having worked through the girls, and done the entertaining, they are making a beginning on the boys, drawing their well-earned reward in sitting back to be entertained.

Mothering Sunday falls on March 8th. There seem to be precious few wild flowers about for Loders Sunday School to take round to the elderly and sick in the parish, but there will be the usual service at 2 p.m., to which all mothers are invited.

The Village Schools of Loders and Askerswell are on the brink of a period of unsettlement. Both teachers have been attending a course of lectures in French with a view to teaching this subject in their schools. (This is the education authority's idea, not theirs). Concentration on these lectures must have come hard at the end of a day's work in school. Now the teachers have to complete the course by going to France. They depart in April, and will be away most of next term. It means a minor domestic upheaval for both of them, and the schools being run by supply teachers. To confuse the situation still more, the authorities have posted notices of the proposed closure of Askerswell School, inviting objections by letter from any ten local government electors before April 13th. But where there is life there is hope. A neighbouring village school with only ten pupils was officially closed, and the teacher departed. But a supply teacher took over, eighteen months ago, and has been running the school ever since!

An accession to the young life of Uploders are Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bryant, who, with their year-old daughter Carol have taken the renovated cottage lately vacated by Mrs. Daubney (who, by the way, is tolerably well, and very happy, with her niece at Punccknowle). Mr. Bryant is on the technical staff of the R.D.C. He and his family come from Dorchester. They like our set up, and remark, as do most newcomers, on the friendliness of their neighbours.

The old oil heaters in Dottery Church have been replaced by electric ones, which are more efficient, and labour saving. The treasurer notes, with arched eyebrows, that there is also a marked difference in the cost, but feels he can rely on the sympathy of the congregation to meet it. Mrs. Rudd's idea of getting people to make kneelers for Loders Church has "caught on like anything". Some of the busiest people in the parish have dropped what they were doing and taken to kneelers, instead.

A group of young wives wants to learn, provided their husbands will baby sit. One nice young man, not yet a husband, wants to make a kneeler himself. Fifty kneelers are being worked, several already finished, and enough material has been bought to make fifty more. The next sewing party will be at Mrs. Olive Legg's on March 5th at 2.30 p.m., and another at 7 p.m. the same day for the young wives. To raise funds to complete the kneelers there will be a "tea afternoon" with bring-and-buy stall at the Vicarage on March 17th at 3 p.m. Children welcome! kneeler already completed will be on show.

At the risk of giving them publicity which they do not appreciate, we give the substance of a parting letter from General and Mrs. Rome. It seems the best way of conveying their message:- "I enclose a small donation from my wife and myself to Loders Church in grateful thanks for all it has meant to us during our time in Uploders. We wish it could be more. We would like it to be spent on the church itself - maintenance repairs, alterations etc., as the PCC may wish. We shall consider ourselves very greatly blessed if we find a church, a choir and organist, and a congregation like Loders in our new domicile. Our small gift comes with our best wishes for the future for all connected with Loders Church. No acknowledgement, please". The small gift was £50.

Village Politics. The government of Loders is divided between the annual parish assembly and the Easter vestry, both of which are due to meet soon. The chief duty of the Easter vestry is to run the church and churchyard for the benefit of the whole parish. The chief duty of the parish assembly is to run the village hut and the cemetery for the whole parish. Of these two jobs much the harder is the Easter Vestry's. An ancient church like Loders is vastly more expensive to maintain than the village hut. There are its stonework, its carvings, its leaded windows, its furniture, a £5000 organ and a £3000 peal of bells, and a churchyard three times the size of the cemetery. For the past seventeen years the Easter vestry has run a fete, raising an average of perhaps £200 p.a. for church repairs. This is not sufficient to cover all that the architect has scheduled, but it goes much of the way, and the steady annual effort saves the sudden frantic appeals for thousands of pounds that arise from less provident parishes. The voluntary cutting of the churchyard for fifteen years has saved the parish several hundred pounds. By contrast, the parish assembly has to find no money for running the cemetery. It invites no voluntary labour, but simply levies a rate. It now finds itself required by law to bring the parish hut to the general standard of hygiene. But the government will go halves in the paying. The parish assembly's share may be as much as £400. So far it has made no attempt to raise a penny of this. Time is getting short, and if it does not, the hut ceases to be useable as a parish hut. This is a matter of concern for the whole parish. At present it seems that the only idea the parish assembly have of raising money is to muscle in on the church fete. The Easter vestry, which gets no help from rates or grants, and shoulders a heavier burden, will regard the parish assembly's suggestion as armchair piracy. This year's meetings of both bodies should be interesting.

