

CHRISTMAS IN CHURCH. Fortunately for church attendance, the pessimism of the long range weather forecast was quite confounded. The crowd that went to the midnight service at Loders did so in dry, frosty moonlight. Christmas Day itself was like spring, and induced a strong response to the call of the bells. At Dottery the number of cars trying to park in next-to-no space suggested that old boys and old girls from away had made an early visit to church. This was true, and probably for the first time in Dottery they were welcomed by a Christmas tree. A large congregation at Askerswell also met something new in Christmas services. As the organ struck up "O Come all ye faithful," the Sunday School children processed to the chancel step and there handed the Rector a splendidly ecclesiastical vessel containing a present of candles for the altar, wrapped in red paper. They then sang "Happy birthday" to the Lord Jesus and bestowed greetings cards on the congregation as they went out. In the porch they discovered a reward for virtue in a little present for each of themselves. At eleven Loders Church was full again, but this time of whole families. Instead of a sermon there was the delight of listening to the Sunday School singing carols by the tree on the chancel step. To help everybody feel that God's house is as natural a home as the one they had just left, Mrs. Olive Legg, who for many years now has decorated the tree with sweets given by a few kind ladies in the parish, divested the tree of its packages and gave them to the children as they returned to their pews. Good attenders at Sunday School received bibles or other books, as well. There were so many mothers in church that if the subsequent dinner was served on time then the fathers must have left an eye on the oven!

MR. HAROLD SPILLER had as good a claim to a place in the Honours List as Sir Alf Ramsey. He has a bad and painful foot, which keeps him away from work, but not from his beloved organ at Askerswell. The congregation were mostly unaware that the merry playing on Christmas morning, and on New Year's day, was contrived with a slippered foot, of gouty proportions, but not so pleasantly come by.

IN ITS EFFORTS TO MODERNISE, The Times came up with correspondence on the pros and cons of carol singing. Judging by the amount we assimilated - and so cheerfully - there are no cons here. A group of Askerswell waits were kindly received wherever they serenaded, and collected £4 for Oxfam. A carol service by the day school children, conducted by the headmaster at Loders Church, produced a similar sum for the Children's Society. Then Loders choir sang on two nights and collected another £13 for the Children's Society. They derived much fun and refreshment for themselves in the process - drinks at Mr. Harrison's; mincepies at Mrs. Rust's; a fortification of ham sandwiches, sausages and coffee at Mrs. Lenthall's; drinks at Loders Court and Miss Edward's; and the usual finale round the Vicarage fire. It had better not be asked why the choir should sing to a certain holly tree, or why its fruit should include one of the Vicar's sons!

THE MISSION SALE was a great success and took nearly £39. Instead of a straight Nativity play, the children gave the Christmas story in Hungarian songs, recitations and dresses. It was all very well done, but we dread to think how much extra work the mothers and specially Mrs. Price, put into those lovely dresses. An embryonic school orchestra, with glossy violins (which taxpayers present were pleasantly surprised to know they had provided), made its first appearance and to its credit, set nobody's teeth on edge. Term ended for the children with an afternoon of games, presents and high tea. Once again they are indebted to Mr. Sidney Fry and Mr. Tom Foot, of Nallers, for finding them a Christmas tree. With each passing year this becomes more difficult, but it would take a lot to defect two such staunch friends of the school.

WHILE WE ARE STILL ON A CHEERFUL NOTE, may we put on record our gratitude at having the parish clerk of Loders, Mr. David Thomas, safely home again after undergoing a major operation in his eighty-first year? Loders Church does not seem the same without him and we hope to have him back before long. Dottery congregation will also be pleased to see Mrs. Bagwell back in her pew. She was in Weymouth hospital with a painful complaint, but is now convalescing with a daughter. Mrs. Audrey Green, of Loders, has also been in the hospital fashion but fortunately her stay in Odstock was short, if sharp.

ASKERSWELL YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB has been a power for good among the youth of this neighbourhood for nearly thirty years. Like many other good movements, it is finding the times difficult and has decided to sink its identity in a new, more broadly based club, covering the Bride Valley as well. The occasion will be marked by a short

service in Loders Church on Tuesday, January 10th at 7.30 p.m. followed by a social in the Hut. All who are interested in the Club are warmly invited to the service.

THE LATE MR. REG. DENNETT. Loders' people, and many others elsewhere, are still numbed by his sudden death, and still feeling deeply for his widow and son at Croad's Farm. Loders Church is still feeling keenly the loss of the vice-captain of the ringers, a sidesman, and one who though always busy about a family farm, and often in poor health, was never too busy to take a lion's share in the fete, or to do a neighbour a good turn and do it cheerfully. Mr. Dennett had driven himself into the doctor, come back, changed into his working clothes and gone into the yard, where he was found dead by his sister-in-law. Not long beforehand he had said this was the way he would like to pass on. The church was full for the funeral, there was a mass of flowers and that night muffled peals rang out over his grave from the tower he had served so well. He was buried near another captain of ringers, Mr. Harry Legg.

MISS JOY NORMAN, whose mother tells us that she began her strong attachment to Askerswell Church at the tender age of two, contrived to overcome many difficulties and be married there on December 12th. The difficulties arose out of her being a nurse on board the Queen Mary, and her bridegroom, Mr. Nelson Aldrich Roddman, being a citizen of the United States. The wedding date had to be changed several times before one could be found to suit both parties and finally it was by licence. Joy and her husband are making their home in New Jersey. What pleased the Rector beside the satisfaction of performing the office was the proof it afforded that a church wedding can be as quiet and inexpensive as any other. It is what the parties choose to make it.

THE LADYE CHAPEL ROOF of Loders Church is producing increasing evidence of its sorry state. The two big wet patches at the east end of the ceiling are now reinforced by a small black hole at the west end, which lets the rain through and on to the pew beneath. Something will have to be done, and soon.

