

BECAUSE of the Christmas holidays these Notes are not likely to be in reader's hands on the first of January. Nevertheless we make bold to wish them a happy new year, and to welcome all the new readers that 1969 brought us.

DECEMBER left much for the record. We begin with what is uppermost in mind, the Christmas services; and with a word of sympathy for all the regulars who were laid low by illness and had to miss them. The rain on the day before Christmas was continuous, cold, and heavy, but by midnight it had stopped and a watery moon looked down on the worshippers who streamed into Loders Church for what is probably the most popular service of the year. A young spruce from the top of Boarsbarrow stood on the chancel step decked with coloured lights, tinsel and little packages for the children put there, as usual, by Mrs. Olive Legg. Counterpoising it on the other side was a Nativity scene. The rest of the church was gay with evergreens and flowers. By the light of Christmas Day the weather had done an about-turn. It was like a morning in spring. Bed was defeated for once. At the early hour of nine Dottery Church held a splendid congregation, who admired the decorations and rejoiced in what was really a big family re-union in the church of their youth. By ten o'clock it was apparent that Askerswell was not to be out done. Here again was a congregation of noble proportions in a church made very festive by the lady decorators. At the offertory there was a procession of the Sunday School children to the altar rails. The prefects handed to the Rector the School's present to the Church, two bottles of communion wine and a contribution towards the electricity, for which he thanked them warmly. At Loders at eleven the church was well filled again, this time for the family service. Instead of a sermon, the Sunday School sang carols under the chancel arch conducted by Michael Willmott in the absence of his mother, who was ill. The Vicar distributed the prizes (at Askerswell they had been given out by the superintendent, Mrs. Garrard, on the previous Sunday). We hope the Lord thought well of our worship; the church treasurers did; for the combined collections were well over £50. About 180 communions were made.

DOING GOOD is not invariably pleasant. But Loders choir seems to find their annual carol singing in aid of the orphan children increasingly so. Which may be due in some measure to the general welcome they receive and the hospitality of those kind souls who entertain them. On the Uploders expedition the choir sang at the cottage of the oldest inhabitant, Mrs. Beatty Clark, whose ninety-first birthday it was. Coming in, as she bade them, was easier said than done, and coming to terms with the ceiling was difficult for the taller members of the party. But get in they all did, and the grand old lady regaled them with birthday cake and sherry, with the help of Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Dennett. At Uploders House the hostesses, Mrs. Rust and Mrs. Sanctuary, had gathered their neighbours to hear the carols. They then plied the whole company with hot sausages and mincepies, and the homemade wine for which that corner of the Lord's vineyard is justly famed. As the carollers passed Upton Peep they recalled, with a pang, the hospitality of its former occupant, Mrs. Lenthall (now at West Mead Hotel); but some of them were to have the pleasure of meeting her and her family at the midnight service. The Loders expedition got off to an excellent start at the Court. They were invited to a firework display postponed from Guy Fawkes Day. Fortified by mulled claret and hot dogs, they moved into the hall. The children's party with them, and made a pretty picture sitting all up the grand staircase. The party and the choir sang the carols together. At Miss Mona Edwards' the choir sang to the hostess, and to the neighbours she had asked in, while the punch was heating. She was naughtily in her own adorable way; for she liked the carols, and kept the choir at them by the simple expedient of making the punch take a long time to heat. They, knowing that she is a perfectionist, were unaware of the compliment in the reluctant punch. Tired, but very happy, the choir at last reached the vicarage. Here it was their turn to make a pretty picture, the youngsters sitting on the floor in the warmth of a volcano of logs in the Tudor fireplace, with the elders radiating benevolence on them from the settle. And the collecting boxes yielded a useful £15.1s.3d. for the less fortunate children.

THE FIRST WHIST DRIVE ever to be held in connection with Dottery Church was an unqualified success, and a credit to the organisers. Mrs. Cecil Marsh, Mrs. Scadden, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Johnston and Miss Sarah Barnes. Mr. Henry Johnston has either been an M.C. before, or is a born natural. Under his genial control the business of winning the desirable prizes was pleasant as well as serious and the resulting profit of nearly £20 will wipe off what remains of the cost of painting the church. For this the donors of the prizes have also to be thanked. The Vicar was called on to draw the winning number for a box of groceries. Shouting



out the number, and getting no response, he eventually found it in his own waistcoat pocket. The donor of the box may like to know that he gave it to the Loders mission sale, where it made a further £3 for another good cause.

