

A Great Occasion. The labours of many Loders ladies, and of a few gentlemen, in making hassocks for their parish church, concluded in a memorable service of dedication on a Sunday evening in June. As the bells pealed overhead, a steady trickle of worshippers flowing down the path to the church grew into a stream, and by seven o'clock the church was well filled. Some of the new hassocks were on show in the windows and on the chancel pavement. An evening sun beaming on them and on the flowers made the scene very colourful. Soon the organ and the meaningful singing of "We love the place" and "Pleasant are the courts" added delights of the ear to those of the eye. The hassock - makers were mostly sitting in the Ladys Chapel. At the appropriate time they filed up the nave, each holding a hassock, which they delivered to the Vicar at the chancel step, and he added them to the hassocks already on the chancel pavement. Then, kneeling on one of them, he dedicated them to the divine service. In the sermon he pointed out bits of the church which were the handiwork of long dead Loders, masons, carpenters and blacksmiths, and said that in his seventeen years ministry in the parish nothing had given him greater pleasure than the adding of this fine workmanship of Loders woman, to the work of Loders men of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and onwards. After service the congregation moved over to the vicarage lawn for refreshments. A mild diversion was the spectacle of Vicar, Organist and Bass trying to coax the ale out of a keg whose tap was choked with hops. Nobody doubted that they would succeed, if it took them all night, but they struck oil before that. The hassocks are now in their appointed place, high on the backs of the pews, four to a pew. A Roman Catholic priest on holiday from Lancashire was admiring them the other evening, and remarked how to a visitor they gave the church the air of being loved and used.

Askerswell Fete has had to be postponed till the second Saturday in September. The day in June on which it was to have been held was ideal for a fete. The village sages are prophesying that we shall suffer for giving it the go - by.

Loders fete is still scheduled for Saturday August the 1st. Mrs. Randell is enlisting stallholders; Mrs. Olive Legg and Mrs. B. Osborne are doing the teas; Miss. Ruth Willmott is organising the sideshows; and Mr. Sanders and Mr. Thomas will again be the griffins at the gate. The Beaminster Band will be in attendance. The Hon. Alexander Hood has kindly offered to open Loders Court to those who wish to see it now that the alterations are complete and it is furnished and lived in. This will certainly meet with a ready response. Dr. Smith has offered for auction an old Mercedes which some lover of vintage cars may be able to repair and put back on the road. But the financial success of Loders fete is largely due to the generous giving of Loders and Dottery people to the stalls beforehand. They rightly regard it as their annual contribution to the repair of their church, and rise to the occasion. Mrs. Cecil Marsh will again be collecting in Dottery, and the Vicar in Loders. They will welcome - groceries of all sorts, new articles, bottles with something in them, cakes, eggs, vegetables, fruit, and prizes for the sideshows, or cash donations. There will be a jumble stall, but may it be said that the days are gone when anything would sell. People are choosy, and unless the offerings are worthwhile, the disposal of them is only a headache for the vicarage afterwards.

The bells of Askerswell are becoming well known by ringers far and wide for their pleasant handling and sweet tone. Several visiting parties have sampled them this summer. In June the West Dorset branch of the Diocesan Guild of Ringers held their quarterly meeting in Askerswell, Touches were rung on the bells, and there was a service. The Askerswell ladies lived up to their reputation for laying on an excellent high tea. Last time they offered Scotch salmon; this time it was ham and salad. The ladies were only three in number, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Knight and Miss. Eileen Collier, but they seemed to cope easily with all the serving and washing up, and were needless to say, heartily thanked by their guests. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Foot, of South Eggardon, was baptised Nicholas Andrew in Loders Church on June the 14th. A large party of grandparents and aunts and uncles was in attendance.

Lady Le Breton. We have had so many enquiries as to the progress of Lady Le Breton since she tripped on a loose stone and broke a leg that we are constrained to give the following fairly up-to-date report:- The leg is mending, and she is back in Goring after a spell in hospital in Reading. She hopes soon to be able to get about on crutches. Perhaps the best tonic she has had is the news that her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren will shortly be returning from the British Embassy in Rome to London.

But Mrs. Laskey has found life in Rome so congenial that the prospect of a term in London is not all honey to her. July 22nd is the feast day of the patron saint of Loders, Mary Magdalene. The fair which used to mark the occasion is, alas, dead, but there will be Holy Communion that day at 8.a.m., and, in addition to the normal services; an evensong at 7.p.m. on the Sunday following. A priest of the Canadian Church who is a friend of Miss. Wallace and Miss. Hornsby has been visiting them at Dottery. He has a passion for the old churches of England, so they brought him over to service in Loders. He explored the church afterwards, and said the service and the setting had been all he could wish for.

Presentation to Mrs. Lenthall. After fourteen years of devoted service to our branch of the Mother's Union as its Enroling Member, Mrs. Lenthall has been forced by failing sight to give up. At the monthly meeting, held this time in hot sunshine on the Vicarage lawn, the treasurer, Mrs. Rudd, voiced the thanks of the members for her services, and presented her with a handbag and a copper tray with flowers. The Deanery President also paid tribute to Mrs. Lenthall. At the church service preceding this the Vicar instituted Mrs. Penfold as the new Enroling Member.

June was also an interesting month for the Loders Women's Institute. To mark the anniversary of their birthday, the members attended a party in Edwardian dress. Villagers who did not know this were inclined to rub their eyes when they saw Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Horace Read, as an Edwardian beau and his belle, arming each other down the street to the village hall. Some days later the Vicar noticed his pin-striped trousers, pressed and folded, on the dining room table. "What are these doing here?" he demanded. "Now just you relax" came the answer, "Mrs. Wells borrowed them for the W.I. party". That is what makes a vicar's life so exciting. Passing his own trousers in the village street without knowing them is only one of the hazards. But at least they got pressed, and if there were any missing buttons these will have been sewn on, which more than repays the desecration of the trousers.