LODERS CHURCHYARD. As the church's financial year has just ended, we are now able to answer the oft repeated question as to how the work done in the churchyard is being paid for. First, the cost. The labour of our two excellent men, and petrol for the machine, came to £74 14s. 6d, plants were £6, and repairs to the rotoscytho £7. 0s 8d. making a total cost of £87. 15s. 2d. Subscriptions and fees fell short of this. They amounted to £65. 12s. 9d, and the unhealthy thing about them is that no less than £50 was given by four people, who have not promised to make a habit of it, but wanted to save the church collections a burden they cannot bear, and give the parish time to work out a fair method of enabling all parishioners to do their share towards the upkeep of a public utility in which they all have equal legal rights, irrespective of religious denomination or lack of one. We hope that when the next annual parish meeting comes round it may be able to agree on a solution.

MR. IAN FORBES must be about the first member of Loders congregation to fight and win a seat on Bridport Borough Council. Congratulations. One Mayor's Sunday in the not too distant future we may see the city fathers trooping out to Loders Church to be told how to run Bridport.

SERVICES IN JANUARY

<u>LODERS</u>	1st Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	8th "	8	" 2
	10th Askerswell Young Farmers' Club Service		7.30 p.m.
	15th Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	22nd "	8	" 2.
	29th "	8	" 2
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	1st Children 10	Evensong 6.30	
	8th Matins	10	
	15th Family Service	10,	
	22nd Holy Communion	10	
	29th Matins	10.	

DOTTERY All Services at 3.

PARISH NOTES

LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

FEBRUARY, 1967

SOMETHING THAT CANNOT WAIT The recent heavy rain has shown how right the architect was in saying that the temporary roof on the south aisle of Loders Church would soon have to be replaced by a permanent one of lead. Three ugly patches have appeared in the newly whitened ceiling and water drips through two of them on to the floor beneath. Unchecked, this could soon produce falls of plaster and make the south aisle dangerous. Up till now the Church Council have never commissioned work on the church before they had the money to pay for it. In the last twenty years they have gone quietly along and spent over £5,000 on the restoration of the church, deriving the wherewithal from the annual fete and from private benefactions. They had hoped that the temporary roof would last till they had the money for the permanent one, but that is not to be. They have no choice but to start the work before they have the money, so the architect has been given his orders and an appeal is being made for £1,500. The appeal has got off to a good start, for the Honourable Alexander Hood has promised £200 and two former parishioners - Mr. G. Samways of Sussex, and Mr. A.E. Samways, of New Zealand - have each sent twenty guineas. The appeal is aimed chiefly at the large circle of friends that Loders Church has outside the parish. Donations may be sent to the Vicar. The parish will doubtless continue to do its part through the fete and any other local enterprises that may be found necessary.

THE LATE MR. HAROLD SPILLER. Askerswell and indeed the whole neighbourhood, was metaphorically stunned by the sudden death of Mr. Harold Spiller, for forty years organist and thirty-six years people's warden of Askerswell Church. It was incredible that one who had lived so long and actively with bad health should die within twelve hours of admission to Dorchester Hospital. The place he held in the general affection and esteem was indicated by the size of the congregation at his funeral. There wasn't an empty seat. Loders' Choir led the singing and Loders' organist (Mr. Bill Tiltman) accompanied. In an address the Rector paid tribute to Mr. Spiller's devoted service to the church and to those qualities of character that made him so kindly and conscientious and dependable. He was buried in the grave of his mother, who was also an organist and had encouraged his study of music. Mrs. Spiller invited contributions towards the £150 still owing on the recent redecoration of the church, instead of flowers. This resulted in a retiring collection of £32 6s. 6d, with more promised. The P.C.C. are very grateful to Mrs. Spiller for this practical thought and to the donors. The P.C.C. are also indebted to Mr. Tiltman for his readiness to help out with the organ.

THE LATE MISS EDITH EVANS. Loders Church, like Askerswell, lost a staunch supporter in Miss Evans, although her great age and her indisposition had relegated her to the "invisible congregation" for many years. She was a native of Birmingham, and it was there that her really active church life was spent. Twice a Sunday she took a Sunday School class, and for over sixty years she was regular at the 8 o'clock Communion. She and her friend, Miss Samways, thought nothing of walking from Shatcombe to Loders Church for the 8 o'clock, though in their seventies. After the funeral service in church, the body was cremated and the ashes brought back for burial in the churchyard.

THE INFANT SON of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Trickett (nee Milcen Collier) was christened Paul Michael in Askerswell Church on January 4th.

LODERS continues to receive an influx of new parishioners and they all seem pleased with the locality and the friendliness of their neighbours. The occupant of the bungalow next to Mrs. Holmes in New Road is Mrs. V.D. Riches, a widow, who comes from Southall. She is a friend of Mrs. Morris, who lately settled at the other end of the road. She has two children, a son in the British Embassy in Bonn and a married daughter in Canada. The young couple who have come to live near the old forge in Uploders, are Mr. and Mrs. David Kelly. Mrs. Kelly is a niece of Mr. Reg. Ascott, of Upton Farm. The other young couple at Court Cottages are Mr. and Mrs. John Parker, who come from Beaulieu, of car museum fame. They have three boys, aged nine, seven and five - potential recruits for the Sunday School.

A PICTURE of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Walke, of Yondover, has appeared in the Bridport News to mark the celebration of their golden wedding on January 27th. Mrs. Walke is a sister of our universally beloved "Granny" Newberry and, therefore, one of the hierarchy of that large family which means so much to Loders Church.

She is also the mother of our Mrs. Raymond Crabb, whose family can likewise be relied on for support when it is needed. Mr. Walke was once a captain of bellringers at his home near Plymouth. We regret that anno domini should have rendered him unserviceable to our bells.