Services in March.

LODERS.

1st	HC	8 & 12, Matins 11, Children	2.
8th	HC	8, Matins 11, Children	2.
15th	HC	8 & 12, Matins 11, Children	2.
22nd	HC	8, Matins 11, Children	2.
Maundy Thursday,	HC	10, Good Friday, Litany 9, Matins	11.

ASKERSWELL.

1st. Evensong 6.30. 8th, 15th, 22nd & Good Friday, Matins 10.

DOTTERY.

1st HC 9.30. 8th, 15th, 22nd, Evensong 3.
Good Friday.
Evensong 7.30.

Easter, 1964. The promise of a bright Easter implicit in the sunshine of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday was not fulfilled. Temperatures went on dropping, so that snow-clearing operations on the Dorchester road in Easter week surprised nobody. What surprised everybody was the quantity of flowers the ladies managed to extract from the bleak countryside for church decoration. Although primroses seemed non-existent, enough had been found to emboss the pavement of Askerswell font with the words "Christ is risen". The cold had an effect on the number of communicants at the early services, reducing them to 130, but the other attendances were well up to standard, and Loders was full at eleven for a very triumphant service. Easter Day collections, which now go to defray the Vicar's expenses of office, and for which he thanks all the kind donors, were a record - Loders £53-17-0; Askerswell £20-10-4; and Dottery £7-14-2.

Young Life. In old times Easter was always the season of baptisms, and it was fitting that we should have four. On Easter Day the son of Mr. & Mrs. J. Samways (formerly Sheila Smith) was baptised Andrew John at Dottery; and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Rennison (formerly Audrey Marsh) Angela Elaine at Askerswell. On April the 5th the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Miles was baptised Margaret Helena; and on April the 6th the son of Mr. & Mrs. Keith Ellis (formerly Alison Rudd) was baptised Guy Daniel, both at Loders. On March the 15th Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoskin's (formerly Beryl Tilley) brought their son back to Loders to be baptised Wayne Melvin. In this context it would be appropriate to congratulate Mr. & Mrs. C. Foot, Mr. & Mrs. Prior (Askerswell), and Mr. & Mrs. M. Rudd (Loders) on the birth of sons. The jumble sale in aid of Loders School fund, which finances the Christmas party raised the useful sum of £14-9-3. Mrs. Scott wishes to thank all who contributed.

The "tea afternoon" at Loders Vicarage raised £20-4-0 to pay for the rest of the material needed for the kneelers being made for the church. About fifty of the kneelers whose needle-worked covers had been finished were tacked to the beams of the dining room so that they could be seen and admired. They were still there the following day, and were admired this time by the Lord Chancellor's Ecclesiastical Secretary and the Archdeacon of Sherborne. The Vicar was sorry to see them come down, for they seemed to turn the room into a baronial hall.

The oldest ringer in Loders was Mr. Alfred Crabb, father of the present vice-captain of the ringers. He died in Uploders at the age of 92, having been nursed through a long and trying illness by his son, and by his daughter-in-law who at times was very unwell herself. In his early days Mr. Crabb helped to man Askerswell bells as well. The funeral was at Loders, and on the Sunday following, tribute was paid to him as "a village patriarch and true son of the soil". It is hoped to ring a quarter-peal on Loders bells in his honour. Another familiar figure in Uploders has gone in the person of Mr. Fred Hyde, father of Mr. George Hyde, for a quarter of a century secretary of Loders ringers. Mr. Fred Hyde came from Burton to live in "Granny" Hyde's cottage at her death. He died in hospital at Dorchester, and was buried in his wife's grave at Loders cemetery. He was 75.

