

PARISH NOTES

LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

JANUARY, 1968

We apologise for the late appearance of this month's Notes. Our typist has been in hospital and has now recovered from a minor operation. It was good of her to do the Notes when she had so much to catch up with at home. It is also good of her to decline the offer of an increased fee for her services, which accounts for the Notes being about the only thing in the world not to have increased in price in the last twenty years.

A Christmas Surprise. The Vicar received an envelope containing £5.11s. 3d. from Mr. J.F. Smith, landlord of the Loders Arms. With it was a letter which said "My customers contributed the sum of £11. 2s. 6d. to a Christmas Snowman which my family made with the express purpose that all monies collected in it would be devoted to funds for under-privileged children. I now have pleasure in enclosing cash £5. 11s. 3d. for the Church of England Children's Society. A similar sum will be handed over to the Reverend Father Tracey for the Catholic Rescue Society." Thanks to this and other kindly acts, the Children's Society did well. Loders Choir collected £18. at their carol singing and Loders School gave £4. 2s. 6d. at their carol service. With 75,000 children to care for, the Society is grateful for all that is forthcoming. A band of Askerswell carollers collected £5. 5s. for the children in the Cheshire Homes.

Loders Choir were valient to stick to their intention to sing carols in Uploders on the night of the Monday before Christmas. It was raining cats and dogs. The seniors doubted the wisdom of proceeding, but the juniors were not to be put off. Singing from the inside of cars with the windows open probably helped to save them from pneumonia, but the fuelling they received at filling stations on route must have been the really operative factor. At Uploders House Mr. and Mrs. Sanctuary, Commander and Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Rust were ready for them with hot soup, sausages, mincepies and an excellent sample of Mr. Sanctuary's mead. At Upton Peep Mrs. Lenthall awaited them with coffee, sandwiches, sausage rolls and cheese puffs. She has done this for so many years that the carollers made a small presentation to show their gratitude. The weather on the Wednesday night for the round of Loders was kinder. At Raikes Miss Mona Edwards had collected an audience from the outposts. She served them as well as the carollers with a seasonal brew of punch, piping hot, and mincepies. This kept body and soul together till they reached the big open fire at the Vicarage, where the more venerable members of the choir awaited them. Here the feasting was to music, and until near midnight.

Greetings to the parish reached the Vicarage from several old friends. One was from the Miss Hinks, formerly of Court Cottages and now in an old people's home at Sturminster Newton. They said "We hope the Vicarage family are well. We often remember how Juliet used to bring us violets. It must be a great blow to the village losing Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton. Would you kindly remember us to all in Loders - the Mothers' Union and Women's Institute especially? We cannot see to read or write, so matron is writing for us." Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roberts of Luton, who were regular summer visitors for many years, also sent good wishes to the parish. They both seem to be putting up a great fight against a complex of physical afflictions. Their letter ends, "If you look hard enough you may see our spirits in Loders Church on Christmas morning." Another letter was from Mrs. Robin Chater (formerly Alison Scott) enclosing a welcome donation to the church roof. She and Colonel Chater, and their children, Angus and Judy, will shortly be on leave in England from Khartoum. They are as full as ever of good wishes for the Church. Mrs. Chater says, "We made £150 in our garden last week for the Church Missionary Society Hospital in Omdurman." Miss Newbery, formerly of Uploders Farm, now of Woodford Halse, Rugby, wrote "Here is a small cheque for the roof fund. I shall be in spirit with you all at the midnight service. Our churchyard has been restored to order by volunteer workers this summer (It is about two acres). This was after twenty years of neglect. Most of the work was done by ladies, and elderly ones at that. One was 79. Congratulations to everyone on the wonderful sum raised at the fete." Then there were greetings from Canada, from those faithful old friends of Loders Church and great doers of good by stealth, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vacher (nee Marjorie Budden). We are glad to say that they are now recovered from a heavy attack of 'flu. Finally there were kind thoughts for everybody, tinged with nostalgia, from Miss Ruth Willmott, who is teaching German disabled children at a Rudolf Steiner home in the Black Forest. She sent wonderful decorations in the German style, made by herself.

Askerswell Sunday School surprised the adults at the Christmas family service by presenting the church with a new door mat. It was done up as a cracker and borne by two children to the chancel step, where the Rector thanked them and expressed a hope that it might soon be worn out by a multitude of feet coming into God's House.

The fine Christmas tree that presided over the school party and later over the services in Loders Church, was again supplied by Mr. Tom Foot, of Nallers, with that cheerful readiness that makes asking him a pleasure. By all our calculations he should have run out of trees years ago, but he just looks knowing, says "I can always find one for the children," and sure he does. At Dottery there was a mini-tree, equally effective in its own way, supplied by the Miss Males. All the church decorations were beautifully done. How the church holly came to be so flush with berries is a marvel. (For the first time in her life Mrs. Aylmer was buying holly in Dorchester and the standbys in Loders and Dottery failed this year.) All the Christmas services were well attended. Family reunion was the theme in church, as well as in the home, and it was heart warming to see old familiar faces emerging from the midnight darkness into the warm glow of the church, or reflecting the religious light of Christmas morning. Altogether there were about 200 communicants. Loders church fill twice in twelve hours - for the midnight and for matins. The children's carols on Christmas morning were a special delight and so they were at the school service. Mrs. Olive Legg performed her usual labour of love in hanging the tree with sweets on Christmas Eve, and Mrs. Lenthall gave them to the children after the carols.

The Mission Sale produced record takings of nearly £10 and a most entertaining Christmas play by the children. On this occasion one wishes that the school could be twice as big and that Mr. Price could have a stage on which to display the dramatic talent he coaxes out of the children. As it is, the children perform at ground level and have to make some of their entrances and exits through the crowded audience. All of it rather uncomfortable, but at the same time deeply enjoyable. The children came into their own the following week, when it was their party and there was more room. As always, loving parents had provided more than could be eaten and the presents from the tree had been chosen with a regard for each child's preferences.