Confirmation classes at the vicarage begin on Friday, July the 3rd, at 7.30.p.m. They will continue on Fridays through July, skip August, and resume in September. Any prospective candidates who have not yet done anything about it are not too late.

To the many questions regarding Mrs. Scott's successor as head of Loders School, there is still no answer. The appointment is now the County's and prodding has failed to move them. If the new teacher loses the very worthwhile amenity of the flat made available by the R.D.C. it will be no fault of the managers.

SERVICES IN JULY

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 HC 10.
 26th Matins 10.

DOTTERY 5th HC 9.30. Other Sundays Evensong 3.

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Buried in the Wall. Loders Church is at present in the hands of the builders, who are doing the quinquennial repairs. When the masons got to work on the external north-east wall of the chancel, which faces Loders Court, they uncovered nine carved stones, embedded in the wall. These stones date from the twelfth century at the latest. Four of them belong to a Norman pillar, and are obviously the fellows to those already exposed in the north wall of the chancel. Two are corbels, in a fine state of preservation. It looks as if the masons who reconstructed the chancel in the fourteenth century used these stones of the earlier Norman church to make up the wall. The restorers in the year 1900 looked for, and brought to light, many of the antique features of the church, but missed these, and not surprisingly, for they were hidden high in the chancel wall, not far below the roof. It is hoped to have them inserted in the north chancel wall, where they originally belonged, and where they can be seen, as they were meant to be.

A second discovery, and a less exciting one, was made by the architect. On the Ladys Chapel roof, which is a temporary bitumenised one, he found pockets of water beneath the surface, which had survived a month of dry hot weather. He could press out the water with his foot. Delay in dealing with this would only increase the damage to the timbers and stonework, and incidentally, the expense, so the Church Council took his advice and set in motion the machinery for renewing the roof next year. The cost will be at least £500. With the work already being done, the total amount will be round about £1000. Those who think an annual fete for the church repair fund unnecessary should think again. When these jobs have been done, there will still be others waiting to gulp down another thousand. The Notes are early this time to give Loders and Dottery readers a reminder that Mrs. Cecil Marsh and the Vicar are about to start collecting for the fete stalls. What Mrs. Marsh's plan of campaign is we do not know. The Vicar will begin operations in Uploders on Monday, July 27th, and will work down to the other end of the parish terminating in Mr. & Mrs. Jack Dares, which he usually reaches on Thursday evening. Their home, Hole Farm, is a kind of winning post which these good souls never let him pass without appropriate celebration. Some kind folk have already left offerings at the Vicarage, and one unfailing source of support has presented enough ice-cream to ensure that it does not run out as it did last year. Loders Court will be open to view under the guidance of the Hon. Alexander Hood. Like the king's daughter in the Psalms, the Court is now all-glorious within. This opportunity of seeing it should be seized. Mrs. Hood has made her own contribution to the pleasure of the fete by asking General and Mrs. Rome to stay at the Court that weekend, it seems an age since they left Uploders. The chance of seeing them again will be accounted the fete's biggest attraction by their multitudinous admirers.

It was nice to have other old friends of Loders at church the other Sunday, the Governor of Gibraltar and Lady Ward, and her father Colonel Scott. Sir Dudley paid a visit to the church shortly after the Norman stones were found, and went up a ladder to look at them.

Good news for the Congregation. Our three churches will have a change from the Vicar (or Rector) in August. Year in and year out the faithful have listened to the same voice and the same rather stale ideas with little complaint. Now they are promised a whole month of somebody new. Mr. Peacock will take the services on the first two Sundays in August, and the Rev. T.G. Nash the last three Sundays. Mr. Nash is Vicar of St. Luke's, Luton. He is a cousin of Mr. and Mrs. Ian Forbes, of Eype's Mouth. He and his wife and two children will be staying at the Vicarage, with an odd Willmott or two. The Vicar will be in charge of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dunblane, Perthshire, for August. He and a part of his junior family will be staying in Dunblane Rectory. Would any parishioner who contemplated dying in August kindly hold off till the Vicar returns? For the first time he will miss the fete. He tried to avoid this, but the Rector of Dunblane has to be in Sweden at a conference on the first Sunday in August.

A bombshell for Askerswell. After trying in vain for the whole of the summer term to get news of the future of the school, the managers in the last week got more than they could digest. First, Captain Aylmer, as Chairman of the Parish Assembly, heard from the Department of Education and Science that the Secretary of State had decided to close Askerswell School and provide "special transport for children between Askerswell & Loders". Then Mrs. Newall, as School Correspondent, heard from the County Education Officer that the school is to close this term, and the children

be transferred to Loders as from September 9th. Mrs. Scott is leaving Loders this term. Miss Grigg is to be transferred to the county relief staff and attached to Loders school as from Sept. 9th. Loders managers asked the County to appoint Miss Grigg as Mrs. Scott's successor several weeks ago, and are as delighted as Askerswell managers that she is to do the shaping of the combined school. The temporary nature of the appointment is Miss Grigg's own wish, but all concerned hope it may last for years. It seems that the disconcerting suddenness of the end of Askerswell School derives from the introduction of the teaching of French in Dorset primary schools next term. The teaching apparatus is expensive; one could not be provided for a school under sentence of death; and the County wished Askerswell children to start French with the other schools, Askerswell cows had to be considered, too. Why should not they be sworn at in French, like Loders cows?

More cheerful news. After considering a new heating system that would cost at least £600, Askerswell Church Council have approved a scheme for electrical radiant heating which will cost much less, about £350, and should be installed for the coming winter. A sum of £105 is already in hand towards this, and a fete to be held at the school and playing field on Sept. 12th is hoped to raise much of the remainder. The Council was glad to have at its meeting a former member, Miss Wilkinson, now living at Hove, who was on holiday with Miss Edwards.

