

Well Timed. As the snow came down on us on December 27th, and the B.B.C. told of a hundred cars marooned at Askerswell, and Miss Elizabeth Forbes cheerfully took ninety stranded motorists under her wing at The Bull, we of the ecclesiastical fraternity thanked our lucky stars that snow and frost had steered clear of Christmas Day; for then its effect on the size of congregations would have been powerfully slimming. But Christmas Eve was fine, and Loders Church was full for the midnight service. The sun was out on Christmas Day, and so were good numbers of communicants at Dottery and Askerswell. By eleven o'clock about two hundred had made their communion. Matins at Loders drew another large congregation. Many of the Sunday School were away spending Christmas with grandparents, but there were enough to do justice to the carols at the Christmas tree in the chancel. This year these were strong -if somewhat mobile-reinforcements to the rear of them; for the house party at Loders Court were mostly children and their nannies, who did a church parade, filling the vicarial as well as the rectorial pews. Mrs. Penfold, the Enroling Member of the Mothers Union, distributed the sweets which the members never fail to give Mrs. Olive Legg to put on the tree, and the Vicar distributed to the best attenders books kindly paid for by old friends of the Sunday School. Altogether a pleasant Christmas, cheered by the thought that a host of absent friends were with us in spirit. Many sent greetings via the Vicarage, including Lady Le Breton from her sick bed; Mrs. Laskey and family, now back in London from Rome; and the Scott family - Colonel Scott was spending Christmas with his daughter and son in law at the governors residence in Gibraltar.

The nativity play put on at the end of term by Miss Grigg and the children of Loders School was declared by many "fans" to be the best ever. This time it was high and lifted up on a platform where the large audience could see, and the background of black curtains shewed up the angels to perfection, and also the colourful attire of shepherds, wisemen and holy family. The young performers spoke their parts reverently and well. The little sale that followed produced £28 for the work of the church overseas.

School Party. This followed a few days later. Parents were prodigious in the good things sent for the tea. It was something like the feeding of the five thousand: when everybody had eaten to the full there seemed to be more left over than they had begun with. And to take home there was a wrapped present for each child, a cracker, chocolates and a sixpence. Before the school broke up they took sad farewell of their caretaker, Mr. Bradshaw, who had reached pensionable age and was withdrawing into well earned retirement. Testimony was paid to his conscientious work, especially during the great freeze-up two years previously, and reluctantly but gratefully he accepted a parting present of tobacco. The County have appointed Mrs. Dora Legg to succeed him. She "knows the ropes", so Mr. Bradshaw's good work will be continued.

Carol Party. On two exceedingly cold nights before Christmas the younger members of the choir, well wrapped up, and one with a lantern on a pole, sang carols through Uploders, then Loders, collecting nearly £13 for the Children's Society. They enjoyed themselves hugely in the process. In Uploders Mr. & Mrs. Harrison, helped by Miss Armitage, plied them with red and white wine and two-tier sandwiches. At Uploders Place Mr. & Mrs. Sanctuary, Mrs. Rust and Commander & Mrs. Danis in a combined operation put on a Christmas revel for the carollers and immediate neighbours. Hot soup issued from a downstairs window. Beer, home-made wine, hot dogs and mincepies seemed to rise up from the ground. Further along at Upton Peep Mrs. Lenthall can always be relied on to fortify the innerman. When she heard of the great gorging at Uploders Place she cast a pitiful eye on the delicious coffee and hot sausages she had prepared. But the pity was wasted. The effort of singing between the Place and the Peep had consumed much albumen, and the carollers were as ready for the coffee and sausages as if they had had nothing. There after they were joined by other songsters, so that they looked like the French Revolution descending on Matravers. Mr. & Mrs. Bartlett received them calmly, even picturesquely, framed in the doorway of their bungalow. In Loders on the following night the first call was at the Court, where they sang indoors to the house party, and quaffed sherry and cordials. The tour of Loders ended at the Vicarage with "eats" round a hot fire of churchyard yew and holly in the big Tudor fireplace of the dining room.

Loders Ringers held their annual meeting at the Farmers Arms shortly before Christmas. Mr. Bill Maddison's report as treasurer and secretary

recorded a satisfactory bank balance and a successful summer outing. He was re-elected secretary. Because of hometies the captain, Mr. John Mead, would not offer himself for re-election, so that honour was bestowed on Mr. Harry Crabb, with Mr. George Hyde as vice-captain, and Mr. Tommy Dennett as tower warden. Nobody seemed keen to undertake the annual collection, so it was left to Providence to produce somebody.

The Carol Service of the Nine Lessons will be held in Loders Church on the Sunday in the octave of Epiphany, Jan 10th, at 7.p.m.

A Lady interested in the character training of girls is badly needed by Mrs. Cross, of Uploders, to replace Mrs. Joy as second in command of the Girl Guides. We very much hope somebody may come forward! We are lucky in having public spirited people like Mrs. Cross. In Mrs. Brunt and Miss Armitage we have two more. These run the Cubs.

Askerswell Congregation are grateful to Mrs. Derek Newall for giving curtains for the south porch door, and to Miss Edwards for the needlework necessary. These curtains in excluding draughts complete the good work of the new heaters, which are functioning to everybody's satisfaction. Indeed, at one wintry day's service the rare spectacle was to be seen of Mrs. Aylmer divesting herself of her coat before the congregation a subtle compliment to the new heating which she did so much to obtain. At Loders Lord Hood paid a similar compliment. He also peeled off his topcoat. Possibly this compliment was more eloquent still; for his is a tall ascetic figure, seemingly more in need of aids to warmth, and used to the fug of the Foreign Office.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Reg. Kenway on the birth of a daughter. Mrs. Kenway achieved motherhood with all the efficiency one expects of the ladies of Loders Choir. One Sunday she was singing matins; the same night she was in hospital; and on Christmas Day she was back in church. What athletes in maternity these ladies are, taking it all in their stride and continuing with the Lord's work as if naught had happened.