The Uploders Chapel had the distinction of a service taken by the Methodist equivalent of a bishop, the chairman of the district, who at present is the Rev. Russel Pope. It was a pity illness and perhaps lethargy denied him a larger congregation, for those who attended heard a gripping and illuminating sermon. Mr. Pope is a Welshman and one with a splendid baritone voice. He was a choir in himself.

Mrs. Bradshaw, the secretary of the Uploders Chapel, was in Bridport Hospital, making good progress in a trying illness. Her husband had been asked to bring her clothes and was hopeful she might soon be home. Instead, the next morning brought him a message that she had had a fall and was in Portland hospital. A hitch in the ambulance service resulted in his arriving at Portland before she did! A subsequent operation for a broken hip was successful. She is accepting the situation cheerfully and making good progress. At Bridport she was in the next bed to our Mrs. D'Alcorn, who has recovered from a severe illness and is due, reluctantly, to return to Stoke Water.

Mrs. Raymond Crabb has given birth to a baby girl - her fourth - in Bridport hospital. Our congratulations must be muted, for like all farmers, her husband was wanting a son.

Mrs. E.M. Parsons, formerly of New Road and Vinney Cross, died at Stoke Water House on January 3rd., and was buried at Loders cemetery, in the grave of her husband, after a service in church. She was 88. Her husband died in 1962.

SERVICES IN JANUARY

Loders	7th	Holy Communion	8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	14th	Holy Communion	8	Matins 11	Children 2
	21st	Holy Communion	8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	28th	Holy Communion	8	Matins 11	Children 2
Askerswell	7th	Sunday School	10	Evansong 6.30	
	14th	Matins	10		
	21st	Family Service	10		
	28th	Holy Communion	10		
Dottery	7th	Holy Communion	9.30		

All others at 3 p.m.

PARISH NOTES

February, 1968

LAST OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTIES. Mrs. Garrard and her daughter and husband conspired to give the children of Askerswell Sunday School a party that will linger long in their memories. Other kind friends helped with refreshments and Mrs. George Bryan supplied an admirable meeting place in the big room of Church Farm, which since the sale of the school has been functioning as a sort of village hall. (It will be missed when it reverts to a holiday cottage.) A small Christmas tree and presents imparted the seasonal touch. Miss Garrard led some songs on her guitar, and Mr. Garrard showed slides of local interest. The size of this Sunday School gathering was impressive for so small a village - over thirty were present.

THE GREAT EVENT in Loders in January was the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Forbes and Mr. Ian Nelson. The wetness of the day made everybody wish the weather could have been kinder - until they heard that the rest of the country was bunged up with snow that had got as far as Toller, then they realised that conditions might have been much worse. The car parking facilities of the parish were so stretched that some of the guests found themselves walking in the rain to the church from beyond Moll Plot and the church seemed hard put to accommodate a congregation of three hundred. Mr. Nelson is a keen politician. Perhaps it was as well that the early recall of Parliament prevented all the M.P.s. from attending who had accepted invitations. Like his bride, Mr. Nelson has a considerable facility in music and this revealed some of itself in the choice of organ and choral pieces for the service. (Incidentally he is head of the famous publishing firm that bears his name.) The priest who assisted the Vicar was the Rev. Trevor Nash, a cousin of the bride, who is chaplain of St. George's Hospital, London. He was a page at the wedding of the bride's parents! Now Mr. and Mrs. Ian Forbes are in the blessed state of having no more children to marry. If walls have feelings, Loders Church must rejoice at being the place of three of their four weddings. No church could have more loyal members.

AT THE MONTHLY MEETING of the Mothers' Union in Loders Vicarage, Mrs. Adair, of Burton Bradstock, gave a talk on the Holy Land which competed successfully with the large open fire in keeping the members awake. Her visual aids were a collection of postcards she had brought back and some Palestinian dolls.

MRS. BRADSHAW of Yondover, has made a good recovery from her operation in Portland Hospital, and is glad to be home. Unfortunately for Mrs. Harry Sanders, she has to return to Portland for an adjustment. Mrs. Clarke is back in Uploders after her brief sojourn in Bridport Hospital.

LODERS AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSION CLUB has merged with the Chideock Club. Declining attendance at meetings had made something like this inevitable. The February meeting of the combined club will be on the 27th and the annual dinner on March 12th, both at the Bull Hotel.

RUBY WEDDING. Mr. and Mrs. David Crabb, of Loders, recently celebrated forty years of married life. Congratulations! They were married in Loders Church by the Rev. A.B. Hutton on January 21st, 1928. Mrs. Crabb was formerly Miss Ellen Florence Hansford. The witnesses were Gladys Winifred Hansford and Samuel William Fry.

CABBAGES AT SIX SHILLINGS EACH, and cornflakes at 4/6 a box were some of the prices Mr. Michael Willmott, of Loders Vicarage, met when he went shopping on the island of Grand Turk, in the West Indies. He is doing a nine month spell of teaching in the secondary school there as his voluntary service before going to Cambridge next October. His first impression of the West Indians is that they are amiable souls whose menfolk hang about all day in the vicinity of bars, like the gentry in wild west films. The school that has somehow to contain 500 children is not much bigger than Loders Vicarage. When informed that he was to draw his subsistence allowance from the Island's "Treasury," he approached it in a mood of becoming reverence - to find that it was a small room with a rickety table, a chair and a few files. His own quarters are palatial by comparison and he has a wonderful coal-black mammy to mother him, and his mate - son of the chaplain of Mill Hill School. A double coincidence is the feature of Michael's school life so far. From Salisbury Cathedral School he won a music scholarship and an academic scholarship to Haileybury. From there he won a choral scholarship and an English exhibition to Selwyn College, Cambridge. There appears to be no precedent for this either at Haileybury or Selwyn and it is not yet settled whether he can take the money of both awards. As to the other son of the Vicarage, Nicholas, he is doing not at all

badly in the Army College at Chepstow. He led a patrol on an Outward Bound course in Snowdonia, when the weather was appalling and came out with almost the highest possible mark for leadership. Which atones for some of his Colfox reports.