Mr. John Shoobridge writes to tell us that Inter-church aid week will be from the 25th - 30th May, and asking for volunteers to sell flags in Askerswell, Loders and Dottery. The work of Inter-church aid is to help feed the millions who are short of food, and to equip them to grow their own. It is high time Inter-church aid changed their name. Unlike "Oxfam", the name gives no clue to the work of the movement. Inter-church aid could just as well mean an effort among churches to go to each other's rescue.

Miss Dorothy Fooks, of Askerswell, has returned to her nursing and missionary work in Labrador after a month's leave here. A bit of Labrador weather seemed to come with her, and Askerswell is hoping that she took it back.

A church fete is to be held in the grounds of Askerswell House on Saturday, June the 27th, at the kind invitation of Captain and Mrs. Aylmer. This resolution arose out of the Easter Vestry, where attention was drawn to the fact that the present church heating apparatus, an old Gurney stove, is nearing the end of its life, and provision must begin to be made for a new - and labour saving - system.

A committee was appointed to look at what are considered highly satisfactory arrangements in Swyre Church and Chideock R.C. Church.

Askerswell Churchyard was also a matter for discussion at the Easter Vestry, which learnt with admiration that its sexton, Mr. Fred Samways, now less than three years from his ninetieth birthday, and now living with his son at Litton, is still resolved to tend the churchyard this year. He gets some assistance from a rotoscythe, and to facilitate the use of this machine some of the mounds will need to be flattened. Notice is hereby given that people who wish to keep mounds must clip them, and that any found uncared-for three months hence will be liable to removal.

At the Easter Vestries Captain Aylmer was nominated Rector's Warden of Askerswell, and Mr. Harold Spiller elected People's Warden (for the thirtieth time) Mr. Cecil Marsh was nominated Vicar's Warden of Dottery and his son Mr. John Marsh was re-elected People's Warden. Mr. W.S. Harrison was nominated Vicar's Warden of Loders in place of General Rome, who has left the parish, and Mr. H. Sanders was re-elected People's Warden. All the other officers were re-elected, with the addition of Mrs. Charles Wilkins and Dr. Smith to fill the vacancies on Loders Church Council.

Loders Village Hall. Several functions are under weigh for the Improvement Fund. The W.I. will be holding a jumble sale on April the 24th at 7.p.m. the M.U. hope to get the Beaminster Young Farmers to give a concert; the Vicar has offered to run a harvest supper and has put the Vicarage lawn at the disposal of the Hall Committee for any outdoor event they care to organise.

A welcome to the following newcomers to Loders: Mrs. Rust to Uploders Place; Commander Dannis, of U.S. Navy, and his wife and three children, to the other half of Uploders Place; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lucas and their son Paul to the house vacated by Mr. & Mrs. Francis in Yondover; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mitchell and four children to Court Cottages; and Mr. & Mrs. Norman Shergold and one child, also to Court Cottages.

A church still in its Easter finery was the setting for the wedding of Miss Valerie Parker, of Dottery, and Mr. Frank SCRACE, of Tunbridge Wells, at Loders on April 4th. But such is our English weather that the bridal party had to be umbrella'd to the church through rain laced with snow. The newly-weds will be living in Tunbridge Wells, leaving Mrs. Parker bereft of both her children. Fortunately Doris is still at hand in Symondsburry.