Mothers' Union Notes. Our correspondent writes: "The M.U. were delighted that nine young mothers came to their January party, and helped to make it the gay success it was; we catered for thirty-five children and nine babies and a good time was had by all. On our third Thursday we heard about the Central Council's views on the new commission on marriage and divorce, brought back from the Salisbury conference by the Enrolling Member. Afterwards a Quiz showed us how much we did not know. The winner was Mrs. Wilkins, with Mrs. Christine Newberry a close second. This month we hope will find us and all our friends and well-wishers in Lodgers' Hut at 3 p.m. on Thursday, February 16th, to hear our District Nurse, Miss Fooks, talk about coping with emergencies in the home. There will also be a bring and buy stall at this meeting in aid of Mary Sumner House which is 'in the red'. So please come in a generous mood, or send a gift by a friend. Our memorial fund for the late Mrs. Fooks is now closed and the total of £4. 11s. 6d. sent to the treasurer of Askerswell P.C.C."

Askerswell Sunday School greeted the new year with an Epiphany service. They used their six newly presented prayer books, which may be marked, and started their self-made church dictionary.

Lodgers ringers have received welcome reinforcements in Mr. Ernest Crabb, Mr. Frank Good and Mark Green, although Mark's services are circumscribed by the impending departure of his family to Wiltshire. Mr. Good is now out of the R.A.F. and working in Bridport. When he can find a house he hopes to be joined by his wife and two children, who are at present in Norfolk. Askerswell tower is still in need of at least two ringers. Mr. Garrard is a welcome accession to the attenuated establishment.

Askerswell Young Farmers' Club. It was fitting that a club which began under the aegis of a former rector of Askerswell should end the thirty years of its fruitful existence under the present Rector, if end it had to. Although the active membership had declined to twelve, Lodgers Church was almost full for the service marking the end of Askerswell Y.F.C. and the beginning of the Bride Valley Y.F.C., of which Askerswell Y.F.C. is the nucleus. The explanation is that many of the congregation had been members of the club twenty or thirty years ago, and time can sow a grizzle on most faces. Mr. Stuart Ascitt, of Upton Farm, will be chairman of the new club and we wish him and it well. Here is a thought: because active membership of the church is in decline, everybody says this is because much is wrong with the church. But when young farmers' clubs, women's institutes and the like decline, as they are doing all over the country, nobody suggests that this is in any way their fault. Blame is laid on the times we live in. And this is where most of the blame rightly belongs. But in fairness to the church, all those members of it who have ceased to practise their religion might ask themselves whether they are free from blame.

Mrs. Scadding, of Gardiners' Arms, Dottery, has undergone a second and major operation in Portway Hospital, Weymouth. Her husband is home from work, running the house for their five sons. Mrs. Bagwell was welcomed back to church after her sojourn in the Weymouth isolation hospital.

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, February 8th, when there will be a school service at 9.15 and Communion at 10 in Lodgers: Communion in Askerswell at 11 and Communion in Dottery at 7.30. No extra services for Lent have been arranged. It is hoped that more conscientious use will be made of those already provided.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

<u>LODGERS</u>	5th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2.
	12th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2.
	19th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2.
	26th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2.
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	5th	Sunday School 10	Evensong 6.30	
	12th	Matins 10		
	19th	Family Service 10		
	26th	Holy Communion 10.		
<u>DOTTERY</u>	5th	Holy Communion 9.30	All others at 3.	

PARISH NOTES

LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

MARCH, 1967

LODERS CHURCH ROOF - Readers of these Notes will know that there is an appeal for £1,500 to ~~re-cover~~ the badly leaking roof of the Ladye Chapel with lead. It has occurred to at least one thoughtful person to question our sense of priority: why did we spend money on less important projects like lighting and decorating when the roof was shouting for it? Well, the roof was not shouting when the lighting and decorating were done. There were no signs of leaks in the Ladye Chapel ceiling, nor expectations of any; for the temporary felt covering put on in 1952 was reckoned by the then architect to have a life of twenty-five years, that is, till 1977, by which time the P.C.C. hoped to have the money for a permanent one. Then other problems arose. The South-Western Electricity Board reported that the wiring of the church was dangerous and in urgent need of renewal. This was obviously the time to make the lighting more efficient, so the electricians were commissioned to do both. Another unexpected problem to arise was the collapse of the plaster on the east wall of the chancel, behind the altar. The wall had to be replastered and re-decorated. But one smart wall would make the others shabby, so they would have to be done as well, and it followed that if the chancel were re-decorated the rest of the church would have to be. Another consideration was the scaffolding, an expensive item in church repairs. If the body of the church were re-decorated at the same time as the chancel, it could be done on the same scaffolding. And that is the saga of how the lighting and re-decorating came to be done before the roof. Donations continue to trickle in. One has just come from Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Miller, formerly of Brook Barton, Uploders, and now of Kilmington, who would like to be remembered to their friends here.

DONATIONS to Askerswell Church in lieu of flowers for the late Mr. Harold Spiller's funeral came finally to £37 and with the donations for the late Mrs. Fooks have enabled the debt on the church re-decoration to be reduced to £100.

THE INFANT DAUGHTER of Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunham (nee Brenda Foot, of the Travellers' Rest, and now of Sherborne) was christened Terisa Ann in Loders Church on February 19th, in the presence of a large company of relatives and friends, and of the Sunday School.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is on March 5th and there will be the usual mothering service in Loders Church at 2 p.m. With Easter so early there would normally be no flowers for the children to take to the senior citizens afterwards, but the mildness of the winter has brought on primroses, violets and daffodils. Indeed, one gardener has a peach in blossom and this does not please him.