Ringers Outing. When Loders ringers take to the moors they usually choose a day of pea-soup fog and see little more than the insides of various hostelries. But this year they had the perfect day for Exmoor and Minehead, and do not remember an outing they enjoyed more. The high light of the day was when somebody saw a rabbit, but not everybody was convinced that he had. At their old haunt, "The Crown", on Catcott Moor, they saw a van pull up outside the inn, and three long-haired beetle-type youths get out. Before going into the inn, one of the youths retired to the back of the van, pulled out a comb and mirror, and adjusted his flowing locks and tittivated his eyebrows. One of the ringers ladies remarked that distinguishing between the sexes made topless dresses a necessity nowadays, and Mr. Harry Crabb agreed.

The 1st Loders Cubs went to a cub rally in the Congregational Hall in June and won a prize for a jungle dance. The prize was a "sixer bag", which is a hold-all for cub equipment. In July they hiked to Eype on a natural history expedition and met the Salwayash cubs who had come from Golden Cap. They are also aiming to join Bradpole Brownies in a cycling proficiency course to be conducted by a police officer.

Miss Ursula Armitage is now second in command to Mrs. Brunt, as Baloo.

The infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lloyd (formerly Morwenna Willmott) was baptised Emma Teresa by her maternal grandfather in the Morning Chapel of Salisbury Cathedral on July 11th. Her Uncle Chuck read the lesson. Her father is assistant organist of the Cathedral.

SERVICES IN AUGUST.

<u>LODERS.</u>	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.
	30th	HC 8,	Matins	11, Children	2.

<u>ASKERSWELL.</u>	2nd,	Evensong	6.30.
	9th,	Matins	10.
	16th,	Matins	10.
	23rd,	HC	10.
	30th,	Matins	10.

<u>DOTTERY.</u>	2nd,	HC	9.30.
	Other Sundays	Evensong	3.

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

Late at night on Saturday, Aug 1st, the telephone rang in St. Mary's Rectory, Dunblane, Scotland. The Vicar of Loders, who was doing duty there for a month, got out of bed, and being unfamiliar with the switches, groped his way down to the telephone, breathing maledictions on the caller at such an ungodly hour. The caller turned out to be Mrs. Willmott, and she had good reason for ringing so late. She and Miss Randall had totted up the fete takings, and for the first time these had broken through the three hundred mark £344. 3. 1d to be precise. This news was received with incredulity. In a day or two the balance sheet came by post, and this showed how the previous year's record of £272. 7. 3d had been exceeded. The sale of Dr. Smith's old car had brought an extra £25, the tours of Loders Court £22. 13. 4d, the stalls an extra £20, and the competitions an extra £10. Observers thought that the gloriously fine day had brought more people to the fete than ever before, but oddly enough the gate, at £17.3.0d, was down on 1963, when it was £18. 1. 3d. Dottery Church will receive £26. 6. 6, the takings of the Dottery stall and competition. The opening of Loders Court to view was one of the great attractions of the fete, and many people came for that alone. Another attraction was the presence of Maj. Gen. and Mrs. David Rome. As the weeks lengthen since these left Loders, so the memory of them grows fonder. How typical it was of them to organise the cleaning up of the grounds when the crowd had gone. But the giving to the fete in all its forms was splendid. Here it would be appropriate to place on record the gratitude of the church to its lay rector. Loders Court as a setting is the making of the fete, and it was indeed kind of the Hon. Alexander and Mrs. Hood to open their immaculate home to the multitude.

Those who gave so generously to the fete will not mind mention being made of two old ladies who contributed with their needles. Four dozen egg cosies were made by Mrs. A. Brown, formerly of Loders. She is now on the way to ninety, and since she lost her legs some years ago has been confined to a wheel chair. The other lady was Miss Hayward, of Port Bredy, not far behind Mrs. Brown in years, who knitted a doll of the kind little girls dream about for the Dottery stall.

The fete accounts are as follows:- Receipts: Gifts £21. 6. 6d, cakes and eggs £15. 14. 6d, Jumble £8. 16. 4d, Flowers £8.9.0d, China £11. 2.0d, Bottles £28. 10.0d; Dottery £20. 8. 0d, Groceries £11. 11. 2d, Bran Tub £4 Children £11. 12. 6d, Lawn Skittles £6. 0. 3d, Racing Cars 8/3d, Roulette £15. 1. 1d, Penny in Mouth £1. 9.6d, Fishing £2. 4. 6d, Table Skittles £2. 13.6d, Darts £1. 18.6d, Balloon pop £1. 17.9d, Pony Rides £4.5.0d, Puppets £1. 10.8d, Dog Racing 3/0d, Dottery Groceries £5.18.6d, Seaglass Stool £5. 10. 6d, Dundee Cake £5. 8.6d, Pearl Brooch £8. 10.0d, Kitchen Utensils £1. 17. 6d, Tea Set £10. 1. 5d, Gate £17. 3. 0d, Ices £9. 16. 7d, Tours of Loders Court £22. 13. 4d, Teas £29. 18.9d, Donations £23. 3.0d, Total Receipts £344. 3. 1d. Expenses: Posters £1. 7. 6d, Adverts £2. 4.0d Prizes £2. 10. 0d, Band £10, Teas £4. 10.6d, Roulette prizes £5. 17. 9d. Total expenses £26. 9. 9d. Profit £317. 13. 4d.

Inspired by the thought of the thousand pounds that the repairs to Loders Church this year and next year will cost, a staunch member of the congregation who wishes to be anonymous has given the Vicar £100 to be spent at his discretion on the fabric. All our three churches are fortunate in possessing members who will dip deep in their pockets when the need arises.