The Parish Assembly should be one of the important meetings of the year. It is the local parliament of ratepayers giving them their one opportunity to make their voices heard in parish affairs. Askerswell Assembly this year was large, probably because the chief topic was the closure of the school. Twelve of the twenty-six present agreed to sign a letter of protest against the proposed closure to the Ministry of Education. At Loders an Assembly about the same size as Askerswell received a report from the Parish Council on the running of the cemetery. The Assembly expressed warm approval of the improvements initiated by the new caretakers, Mr. & Mrs. Penfold. It then received the annual report of the Village Hall Committee. Spokesmen for the Committee asked that this year's church fete should be half for the hall. A spokesman for the church replied that there was no need to encroach on this the church's only source for repairs, seeing the Hall Committee would have had eight years in which to raise £400, which would attract public grants of a further £400. After hearing both sides, the Assembly took no action. On the following evening a crowded Vestry meeting accepted the kind invitation of the Hon. & Mrs. Alexander Hood to hold the fete at the Court for the church repairs fund.

SERVICES IN APRIL

LODERS. 12th HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
19th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
26th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL All services at 10. HC April 19th.

DOTTERY All services at 3.

"Once more into the breach". As with Shakespeare, whose fourth centenary it is, so with Askerswell Church. Having just put the organ in order at a cost of £300, it is now faced with the urgent necessity of putting in a new heating apparatus. The old Gurney stove is coming to the end of its tether. So are the noble army of stokers enslaved to it every winter. So are the congregation, who run the risk of getting gassed in the divine service. A small committee have been nosing round other churches, seeing how they cope with the heating problems, and it is the system at Chideock Roman Catholic Church that takes their fancy. Here is something up-to-date, which the Chideock R.C.s have tried out and found as satisfactory as church heating can hope to be. The attraction of the system is that it does not attempt the costly business of heating the church. It aims at giving the congregation the impression that they are warm, which is the essential thing - and succeeds. At Chideock the committee had Colonel Weld's assurance on this and their own experience. They had tried out the system for themselves before he arrived at the church, and they managed to look completely innocent when he also demonstrated it. The principle is that of an electric hair drier. Cold air is sucked into a machine, hotted up, and blown on to the congregation's feet. When the feet are warm, the rest feels warm, and fortunately the way of heat is to rise. The running cost at Chideock has been about £20 per winter, with no dirt and no labour. The running cost of the Gurney is about £50 per winter, with much dirt, prodigious labour, and often a poisonous smell. As one would expect, the capital outlay is considerable. The cost at Chideock was £450. But there the church is really the private chapel of the Weld family, who were not obliged to get faculties and employ architects. As a parish church, Askerswell has first to obtain a faculty, and this requires a plan drawn up by an approved architect. Also, Askerswell Church is bigger than the Chideock chapel, all of which means that a similar system in Askerswell would probably cost about £600. Nothing daunted, the Church Council have decided to get estimates and to run a fete in June. Fortune favours the brave. One good parishioner promised £100, in the hope that the gesture would be infectious, or spread like wildfire. £600 seems a lot for a community of 120 to raise. But it is chicken feed to what the 120 cheerfully spend on their own domestic arrangements (Oh dear! What a mixing of metaphors is here - infection, wildfire and chicken feed).

Dottery Church has solved its heating problem. A tin hut lined and floored with wood is nothing like as absorbent of heat as a stone church, and the newly purchased electric fires are satisfactory. Dottery's problem is to get water into the churchyard for flowers on the graves, and to keep it out of the church. While rain fell only in the vestry and on the vicar nothing was done, but it now falls on the churchwardens, and without bothering architects and faculties they have embarked on an excellent scheme which will keep everybody dry for £70. If the Archdeacon roars about faculties, Dottery can let him roar again; for it is a mission church and not a parish church.