Mr. Price, the headmaster of Loders School, will be in France next term on a course to improve his French, and, it is hoped, the children's. So instead of a May Fair for school funds, there will be a Spring Sale on Saturday, March 18th, at 2.15 p.m. Our parishioners scarcely need reminding that the essence of successful sales is generous givers and avid buyers.

UPROOTING. After knowing no other home than Loders, Mrs. Audrey Green and her children, Mark and Karen, are moving with Mr. "Bunny" Green to Hilperton, near Trowbridge, where Mr. Green will operate as area manager for his firm. Our best wishes will go with them, but we are horribly conscious of the loss they will be to the parish. Karen was in the choir, Mark was a ringer and Mrs. Green's needle was often employed on church curtains and the like. Our one consolation is that they still have ties with Loders and should often be back.

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES. Our correspondent writes:- "In spite of relentless rain, and the enforced absence of seven of our most regular members, the February meeting mustered twenty hardy souls to learn (and unlearn) from Nurse Fooks what to do in many types of accidents. To round off her comprehensive and very worthwhile talk, she showed us how to give the 'kiss of life'. Our grateful thanks to everyone who by their giving and buying made the stall a gay success. It took £6, which got us 'out of the red' and enabled us to send £1 more than we were asked for to Mary Sumner House. This month we meet in Loders Church at 3 p.m. on Thursday the 16th for the enrolment of two new members, and for a special preparation for Easter from our Vicar. In recognition of Lent, and the nearness of Holy Week, we decided to return home immediately after the service so as not to mist up the address with our usual tea and chatter. By the time these Notes are out, we hope to have gathered in Dottery Church for an extra corporate communion."

ASKERSWELL SUNDAY SCHOOL are very sad at saying goodbye to Susan and Peter Lovel. We wish them Godspeed and hope that they will add strength to their new Sunday School in Morden.

OBITUARY. Uploders had two unexpected deaths to endure last month. First, Mrs. Olive Legg died shortly after admission to Bridport Hospital, having been looked after in true neighbourly fashion by Mrs. Mary Gill and Mr. and Mrs. Lambert. Mrs. Legg had worked in the local twine factory for 44 years and the number of fellow-employees who came to the funeral in Loders Church showed what a good companion they had found her. Second, the body of Mr. John Haynes, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Crabb, and father of two of their grandchildren, was found on Eggardon in tragic circumstances. After cremation at Weymouth the ashes were buried in the grave of his wife Ann in Loders churchyard. We feel deeply for Mr. and Mrs. Crabb for all they have borne so bravely in this sad history.

HIDDEN TALENT Miss Edwards has long been known to the people of Askerswell as one skilled in the needle, and with a gift for running Brownies, but few realised that she was also a painter of considerable merit. At the West Dorset Arts and Crafts exhibition at Beaminster she took first prize for a water colour seascape, first for an oil of an orchard in Yorkshire, and first for a needlework firescreen. A prophet is not without honour save in his own country, but it seems a partner is; for Miss Edwards also took first prize at Askerswell W.I. for a valentine.

SENIOR CITIZENS. Miss Turk, known to several generations of Askerswell children as caretaker of the school, reached her ninetieth birthday on February 3rd and received many congratulations. Mrs. Martha Marsh, of Lower Hambury, was ninety-one in July last, and Mr. Fred Samways is rising ninety next July. All three are in tolerable health, and Mr. Samways even attended the funeral of Mr. Harold Spiller. But the honour of having the oldest inhabitant belongs to Loders, where Mrs. Hyde will be ninety-seven in July. She lives with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Crabb, at Yonderover. She is now very frail, and needs much attention, but nothing is too much trouble for Mrs. Crabb. Mrs. Hyde's late husband was sexton of Loders for many years.

Without implying that Miss Wilkes is in anything like the nineties, we would like to mention that in her retirement in Parkstone, she continues to be a reader of these Notes, and to take a keen interest in the quarter of a century of children she taught at Loders School. She also retains her sense of humour; for she declined an invitation to a local wedding on the ground that her liability to fall in a blackout might be misconstrued.

THE TIMES OF EASTER SERVICES will be found at the foot of the page. May we remind the faithful that the feast of the Resurrection is the time above all others to receive Holy Communion? Easter is also the time when church officers are appointed and church accounts presented. These very necessary jobs are done at a hybrid meeting of the vestry and annual church assembly. For practical purposes, the meeting may be, and should be, attended by all adult parishioners. At Askerswell it will be in the school on Tuesday, March 28th at 8 p.m. As Loders School has again been booked by the geographers from Sheffield, Loders vestry will be in the vicarage on Wednesday, March 29th, at 8 p.m.

MR. BERT OWEN, of Matravers House, died last month, and we would like to offer our sympathy to his widow and family, who tended him through an eighteen month illness. Like the previous owner of Matravers he had been a seafarer.

SERVICES IN MARCH

LODERS	5th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2	
	12th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2	
	19th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2	
	Maundy Thursday		Holy Communion 10		
	GOOD FRIDAY	Litany 9,	Matins 11.		
EASTER DAY Holy Communion 7, 8, 12. Matins 11, Children 2.					
DOTTERY	5th	Holy Communion 9.30:	12th and 19th	Evensong 3.	
	Good Friday	Litany 7.30.	EASTER DAY	Holy Communion 9. Evensong 3.	
ASKERSWELL	5th	Children 10.	Evensong 6.30.	12th Matins 10.	
	19th	Family Service 10.	Good Friday	Litany 10.	
	EASTER DAY Holy Communion 10. Evensong 6.30.				