LODERS CHURCH ACCOUNTS SCRUTINISED The business of paying the new cost of maintaining Loders churchyard is confusing to the uninitiated. Public discussion helps to clarify the issues, so the recent circular expressing Parish Council views is welcome. The Council take the line that the church should bear the whole cost by reducing its expenditure. But this is easier said than done. Running costs, like wages, electricity and insurance, are beyond the power of the church to reduce. Indeed, they increase. Neither can the cost of repairs to the church fabric be reduced, not even by cutting out the architect, because the law compels us to use one. Only the contributions to charitable objects are within the church's power to reduce and this would be morally wrong. The Lord would certainly prefer the churchyard grass kept down by geese to a cutting of alms to orphans, famine relief, Christian medical work and education. The income of Loders Church at about £1,000 a year looks good, but is still inadequate to obligations. It needs seeing in perspective. What is it compared with the total income of the village? Some cottages have an income much in excess of the church's.

UNJUST Another suggestion of the Parish Council is to levy an annual maintenance charge on each grave in the churchyard. This is allowed by the Church Commissioners. But would it be fair in Loders where there are two parish burial grounds in which parishioners have equal rights? Should graves in the churchyard be taxed when graves in the cemetery are not? Should people with graves in the churchyard pay a maintenance charge plus a rate to the cemetery when people with graves in the cemetery pay a rate and no maintenance charge?

VOLUNTARY EFFORT is the Parish Council's third suggestion for dealing with the churchyard. But there has been no response to the appeals for volunteers already made. An annual house-to-house collection means extra work for somebody, and is of uncertain outcome. Why should the smaller burial ground have an assured income from a rate, and the larger and older depend on the begging bowl? The just and commonsense solution is to add to the sum collected by the R.D.C. for the cemetery and put it with the £50 offered by the Church Council for the churchyard.

THE DIFFICULT ATTITUDE of the Parish Council towards the churchyard may be due to out-dated ideas. Once upon a time, when everybody went to church, it was the legal duty of the parish church to provide burial facilities for all parishioners. Now the church attenders are a small minority. The Local Government Act of 1894 recognised this, and transferred the legal duty from the church to the local authority. So the Parish Council have their facts the wrong way round. They were not doing Loders Church a favour by opening a cemetery in 1957. They were simply doing their duty under the 1894 Act. It is the church that does them a favour by relieving them of some of their work. The Act of 1957 recognised that any religious body that buried the dead was sharing in a public service and made it possible for such bodies to receive a contribution from the rates. Asking for such contribution for Loders churchyard is not simply another bee in the Vicar's bonnet. Both Houses of Parliament have gone into the matter thoroughly and decreed that the rates may assist religious bodies in providing burial facilities. And the Act was passed only because Parliament felt the rates ought to.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

<u>LODERS</u>	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
	25th Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2

ASH WEDNESDAY Children 9.15 Communion 10.

<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	4th Sunday School 10	Evensong 6.30
	11th Matins 10	
	18th Family Service 10	
	25th Holy Communion 10	

ASH WEDNESDAY 11.

<u>DOTTERY</u>	4th Holy Communion 9.30
	All other Sundays 3 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY 7.30

MARCH, 1968

Lent comes again! The springtime of the soul
When heavy soil of sin must all be ploughed,
The seed cast in, and rain of tears
With sunshine of new faith and hope to ripen it
Against the harvest time.

The mid-Sunday in Lent, March 24th, is Mothering Sunday. In Loders the children invite their mothers and friends to the mothering service at 2 p.m. The children bring to church little presents for their mothers and flowers to be taken afterwards to the senior citizens of the parish. The day following, March 25th, is the feast of the Annunciation. Members of the Mothers' Union will hold a corporate communion in Loders at 10 a.m. To make a threesome of maternal observances, the Diocesan M.U. has fixed a service in Sherborne Abbey for Tuesday, March 26th, at 3 p.m. Mothers are busy people. That they should be required to parade three days running suggests a lack of foresight in the planning. But doubtless they will do their best.

LODERS CHURCH ROOF FUND. There are three donations from Dottery to acknowledge with warmest thanks - from Miss Gibb, Miss Elsie Male and Miss Doris Male.

THE ASKERSWELL SCENE. Small boy, to kind but rather exasperated neighbour "The pedal's fell off my bike. Will you please put it on?" Neighbour "Well, yes, I will, but why don't you ask your own father, for a change?" Small boy "He can't, He's watching telly."

THE DOTTERY SCENE was enlivened last month by a burglary and a fire. Strictly speaking, the burglary was not in Dottery. It was at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Sorsen, which is only a few yards from the church and yet in the parish of Netherbury. While these two elderly people were watching television one night the thief borrowed a ladder from our churchwarden, Mr. Cecil Marsh (unknown to the latter, of course), put it to a bedroom window and took from a wardrobe a tin containing £400, the deeds of the house and a marriage certificate. At the time of writing, the police had not caught up with him. Certainly this was not for lack of trying. Dottery is impressed by the thoroughness of the police investigations and by their courtesy, even when things looked suspicious. When the police called on Mr. Cecil Marsh he happened to be having one of his rare days off, with 'flu, and it was not easy to prove that he had not caught it at the top of a ladder on a cold night. The ladder had none of his finger prints and fortunately he has no gloves. When the police called on Mr. Roper he was home with a black eye and a swollen fore-arm. He found it harder than he thought to prove he had fallen off a bike and not out of a ladder. With a night prowler still at large, the devout ladies of Dottery are taking no chances. They successfully petitioned the Vicar to cancel the evening service on Ash Wednesday and came to Loders to the morning communion instead. National savings in Bridport went up the week after the robbery and we cannot say whether the mattresses or long stockings of Dottery helped. But we do know that fire insurances have been taken out and browsed over. Poor Mrs. Oxenbury got home from Bridport to find two fire brigades extinguishing her living room. They confined most of the damage to this spot, but the misfortune follows weeks of agony, Mr. Oxenbury suffered from a bad arm. He had only just gone back to work.