Loders Village Hall. This was crowded the other night for a jumble sale of the grand variety to raise money for the improvement fund. The pleasing sum of £38-10-0 was taken. Gilbert and Sullivan would have enjoyed the situation. To read these Parish Notes one would imagine that Lodors was split in two camps - church versus hall. Yet the same crowd as attend the church fete were thronging the hall, and the same cheerful faces that run the fete were manning the grand jumble stalls. Like Poo Bah in the Mikado, these public - spirited ladies combine in their persons all the parish offices except that of parish councillors. One day they function as Women's Institute, another as Mother's Union, another as Church Council, another as Dr. Barnardo's agents, and so on, and so on. To quote The Bard again, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet".

More Baby News. Christenings continue apace. Barely had Mr. & Mrs. Keith Ellis withdrawn from Lodors font with their newly baptised Guy Daniel than their kinsfolk, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rudd, appeared with their new son Patrick. The service was after matins on April 19th. It had to be at this time to suit a busy godfather, Dr. Crawshaw. It was nice to have Mr. & Mrs. Rowe, formerly of Lloyds Bank (now of Cornwall) there as well, though we were surprised to discover that even in retirement this popular bank manager is still deaf in what we call his overdraft ear. In Bridport Hospital we found Mrs. Raymond Crabb, safely delivered of a daughter, reading the Parish Notes, and

marvelling at the plethora of babies appearing in the April number. On St. George's Day and the fourth centenary of Shakespeare's birth, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lloyd (formerly Morwenna Willmott) chose to make grandparents of the Vicar and Vixen of Loders. A daughter was born to Mrs. Lloyd in Odstock Hospital, where she had done much of her training as a nurse. Mother and daughter are doing fine. So, by all accounts, is father, at the hands of his hospitable neighbours in Salisbury Cathedral Close. Grandfather's recovery is slower. Expectant grandmothers take some bearing with. And it is not easy to adjust oneself to being saluted as "Granfer" by gentlemen half as old again but still only fathers. The baby's names are Emma Teresa. A Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on Loders bells in honour of the late Mr. Alfred Crabb, who, on his death at 92 was Loders oldest ringer. The team consisted of Treble, Mrs. Jessie Davis; Second, Mrs. John Mead; Third, Rev. O.L. Willmott; Fourth, Mr. John Mead; Fifth (and Conductor), Mr. Jessie Davis; Tenor, Mr. Harry Crabb. The tribute cost more effort than appears; for it succeeded at only the third attempt, the previous two having gone awry within a hair's breadth of the goal.

At the corporate communion of the M.U. in Loders Church on Lady Day Mrs. Penfold was admitted a member. Her rise to eminence will be rapid; for at the Bridport Deanery Festival she is to be made Enrolling Member in succession to Mrs. Olive Lenthall, whose failing sight has made her want to give up a job which has enlisted her devotion for many years.

Askerswell Church has cause to be grateful to Mrs. Swaffield for doing Mrs. Spiller's work as church cleaner during the latter's illness, from which she has now happily recovered. Mr. George Bryan falls into the same category, but for another reason. He has presented an electric stove for use in the vestry.

The summer evensongs at Loders will begin on Whit Sunday at 7.p.m. They draw a good congregation. To those who only know the appeal of an old church like Loders in the morning, a summer evening can be a revelation. The farm service will have to be given the go-by this year. The Vicar of Bradpole is hoping, after his long illness, to begin work on Whit Sunday, but the Vicar will be helping at Bradpole till then.

Mrs. Scott will end her conscientious and expert service as head of Loders School in July. She has been appointed head of the infants school at Wyke Regis, where her work will be nearer her home. She did not attend the course in France, as planned. Miss Grigg, of Askerswell, seems to have reached France, and found somewhere to live. Her Askerswell pupils have been delighted to receive cards from her.

Services in May.

LODERS.

3rd.	HC	8 & 12,	Matins 11,	Children	2.
Ascension Day,	HC	8,	Children	9.	
10th.	HC	8,	Matins 11,	Children	2.
Whitsun,	HC	8 & 12,	Matins 11,	Children	2.
			Evensong	7.	
24th,	HC	8,	Matins 11,	Children	2.
31st.	HC	8,	Matins 11,	Children	2.