The Good Wishes of Loders congregation and church council will go with Dr. and Mrs. Smith when they leave the parish shortly. Dr. Smith takes up a new appointment at a psychiatric hospital in Swindon. He was formerly on the staff of Herrison. Awkward hours of duty there did not prevent his doing his stint at church, or helping with the fete.

Miss Grigg has done Loders School a good turn by agreeing to defer her departure for another term. Illness in her family was about to move her to North Dorset, where she would be handier, but when she discovered that this would lose the school the flat allocated for a teacher by the R.D.C., she gallantly postponed her departure. The County have promised to advertise the post immediately so that the new permanent head may take over the school and the flat at Easter. Children, parents and school managers wish very much that Miss Grigg had been able to accept the County's invitation to become permanent head of the school.

Blue runners, pleasant to behold, and equally pleasant to sit on, have now been put in the pews of Loders Church at a cost of £81. They are well made, with rubber underlay to prevent slipping, and they are at a direct-from-factory price. They were made by the Newton Carpet Co. at Maiden Newton.

Services in January.

<u>LODERS.</u>	3rd.	HC 8 & 12.	Matins 11,	Children 2.	
	10th.	HC 8.	Matins 11,	Children 2.	Carols 7.
	17th.	HC 8 & 12,	Matins 11,	Children 2.	
	24th.	HC 8.	Matins 11,	Children 2.	
	31st.	HC 8.	Matins 11,	Children 2.	

DOTTERY. All services 3. p.m.

ASKERSWELL. 3rd, Evensong 6.30.

The rest 10. a.m.

Looking Forward. As one looks out of the study window, across the vicarage lawn to Boarsbarrow Hill, noting the slight flurry of snow flakes, and feeling the draught of a biting wind, it needs an effort of imagination to picture the scene that that same lawn should present on the evening of June 16th. A letter has just come from Salisbury to confirm that Mr Christopher Dearnfry (the cathedral organist) will be bringing the lay vicars of the cathedral choir to give us an open air concert on that date. The concert will be of madrigals, glees and solos, and will prove that the men of the choir may be excellent in the sacred, but are certainly excellentissimus in the profane. It pleases the cathedral choir to say that they have a soft spot for Loders, and this occasion will doubtless give us a soft spot for them. But the essential business will be to raise funds for the choir school, not to compare spots. Rising prices make the maintenance of the choir school quite a problem. The problem is all ours to solve if we will. Loders is a wee bit like Nazereth: unexpected good comes out of it at times.

Sir Winston Churchill, and the debt the world owes him, was remembered at services in our three churches the day after the state funeral at St. Pauls'. In spite of the cold, the occasion brought out sizeable congregations. It even brought out that old warrior, Mr. Norman Adams, whom the Askerswell congregation were delighted to have among them again after his long illness. At Dottery the service was preceded by a tribute to the late Mrs. George Gale, who died on the same day as Sir Winston. She had been church caretaker for several years. The flag on Loders tower had hung half mast all week, and muffled peals rang out before and after service. The hymns sung were those chosen by Sir Winston for the church parade on the battleship Prince of Wales at his meeting with President Roosevelt in 1941. The service ended with the Dead March from "Saul" played as only our Mr. Tiltman does on an organ which no other village church can have the like of. It was being said on the way up from church afterwards that he had beaten Dr. Dykes-Bower of St. Pauls' in feigning the roll of drums, and in his terrific contrast of the soulful with the majestic.

Practically the whole of the Dottery congregation turned out for the funeral of Mrs. George Gale. They were reinforced by a platoon of Loders Mothers' Union under their Enroling Member, Mrs. Penfold, Mrs. Gale had been one of the staunchest supporters any church could wish to have. With her, age was no excuse for absence from public worship. She and her husband used to walk the long way from their isolated cottage to the church when it was wellnigh beyond their strength. Mr. Gale has gone to live with a nephew in Poole, but assures he will be back to see us sometimes.

A piano has been given by Mrs. Greening for use in Askerswell old school. In the matter of pianos one is wise to look a gift horse in the mouth. This one was tested beforehand by Miss Grigg, who considered it well worth having. It was just what the school needed, so, many thanks to Mrs. Greening, & to Mr. George Bryan and his merry men for moving it. The Vicar's Warden of Loders, Mr. William Harrison (with, of course, his wife) is spending the winter in the Canary Islands, on Doctor's orders. We are pleased to hear from each of them that the prescription is proving effective. Mr. Harrison is able to walk good distances, which certainly he could not have done here in this weather. There it is like June, with flowers everywhere, and the boats disgorging oranges and filling up with bananas. Our best wishes to William for a cure which may last for years to come. His advice on the kind of complaint to have, and complaints must needs come, should be worth seeking. The best the Vicar could do for himself was an affliction of the submaxillary gland, on which a benign health service bestowed a half bottle of beer at eleven each morning of his sojourn in hospital. In case this should give rise to aspirations among those who are grateful for small mercies, be it said that these were the salad days of 1952, when the health service was green in judgement.

In Hospital. Mrs. Albert Gale, of Uploders, is in hospital in Oxford, but for a period which may not be as long as was first anticipated. She was "caught in time", and is making good progress. Meanwhile, relations and neighbours are seeing that she has no ground for worry about her children and husband. At Portland hospital, Mrs. Herbert Bartlett has emerged from an unusually long spell of traction treatment, and hopes soon to be home. In the same hospital Mr. George Ford is grappling with a bad foot which put him there before Christmas; and Mr. Frank Osborne, of the Loders Arms, has had an operation in the Weymouth Eye Infirmary.