LODERS WEDDING. Saturday, February 3rd, saw Loders Church filled a second time this year for a winter wedding. The bride was Miss Diana Tiltman, only child of Mr. and Mrs. William Tiltman, of whom it scarcely needs recording that he is the highly esteemed organist of Loders and she a chorister of many years. The bridegroom was Mr. Ian David Wells, of Sutton Coldfield, and he added a new trade to the long and varied list in the marriage register, that of a Computer Programmer, not a euphonius one, but verily "up and coming." One of his brothers was best man, and the other, who adds organ playing to his accomplishments, took over the organ and enabled the proud father to give away his daughter. As a bride's wedding day is rarely her birthday also, as it was on this occasion, the weather contributed springlike sunshine and the church looked its best. As a matter of fact, the flowers have lasted so well that it continues to look its best and we go into Lent observing the dominical injunction not to appear to men to fast!

NEW PARISHIONERS. The late Mr. Harry Baker's cottage in Uploders has been taken by a large young family who challenge the current tradition that Dorset should only be for the elderly and retired. They are Mr. and Mrs. David Ellis, their daughters Sarah and Jane (who have started at Colfox School) their sons, Johnathan and Richard (who are at Loders School) and Mrs. Manners, who is the mother of Mrs. Ellis. Mr. Ellis is a former Fleet Street journalist. He has lately joined the Western Gazette. The family fell in love with Loders when they were on holiday here from Crowthorne last year. Another young couple who have come to the Uploders Farm cottage are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gillopie. He was formerly an agricultural engineer at Poxwell. Mrs. Gillopie is from Weymouth and is a cousin of Mrs. Shepherd at Uploders Farm. In Loders it is like old times to see Mrs. Crabb, the mother of Raymond, passing along the street. She has given up her bungalow in Molplash and taken Mr. Frank Osborne's cottage, not far from her former home. At Dottery Miss White has moved into the flat once occupied by Mr. Graham Roper. She was cook at Linbury, but is now employed at Duncan Tucker. A warm welcome to them all.

THE GOOD WISHES of many of our parishioners will go with Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell Jones as they undertake new missionary work, this time in Lesotho, formerly Basutoland, in South Africa. It may be remembered that he gave up practice in Bridport to join the Bethnal Green Mission, where they did a great work, made a host of friends, and will be sorely missed. His offer to take charge of the hospital at Lesotho has saved it from the tender mercies of an African government, for three years, at any rate. Dr. and Mrs. Jones spent a recent weekend at Loders Vicarage, saying au revoir to friends in the neighbourhood. Our Parish Clerk, Mr. David Thomas, was pleased to receive the Doctor at his sick bed, and wish him God-speed. As we dispense good wishes we must not be forgetting Miss Terisa Pavey, grand-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Osborne, who has just begun training as a nurse at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

A GOOD QUESTION has been put to us apropos the paragraph about the cost of upkeep of Loders churchyard in last month's Notes. The questioner asks: "If you cannot cut down on the running expenses of the church and you cannot reduce the cost of repairs to the church building, and you will not reduce your contributions to worthy causes, how have you actually managed to pay this £50 a year for the churchyard which obviously you did pay in 1966 and 1967 while the subject was under debate?" And the answer is, because two individuals stepped in and shouldered a burden which properly belongs to the whole parish. In 1966 one parishioner met the considerable cost of reconditioning the rotoscythe and also paid £30 for churchyard labour. He preferred to be anonymous, and took no credit for it. In 1967 a gentleman who is not a parishioner, nor even a resident of this country, and who also likes to be anonymous, sent two donations of £25 each to be filtered unobtrusively into the funds to pay for the churchyard labour. As we acknowledge their public spirit we ought to subject our own to one of those agonising re-appraisals. Can Loders as a parish go on refusing a penny farthing a house a week from the rates to the churchyard, and expecting one who has no legal rights in the churchyard to put up £50 per annum? When the parish opened its cemetery it accepted the principle that the cost should be fairly shared by the ratopayers. Can it rightly exclude the older and larger parish burial ground from the operation of this principle? The debate has gone on now for more than two years and is becoming wearisome. In May the parish may elect another parish council. Let us hope that the question is settled justly then.

SERVICES IN MARCH

<u>Loders</u>	3rd	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	10th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	17th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	24th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	31st	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
<u>Askerswell</u>	3rd	Evensong 6.30		
	10th	Matins 10.00		
	17th	Family Service 10.		
	24th	Holy Communion 10.		
	31st	Matins 10.		
<u>Dottery</u>	3rd at 9.30 - All others at 3.			

A THOUGHT FOR EASTER - The appeal for a quarter of a million pounds for the restoration of Salisbury Cathedral has now almost reached its target. Loders Church, in about a year, has raised two thousand pounds for the repair of the Ladye Chapel roof, which leaves four hundred pounds still to be found. Our friends, Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell Jones, have just gone off to Africa to exercise a healing ministry in the name of Jesus Christ, for no material reward. And St. Paul says that this and everything like it, is futile, if Christ be not raised from the dead. The Resurrection is the corner stone of the Christian faith. No Resurrection and there would be no cathedrals or parish churches, no church people and no medical missionaries like the Jones's. Back to St. Paul. He says, "How say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? If Christ hath not been raised your faith is vain If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most pitiable." In the north wall of the sanctuary of Loders Church is one of the few Easter Sepulchres remaining in England. For centuries the people of Loders have met the risen Lord in the Communion service there on Easter Day. They will do so again this year and so will the people of Dottery and Askerswell in their own churches. The times of the Easter services will be found at the end of these Notes.