ASKERSWELL

3rd.	Evensong	6.30.
Ascension Day	11.	
10th,	Matins 10.	
Whitsun	HC 10.	
24th,	Matins 10.	
31st,	Matins 10.	

DOTTERY.

3rd.	HC	9.30.
Other Sundays,	Evensong	3.

Sunday, June 14th, should be an interesting day in the long history of Loders Church. The ladies-and gentle men-who have made hassocks for the church will be coming to evensong to see them dedicated. This is possibly the first occasion since the building of the church that a large number of Loders people have done some thing for the church with their own hands. And how well they have done it will appear when the hundred and more hassocks come together for the first time. The service will be at seven o'clock, and it will not be confined to the hassock makers. It is hoped that the usual evensong congregation will be there, too, and everybody else who would like to come. On that day there will be no evensong at Dottery so that the congregation there may be at the mother church for this special occasion. After service all the congregation will be welcome to the vicarage lawn for refreshments. The Hon. Alexander Hood has offered his squash court if the weather is wet, but wet weather would be a cruel disappointment to Mrs. Willmott, who has put in many back-aching hours weeding her garden.

"A Widow's Mite". This is the description of her donation of £5 by an Askerswell lady who sent it for the church heating fund, which, with the donation recorded last month amounts now to £105. We cannot tell whether the description betokens humility, or is a challenge to the other widows. We are so blessed with widows in these parts that if they all took up the gauntlet in like fashion the heating battle would soon be won. A fete at Askerswell House on the afternoon of Saturday, June 27th, will also be for the heating fund. The kind host, Captain Aylmer does not see why the occasion, giving him work in one department, should not save him work in another. He is arranging a competition for tractors to knock down trees he wants to be rid of.

Babies continue to make most of the news in Loders. Everybody was pleased that Mrs. John Hyde, of New Street Lane, was safely delivered of a girl after an anxious time, beginning at Bridport Hospital and ending at Dorchester Hospital. Two Uploders wives, Mrs. Wilkins (formerly Janet Symes) and Mrs. Reed (formerly Patricia Ascott) have given birth to boys. They had the support of each other's company in adjoining beds at Bridport Hospital.

The first grandchild of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Norman, of Metz Farm, Bradpole, being the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Norman, was baptised Angela Catherine at the children's service in Loders Church on Whit Sunday. The family turned out in strength. The service was at Loders to relieve the Vicar of Bradpole, who was resuming duty that day after his long illness, but the party were not less welcome on that account.

It is the recognised form for Dorset country parishes to maintain an outward show of contempt for each other, but they are not such bad neighbours at heart. We have sympathised with our neighbour, the Vicar of Bradpole, in his long and exacting illness, with his wife for the noble way in which she kept the wheels turning, and with the Bradpole congregation for rising to a difficult occasion. Mr. Gibb is now back on light duty, and we hope his health will continue to improve. The Loders vicar was deeply touched to receive from the Bradpole congregation not only a nice letter of thanks for the help he had been able to give, but a handsome book token which rather defeated his aim of saving them expense. The best wishes of Loders congregation will go out to three young former members who have recently been confirmed - Edward Laskey at Marlborough College, and Paul and Sarah Masters at Sherborne Abbey.

Dottery had a triple christening on May 31st of the grandchildren of the late Mr. Henry Rendell, and of Mrs. Rendell, They are the children of Mr. & Mrs. Brian Rendell of Frampton, and they were named Colin Arthur, Clive Henry and Helen May.

The Captain and Vice-captain of Loders ringers insisted that the entry of the Vicar and Mrs. Willmott into the ranks of the grandparents called for an expression of joy from Loders bells, so a quarter-peal of grandsire doubles was rung, and achieved at the first attempt, the ringers being Mrs. J. Davis treble; Mrs. J. Mead second; Rev. O.L. Willmott third; Mr. J. Mead fourth; Mr. J. Davis (conductor) fifth; and Mr. H. Crabb tenor. Note: Grandsire Doubles is not a method designed in honour of grandfathers.