At Bridport hospital Mr. Reg. Ascott, of Upton Farm, has every reason for hope that his recent operation will set him on his feet again. Askerswell Old School. The position to date may be seen from the following correspondence:- First, a letter to the Rector from the Diocesan Board of Education, "The next meeting of the Executive and Trust Committee will be on 10th. February. If your PCC has any further comments it would like to add to those contained in your letter of 19th. November I would be happy to place these before the forthcoming meeting. The Council are anxious that such property should not lie idle for too long because of deterioration, and we must take whatever steps are necessary to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion for all concerned." Second, a letter to the Diocesan Council of Education from the Rector, "I am corresponding with the Department of Education and Science on this subject and cannot answer your letter fully until I hear from them. It seems that in 1952, besides giving notice in the press, the Ministry of Education wrote privately to the descendants of Grantors whose addresses were known, telling them of their right under the 1944 Act to secure the reversion of the property in the event of the school being closed. The Ministry also wrote to the managers concerned. But the Ministry did not write to Mr Syndercombe Bower, nor to the manager of Askerswell. Why they did not is at present under investigation. The Syndercombe Bowers are a well known Dorset Family, and patrons of church livings. The Askerswell managers could have given the Ministry Mr. Syndercombe Bower's address immediately. I have it in writing from Mr. Syndercombe Bower that had the Ministry written to him, as apparently they did to the descendants of other grantors, he would have arranged for the school to revert to the PCC of Askerswell as a church hall in the event of closure. It appears that he has been denied the exercise of a right given him by the 1944 Act, with dire consequences for Askerswell. "Third, a Letter to the Rector from the Diocesan Council of Education," Thank you for your letter of 26th January which has given us food for thought. We are in touch with the Department of Education, and Science Legal Branch to find out the legal situation with regard to this trust."

Mr. C.J. Miles has been co-opted to Loders Church Council to fill the vacancy caused by the departure from the parish of Dr. Smith.

The Cottage vacated by Dr. Smith has been taken for three months by Mr. & Mrs. Kenlock. He is an estate Agent from Yeovil, now posted to Bridport, and hopes to find a more permanent residence in this neighbourhood.

The Carol Service which rather belatedly brought Christmas to an end in Loders Church was a pleasant occasion. For various reasons the choir had not been able to practise, but nobody would have guessed this from their performance. The four young mothers who read the lessons-Mrs. Gladys Newberry, Mrs. Molly Read, Mrs. Audrey Green, and Mrs. Margaret Miles- did surprisingly well. If all parsons read so clearly and feelingly, the faithful would have one excuse less for not attending church.

Loders Agricultural Discussion Club held their annual dinner at the Bull Hotel, Bridport, this year, and are loud in their praises of the service they received there. First, an excellent dinner of turkey with etcetera Christmas pudding or fruit & cream, with an abundance of cheeses, and coffee, piping hot, at a reasonable price; then an equally excellent presentation by the Askerswell Young Farmers of the show that won them second prize in the hotly contested Y.F.C. competition. It pleased the Discussion Club that for once there was not an eternal interlude between the guests above and below the salt getting this dinner. Miss Elizabeth Forbes had a small army of waitresses at her command, and everybody was served in five minutes. If it really is her vocation to "feed the brutes," she will go far. Mr. Tom. Foot, of Nallers also deserves to go far as a chairman. He concertina'd all the talking into fifteen minutes.

Services in February

<u>Loders.</u>	7th.	HC 8 & 12.	Matins 11,	Children 2.
	14th.	HC 8	Matins 11,	Children 2.
	21th.	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.	Others, evensong 3.
-----------------	-----	----------	---------------------

S.O.S. There ought to be some countryman among our readers who can catch moles. If there is, would he consider doing a good turn to Loders churchyard? All three parts of it are infested with moles, and the trouble they cause is not confined to unsightliness. Before the rotascythe can cut the grass, the operator has to go round with bucket and shovel collecting molehills. When the moles are active this can take well over an hour. But this done, one has not finished with them. There remain the network of suns just beneath the surface. The wheels of the machine sink into these, pushing becomes hard, the blades chain up the soil, and the soil clogs the engine. Last year the new rotascythe had to go back twice to the workshop for repairs, which were not cheap, and the engineer says that if the moles continue to make its work of a rotavator instead of a rotascythe, it will continue to incur heavy repair bills. Would that the parishioners of Loders were as attached to their church as those moles! Poisoned worms they either avoid or devour with impunity; traps they fill with earth and eject; cartridges of gas which put paid to Mr. William Graves' moles, ours seem to relish the scent of. We gather that spring is the best time to deal with moles. So will some kind son of the soil come quickly to the rescue? Already the shrubs and plants have been furbished up, and the grass awaits its first cutting. To the question What can I do for Lent? here is one answer. Spring cleaning ought not to be necessary in a well ordered house. That is what one husband at least tells his wife when the annual urge to turn him inside out comes upon her. But the subconscious reasoning that lies behind spring cleaning has a religious significance. The good housewife looks at her home, and measures what it is against what it ought to be. Then she gets out her dustpan and paintpot, and brings the actual up to the ideal, as much as in her lies. There you have the meaning of the Church's season of Lent, which is now upon us. Everybody has an ideal of himself, which he is always tending to make actual (some people's ideal is quite obvious, as that post office engineer knows who was "carpited" for driving the van with a blonde beside him, and the blonde turned out to be his mother with hair a foot long) One of the reasons why Jesus Christ came to this earth was to give us the ideal of human nature which alone can bring well being and happiness. He is the model: Lent is the time to measure ourselves by him. Not many youngsters will flock to where he is to be found, nor scream with ecstasy; for his badge is not a hair style but a cross. The Mothering Sunday. service for mothers and children can be put at the more convenient time of 2.30p.m. this year (i.e. March 28th.) because Miss Ruth Willmott hopes to be home that weekend and playing the organ, leaving Juliet free for Dottery. It is also hoped, that as Easter is late, there may be enough flowers about for the children to take some round the parish after the service. Askerswell parents and children are welcome if they can manage it. We are sorry that the normal time for Loders Sunday School has to be the rather inconvenient one of 2. p.m. As long as the Vicar & Mrs. Willmott have to take it, with Juliet playing, there is no alternative because of the other services which have to be fitted in. We hope those good mothers who find this time in conflict with Sunday dinners will do what they can to help. Most of them promised solemnly at their children's baptism that they should be brought up in the faith of the church, and Sunday School is usually the only means by which this solemn promise is fulfilled.