THE LAW requires Easter vestries, for the appointment of officers and the receiving of accounts, to be held before the conclusion of Easter Week. At Askerswell the Vestry will be held on Tuesday, April 16th, in the church, at 8 p.m. Loders Vestry will be in the Vicarage on Friday, April 19th, at 8 p.m. It is usually in the school, but the school will be occupied by students from Sheffield who greatly enjoy their holiday in Loders.

MOTHERING SUNDAY celebrations were adversely affected by high winds and driving rain. Yet a goodly assembly of mothers and children got to Loders Church for the traditional services; and the distribution of bunches of flowers through the village to the sick and aged survived a shortage of flowers and the weather. At Askerswell the children came to church and prepared mothering cards, which were later distributed. By pleasing contrast, the day of the Mothers' Union festival in Sherborne Abbey was gloriously fine and our parishes were well represented there.

SPRING BABIES. There is a trio of these, whose parents we would like to congratulate - a son to Mr. and Mrs. Stebbings, of New Road; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Saunders and a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, both of Uploders.

WEDDINGS. Readers of the local press will have seen a full account of the wedding of Mr. Bernard Paull, of Uploders and Miss Christine Edwards, of Bridport, in St. Mary's Bridport. If the face be the mirror of the soul then the bride is in no need of a eulogy from us. Of Bernard it may be said that he is a worthy product of Loders School and Sunday School. Mathematics and physics were his subjects. He sailed a straight course through all his exams, and qualified as a civil engineer, now employed by Dorset County Council. At the moment he is altogether wedding-minded. He was asked to the wedding of his old schoolmate, Brian Bolton, now in Oxford, and also to one in Australia!

FUNERALS Those who knew her say that the late Miss Edith Mary Lockwood, who died in Port Bredy Hospital, was a gracious and cultured old lady whose company was a thing to be enjoyed right to the end of her long life. She had lived in Loders, first at the bungalow now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, then at the cottage owned by Mrs. D'Alcorn. She was a teacher of music and at one time was organist of Loders Church. Several old friends attended the funeral in Loders, which was sung. She was buried in her parents' grave in the churchyard.

A parishioner of Dottery says that the sudden death of Mrs. Alan Tamlyn (nee May Fry) at a young age, and when she was near to bearing a second child, had left the hamlet aching with sympathy for the widower and for May's father and sister and three-year old daughter, who all shared the same home at Waterleaves. When May's home was at Sturthill, she was a member of Askerswell Church choir and one who rarely missed a service or a practice. It was the widower's wish that she should be buried in his home parish of Melplash.

MOVERS. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wilkins have sold Cloverleaf Farm and gone into retirement on a two-acre estate in Bothenhampton. This does not fill us with dismay, as it normally would, because they are keeping their connections with Loders. Mrs. Wilkins will continue as president of the W.I. and member of the M.U. and Church Council. Mr. Wilkins found that his lady had booked him to give a keg of beer for the W.I. supper, because it did not matter that his body was in Bothenhampton as long as his soul was still in Loders. We are lucky to retain two such public-spirited and cheerful members of our community, which also applies to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Newberry, who have moved into Cloverleaf from Loders, and been saved to us when they might ultimately have been lost. Cloverleaf is high on a hill above the village. So the cream has gone to the top once more, and doubtless the centre of gravity of the

parish will go up there, too. There was another move in Loders. Miss Stella Brown left Orchards, where she had been conducting a form of social service, and is filling in time on the staff of Harrison till she takes up social studies in Oxford in the autumn. Orchards is now taken by Major Harris, a friend of the owners, who will find scope there for all his talents as a gardener.

THE SICK. We cannot recall a time when there has been more illness about. 'Flu has missed but few families and much use has been made of hospitals. Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Stubbs, Diana Marsh, Mr. Jack Osborne, Mr. Lucas and Colonel Shirley have been in local hospitals. Colonel Stack has (we hope successfully) undergone a mighty operation in London and Colonel Scott, who had been staying with his daughter, Lady Ward, is very ill in the military hospital at Colchester. In faraway Toronto a keen reader of these Notes, Mr. Fred Vacher, has recovered from an emergency operation. He is back at his trusty typewriter and in spite of his bad eyesight, and his eighty years, is able to type us a remarkably good letter.

ASKERSWELL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY was held in the church and presided over by Captain Aylmer. Parishioners had been equipped beforehand with a lucid exposition of the matter of the proposed village hall, prepared by Captain Lumby, chairman of the hall committee. This stated that the total cost of a hall in Purbeck stone, as required by the planning authority, would be £2,355, of which the village would have to find half, £1,176.10s. By the end of 1968 the village should have a total of £1,063 in the kitty. If the hall were built of reconstructed stone instead of Purbeck, the cost would be £150 less, and the village would have enough to meet it. Annual running cost was thought to be about £25 and income should be around £30. The committee invited the assembly to decide whether there should be an appeal against Purbeck stone, and if the appeal failed, whether to accept Purbeck stone. The assembly agreed to appeal, and if this failed, to continue with what stone was allowed. Mr. Turner was co-opted to the hall committee. Mr. Frost agreed to be foreman of a working party who would tidy the village pound. The R.D. Councillor for the parish, Group Captain Newall, gave an account of the work of the R D C

LODERS PARISH ASSEMBLY was presided over in the Hut by Mr. Wilfred Crabb. There was only about half of the record attendance of last year. Electors had been saying that if the Parish Council ignored the vote of the Parish Assembly, as it did last year, there was little point in attending. But the chairman announced that the Council had recently been met by Colonel Warren, Chairman of the Dorset Parish Council's Association, and in consequence were prepared to authorise a grant of £25 towards churchyard maintenance. The grant was recommended by twenty votes to eight. The chairman announced that the Clerk's stipend would be raised to £30. In answer to an elector's query as to why the Loders clerk's stipend should be the highest in the rural district (except Charmouth), it was pointed out that he was clerk to the cemetery as well, and although burials there were few, much paper work was involved. The meeting passed a warm vote of thanks to Mr. Crabb for his work for the parish during the outgoing Council's term of office.