Askerswell people are now bracing themselves for their fete, which they hope will break the back of their latest task of fitting the church with new heating. This tiny parish has got on with the job of putting the fabric of its church in order while other parishes, larger in size, and with smaller needs, have been sending out S.O.S's to the world at large. Such whole-some independence deserves, and will doubtless get, the support of their neighbours. The fete is at the school on Saturday, Sept. 12th. Special features will be music by the Falling Leaves Band; Puppets; and a Bingo session at 5. 15.p.m.

Loders Sunday School's determination to break new ground for their outing this year was rewarded beyond the most optimistic expectation. The day was perfect. They went to Wareham by coach; and there got into a boat which took them down the river to Poole. At Sandbanks they had all the sand, sunshine and fun of the fair that young hearts could wish for. The coach collected them in the evening, and the drive home over Wogret Heath was not the least of the day's delights. Everybody was grateful to Mrs. Gladys Newberry for suggesting this plan of action and helping to arrange it.

The schools of both Askerswell and Loders ended last term with presentations occasioned by the amalgamation of the two schools, and the departure of the Loders teacher, Mrs. Scott, to another appointment at

Wyke Regis. At Askerswell the Rector presented Miss Grigg, the teacher, with a cheque on behalf of the Managers, and said how delighted all concerned were that she had so kindly altered her own plans to initiate the joint school at Loders. Mrs. Tom Foot, as a former pupil and a parent of present pupils, presented the caretaker, Miss Eileen Collier, with a work table, and thanked her for her unstinting service not only to the school, but to all other users of the school premises. At the conclusion of the sports Miss Wilkinson, a former parishioner then on holiday in the parish, presented the prizes, and imparted words of wisdom from her own long experience as a teacher. At Loders the retiring teacher, Mrs. Scott, entertained parents and pupils to a high tea of hot sausages, crisps, cakes, and ice-cream. Brigadier Hammond, Chairman of the Managers, eulogized her seven years of service to the school, and presented her with a gilt mirror on behalf of Managers and Parents.

The Bishop of Sherborne will administer Confirmation in Loders Church on Wednesday Sept. 23rd, at 7.p.m. It is a service that anybody may attend. The memory of the Bishop's last visit is still green, and will ensure a "full house" His combination of Irishman, Rugger International, and homely man of God, is quite irresistible.

The Rev. Joseph Riach invites our readers to harvest festival in the Methodist Chapel, Uploders, on Sunday Sept, 13th, at 6.30.p.m. and also to the service and sale the following evening. Dottery harvest will begin on Thursday, Oct 1st, at 7.30.p.m. and continue the Sunday following. Askerswell harvest will be on Sunday Oct 4th, and Loders on Sunday Oct 11th.

Two Uploders boys were christened by the Rev. T.G.Nash at Loders on Aug 23rd. They were Adrian Warwick Paul, son of Mr. & Mrs. H.R.Wilkins; and Darryl Stuart, son of Mr. & Mrs. P.T.Reed.

Thanks to Mr. Bill Tiltman for fixing runners for the new curtains in Loders Church and for deputising at the organ at Dottery. Also to Mr. Spillman for seeing that the church gates at Loders needed painting, and doing it.

A small world. In taking services at Dunblane in far away Scotland the Vicar imagined he would be ministering to strangers. But it transpired that not all of them were strangers. After matins one Sunday the father of a family on holiday there stayed behind and confessed that he was a parson in disguise, curate to John Wallis, former Vicar of Allington, now Rector of Wareham. Another Sunday brought the former Pauline Follett of Uploders, a pillar of Loders Sunday School, to matins. She had read in the Parish Notes that her former vicar would be in Dunblane, and made the journey from her present home, St. Andrews, on her Lambretta. She has not lost her Loders niceness!

False Alarms. Builders and auctioneers have been seen nosing round Askerswell School. This has given rise to fears that speculators might grab the school before the parish could say Jack Robinson. These fears are groundless. A powerful case for the school becoming the parish hall has already been presented to the Authority at Salisbury. In similar cases the authority has always put the interest of the parish first. In the unlikely event of this authority failing on this occasion, it would be found that the Rector and Churchwardens would not fail. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Brian Wheeler, of Court Cottages, Loders, on the birth of a daughter.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER.

<u>LODERS.</u>	6th.	HC	8 & 12,	Matins	11,	Children	2.
	13th.	HC	8,	Matins	11,	Children	2.
	20th.	HC	8 & 12,	Matins	11,	Children	2.
	23rd.	Confirmation, Bishop of Sherborne,					7.
	27th.	HC	8,	Matins	11,	Children	2.

<u>ASKERSWELL.</u>	6th,	Evensong	6.30.
	13th,	Matins	10.
	20th,	Matins	10.
	27th,	HC	10.

<u>DOTTERY.</u>	6th,	HC	9.30.
	13th,	Evensong	3.
	20th,	Evensong	3.
	27th,	Evensong	3.

Askerswell Fete was held in the school playing field in early September. The day was perfect. Once again it was seen that as a means of combining the business of raising money with pleasure this old-fashioned institution has much to commend it. The takings were £164-0-6d and the profit £153-6-6d. And everybody enjoyed themselves. The village was out in strength. Loders also was well represented, but the most pleasing feature was the number of old Askerswell boys and girls who turned up. About twenty of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Fry's well spread family were there. Music was provided without charge by a local group of young musicians who, by the way, like to be known as "The Falling Leaves" and NOT "The Fallen Laaves". Among the competitions the keenest interest centred on a salmon lunch. This was a handsome steak from a 27lb Scotch salmon killed by Mrs. Aylmer. When the tickets were put in a box, Mrs. Skeats of Uploders drew the winner for Lady Williams of Bridehead. Lady Williams had delayed her departure in the hope of taking the salmon home for supper that night, but Mrs. Skeats was not to know this. May this opportunity be taken of saying that the press were at fault in omitting the names of some of the helpers from the report? A reporter did the reporting.