Infection is always thought of as a bad thing, but there are good infections, too. Mr. Micheal Savage has followed the example of his aunt, Miss Dorothy Fooks, and gone to do a stint of service with the Greenhill Mission, in Newfoundland. His home at Askerswell Post Office will also be bereft of his sister Susan for a few months. She is to stay with her aunt in the Mission post at Nain, in Labrador. The loss of a precious singer for a while is tempered with thankfulness that there are still young people ready to enlist in God's service.

Lady Day falls this year on Thursday, March 25th. The time for the corporate communion of the Mothers' Union at Loders Church will be 10. a.m.

The Late Miss Phyllis Marsh's funeral at Askerswell was attended by a number of friends surprisingly large in view of her shy and very retiring disposition. This may also have been out of regard for the old established family pillars of Askerswell Church now based on Hembury,

of which she was a member. She died in a nursing home at Lytchett Matravers, after a long illness.

The funeral of Mrs. Alice Rogers, of Yondover, also drew a large congregation, to Loders Church. For years she had been the focal point of a large family, who seized every opportunity of getting home. Sometimes the church fetes the muster was as large as thirty. Much illness was her lot in her declining years, but the cheerful way in which she bore it, and got back to her work, was a tonic to all who knew her. She was buried in the grave of an aunt, in Loders churchyard.

Retirement of Askerswell Sexton. Sitting by the fire of his son's cosy cottage at Litton Cheney, Mr. Fred Samways told the Rector of Askerswell with a tinge of sadness that advancing years obliged him to resign the sextonship of Askerswell. He is nearly 88, and has functioned for thirty years. The news was received with sadness to a degree much more than a tinge; for what church could have a more faithful and quainter sexton than Fred Samways? He might be a character out of Dickens; still better out of Shakespeare. He could well have been the gravedigger in Hamlet, picking up the skull of some local Yorrick and philosophising over it. His attachment to his ancient office was a bond we thought only death could sever. When the cottage in whose fire place he used to sit and ruminate in Askerswell threatened to cave in on him, he withdrew to Litton, but his daughter-in-law found she had to motor him over to Askerswell so that he could still scythe the churchyard. What a pity that his physical strength has fallen behind his clear and agile mind full of Dorset domestic lore! But a debt of honour still binds him to Askerswell. As he shewed the Rector out he said "Tell the people of Askerswell I ain't forgot that there wall I was mending. I'll see it be done when I can get over there." And now the Church Council has to arrange for the care of the churchyard. It won't be easy.

Another S.O.S. Does anybody know of a serviceable harmonium that might be acquired for Dottery Church? There seems to be plenty of them about, that their owners would even pay to be rid of, but Dottery cannot make the acquaintance in the hour of need. So short of breath has the old harmonium become that the organist has to pump furiously to produce the thinnest of sounds. Some notes do not play when they are touched, and others play when they are not touched. This state of affairs has obtained for a long time. It must have been about 1952 when a note refused to stop playing during the prayers. This so irked the then churchwarden, Mr. Fred Cleal, that he crawled on all fours to the chancel, and gently pulled an appendage of the soft underbelly of the harmonium. It screamed like a scalded cat, and Mr. Cleal returned with haste, not on all fours. The prayers were not exactly helped when the Vicar saw some sixteen stone of churchwarden crawling through his line of vision.

The furnishing of Loders Church with hassocks made by members of the congregation was fittingly completed when Colonel Scott arrived the other day with two masterpieces of his skill in tapestry. They are very beautiful, the fruit of long hours of close work. They will be for bride and groom to kneel on at weddings.

The infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Reg Kenway (formerly Peggy Pritcher) was baptized Kaye at the children's service in Loders Church on Feb. 28th in the presence of a large family assembly. Like her esteemed mother, the babe was never any trouble. She looked about & smiled throughout the service.

Miss Grigg would like preliminary notice to be taken of a concert and sale to be held in the school on the evening of Friday, April 2nd.

Characteristically, Miss Grigg is doing this to provide for a contingency which may arise after her departure, which is very kind and thoughtful of her.

Loders P.C.C. have just paid £255 for repairs done to the church last year. A roughly equal amount is provided for repairs to be done this year, though the builders have warned that rising costs will certainly increase this amount.

Services in March.

Loders. 7th. H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

14th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

21st. H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2. 25th. Lady Day, H.C. 10.

28th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Mothering 2. 30.

Askerswell. 7th. Evensong 6.30. 14th, Matins 10

21st. H.C. 10. 28th, Matins 10.

Dottery. 7th. H.C. 9.30. Other Evensong 3.

PARISH NOTES, APRIL, 1965. LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL.