MR. CHARLIE GALL informed the Assembly by letter that he would not seek re-appointment as parish councillor or rural councillor. So the parish loses the services of one whose public spirit was never in question. In spite of ill health he never missed a meeting of the R.D.C. or the housing committee. The vicar has not forgotten how he once ran a whist drive for the Sunday School outing. We wish him better health and an enjoyable respite from civic duties.

SERVICES IN APRIL

LODERS
7th Holy Communion 8 and 12 Matins 11, Children 2
GOOD FRIDAY Litany 9 Devotional 11.
EASTER DAY Holy Communion 7, 8, 12. Matins 11 Children 2.
21st Holy Communion 8 Matins 11 Children 2
28th Holy Communion 8 Matins 11 Children 2.

ASKERSWELL
7th Children 10 Evensong 6.30
Good Friday Devotional 10.
Easter Day Holy Communion 10 Evensong 6.30.
21st Family Service 10.
28th Matins 10.

DOTTERY
7th Holy Communion 9.30.
Good Friday 7.30.
Easter Day Holy Communion 9. Evensong 3.
All others at 3.

PARISH NOTES

LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

MAY, 1968

"Once more unto the breach" To the casual eye of the visitor, Loders Church looks to be in excellent order. But it is decidedly not. The quinquennial survey shows that it is in need of repairs which will cost thousands of pounds. This news, coming before the church has paid off the debt on the £2,400 job of re-roofing the Ladye Chapel, filled the meeting of the Easter Vestry with dismay. The work on the Ladye Chapel has reduced church finances to rock bottom. The latest balance sheet shows only £50.12s.9d. in the current account, and £73.13s.9d. in the deposit account. Fortunately the repairs listed in the survey are not all first priority. But all are formidable. The most urgent is the re-roofing of the chancel. All its medieval timbers are decayed and have to be replaced. The steel bellframe must be re-painted with red lead, and this alone, if done by a builder, could cost £500. Before long, the tower roof must be remade, and all the windows except those in the Ladye Chapel re-leaded. The great east window will soon need re-glazing, and this item alone could cost £1,500. It was obvious to the Easter Vestry that the money raising for all this can no longer be confined to the annual fete. A small committee is to be formed to consider other means. A huge saving could be made if some of the work were done voluntarily by parishioners who are craftsmen. The bell frame, for instance, has been repainted on two occasions by volunteers. The Vicar would be glad to hear from any artisans whose feelings are this way inclined. It is important when we are faced by large demands like these to keep a sense of proportion. The needs of God's house are only a tiny fraction of what we spend on our own housing. Again, some less fortunate parishes would give the world to have such a church as Loders to raise money for.

THE SURVEY OF DOTTERY CHURCH requires no one big item of repair, but many small ones which would produce a large bill if done by a builder. Here again, much of the work is unskilled. Vicar and churchwardens are to see if they can tap the good will of handy men in Dottery.

CHURCH BALANCE SHEETS These were presented at the Easter Vestries. Askerswell's by Mrs. George Bryan, showed a credit balance of £74; Dottery's, by Mr. Cecil Marsh, showed a credit balance of £72; and Loders, by Mr. William Graves, a deficit of £701.

EASTER COLLECTIONS are part of the incumbent's stipend. Ours amounted this year to £66 (Dottery £6, Askerswell £20 and Loders £40). The Vicar wishes to thank all the kind people who contributed.

THE NUMBER of Easter communicants at our three churches was 152. The total attendance at Easter services could not have been far short of 400. All the churches had been beautifully decorated, the scheme in two of them featuring Easter sepulchres. Dottery were grateful to Miss Doris Male for taking over the organ at short notice. At Loders matins a tightly filled church heard a lively anthem from the choir, and thanks were expressed to Mrs. Rudd and her ladies for making the colourful kneelers for the altar rail. These were in use for the first time, and, together with those already in the body of the church, and the chancel, were the admiration of the Easter visitors.

ALL CHURCH OFFICERS were re-appointed at the Easter Vestries, except Mr. Frank Gill, who tendered his resignation on his impending departure from Loders. The Vicar paid tribute to the good work he and Mrs. Gill had done for the church, especially through the fete, and the drawings which had raised over £100 for the new lighting.

AN OPEN MEETING of the Mothers' Union will be held in Loders Hut on Thursday, May 16th, at 2.45, when one of the Franciscans will talk on their work at Hook, illustrated by a film.

Mr. and Mrs. GARRARD AND FAMILY are the focus of very deep sympathy. Miss Angela Garrard, a teacher in London, who was often home, and at services in Askerswell Church died after a motor accident on the Roman Road as she was returning to London from the Easter holiday. She was cremated at Weymouth, the service being taken by her uncle, the Rev. R.G. Malden, who made the long journey from his parish in Cumberland. (the Rector was unable to be present because of the visit of the Lord Chancellor's ecclesiastical secretary that afternoon). The April meeting of the Mothers' Union, which Mrs. Garrard was to have addressed, was taken by the Vicar, and a letter conveying the sympathy of the meeting was sent to her. The manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Garrard faced up to this trial was an example to us all. She was able to supervise the children's part at the family service on the Sunday following the accident.

THREE CHRISTENINGS brought large companies of the babies' friends, as well as themselves to Loders Church. On the last day of March the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hyde, of New Street Lane, was baptised Julia. On the 4th April, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Ellis (nee Alison Rudd) took advantage of being home on holiday from Sheffield to bring their son to be baptised Matthew Giles. On the Sunday after Easter, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Shoppard, of Uploaders Farm, had their first task of a christening in Loders Church when they brought their baby daughter Fiona Elizabeth. They and their family were much impressed by the beauty of the church and the Easter decorations. The Sheppards came from Portesham.