LODERS CHURCH ROOF. The estimates for this have now been received, and the lowest is Bailey of Beaminster, whose acceptance is recommended by the architect. It is for £1550, provided unexpected damage is not revealed when the roof is opened up. The architect's fee will be 10% of this. The architect has just completed his five-yearly survey of Loders and Dottery churches. He has not yet issued his report. He tells us that Dottery needs no more than routine attention, which is a crumb of comfort. But trouble is piling up for Loders. He has looked beneath the slates of the chancel roof. The timbers supporting it are the originals, possibly five hundred years old. They have perished beyond repair, and will need renewing within ten years at the outside. At present prices this would be another £2000 job. At some time the temporary felt roof on the tower will have to be replaced, and most of the church windows re-lead. So there will be a demand for all that the fete, and individual offerings, can supply for years ahead. Meanwhile donations to the Ladye Chapel roof continue to trickle in, often accompanied by exceedingly nice letters. Mrs. Beatty Clarke, one of the Uploders matriarchs (now in Allington) has sent a donation in memory of her late niece, Mrs. Olive Legg; so have Mrs. Record and Mr. C. Bell. Miss Wilkes, a well beloved headmistress of Loders School (who still keeps a magisterial eye upon us) has sent from Parkstone; and a good farmer's wife has given the price of a calf. A Mr. George Nicholson, of Newcastle on Tyne, writes with his donation, "We admire the folk of your parish in facing up to such a problem in this sorry age of inflation. May they be more successful than Canute in keeping the water out!" Another distant letter, this time from Pontefract, Yorkshire, says, "Please accept this small donation which we two pensioners have pleasure in sending towards the repair of your lovely old church, which we visited during our recent summer holidays. We hope all who have visited it will send a little."

EASTER AT CHURCH. The earliness of Easter this year had been neutralised by an exceptionally mild winter, so there were masses of daffodils and primroses which the ladies and an army of Sunday School children used in the decoration to a fine effect. A few familiar faces were missing from the services because their owners had to spend Easter at College, or Hospital, but congregations were up to standard, and choir and organists saw to it that the 'Easter Shout' was mellifluous as ever. Loders singers did yeoman service in helping out at Askerswell, and were glad of assistance from the visiting family of Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich, also of Loders. The number of communicants was the Easter average--162. Collections on Easter Day were £77-9-0 (Dottery £6-13-3, Askerswell £20-11-7, Loders £50-4-2). These form part of the Vicar's stipend, and he would like to thank the kind givers.

TRIPLE CHRISTENING. Easter Day has always been a favourite time for christenings. At Dottery there were three-- Mark and Gary, sons of Mr. and Mrs. M.S. Townsend (nee June Roper); and Fiona Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Samways (nee Sheila Smith). There was also one at Loders, Michael David, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Ludford (nee Jean Harris).

THERE WAS A GOOD ATTENDANCE at the Askerswell annual parish meeting, presided over by Captain Aylmer. The parish representative on the R.D.C., Group-Captain Newall, gave a brief account of some of its work. The meeting learnt that the parish is to have a share of the proceeds of the sale of the old school, provided these are used to build a church hut. The planning officer has given tentative approval for a cedar-wood hut, to hold sixty people, on the parish field; and the sanitary officer is being co-operative over temporary arrangements until public drainage comes to the village.

ASKERSWELL EASTER VESTRY has been bedevilled by chicken pox and mumps, and is postponed until Tuesday, April 18th, at 8 p.m., in the school. Loders vestry also had to be transferred, to April 7th., 8 p.m., in the school (which if these Notes are delivered at the usual time means tonight). These childhood complaints have decimated the school, and laid low some of our chief citizens (who learnt to their cost that mumps and chicken-pox are best left to children). It also affected the attendance at the mothering Sunday service, although not to the extent expected.

MOTHERS' UNION. Our correspondent writes, "There will be a general open meeting in Loders Hut on Thursday, April 20th, to which we hope all our friends and relations of both sexes will come. Coloured slides will be shown of work in the Patna diocese of Bihar, and some of the Himalayas from Dalhousie, Amritsar. Our speaker will be Miss Osgathorp, who came home in 1965 after forty years work with C.E.Z.M.S. in India. The M.U. meeting will begin promptly at 3 p.m., and the talk at 3.15."

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of Lodgers singers, Mr. Harry Crabb was re-elected captain, Mr. David Gill vice-captain, Mr. Tom Dennett tower warden and Mr. Bill Maddison secretary and treasurer. The Vicar who presided thanked the singers for their regular Sunday attendance at the tower and for their frequent help at Askerswell, and welcomed the return of Mr. Ernest Crabb and Mr. Frank Good. The singers wish their many supporters who have been asking about the collection to know that it is not forgotten-- the little red books will be round shortly.

THE FUNERAL of the late Mr. A.J. Frapple, of Lower Pymore Farm, was conducted by the Vicar of Taunton Crematorium on Easter Eve. The widow and daughters are in no doubt as to the sympathy felt for them in their tragic loss.

OUR GOOD WISHES will accompany Mr. Stuart Ascott, of Upton Manor Farm, who has flown to Australia to take up a farming appointment near his Uncle, Mr. Bunny Lenthall. The Ascott family were with Stuart at evensong at Askerswell shortly before the departure.

LODGERS SCHOOL FAIR made a highly satisfactory £27 for the school fund, and provided an entertaining afternoon in the process. Being mother of a babe in arms, or rather of a babe fixed to her shoulders, did not prevent the headmaster's wife from doing much of the making and organising for the sale. Her enthusiasm inspired the other parents to activity. Mrs. Halsdon found herself called on unexpectedly to adjudicate the fancy dress. She gauged the mind of the spectators pretty accurately in her awards.