THANKS. These Notes began last month with an appeal for a harmonium for Dottery Church and for somebody to deal with the moles in Loders church-yard. That the Notes are read, and read quickly is apparent. Mr. Albert Wells was awakened by a telephone message from Mrs. Forbes that she had a suitable instrument at Eype's Mouth. He at once offered to fetch it in his van. Mrs. Forbes thought it ought to be tested first, which the Dottery organist promptly did, and found it excellent. Now it is enthroned in the church, looking far too dignified to have come out of a cottage, and too big even to have got into one. The note it gives for "O Lord, open thou our lips" is a deep, full bellied growl that wakes everybody up. Many thanks to Mrs. Forbes, to Mr. Wells and to Mr. John Marsh for removing the defunct harmonium. The latter was to have been killed, but the Marsh children delight in keeping it alive. As it now lives near Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Marsh, they are kept alive too. As to the moles, our Crie de coeur brought a quick response from Mr. Jack Greening, a retired sexton of Loders, who now lives in Bradpole. He had done battle with the "little varmints" in his day, and regarded their recent eruption as a personal affront. His rheumatics could not keep them off the warpath. Armed with a dozen traps lent him by Mr. Tom Foot of Nallers, he has already caught seven of the "little varmints" who eluded everybody else. To the satisfaction of slaughtering his old enemies is added the gentler pleasure of afternoon tea with his old friend Mr. David Thomas, parish clerk, when the round of traps is done. May we also thank those who tendered advice? From Brigadier Hammond's mothballs to Miss Hayward's shooting, via Mr. Geoffrey Glazeby's milk bottles poised on the runs to catch the wind and make frightening noises?.

Churchyard and Organ have also engaged the attention of Askerswell people. The retirement of the sexton, Mr. Fred Samways, left us in dread of the long time it might take to find a successor, but when Mr. Percy Gillingham saw there was no queue of applicants for the job, he volunteered, and was gratefully accepted. The gentlemen of the P.C.C. have undertaken to make the task easier by levelling the mounds in the old churchyard-by easy stages. And now, what do you think of this? When the tuner came to deal with the organ the other day he found it cluttered up with plaster and dust. The electricians installing the heating apparatus had driven a hole for wires through the vestry wall and knocked the plaster into the organ! To vacuum it out will cost at least £20, and to leave it will cause damage costing hundreds. A brawl with the electricity people is inevitable. Brawls with somebody in authority have been your parson's lot ever since he came to these parts. One fears you will never have the honour of being ministered to by Canon or Archdeacon Willmott.

Coming Events. There are many this month, April 2nd, a concert and sale at Loders School, April 6th a "tea afternoon" in Loders Hut in aid of Hut funds. April 8th, Hassock meeting at Mrs. Legg's 2.30., April 15th a Mothers' Union open meeting in the Hut for a talk on church decoration by Mrs. Lewis of Bridport. April 20th. Easter Vestry in Askerswell School, at 7.30. April 21st Easter Vestry in Loders School at 7.30. April 22nd., Coffee morning at Loders Court in aid of church hassocks. A wedding at Askerswell is a rare event. The last was in 1961. So it was not to be wondered that the wedding of Miss Valerie Gillingham, of Legg's Mead, and Mr. Michael Phillips, of Bridport, should be a village occasion, filling the church, ringing the bells, and inspiring the sun to shine warmly. The marriage register emerged from the darkness of the church safe for signing. At the present rate of marriages it will need to be immortal if its potentiality is to be realised. It was brought into service in 1837, and the first entry is of William Bryant, inn keeper, and Katherine Way. In the 128 years from then till now there have been 181 weddings. The book has room for 319 more entries. Being 128 years old already, it is beginning to look its age. If the Askerswell rate of marriage continues at one in three years, the book will be over a thousand years old by the time it gets to the last entry. By then it will have to be kept in deep freeze.

Mr. Ian Ferrey and Miss Jean Fyle-Smith were not nearly as lucky in the weather for their wedding at Loders, but the brightness of the church the flowers, the music and the bells quite made up for what was lacking outside. Mr. Ferrey is no stranger to these parts. He used to stay at Star Hill. The bride's home is Sherborne, she preferred a village wedding to one in the abbey.

The wedding of Mr. Nicholas Forbes, of Eype's Mouth, and Miss Jennifer Hinton, of Dorchester, in Loders Church, brought the pre-Easter weddings to an impressive close. The weather was perfect, the church looked its best with spring flowers; choir, organ and bells were on form. It seemed that guests would never stop arriving. They had to be packed into the pews, and then they filled the chancel as well. Bilateral parking of cars had developed in the road outside. Had the Askerswell bus been any fatter it could not have got through. Although the Forbes' family have never lived in Loders, they have always been faithful and generous supporters of its church, and members of the parish roll. We were pleased to have this notable event in their family life celebrated in our midst.

Mothering Sunday, like the weddings, was blessed by an August sun in March. The Sunday School children brought presents for their mothers to church, and flowers for the sick and aged. Mrs. Willmott took the service. Afterwards the children went distributing the flowers through the village. Several "old girls" of the Sunday School came to the service. Mrs. Harry Wilkins (formerly Janet Symes) wrote from her new home in Dorchester (where, by the way, she lives near our former policeman, the Miller family) that only measles had prevented her family's attendance.

A new head teacher for Loders School will, we hope, be chosen on April 2nd. There are 23 applicants. The four to be interviewed are all men, and all married, two of them with two children each. It has been such a struggle to get to this stage that we would not be surprised to see it postponed again. The school managers started the ball rolling in December, so that the new teacher could get in the requisite term's notice and take over from Miss Grigg at Easter. Now he may not begin till September. But this is not for lack of 'phoning, visiting and hurrying County Hall. The delay is probably due to illness of Mr. Easton, who manages these things. We are still waiting for the Department of Education to give Askerswell some representation on the managers, and to settle whether the lord of the manor of Loders or the owner of the school is to be the joint foundation manager with the vicar.