MR. HARRY NEWBERRY made a good recovery from his operation and is now home in Loders. Mrs. Tubbs, of Askerswell, was still in hospital at the time of writing, but making progress.

THE EVENT OF THE MONTH in Loders was the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. David Thomas on Easter Monday. Mr. Thomas is a parish clerk in the old tradition, and the church has been missing him sorely in his long illness. On the great day he was in good form and able to say the responses at his private Easter Communion in the loud voice so beloved of the congregation. Towards midday the bells rang out in honour of the happy couple. They received many cards, visits and presents. Mrs. Thomas recalled with pride how on that day fifty years ago the marriage had been conducted in Bridport Church, not by the curate, who always took the weddings of the common folk, but by the Rector himself, Canon Coulter. In an act of faith that the Lord blessed, Mrs. Thomas ordered the golden wedding cake a month before the anniversary. The men of Loders seem endowed with great powers of endurance. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sanders and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Spillman both keep their forty-ninth anniversary this year.

THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY to help the funds of Loders School in the whole year will come on the last Saturday in May, when Mr. and Mrs. Price and Mrs. Niven and the children are offering a May Fair. If the weather is kind the afternoon, beginning at 2.30 p.m. should bring enjoyment to the spectators as well as much needed reinforcement of the School exchequer. There will be maypole dancing and crowning of the May queen. Anything saleable for the stalls will be welcome.

A QUARTER PEAL of Grandsire Doubles was rung on Loders bells to mark the 21st birthday of David Gill (vice-captain of the ringers) and Tom Donnett (tower warden).

THE VICAR TO THE ELECTORS OF LODERS You will probably have seen the names of Mr. Miles, Mr. Price, Lt. Col. Stack and myself amongst the ten candidates for the seven seats on Loders Parish Council. We are there for no other purpose than to resolve the three year old argument about paying for churchyard maintenance. Loders has one of the loveliest churchyards in the country. We are lucky to have it tended by two men so conscientiously for only 6/- an hour. But the total annual maintenance charge is nearly £100. The church is ready to pay half of this if the rate will contribute the other £50. Common justice requires that the rate should; for more parishioners choose burial in the churchyard than in the cemetery and the cemetery is wholly supported by the rate. £50 for the churchyard need cost the parish no more than the rate already precepted by the old council; for if we four are elected we shall save a 1½d rate by not re-engaging the clerk, who has long wanted to give up. The clerical work will be done voluntarily, and this will save £30. If we four are not elected, the churchyard will be wired, and grazed by geese, which will be sold for the benefit of the church repair fund. People with graves there are responsible for their own protective arrangements if they desire any. The issue of the election on Tuesday, May 7th, is clear cut. If you don't want geese in the churchyard, you vote for Mr. Miles, Mr. Price, Lt. Col. Stack and the Vicar. If you want the rate to contribute £50 p.a. to the churchyard you vote for the same four. And please remember that unless all four are elected, the issue will be settled otherwise. Four is the minimum for a majority. The R.D.C. office tells us that to vote for more than seven of the candidates would invalidate the paper, but to vote for less than seven is in order.

The W.I. PARTY made £38 for their funds. It will long be remembered for Mrs. Wilkins' powers of organisation, and for the value she gave in refreshments.

THE FIRST OF THE SUMMER EVENSONGS in Loders will be on Sunday, May 19th at 7 p.m.

SERVICES IN MAY

<u>LODERS</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 Evensong 7.
	ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion 8.	Children 9.15.	
	26th Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2.
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	5th Children 10.	Evensong 6.30.	12th Matins 10.
	19th Family Service 10.	ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion 10.	26th H.C. 10.

LODERS FETE will be held at the Court on Saturday, August 3rd, at the kind invitation of the Hon. and Mrs. Alexander Hood. Mrs. Hood has agreed to be in charge again and her committee has already gone into action.

NEWS given in the last Notes about the large amount of work needing to be done to the fabric of Loders Church brought a quick response. Within a few hours of the Notes appearing, Mr. Gerald Brown, of Well Plot, offered to be responsible for the bell frame. This was noble of him. He is a newcomer to the parish and not over-blest with spare time. An offer like this is worth a fete, and we are most grateful to him. Then the Lay Rector, the Hon. Alexander Hood fresh back from the U.S.A. was quick with an offer of "substantial help" and has accepted the Vicar's invitation to be chairman of a small fund-raising committee. We must not forget the benign interest of the gentlemen of the press, who published fine pictures of the church, with sympathetic captions about its need.

DOTTERY CHURCHYARD has lately had the unwelcome attention of mischief makers of some sort. One tombstone has been overturned and flower pots have been thrown in all directions. As we do not know to which graves the pots belong perhaps relatives would come and sort them out. And perhaps dwellers in the vicinity would sometimes cast a watchful eye on the churchyard? We can hardly expect the police to stand guard.

LODERS PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION gave parishioners a choice in the matter of maintaining the churchyard, whether to graze it, or to go halves with the Church Council by contributing £50 annually from the rate, thus putting the churchyard on an equal footing with the cemetery. The verdict was for a rate. Our popular schoolmaster, Mr. Ronald Price, came top of the poll with his flag firmly fixed to a rate, and three of the other elected candidates were for a rate. The election circular of the retiring councillors appeared after the May Notes had gone to print and it is noteworthy that this gave no sign that they were opposed to a rate. Indeed, their cheque from the rate for the churchyard was delivered at the vicarage on the eve of the poll. So the indications are that commonsense has at last prevailed, and that we need think no more about churchyard or cemetery until it is time to be going there.