SETTLED AT LAST. The long suffering parish councillors of Lodgers, and especially their clerk, Mr. Harold Brown, must have breathed a sigh of relief when the parochial electors stopped dithering as to whether the parish graveyard around the church was to be helped out of its financial straits by a house to house collection, or share the same privilege as the parish cemetery, and be given a contribution from the rates. The Council had gone to the trouble of putting the issue to the electors by delivering typed statements to every house, and the response had been indecisive-- one parish assembly with a small majority for a rate, and another with a small majority for a house-to-house collection. Neither recommendation had been acted upon, and the £90 remained to be found that it costs to maintain the churchyard now that the voluntary work that saved the parish any labour charge has ceased. In a praiseworthy effort to get the matter really settled at this year's parish assembly, councillors again gave their time to distributing to every house in the parish a notice of the meeting, and the issue to be settled. For once the local machinery of democracy responded. A record number of about seventy electors attended and exercised their constitutional right to a voice in parish affairs, and voted by 49 to 16 that the parish churchyard should have equal treatment with the parish cemetery and get a contribution from the rates. Of course, a parish council is not obliged to execute every request of a parish assembly, but in a case like this, of a large vote and an overwhelming majority, a council would be making nonsense of democracy if it did not. And the request for the churchyard was modest. The proceeds of the twopenny rate recommended would be about £50, leaving the church to raise the other half. The parochial electors have a good bargain. In return for a tiny annual levy per household they have the legal right, no matter what their religion, to be buried in Lodgers churchyard at £3 per gravespace compared with £28 in Bridport.

SERVICES IN APRIL.

<u>LODGERS</u>	2nd	Holy Communion	8	Matins	11	Children	2
	9th	Holy Communion	8	Matins	11	Children	2
	16th	Holy Communion	8 and 12	Matins	11	Children	2
	23rd	Holy Communion	8	Matins	11	Children	2
	30th	Holy Communion	8	Matins	11	Children	2
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	2nd	Sunday School	10	Evensong		6.30	
	9th	Matins	10				
	16th	Family Service	10				
	23rd	Holy Communion	10				
	30th	Matins	10				

DOFFERY

All services at 3 p.m.

MAY, 1967

LODERS CHURCH ROOF. There are two more donations to acknowledge with grateful thanks, one from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rudd, in memory of the late Mr. Gilbert Miller, and the other from Lord Hood. The work is reckoned to cost about £1,700. The tender of Bailey of Beaminster has been accepted and he is ready to begin as soon as the faculty is through. To save too much harping on the same theme, the parish is being asked to regard the fete as its main effort for the roof for this year. The date of the fete has had to be altered to August 26th because Loders Court will be shut on the usual date. At the Easter Vestry the Hon. Mrs. Alexander Hood was again asked to take charge and she has agreed. The Vicar's offer to do the collecting found no rival takers, and was accepted.

ASKERSWELL CHURCH will also be holding a fete at Mr. and Mrs. Garrard's on Saturday, July 15th. There is still £100 owing on the recent re-decoration of the church. The architect's impending report on the church fabric and the building of a hut to replace the school, will call for a lively exercise in money raising. By the time these Notes are in readers' hands there will have been a parish meeting to make preliminary arrangements about the hut. As the parish at present lacks any public place of assembly save the church, the meeting had to be held there. The old school building was sold by public auction to Mr. Turner (who lives near it) for £2,100. The proceeds will go into a suspensory account until agreement is reached on the share the hut will receive.

CHURCH OFFICERS for the ensuing year were appointed at the recent Easter Vestries. For Dottery there was no change: Mr. Cecil Marsh and his son John continue as churchwardens. The only change at Loders was the election of Mr. R. Deacon to fill a vacancy among the sidesmen: Mr. McDowall and Mr. Sanders are still the churchwardens. At Askerswell there were several changes, which resulted in all three of the Services being represented. As Rector's and People's wardens respectively Captain Aylmer and Captain Lumby are for the Navy. Major Evans is for the Army, and Group Captain Newall is for the Royal Air Force, those being sidesmen. To make more room on the Church Council for new blood, some whose spouses were already on, volunteered themselves off, namely Mrs. Aylmer, Mrs. Newall, Mrs. Lumby and Mr. George Bryan. Mr. and Mrs. Garrard were elected representatives on the Rural-Deanal Conference, which also gives them a place on the Church Council.

ASKERSWELL CHURCH ACCOUNTS. Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1966 was £409. 4s. 8d., receipts £466. 5s. 1d., and credit balance £57. -. 5d. On the credit side church collections produced £124. 2s. 3d., and covenants and refunds £108. 18s. 8d. The credit balance was £73. 11s. 3d., less than the previous year.

DOTTERY CHURCH ACCOUNTS, showed expenditure at £216. 17s. 6d., receipts at £291. 12s. 10d. and a credit balance of £74. 15s. 4d. The accounts had been greatly helped by a legacy of £100 from the late Miss Maud Hayward.

THE LATE MR. GILBERT MILLER. We recently recorded a donation from Mr. Miller to Loders Church roof fund, not suspecting that we should soon be recording his sudden death, or that he who seemed so young in mind had reached the ripe age of seventy-seven. The Marshwood Vale where he and his widow had spent most of their married life, was his first love, but he generated quite a love for Loders in his two and a half years here. The Vicar remembers with gratitude the hours he worked for nothing in the churchyard, and the further hours he spent in licking the glebe into shape. But he will best be remembered because his daily life was a fine advertisement for daily prayer, daily Bible reading, and regular Sunday worship. We feel deeply for Mrs. Miller in this time of adjustment. But this is where the doctrine of the communion of saints is a comfort.

THE SUMMER EVENSONGS will begin at Loders on Whit Sunday at 7 p.m.

WHEN LODERS CHURCH ACCOUNTS were presented by Mr. William Graves at the Easter Vestry he warned that the heavy cost of church rewiring and repairs in 1966 had almost exhausted the reserves. Expenditure was £1,873. 5s. 4d., income £1,076. 10s. 5d., and the debit balance £796. 14s. 11d. Church collections had amounted to £530. 14s. 2d. and the covenants and tax recovered to £117. 15s. 2d. The deficit would have been greater had not fourteen public spirited persons given over £60 to save the new burden of £90 for churchyard maintenance from falling on the church collections.