An Episcopal Astronaut We are all agog at the spectacle of a Russian astronaut attached to an airship by a kind of umbilical cord, floating high above the world in space. But let it be recognised that religion, in the person of the Bishop of Woolwich, anticipated this achievement of science by several months when he published his book "Honest to God". The idea that Jesus did not rise from the dead is as old as Christianity itself. Every generation has thrown up the odd heretic ready to pit his puny theorising against the mighty experience of the apostles, who saw, touched, and died for the risen Christ. What hit the headlines this time was not the old heresy, but the startling incongruity of a bishop being the exponent of it. A bishop in search of God! A bishop writing in the Sunday Times "God is dead". A bishop asking "Can a truly contemporary person avoid being an atheist? If God be dead, and Christ be not risen, why bishops? If Woolwich be right, he has annihilated the ground of his own existence as a bishop. But he continues as a bishop, which suggests he is not quite convinced that he is right. Whom will you believe, the apostles, who saw the risen Christ, who said "If Christ be not risen then is our preaching vain" and who died for their Easter faith? Or the Bishop of Woolwich, who collects fat cheques from the Sunday Times, the S.C.M. Press, and television fees for undermining the Easter faith? The Methodist Church has already shewn that a church cannot expect to be taken seriously if it tolerates such contradiction against itself. It relieved of his office a minister who thought like the Bishop of Woolwich. All honour to the minister, he accepted this as reasonable and just. Perhaps it is time for the C. of E. to sever the umbilical cord, come down to earth, and leave the Bishop floating in space. Country men who can think see so much evidence of resurrection in nature that they have no difficulty in accepting the apostolic faith about Jesus. Let them crowd the churches at Easter and wipe out the dishonour done to the risen Christ.

Services in April.

Loders. 4th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, H.C. 12. Children 2.
11th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2. Maundy Thursday, H.C. 10.
Good Friday. Litany 9. Matins 11. Easter Day, H.C. 7, 8, 12. Matins 11, Children 2. 25th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.
Askerswell. 4th. Evensong 6.30. 11th Matins 10, Good Friday, Matins 10.
Easter Day, H.C. 10, Evensong 6.30 25th, Matins 10.
Dottery. 4th, H.C. 9.30 11th. Evensong 3. Good Friday, Evensong 7.30.
Easter Day, H.C. 9. Evensong 3. 25th, Evensong 3.

Easter in our churches is pleasant to look back upon. There were plenty of flowers for the decoration, but a scarcity of decorators of which there was no hint showing in the splendid effect of their labours. Congregations were good, with communicants at 180, a record. The bells were well manned. At Loders matins a congregation which filled the chancel as well as the body of the church remarked on the quality of the anthem. The only thing about this service to be lacking was the familiar face of that tireless church worker Mrs. Olive Legg, who spent Easter in Bridport Hospital. (We are glad to hear she is getting better). The Vicar would like to take this opportunity of thanking the congregations for the Easter collections, which in effect form part of the stipend. The Dottery collection was £4. 10. 3; Askerswell £18. 3. ; and Loders £52. 13. 6. While we are dealing with figures it may be well to note that out of the population of about 60, the attendance at Dottery on Easter Day was 45. The proportionate attendance of some of our small country churches puts many large town churches to shame. Clergy in this deanery who say that the continued existence of small country churches is an affront to the Almighty need to do a bit of arithmetic.

The Wesleyan Chapel in Uploders is, architecturally, a gem of a period piece. Of its type, it is as nice a specimen of Regency work as one could wish to meet. But it is now showing ugly signs of disrepair. Its body of enrolled worshippers is very small, and the circuit minister, the Rev. J. Riach, tells us they would be glad of some help. When the matter was raised at Loders Easter Vestry it found sympathetic ears. The Vestry voted a donation of £30 from church funds, and this has already been sent to Mr. Riach. There must be many people in Loders who owe their Sunday schooling to the chapel. Here lies an opportunity for a thank offering for that. Mr. Riach's address is 92, St. Andrews Road, Bridport.

Easter Vestries are the annual occasion for the consideration of church accounts. All our three churches, thanks to good giving, are comfortably in the black, and have no debts to live with. If this should engender complacency, then our balance sheet could be our undoing in the sight of the Lord. All that we have is His, and when we render our final account to Him, the test of our personal solvency will be whether we have functioned as stewards, or under the illusion that we were possessors. Dottery accounts showed receipts at £188 17., and expenses £136 10 9., with a credit balance of £52. 6. 3. Askerswell accounts look rosier than they actually are, receipts £618. 15. 8, expenses £190 12. 2, and credit balance of £428. 3. 6. The balance has since been slimmed by payment of a bill over £300 for the new heating system. (Incidentally the treasurer Mrs. George Bryan, was able to announce that the Electricity Board had agreed to pay for the removal from the organ of the plaster their men had emptied into it). Loders accounts showed receipts of £1234. 7., expenses £916. 19. 9 and a credit balance of £317. 7. 3, there again, things are not quite what they seem. This portly balance is about to be reduced by a diocesan quota edging upwards, like the cost of everything else, towards £200.

"Coffee Mornings", "tea afternoons", and now "coffee evenings" are coming into fashion as painless ways of raising money for good causes. Mrs. Lenthall added to her already considerable efforts to raise money for Loders Hut by running a tea afternoon. Her friends rose heroically to the occasion by tackling afternoon tea at 2.30, before they had quite recovered from luncheon. The reward of valour was £10. 4. 6. for Hut funds. The Hon. Mrs. Hood and Mrs. T. Rudd held a coffee morning at Loders Court and raised £16. 10. for the hassocks to complete the set for Loders Church. It was a sunny morning, and some of the company tested the delights of the garden as well as the coffee Mrs. Aylmer has promised to run a coffee evening for Askerswell Church in August. She voiced the feelings of the Easter Vestry when she maintained that Askerswell was too small to hold a fete every year.

Mr. George Bryan & Mr. Donald Marsh have volunteered to remove the old Gurney stove from Askerswell Church. As it cannot be imagined that this bad tempered moloch will submit quietly to such indignity, fingers must be kept crossed till the operation is completed. A question exercising these thrifty farmers is whether he has any value as scrap?