ABOUT 70% of the electors voted, which is very high for a local government election and equal to a general election. It had an energising effect on the sick of the parish. Mr. Charlie Gale and Mr. George Randall rose up from their couches to vote and Mrs. Frank Gill forsook her wheeled chair. The oldest inhabitant, Mrs. Beatrice Clark, now in her ninetieth year, came from Uploders with the roses of June already in her cheeks and with the express intent of voting for Mr. Wilfred Crabb "because he is a very nice man," and for the Vicar, "because he aint all that bad". The Vicar would like to acknowledge his gratitude to Colonel Stack for standing as a candidate for Uploders when nobody else there seemed willing and when his desire was not to be on the Council but only to see fair play for the churchyard. It says much for the impression Colonel and Mrs. Stack have made in their few months here that he came very near to being elected; and in a Dorset village where it is the normal lot of newcomers to be under grave suspicion for the first twenty-five years! The Vicar is also deeply grateful for the support the churchyard got from certain good folk, non-churchgoers, of whom he said to himself "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold".

THAT ABIDING PILLAR of Askerswell Church, Mr. Norman Adams, forgot his eighty years and went to Whitehall for the fiftieth re-union of his old regiment, the King Edward's Horse Artillery. We went to print before he got back. We hope he did, because we ourselves are not altogether ignorant of what old soldiers do when they get together. It will be interesting to know whether Bishop Anderson, formerly of Salisbury, was also there, because he was in the same regiment with Mr. Adams. When Bishop Anderson was new to this diocese, and was lost, looking for Powerstock he called at Folly (when Mr. Adams was living there) to ask the way and Mr. Adams answered the door. The meeting of Stanley and Livingstone had nothing on this one.

THE ACTIVITIES of the Mothers' Union come to a peak in June. There will be a corporate communion at Dottery at 10 a.m. on the 6th; the deanery festival, with a bring and buy stall, at Powerstock at 3 p.m. on the 13th; and an outing to Abbotsbury, finishing with a service on the 27th. Thereafter the branch will be dormant until September.

MR. AND MRS. KENNETH DAY made the long journey from Crowthorne, Berkshire, to have their daughter baptised Philippa Hayley in Loders Church on May 18th. A christening party, long to be remembered for its standard of hospitality, was held afterwards at Well Plot, at the home of Mrs. Day's mother, Mrs. Neave.

MUCH SYMPATHY is being felt in Loders for Mrs. Julian Stone, whose mother, Mrs. Rawles, died at an early age in Allington Hospital. Before that, Mrs. Rawles had had a long sojourn in Southampton Hospital, which Mr. and Mrs. Stone had brightened by making visits several times a week.

After being long laid up at home with a broken hip, Mrs. Harry Sanders had the misfortune to fall again in trying to recover a letter from the floor. This time she broke her leg above the knee. She is back in Portland Hospital, hoping to be home soon, but with her leg in plaster.

THE OLD COTTAGE, Loders, lately vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gill, (who have gone to Greenhill, St. Andrew's Road) has been taken by Surgeon Captain and Mrs. Robin Latta, of Plymouth. Captain Latta, though retired from the Navy, is still doing work for it at Portland. He has three daughters, one of 21 who has just finished at the University of York one of 19, who is training as a nurse at St. Thomas' Hospital, London and one of 13 at school. Captain Latta is a keen organist. These are rare birds nowadays, and he may rue the day he told us. To forestall argument, may we say on his authority that the name "Latta" is Scottish?

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Harding, of the Uploders Stores, on joining the order of grandparents. A daughter, Lora Ann, was born to their daughter Carol, and son-in-law, Mr. A.J. Weedon, in Penang, Malaysia, on 20th April.

A FORMER INHABITANT of Uploders, Mrs. Emily Louisa Stevens Bagg, died in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, at the age of 79, and was buried in her late husband's grave at Loders cemetery after a sung service in the church. She used to live at Home Farm, where she tended to be eclipsed by her husband Billy. He was a colourful Dorset character, of whose sayings Dr. Joy had quite a collection.

LODERS CHURCH EAST WINDOW The notice in the press that our architect had scheduled this for re-glazing at a possible cost of £1,500 has brought a helpful letter from one of the Netherbury churchwardens, Wing Commander R.S. Booth. It seems that Netherbury church was faced with a similar problem but "the vicar had a brainwave, and the window is now protected by external glazing at a cost of only £25. It is not too unsightly and luckily the east window is not noticed from the road or from a much used footpath" This Netherbury method of prolonging the life of a window will be investigated without delay and we are grateful to the Wing-Commander for putting us wise.

"LODERS WEATHER" After a stormy night, a lowering morning and a depressing weather forecast, the sun shone just long enough for Loders School May Fair to be held, as hoped, in a dry playground. Spots of rain began to fall as the children and a large concourse of grown-ups moved into school for the sale. And so the excursion on which the children took us into Merrie England was altogether delightful and unimpaired, reflecting great credit on them, Mr. and Mrs. Price, Mrs. Niven and the many helpers. The maypole ribbonds fluttered against a background of recorder and gramophone music augmented by a pealing of the church bells by visiting ringers. This year's May Queen was Rosemary Crabb, her maids Marianne Crabb and Teresa Newberry and her page Robin Prior. Mrs. Wilfred Crabb, grandmother of the Queen, did the crowning. Mr. Price thanked her husband for the start the Parish Council had made towards getting a school playing field, although the matter was by no means settled yet. He also thanked Mrs. Arthur Crabb for giving the material for the Queen's dress, which would be available for future years. Modesty, no doubt, forbade him from saying that all the dresses had been made, and very expertly, by that busy mother of three young children, his wife. The fancy dress was judged, after the sale, by Mrs. Cross, who runs the Guides, and the sun was shining again for this. The gross takings were £68, an immensely satisfactory result. They will meet the cost of a new duplicator, and other calls on the School Fund.

SERVICES IN JUNE

<u>LODERS</u>	2nd, WHITSUNDAY,	Holy Communion 8 and 12,	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 WHITSUNDAY,	Children 10	Evensong 6.30.
	9th	Matins 10	
	16th	Family Service 10.	
	23rd	Holy Communion 10.	
	30th	Matins 10.	
<u>DOTTERY</u>	2nd, WHITSUNDAY,	Holy Communion 9.30.	
		All others at 3.	