The Fete Accounts are as follows:- Receipts: Produce £11.14.7; New £37-0-3; Bargains £27-15; Toys £5-17; Teas £4-2; Gate £5-4-6; Tombola £16-18-3; Ices £5-7; Roulette £8-1; Darts £1-1-6; Lawn skittles £3-6; Ping Pong £1-13-6; Pony rides 15/-; Weight of pig £3-7-6; Cushion £1-19-9; Salmon £5-5-6; Groceries £1-16-6; Bingo £6-9-8; Donations £16-6. Expenses: Posters £2; Adverts £4-5; Prizes £4-9.

The Big event of the year from the purely religious angle was the confirmation service conducted in Loders Church by the Bishop of Sherborne. The number of young people in our three parishes is only sufficient for this kind of service once in four years. We presented 27 candidates. The Vicar of Long Bredy brought 5, and the Vicar of Coombe Bissett 1. A large congregation of parents, godparents and friends were there to see the candidates confirm their baptismal vows - so large a congregation indeed that some of them had to sit in the chancel. The Bishop asked that the collection might be given to a cause near his heart - the Diocesan Association for the care of the Deaf and Dumb, of which he is chairman. As a rule congregations do not come to church equipped to meet an unexpected appeal to their generosity, but on this occasion £16-7-9 dropped into the plates, and doubtless the Bishop sped home over Salisbury Plain feeling he had done a good night's work. Confirmation qualifies the candidates to attend Holy Communion. Already some candidates have made their first Communion. It was pleasing to see them accompanied on this great occasion by their parents. It is to be hoped that the remaining candidates will also have this help and example from their parents and that both together may be regular at least one a month. An hour a month is little enough in all conscience to return to the God who gives us our every moment.

The Confirmation Candidates were: Christine Bunnell, Denise Miller, Thelma Record, Karen Green, Sheila Newberry, Vivian Legg, Alice Ascott, Valerie Brown, Susan Savage, Diane Greening, Monica Foot, Florence Lambert, Mark Green, Patrick Radley, Nicholas Willmott, Ronald Tilley, Anthony Ascott, Stuart Ascott, Colin Brown, Peter Read, David Miles, Peter Miles, Raymond Johnston, David Johnston, Paul Scadding, Alan Scadding and Douglas Steuart.

September was a popular month for weddings. Mr. Philip Smith, of New Close Farm, Dottery, and his bride, Miss Jill Stanton, of Salwayash, chose a perfect day for their wedding at Loders. The only snag was the inability of the bridegroom's mother, Mrs. Stanley Smith, to attend the service. She was just out of hospital after five weeks of a serious illness. However, she was able to join in the wedding feast, and her family were thankful to have her home safe and sound. The other wedding was that of Mr. Graham Saunders, of Rookhams Farm, Uploders, and Miss Joan Squibb, of Sape Manor Cottage, Netherbury. The service was at Netherbury, and the Vicar of Loders was delighted to be asked to take it in the absence (on holiday) of the Vicar of Netherbury. The joy of the occasion was tempered by the thought that, following the death of Mr. Harold Saunders, his widow will be leaving Rookhams. Among the many who will miss her will be the Vicar, who over the years has found her constant, generous, cheerful-but very quiet - in her support of Loders Church.

Congratulations to Doctor and Mrs. Smith, of Loders, on the birth of a son; and to Mr. and Mrs. Graham Roper, of Dottery on a daughter. Mrs. Roper's baby was not out of hospital at the time of writing, but seems now to be making progress. It was baptised Wendy Vanessa in hospital. It speaks well for our church life that scarcely a month passes without some parishioner earning our thanks. At Dottery the Misses Male have presented two handsome white vases for the altar flowers. These, incidentally, make the altar frontal look shabbier than ever, but Miss Gibb already has a plan for remedying this. At Loders Mrs. Audrey Green worked hard to get the new velvet curtains made for the west end in time for the Confirmation, and succeeded with the help of Mr. Bill Tiltman, who fitted the runners. The curtains are expertly made, and are the admiration of everybody. At Askerswell Mr. Harry Crabb has made and fitted a device for hitching up the bell ropes when they are not in use (We hope it was not this that laid him up with pleurisy for a month). Others who habitually do things to help also deserve our thanks. Mr. Jessie Davis and Loders ringers have manned the bells at Askerswell when needed. Mr. Henry Wilkins, of Uploders, provides transport for a bevy of tiny tots who would not otherwise be able to get to Sunday School by two o'clock, and Mrs. Maurice Crabb and Mr. Bill Symes have also proved willing in the same good cause.

If Dottery people who knew the inside of the cottage lately occupied by Mr. Baggs could see the transformation wrought by its new owners, Mr. & Mrs. Rogers, they would rub their eyes. Here is proof that an old cottage with sound outer walls can sometimes be made a pleasanter place to live in than a new creation. Mr. & Mrs. Rogers are the parents of Mrs. Elliott, wife of a former police constable of Loders. They have come to Dottery from Burton. But will Dottery be able to hold them? They have had six moves in six years.

Much sympathy was felt in Askerswell for Mrs. T. Marsh, of East Hembury Farm, whose mother, Mrs. Frances Elliott, died after a long illness which had involved several spells in hospital. The funeral was at St. Mary's, Bridport.