LODERS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. There is widespread interest as to what the Parish Council will do about the Parish Assembly's emphatic request for a contribution of £50 to be made from the rates towards the £90 it costs to maintain the parish churchyard. The subject was on the agenda of the Council meeting held on April 21st, so a representative of the Notes attended to report proceedings. As the meeting was lengthy, he can only give the gist of the speeches, trusting he has summarised them fairly. There were six of the seven councillors present, with the clerk. An apology for absence had been received from Mr. Harrison. The first business was to consider an application for an increase of pay from £20 to £30 by the caretakers of the cemetery. This was granted - and the Council will meet it largely by their precept on the rates. A letter was then read from Mr. Harrison, urging the Council to contribute a twopenny rate towards the cost of the parish churchyard, and hoping this might heal the division in the parish. Mr. Albert Wells said the parish had two burial grounds in operation, and obviously the parish should do something for both, but exactly what he just didn't know. Mr. George Hyde said Loders had one of the loveliest churches to be found anywhere, and churches cost a lot to keep up. Mr. Wilfred Crabb said he had read that in France churches and churchyards were supported by the state. In England they should be maintained by the Church Commissioners, who received the tithe and were very wealthy. Mr. Skeats agreed that Loders had a lovely church and well-kept churchyard. He was willing to pay a contribution, but a rate never. The £90 needed for the churchyard was but a drop in the ocean of the church's expenditure, and the church could afford it. Mr. Albert Gale said Loders Church was always asking for money and never satisfied. If a rate were granted, this would not stay put - it would go up and up and up. Mr. Charlie Gale agreed, and said Loders Church had greatly changed, not for the better, and he had no time for the present set-up. Eventually Mr. Skeats proposed, Mr. Charlie Gale seconded, and it was carried unanimously, to defer the matter to the next meeting. Having suspended judgment on the Parish Assembly's proposal, the Council did not go in pursuit of its own, to take up a parish collection, for the parish churchyard.

COMMENT: Mr. Wilfred Crabb's belief that tithe goes to the Church Commissioners is mistaken. Tithe was nationalised thirty years ago, in 1936. Like railway fares and electricity charges, it goes to the Government. It is to be hoped the Council will not delay a decision too long, for grass grows, the men have to be paid and the congregation refuse to be saddled with the entire upkeep of a public utility. After all, they are few in number, and they already pay the running expenses of the Church. If they (and several of them are not Loders people) are ready to pay half the cost of the churchyard, cannot the Council give in to the Parish Assembly? Who would guess from all the palaver that the parish are only being asked to pay an average of a penny-farthing per household per week, and for the care of their own dead?

THE INFANT DAUGHTER of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Stone, their firstborn, was christened Dionne in Loders Church on April 30th, a large concourse of relatives and friends attending.

WHO WANTS A CAR? Major Evans, of Medway Farm, is offering a car to anybody who will make a contribution to Askerswell Church repair fund. It is a Ford Popular, in good order, with a reconditioned engine and the M.O.T. certificate. He would like it moved soon.

AN EXPERIENCE of forty years as a missionary in India was behind the interesting talk given to the Mothers' Union by Miss Osgathorpe, who had previously spoken on the same subject to the children. There were coloured slides to illustrate the talk. Mr. Garrard operated the lantern.

SERVICES IN MAY

<u>LODERS</u>	7th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2.
	14th	(WHITE SUNDAY) Holy Communion 8.	Matins 11,	Children 2
			Evensong 7.	
	21st	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	28th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	7th	Sunday School 10.	Evensong 6.30	
	14th	Holy Communion 10.		
	21st	Family Service 10.		
	28th	Matins 10.		
<u>DOTTERY</u>	7th	Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.	All other Services 3 p.m.	

JUNE, 1967

THE LEADING SOPRANO of the London and Chelsea opera groups, Miss Jean Buck, has kindly agreed to sing excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" at evensong at Askerswell Church on Sunday, June 4th at 6.30 p.m. This is a treat that many of us are looking forward to. Miss Buck is staying for a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Reg Ascott at Upton Manor Farm. She is no stranger to televiewers. Lately she has been giving recitals in Wells and other cathedrals, to very large congregations, but she thinks she will enjoy a small village church just as much.

THE FUND for repairing Loders Church roof continues to draw donations sizeable and small. Last month one came from Mr. Sidney Dunham and another from somebody signing as "Self Denial". Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell Jones (formerly of Bridport, now of London) kindly left a donation after their recent stay in Loders (where they were affectionately greeted by several patients). Miss Audrey Sawbridge, a sister of the late Lady Le Breton, also sent a donation. In her letter she says, "I very gladly send a contribution towards the repairs needed, not only because Loders is such a lovely old church, but also because I have been to so many services there, including the Peace Day service of 1945 and Perronnelle's wedding. I remember the village and the church with the kindest feelings. It was quite part of my life during the forty years Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton were there and I am pleased to share a little in helping in this time of need".

IT MUST BE a long time since a secular function was held in the nave of Askerswell Church. By the sale of the school the parish has lost its only other meeting place, so the parish assembly that Captain Aylmer presided over last month had to be held in church. It met to make preliminary arrangements for a hypothetical church hut. A committee was elected consisting of Captain Lumby, Major Evans, Mr. Donald Marsh and Mrs. Newall. Their first business will be to liaise with the planning authority and to get parish ownership of the playing field duly registered.

THE LENT BOXES have yielded £12 8s. 6d. for the work of the church overseas.