The new head teacher of Loders School is Mr. Ronald Price, but he will not be coming till next term. He is 44, with a wife, and two daughters aged 8 & 5. He comes from the Romsey area, where he is peripatetic relief teacher at five rural schools, and holds the Diploma in Education of the University of Southampton. The school took fond farewell of Miss Grigg at

the end of term concert, when the pupils presented her with a wristlet watch. The sale produced nearly £17 for the school fund.

The infant daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Aylmer was baptised Emma Clare at Askerswell on April 3rd. At evensong the following night Dr Aylmer read the first Lesson, and his father, Captain Aylmer, the second Dr. Aylmer is Professor of History in the University of York.

Christian Aid Week, which is for famine relief, will be from May 10th to 15th. Mrs. Harrison has kindly undertaken to sell flags in Uploders, & Mrs. Willmott in Loders. We have not heard who is doing Askerswell, but it would be a miracle if it were not Mrs. Savage, the local saint of good causes. Church collections on May 16th will be for the fund.

The dwellers in Uploders are grateful to have their shop functioning again. In the hiatus between the going of the Wilkins, and the coming of the new proprietors, Mr. & Mrs. James Harding, they felt sorely restricted in not being able to nip down to the shop. Temporary lack of a shop led to alarums one day at the W.V.S. When the meals-on-wheels lady found Mrs. Holmes missing from her bungalow in New Road, and no plates put out, she feared the worst, and got the Vicar to investigate. But things turned out to be no worse than that Mrs. Holmes, finding the village shop out of action, had gone to Bridport, & got bogged down there for the day. Mr. Harding works at the wireless station at Dorchester. There are two daughters, one 22, teaching at Felixstowe, and the other of 12 at Colfox School.

Loders Easter Vestry decided to make a donation to Loders Hut improvement fund out of this year's fete, to be held at Loder's Court on July 31st, at the kind invitation of the Hon. & Mrs. Alexander Hood.

On the Wednesday in Holy Week Mr. & Mrs. David Crabb, of Loders were elevated to the rank of grandparents by the birth to their daughter-in-law of a son, in Bridport Hospital. Mother and child are making good progress.

Rogation Sunday, when prayer is made for the growing crops, falls this year on May 23rd. Time was when the Loders evening service that day was a kind of church parade for Askerswell Young Farmers, Loders Discussion Club N.F.U., and Agricultural Workers. Now circumstances are changed. The Young Farmers are small in number; they and the Discussion Club draw most of their members from outside this area; and where we alone were having a rogation service, most churches now have one. So this year the parade element in our service at 7 p.m. will be lacking, but we hope there will be a full church of our own people. "The kindly fruits of the earth" are important to us all, whether we derive our living directly from the soil or not.

Another S.O.S. Our last appeals for a harmonium and for help against moles evoked such a ready response that we venture to make another. Will some public spirited person who feels as we do that God's Acre ought to be the best kept in the parish take over from the Vicar and his helpers the care of Loders churchyard? And maintain it at its present standard? The work has been done for fourteen years at no charge to the parish, but there is payment available now for anybody who would do it conscientiously at around £40 per annum. It means cutting the grass about once a fortnight while it is growing, trimming edges, clipping the ornamental bushes and cultivating the borders. The ceonothus along the wall, which is the glory of the church approach, calls really for a professional gardener, but doubtless if there were any difficulty on this score our help in ages past would remain our hope for years to come. The need for a sexton has arisen because the Vicar as Rector of Askerswell, is pledged to help re-organise Askerswell church yard, and with a large vicarage garden to boot, he cannot manage two churchyards.

LODERS Services in May

2nd. HC. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2. 9th. HC. Matins 11, Children 2.
16th. HC. 8, Matins 11, Children 2. 23rd. HC. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
30th. HC. 8 Matins 11, Children 2. Ascension Day, HC. 8, Children 9.

ASKERSWELL 2nd., 9th, 16th, & 30th, Matins 10.
23rd. HC. 10 Ascension Day, HC 11.

DOTTERY 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th, Evensong 3.
23rd Rogation Loders 7 p.m.

Parish Notes, June, 1965. Lodors, Dottery & Askerswell.

The Lay Vicars of Salisbury Cathedral Choir will be giving a recital of glees and madrigals at Lodors on Wednesday, June 16th, at 7.30. p.m. if the evening is fine, as we very much hope it may be, the recital will be on the vicarage lawn; if wet, the Hut. For those who do not know what lay vicars are, they are the men of the cathedral choir. The charge for admission will be five shillings (tickets obtainable at Askerswell Post Office and Lodors Vicarage). The idea of making a charge is not the lay vicars, but ours. They sing for the joy of singing, but we saw in their visit an opportunity to help the mother church of the diocese. The boys of the cathedral choir are boarded at the choir school, and the school is now wrestling with rising costs. So the proceeds of the recital will go to the school fund. The musical tradition of English cathedrals is second to none in the world. It makes wonderful use of air, but cannot live on it.

If our arithmetic is right, we contributed £43. 11. 8 to Christian Aid Week. The flag sellers collected £17. 11. 8; Mrs. Savage, Askerswell, £4. 0. 1; Mrs. Harrison, Uplodors, £5. 18. 10; Mrs. Willmott, Lodors, £4. 13. 8; and Miss Hornsby, Dottery, £2. 19. 1d. Askerswell Church sent £3, Dottery £3, and Lodors £20.