Invalids. Her many friends were distressed to learn of the fall which landed Sister Christine Ping in Portland Hospital just after she had installed herself so happily in her new bungalow in Bradpole. It irks her to be at the receiving end of the National Health Service at this stage in her domestic affairs. But if fortitude, cheerfulness and the goodwill of a host of friends can help, she will soon be among us again. Our readers will be glad of news of another invalid in whom they are deeply interested, Lady Le Breton. She is in a pleasant nursing home beside the Thames at Goring, making light of a broken hip which refuses to mend. Friends descend on her with flowers to cheer her up, and make the odd discovery as they come away that it is she who has cheered them up. She is still greedy of scraps of news of Loders. Her heart is still here. She sends good wishes to everybody.

Our harvest services have made a good beginning at Dottery. They continue on the first Sunday in October, with Communion at Dottery at 9.a.m. and at Askerswell at 10.a.m. Harvest evening at Askerswell will be at 6.30.p.m. when Loders choir hope to sing an anthem. Loders harvest will be on the second Sunday in October.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER.

LODERS. 4th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
11th. Harvest, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.
18th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
25th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL. 4th. Harvest. HC 10, Evensong 6.30.
Other Sundays, Matins 10.

DOTTERY. 4th. Harvest, HC 9.
Other Sundays, Evensong 3.

Remembrance Sunday falls this year on Nov. 8th. Reading of the names of the local men who died in the world wars will take place in Askerswell at 10.a.m.; in Loders at 11.a.m., and in Dottery at 3.p.m. The collection's at these three services will be for Earl Haig's Fund.

The best harvest of the century was celebrated in our three churches with "best-ever" decorations and by large congregations. The population of Dottery is about sixty. The harvest congregation was around eighty, but this included the welcome faces of old boys and girls back for harvest. Among the offerings was a bundle of reed, as used for thatching - rare enough in these days of the combine to be remarked upon. Askerswell had a full church for harvest evensong. Loders choir led the singing and gave an anthem. Ringers from Loders and Netherbury helped with peals before and after the service. At Loders the harvest morning service drew a large congregation, and evensong was crowded. The crowd included several from Askerswell and Dottery, whose appetite for harvest evidently had been left asking for more by their own services. Loders choir were in excellent form, and a cosmopolitan band of ringers enjoyed themselves with the bells before and after service. So striking were the decorations (especially the banks of marigold on either side of the altar) that they were left well into the week. Several people from the neighbourhood came to see them before they were dismantled.

"Ere the winter storms begin". Askerswell Church has its new electric heating. It was used for the first time on the last Sunday in October, and everybody seems well pleased with it, especially the gallant sailors, airmen and farmers hitherto enslaved to the firing of the old Gurney stove. There should also be a general feeling of gratitude to the P.C.C. Secretary, Mrs. George Bryan. Faculty boards, architects and electricity boards all had to be got moving together if the project were to be operating before winter. She kept them at it till the job was done. As a farmer's wife, a mother of young children, and a lively participant in village activities, she is not exactly a lady of leisure.

There were two christenings in Loders in October. On the 17th Mr. & Mrs. John Hyde and a large company of relations and friends came triumphantly with the first-born who had crowned disappointments and hopes. She was named Tessa. On the 24th Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Crabb came likewise with their daughter, who was named Rosalin Elizabeth. On each occasion the godmother had something to do to stand holding so buxom a baby for half an hour. Mr. Raymond Crabb confided in a bystander that his babe, at six months, was topping twenty-four pounds.

The pupils of Askerswell School have settled easily into their new quarters in Loders School. They like the set-up, and the daily ride in a minibus. Juniors and seniors each have their own teacher in a nicely sized class, and get the undivided attention which was impossible in a one-teacher school. Parents from Askerswell had a chance to see their offspring's new environment when they attended the school harvest festival. This service was a great success, producing a collection of £4 for the Save the children fund. It was also an unexpected exercise in restraint for the children - while they were at their devotions the ice-cream man arrived outside, and doubtless wondered what was wrong when his siren did not bring down on him an avalanche of children.

A kind member of the Dorset Weavers is to make hangings to replace the exceedingly shabby ones in the sanctuary of Dottery Church. She has offered to do it for the price of the material only, and Loders Church Council has agreed to pay for this.

Our readers may remember that in the course of recent repairs to Loders Church a big patch of plaster behind the altar, affected by rising damp, was stripped off and the wall left to dry out. The ancient stones behind the plaster were exposed to view, and the congregation liked them, and wished them to remain exposed (although the architect did not). An advisory committee led by the Archdeacon of Sherborne made a special visit to Loders to settle the difference between the architect and the congregation. The committee alas, decided unanimously for the architect. The plaster has to be put back, with evaporation tubes to cure the damp. Whether this cure works remains to be seen. It is a good thing that ancient churches should be protected by advisory committees against the barbarous "improvements" that well intentioned but tasteless restorers inflicted on them in the nineteenth century, but one wonders whether well intentioned officials may not now be in danger of becoming officious. The presence or absence of a bit of plaster makes no difference to the structure of Loders Church. If the congregation prefer looking at the old stones to new plaster, surely their whim should be indulged? After all, it is they who have to look at the plaster Sunday by Sunday, and they who have to do all the paying, not

the advisory committee.

A steep rise. An agent of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Co. has inspected Loders Church - as he did Askerswell - with a view to bringing insurance cover into line with present building costs. His recommendation of cover for £55,000 was accepted by the PCC. There was no alternative if Loders is to be spared the shattering experience of St. Luke's, Torquay. But the annual premium will go up from £14-14-9 to around £45. It is foreseeable that future fetes may have to be for church expenses as well as church repairs.