LODERS' OLDEST INHABITANT, Mrs. Sarah Emily Hyde, died in her 97th year, and was buried in the grave of her late husband in Loders cemetery after a sung service in Loders Church. A quick glance back through the burial register rather suggests that, so far, she is the only parishioner to reach that age in this century. And it is doubtful whether she would have without the devoted nursing of her daughter, Mrs. Wilfred Crabb, with whom she lived in Yonderover for the last twelve years. Mrs. Hyde had been moved temporarily to Port Bredy Hospital while Mrs. Crabb was away at Weymouth for an operation and it was there that she died. Her connection with Loders Church had been a long one. During the years her husband was verger, she did the cleaning and set the high standard that has continued and is so remarked upon by visitors.

THE MOTHERS' UNION are reminded that the summer corporate communion will be in Loders Church on Thursday, June 8th at 10 a.m. Members will also be welcomed to tea at Orchards, Askerswell on Thursday, June 15th, where Mrs. Palmer, widow of a former Vicar of Loders, hopes to meet old friends. The Deanery Festival will be at Burton Bradstock on Wednesday, June 21st, at 7.30 p.m. Transport will be arranged at the Orchards' tea party.

ASKERSWELL SUNDAY SCHOOL. The three senior scholars have joined the three helpers as wardens. One of these six will always take the collection at the Family Service and help with the counting in the vestry afterwards. One tenth of this collection will go to Sunday School funds. In May it was seven shillings, which was added to that sent to Christian Aid.

THE JUNIOR CHOIR of Loders Church has received useful reinforcements in Susan Cornish, Susan Price and Dulcie Newberry. Thelma Record has gone into the senior choir and gives Mrs. Willmott much appreciated help with the junior Sunday School.

LODERS is kept busy digesting new parishioners, and finds the latest batch to its liking. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzer are in Court Cottages. He was chauffeur to Sir Ted Leather, the M.P. for North Somerset and if he finds a Loders Mill lorry more strenuous, at least it is less time-consuming. His daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Timbrell, are next door at Court Cottages. Mr. Timbrell now recovering from a severe

attack of mumps. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bunnell's former home has become a weekend cottage for Mr. Ackerman and his daughter Mrs. Denning and her husband, P.C. Denning, all of Bristol. Mr. Turner's bungalow in West Milton Lane is now the home of a retired couple, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, who, coming from near Brighton, find the Dorset countryside very quiet and also very agreeable. The new bungalow opposite Uploders House will be a weekend cottage, until they retire, for Mr. and Mrs. Sinnett, who have a hair dressing business near Epsom. Yonderover has lost three families, Mr. and Mrs. Hiscock have gone to Bridport; our much esteemed policeman, Mr. Parham, has moved with his family to Dorchester; and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Symes have gone to Vinney Cross.

MAINTENANCE OF LODERS CHURCHYARD. The Vicar writes: "At their last meeting, the Parish Council made the point that although the parish assembly which requested a £50 grant from the rate to the churchyard was a large one, there are about 280 electors in the parish and how was it to be known whether the majority favoured this course? The R D C had suggested holding a referendum, but as this itself might cost a threepenny rate the Parish Council, understandably, was not going to hold one. It could well be that a parish assembly of 70 might not represent the majority of a 280 electorate, so I paid a personal visit to most of the homes in the parish to discover what the electors really wanted. It took a lot of time. I had to go to many houses in the evenings to catch the men. Often I broke into a meal, or a television programme, but nearly everybody was kind and welcoming and I valued the experience. As a result, the Parish Council need no longer fear that the parish assembly did not represent the electorate. The electors are about three to one in favour of the parish going halves with the church, and contributing £50 p.a. from the rate towards what it costs to trim the churchyard now that my wife and I have to give it up. Of the 280 effective electors, 201 have signed a petition to this effect and for all I know, some of those who were out, or were unvisited, may also be in favour. A pleasing feature of the petition was that one of our oldest Roman Catholic families offered to sign before it was asked and members of every other Roman Catholic family in the parish signed too. Most of the Chapel people also signed. They were fully aware that parishioners of all denominations - or none - have equal burial rights in the churchyard. They were also emphatic that a contribution from the rate cannot justly be denied to the larger and older parish burial ground when it is already being made to the small one. A patient - a widow - in Bridport Hospital has just told me that her late husband is buried in Yeovil municipal cemetery. It cost her £11 to open the ground and she gets a bill of £2 each year towards cemetery expenses which she gladly pays. How trifling by comparison is the penny farthing per household per week from the rate that we are asking!"

IN HOSPITAL. We are pleased to report that one of the Loders congregation, Mrs. John Head, is making progress from a severe illness in Salisbury Infirmary; Mrs. Richard Hyde is convalescing in Bridport Hospital; Mr. Michael Harp is home recovering from a gruelling operation at Dorchester; and our Mr. David Thomas has managed several visits to church since his operation. Mrs. Dennett's sister, who was helping her at Croads, is in hospital in Portland with bone trouble. Our good wishes to that bravest of sufferers, Mr. George Randall, who is now considered fit enough for an operation.

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Linda Pitcher on winning the title of Miss Dorset Young Farmer against 73 competitors. She is as good as she is lovely, for she often drives her grandmother, Mrs. Reg. Pitcher, to Loders Church, where we like to see her in the seat she filled for so many years.

SERVICES IN JUNE

LODERS:	4th	Holy Communion 8 and 12.	Matins 11	Children 2.
	11th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11.	Children 2.
	18th	Holy Communion 8 and 12.	Matins 11.	Children 2. Evensong 7.
	25th	Holy Communion 8.	Matins 11.	Children 2.
ASKERSWELL:	4th	Sunday School 10	Evensong 6.30.	
	11th	Matins 10.		
	18th	Family Service 10.		
	25th	Holy Communion 10.		
DOTTERY:	4th	Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.		

All other Services at 3 p.m.