The entertainment given in Loders Hut by Beaminster Young Farmers, members of the Bridport Operatic Society, and Mrs. Evelyn Davis, of Uploders, added £10 to the Hut improvement fund. The evening was wet, and the Hut only half full, but those who attended proved that a good live show beats anything on television. Local patriotism, too, was gratified in the discovery that the local artist, Mrs. Davis, was quite up to the standard of the others. But we Loders people having nothing to be proud about.

Here were artists giving up their own leisure time, coming several miles, paying all expenses- even the performing fee, to help Loders people with their Hut, and most Loders people could not be bothered to come a few steps along the road.

Will it ? A visitor to Loders Church has written in the visitor's book: "Too near Bridport for comfort. When that place grows a bit more, this church and village will go the way of all old things in a new world". From the top of Boarsbarrow one can see the gradual approach of the tide of new urban dwellings which has already washed the rural nature out of Bradpole. Which makes us more thankful that at the death of Sir Edward Le Breton Loders Court became the country seat of the Hood family, and Boarsbarrow farm its annexe. These are a bastion against the urban tide that the writer in the visitor's book, being from Middlesex, was unaware of.

Loders congregation is grateful to Mrs. Audrey Green for employing her skilled needle on the altar draperies. It was good of her to spare the time when illness made her so busy in her own home. The mystery about the organist, Mr. Tiltman, is how he manages to shine as an organist as well as a carpenter. One would have thought carpentry would have spoilt his hands for playing. That it does not is apparent to all who hear him on Sundays. Evidence of his carpentry is now to be found in a bookshelf for choir music in the glory hole beside the organ. He made it out of an old door. The wonderful display of wallflowers up the church path is now over, but Mr. David Crabb has spent hours of his leisure time taking advantage of the rain and warmth to replant it with 450 adjuratum and marigolds, at no cost to the church. Kindnesses like these are worth several collections.

Not so kind. Whit Saturday was fine and hot. Between tea that day, and breakfast the next, somebody gave the petrol tank of the vicarage van a copious drink of water, which it did not appreciate any more than would its owner. In the midst of the Whit Sunday services the joke was not greatly appreciated. Further down the street the wheels of a lady's car were the objects of a playful knife. She had to buy two new tyres and two inner tubes. Jokes like these are not funny.

Death has lately robbed us of three esteemed parishioners. At Dottery Mr. Henry Rendell died unexpectedly after a long illness, patiently borne. He and his wife had been friends since their schooldays together at Stoke Abbot, so the broken link was of long standing. He was followed a few days later by another Dottery stalwart, Mrs. Elsie Cleal, widow of a former churchwarden, mother of a former organist, and a staunch member of the Mother's Union. So young in spirit had she been that it surprised the Dottery congregation to learn that she was nearly eighty. The prophecy of the superstitious that these two deaths would be bound to be followed by a third, was fulfilled in Mr. Leonard Collier-Marsh, of Askerswell, who was thereby released from an extremely painful affliction. He was a native of Loders, and a life lived in these parts, except for his service in the Great War, won him many friends, which accounted for the large congregation at his funeral.

<u>Services in June.</u>							
<u>LODERS.</u>							
7th.	HC	8	&	12, Matins	11,	Children	2.
14th.	HC	8,		Matins	11,	Children	2.
							Dedication Hassocks
							7.p.m.
21st.	HC	8, &		12, Matins	11,	Children	2.
28th.	HC	8,		Matins	11,	Children	2.

<u>ASKERSWELL.</u>							
7th.	Evensong	6.30.		14th, Matins	10.		
21st.	HC	10.		28th. Matins	10.		

<u>DOTTERY.</u>							
7th.	HC	9.30.		14th Loders	7.	p.m.	
21st.	Evensong	3.		28th, Evensong	3.		