After a year in which death robbed us of virtually no parishioners we have lost four all at once. The spate began with Miss Marjorie Myers, of Matravers. She succumbed to a long illness in which she was nursed devotedly by her friend Miss Taylor. After service in Loders Church, she was cremated at Weymouth, and the ashes interred in her late father's grave at Epsom. A shy but generous giver to good causes, and a lover of Loders Church, she will be sadly missed. After Miss Myers, Mrs. Alice Reed, of Loders. She likewise was the victim of a long illness alleviated by the unstinting care of her son Horace and daughter-in-law Molly. After service in Loders Church she was buried in the grave of her late husband, who predeceased her by twenty-four years. She was a great braider of nets. She began at the age of nine. It became so ingrained in her that at the end of her life it was a hobby she would not be without. After Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Maria Paul, of Uploders, in the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Hyde, whose care and devotion made the closing years of a long and hard life comfortable and serene. Mrs. Paul's husband died as long ago as 1919. She was a native of Netherbury. At first she was in service for the Wilsons at Uploders Place, then she moved to Lady Le Breton at Loders Court, where she stayed for twenty-six years. She was a great correspondent. At 88 she was still writing regularly to her children. She was a founder member of the local Mother's Union. After Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Alice Shimeld, of Askerswell, who died in Portland Hospital after falling and breaking her hip. She kept her 86th birthday in hospital. She was buried at Burton Joyce, Notts, in the grave of her late husband, who had been for fifty years at Nottingham University, latterly as Registrar. Mrs. Shimeld was a founder member of the Women's Institute. In her nine years at Askerswell she was regular at church, and was there only a few weeks before she died. Her daughters Miss Shimeld and Mrs. Bingham have the satisfaction of knowing that they left undone nothing they could do for her.

Askerswell School. The Church Council have the future of the building under consideration, and a parish meeting will give everybody else the chance to air their views later.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fry have moved from the fastnesses of Nallers to the cottage next door to Mr. Sidney Fry, off the Square, Askerswell. Mrs. Samuel, rather surprisingly, finds the hub of Askerswell "too quiet" after Nallers. She hears a passing car, and before she can look, it is gone. At Nallers she was never out of sound of the animals and the children. In Loders Mr. & Mrs. Hansford, of Osmington, and their two children, have come to live at Court Cottages. Mr. Hansford works at Loders Mill.

A family affair. Both Mr. & Mrs. Reg Dennett, of Uploders, and their son Tommy, carried off some of the best prizes at Melplash and Dorchester agricultural shows against keen "professional" competition. The certificates and rosettes make an impressive exhibition, and we like to think there might be a link between the fat prize money and the fat harvest church collections! At Melplash Mr. Dennett won two firsts for shorthorns and two reserve champions; at Dorchester he won a second for mangolds, a third for turnips and a reserve for kale. At Melplash Tommy won a first and third for pigs, a first and second for turnips and a third for Young Farmers valuation. Mrs. Dennett won a second for apples and a third for cabbage and marigolds. At Dorchester Tommy won a third for porkers.

Services in NOVEMBER.

LODERS. 1st. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
8th. Remembrance, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
15th. HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
22nd. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
29th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL. 1st. Evensong 6.30. 8th. Remembrance 10.
15th. HC 10: 22 & 29. Matins 10.

DOTTERY. 1st. HC 9.30. All others 3.

Once again we come to the last month in the year, and are reminded of the march of time. But December being also the month of Christmas reminds us that the march of time may, if we will let it, bring us nearer the God who shewed himself to the world in the babe of Bethlehem. We wish our readers a happy Christmas. Some of them are scattered all over the world. Their thoughts, some of them say, are always with us at Christmas, and doubtless we shall have a background consciousness of them when we meet in church for the Christmas services. These will follow the usual pattern - 9.a.m. Holy Communion at Dottery and 10.a.m. at Askerswell on Christmas Day. At Loders the midnight service with carols at 12 on Christmas Eve; an 8 o'clock celebration on Christmas Day, and then at 11 matins, with the children singing carols at the Christmas tree in the chancel in lieu of a sermon. This will be the first Christmas communion for the candidates confirmed in October. The dark winter mornings are already putting them to the test, and shewing whether their spiritual name is Percy Vere or Peter Out. Loders W.I. Sale gave the children of the parish a happy afternoon, including a visit from Santa Claus, and brought in a useful £20 for W.I. funds.

Both Askerswell and Loders could do with a few more ringers. Askerswell is heavily dependant on Mrs. Christine Savage, and her daughter Susan. No church could have stauncher supporters than these, but sometimes even they are a prey to illness. It is a joy to them that Miss Jennifer Knight has left her job in Bournemouth for one in Bridport, but home ties keep her away from the towers quite often. That the bells have been kept so well manned is due to the neighbourliness of ringers in surrounding villages. On nice summer mornings this could have been a pleasure to them as well as a good turn for us; but on winter mornings ringers from Loders, Bradpole, and even Netherbury, cannot be expected to rush over to Askerswell by 9.30, and then rush back to their own towers by 10.30. Askerswell has one of the choicest peals in the West Country. Are there not three sons, or daughters, of Askerswell who will learn to ring them? At Loders illness and family ties have reduced Mr. & Mrs. Mead's attendance. The unexpected calls of a farm are apt at times to defeat even the stalwart Mr. Reg Dennett, and his son Tommy. When their absence coincides with the Mead's, Loders tower can also be in a bad way. It needs another four ringers. Our Remembrance Day Services were well observed this year. There was a good congregation at Askerswell and at Loders. The change from evening to afternoon at Dottery nearly doubled the congregation there. Collections for Earl Haigs Fund totalled £23. 2. 9d. As we are a small community we may be forgiven for noting that our collections were not far short of that for the great parade service in Bridport Parish Church (which, incidentally, always robs us of some of our congregation). The collection at the Bridport parade was £26. 3. 9d.

Christening. The first-born of Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Wheeler, of Court Cottages, Loders, was baptised Juliet Elizabeth Ann at the children's service on Nov. 1st.