This years Lent Boxes produced £11. 7. 0d for the work of the church overseas. We wonder whether Askerswell and Lodors are generally aware that on May 31st they were represented at Her Majesty's garden party at Buckingham Palace? The party was given by the Queen in honour of the golden jubilee of the Women's Institute. Each branch was invited to send a representative. Our branches wisely did their choosing not by voting, but by names in a hat. The owners of the lucky names were Mrs. Horace Read, Lodors; and Miss Shimeld, Askerswell. These ladies have been tighter than oysters as to what they would wear at the Palace. But what they are wearing at Whitsun should give us a clue. We trust that the ladies confided in each other beforehand. Their appearing in similar outfits could open a breach between Lodors and Askerswell that would take centuries to close.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Crabb, of Yondover; and Mr. & Mrs. Vickery, of Uplodors, on the birth of daughters. So many other babies chose to be born at the same time that the mothers found themselves back home before they realised they were in Bridport Hospital. The usual advise to take things gently should really be heeded in their establishments.

Visitors to Askerswell cannot be unaware that the village is taking on a new look. The change is most apparent in the vicinity of the school. There two new bungalows, commanding fine views of the valley, have appeared, and the ruined cottage between Mr. Herbert's and Miss Tuck's has been wonderfully transformed. This transformation has been done by Mr. Turner, an architect employed by Dorset County Council, who has come to live in the cottage with his wife. Mrs. Turner is not as mobile as she would like to be, but that is the fault of an illness which tried, unsuccessfully, to lay her low many years ago. The Turners are the parents of our Mrs. Brunt, at Lousy Knap. Mr. & Mrs. Brunt are shortly leaving Lodors to take over the Turners former home in Charminster, where they will be nearer their work in Dorchester. Mr. & Mrs. Turner's son is soon to be married. He and his bride will take over the Brunt's home at Lousy Knap. Quite a play of chess! Lodors will be sorry to lose Mr. & Mrs. Brunt. They were both keen on youth work, a breed not too plentiful these days. Mrs. Brunt revived and made a great success of the local cub pack, who will miss her sorely.

The jumble sale at Lodors Hut in aid of Wolf Cub funds made £9. 15. 0d. Mr. Brian Wheeler, of Court Cottages, answered the S.O.S. for somebody to take over Lodors Churchyard, and has been admitted to the very ancient order of sextons. He, being in his twenties, hasn't the rheumy-eyed, bent backed figure of the typical sexton, but if he keeps the churchyard as well as his father keeps the local golf course, we shall be well served. And in case anybody gets the idea that the vicar plays golf, let it be said that he isn't old enough.

The event in Uplodors in the last weekend of May was the homecoming of Mrs. Albert Gale after five weary months in an Oxford Hospital. We know what this must have meant to her husband and children, and to her mother, who had been running the home in her absence. The hospital seems to have made an excellent job of her. She looks as if she had come from the south of France. Albert's old Morris car also deserves a pat on the back. It got him to Oxford and back week by week over the five months. Some new cars die before they are out of their teething troubles. Mrs. Olive Legg is also home from Bridport Hospital, and doing the old familiar jobs which keep our world in joint. When the hospital said she could come home, she did not wait to be fetched, but cast her good name into the lap of

the gods, and let the vicar bring her home in her night attire (she isn't the first). She thanks providence that he was not in one of his absent minded moods. When he might have dropped her at the vicarage gate, and left her to "walk the plank" to her cottage, he was sufficiently aware to take her right to her door. In rejoicing with them that rejoice (and this includes Mr. Bill Hunt, of Shipton Lane, nursed back to health in his own home) we are not unmindful of the duty to weep with them that weep. We commiserate with Miss Elizabeth Forbes, whom a diet of expensive drugs could not save from having to make a return visit to a London hospital; and with Mrs. Frank Crabb, who is in the hospital at Chickerell with a painful illness in which we are pleased to say she is now making progress. Our young people are a source of pleasure to us at present. Several have answered the appeal for more ringers. Our ringing chambers are now pulsating with young life. Ronald Tilley, Nicholas Willmott and Michael Willmott (when not home) already seem like established "old hands". At Askerswell Alice Ascott and Monica Foot have just come in to reinforce Mrs. Savage, Susan Savage, Jennifer Knight and Juliet Willmott, and show promise. Valerie Brown and Sheila Newberry are beginning practice, and also show promise. On Ascension Day the Lodgers young communicants attended early service and had a sort of passover breakfast at the vicarage before going on to school. At festivals several of the girls can be relied on to help with the church decoration. This is as it should be, and so often isn't.

Loders Church Fabric. The wall behind the altar has been replastered. It is drying out uniformly, which suggests that the new dampcourse in the outside wall, and the continuation of the gully under the Court wall, are having the desired effect. When the plaster is thoroughly dry, the whole chancel will be whitened. The two corbels discovered high in the outer north wall of the chancel have been let into the inner south wall of the chancel to form a credence shelf, which now makes the credence table unnecessary, and the chancel free of impedimenta. The four sections of a Norman pillar, also found in the chancel wall, have been dowed together, and fixed to the chancel floor in a niche near the pulpit steps. Now that Mrs. Gill, whose drawings produced the funds, has relegated the new church lighting to the P C C, the latter has authorised the architect to go ahead and he has submitted proposals to the faculties committee at Salisbury. A move has also been made to get the Ladye Chapel re-roofed as soon as possible. The rise in prices easily exceeds the rise in interest on the repair fund, so there is nothing to be gained, and something to be lost, by waiting.

Askerswell Old School. There is nothing of consequence to report yet. The Rector asked the Department of Education to pronounce on the matter at issue because the P C C proposed putting in an electric heating system before the coming winter. He received from the Department a card saying that the matter was receiving attention. A month passed, and he wrote again, mentioning a possible approach to the M.P., in the hope that this might inspire the Department to action, but that was two weeks ago! No reply to that, yet.

SERVICES IN JUNE

LODERS

6th, Whitsunday. HC 8 and 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
 13th, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
 20th, HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.
 27th, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL

6th, Whitsunday, Evensong 6. 30. 13th Matins 10.
 20th, HC 10. 27th Matins 10.

DOTTERY

6th, Whitsunday, HC 9.30. Other Sundays, Evensong, 3.