Wedding. Mr. Brian Skipp, of Loders, was married to Miss Christine Richardson, of Exeter, in Loders Church on Nov. 7th. They have made their home at Court Cottages. The wedding was meant at first to be "quiet", but it turned into a full "white", with five bridesmaids, organ and hymns, and a large congregation.

Funeral. The late Mrs. Lilian Burt was buried at Askerswell in her husband's grave on Nov. 25th. Both she and he had been employed at South Eggardon. Mrs. Burt moved from Leggs Mead to Funcknowle and ever after regretted leaving Askerswell. She had the misfortune to break her hip. After a long stay in hospital at Portland, she died at Port Bredy.

Seldom have we had so many parishioners in hospital or ill. Mrs. Knight, of Alexander Farm, has returned home, and to some of her good parish work, after a long spell in Bridport Hospital. Mr. Swaffield had a successful operation at Weymouth and is home again at Askerswell. Mrs. Swaffield wishes to thank those who drove her to and from hospital, but as she is herself renowned for her kindness to anybody in need, it was doubtless a pleasure to her charioteers to help her. Mrs. Spiller is slowly recovering from a sharp illness that kept her from caretaking Askerswell Church; and Mr. Norman Adams has been greatly missed from his familiar seat in the same church. He has suffered a series of falls. Loders is not to be beaten by Askerswell in the number of sick. Mr. Ben Osborne has been in bed for many weeks, countering an obstinate illness with his customary sang-froid. Mrs. Rogers and Mr. Harold Darby are in Bridport Hospital, the former recovering from a "turn" which gave her family great anxiety. Mr. Harry Sanders and Mr. Herbert Bartlett were together at Weymouth for eye operations and, by all accounts, were a tonic to the staff.

We would like to send a word of sympathy to distant Toronto, to another sufferer from his eyes, Mr. Fred Vacher, whose interest in these Notes, and the affairs of Lodgers, only increases with the years. The Mission Sale will be in Lodgers School on Friday, Dec 11th, at 5.30 p.m. Miss Grigg and the children are preparing a short entertainment that will delight the hearts of the parents. Mrs. Willmott is trusting that parents and friends will bring goods for the stalls that will produce a cheque to delight the missionary societies. It will be an added pleasure to have Askerswell children and parents partaking in this effort for the first time.

Comings and Goings. It is always sad to lose a young and public-spirited family from the parish. Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wilkins and their family of three have gone from Uploders to a house which goes with his new job in Dorchester. The Sunday School will miss them. But a young couple has been gained in Mr. & Mrs. John Lomax, who have taken Mrs. D'Alcorn's cottage in Yondover. Mrs. Lomax is from Weymouth, but likes the country. Mr. Lomax is a son of the Superintendent of Stoke Water House. At Rookhams the new occupants are Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Osborne, plus Mr. Osborne's brother and Mrs. Osborne's son. As the farm they left at Beaminster was 200 acres, they should have no difficulty in coping with Rookhams. At Askerswell Mr. & Mrs. Adams have moved from Folly to the new bungalows near the school, where they have found exceedingly nice neighbours in Mr. & Mrs. Penfold, lately returned from the Orient to England's green and pleasant land. Down by the post office Mrs. Fooks has come from Bradpole to live in a new bungalow, near her daughter. It is a welcome return to old times to have her about the village and in church.

The Powers-that-be got very little resistance, and much co-operation, when they moved Askerswell children to Lodgers School. This was because everybody knew, whether they admitted it or not, that this would be better educationally for the children. But the same owners have united the parish in dogged resistance to the terms on which they propose dealing with the empty school building. This tiny parish (population 125) is invited to buy it for £2000; or to rent it, on a repairing lease, for up to £81 per annum. Askerswell wants to know why Allington can buy its school for £500, Godmanstone for £150, and a builder Bradpole School for £360. The Powers-that-be say that in every case the price is a professional valuation. To which Askerswell replies that there must be something fishy about the valuers. The tussle has brought to light another fishy business. In 1948 an Act of Parliament divested the Rector & Churchwardens of the trusteeship of the school, and bestowed it on the Diocesan Council of Education, with power to sell the building for the benefit of religious education in the diocese if it ceased to be used as a school. The Ministry of Education published a notice of their intention in the press AND sent the Askerswell managers a copy of the Act as it affected them. But it seems that the said Act also gave the donors of the school building an opportunity to secure the reversion of it when it became vacant. Notice of this was published in the press, but notice was not given to the donors or school managers as such. The Bowers family, who were donors of the school, were not aware that the Act offered them the reversion, nor were the school managers. The head of the family, Mr. Lancelot Bowers, is indignant. He writes from Kenya "Thanks for your letter of Nov. 20th, received today, on the subject of the school built by my forebears at Askerswell for the use of the parish. I had not seen the press notices of 1948 offering reversion, nor did I receive any personal communication. I may say I am profoundly shocked at and highly disapprove of a tiny parish of 120 being asked to put up £2000 for a school built for them by my forebears. If I had secured the reversion in 1948 I should have passed the building to the Church Council for use as a hall in the event of it being closed as a school". Mr. Bower's letter will be a useful weapon against the Ministry of Education and the Diocesan Board. In their battle for justice the Rector and Churchwardens also have the unanimous backing of a large parish meeting called by Captain Aylmer to consider the matter. Obviously the Diocesan Board has no moral right to the school, or even to the £500 being offered by the parish.

Services in December.

<u>LODGERS.</u>	6th	HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
	13th	HC 8 Matins 11, Children 2.
	20th	HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
	24th	Midnight Service 12.
	25th	HC 8, Carols. 11.
	27th	HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
<u>ASKERSWELL.</u>	6th	Evensong 6.30. All others 10.
<u>DOTTERY.</u>	6th	HC 9.30. 25th H.C. 9. All others 3.