THE UPLODERS CHAPEL made its own contribution to the Christmas spirit by organising a carol service in which the Methodist choir from Bridport led the singing, with the harmonium augmented by three young instrumentalists from Colfox School. The junior choir of Loders Church were happy to be in the congregation, which was large and appreciative.

DR. PETER HENDERSON, of Waddon Farmhouse, has leased enough land adjoining Loders School to the County Council to give the school a much needed playing field. When the school managers met recently under their chairman, Mr. Miles, they expressed their gratitude to Dr. Henderson.

THE NEW VILLAGE HALL at Askerswell was the scene of two pleasant and profitable events in December. First, a coffee morning, which included a small sale. It happened to fall on the day of the Mothers' Union corporate communion in Askerswell Church and the mothers all seized the opportunity to cap their spiritual exercises with coffee and to see the hall that Askerswell is justly proud of. The highly satisfactory sum of £24 was made for the hall funds. Later came a Christmas whist drive. In the old days of the Community Club the fortnightly whist drive was a feature of the life in Askerswell and on this occasion it was noted that former stalwarts of the Club were functioning again - Norma Foot, George Bryan, Donald Marsh and John Spiller, George Bryan had not forgotten how to be M.C. If whist drives are to continue, this was the kind of start to re-engage the patronage of former players. The prizes were good, and the thing was well run. Had it not been held on a night when every other village seemed to be holding a similar function the profit would probably have been more than £9.

OUR SYMPATHY was with Mr. Roper and his family at Dotter in that he had to spend Christmas in Bridport Hospital. We congratulate Mr. Peck of Uploders, on getting into Bridport Hospital, spending ten days there and getting out again, without the Vicar knowing. He is one of these nice souls who hate being a trouble to anybody. His sort never are.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS WAS OUT, the handsome new lamps at Dottery Church were in, for which the congregation have to thank Miss White. She had aimed to have them done by Christmas Day, but the new lamps were found to need new fittings not readily available. An obliging electrician gave up some of his holiday with the result that the lamps lighted the service on the Sunday after Christmas.

THE MISSION SALE must, from every point of view, have been the most successful to date, and Mrs. Willmott would like to thank all concerned. The sum raised for the church overseas was a record £45. Mr. Price, the headmaster, had so arranged things that the crowd of parents and friends had more room, and a better view of the children's pantomime. This year it was Alladin, after the infants had made an offering of carols. All of the eye-taking dresses had been made by that busy housewife and mother, Mrs. Price, and the children's performance was worthy of them. The principals were perfect in their parts, and so were the chorus, who were improving their elocution without knowing it by reciting the narrative. School term ended with the usual tea party, and presents from Father Christmas, who was deputised for so efficiently by Mr. Bill Hunt that Mr. Hunt's own children did not recognise him. The children are grateful to the Hon. Alexander Hood for the tree, and to Mr. Wrixon for cutting and bringing it.

#### SERVICES IN JANUARY

<u>LODERS</u>	4th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	11th	Holy Communion 8	Mstins 11	Children 2
	18th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	25th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	4th	Children 10	Evensong 6.30	
	11th	Matins 10		
	18th	Family Service 10		
	25th	Holy Communion 10.		
<u>DOTTERY</u>	4th	Holy Communion 9.30		
All others at 3 p.m.				



STANDARD TIME ensures that the mornings are still dark, but hopefuls note that the birds have found something to sing about and are thinking of spring, forgetting that winter can do his worst as late as March or April. Nobody is likely to regret the passing of the present winter. Few houses have been unaffected by ills of some sort. The ubiquitous 'flu caught many of our farmers. Animals have to be attended to, come what may, and some farmers who were bad enough to be in hospital would crawl out of bed to do the milking, and crawl back again, trusting to traditional remedies of their own fancy to put them right rather than doctors. Farm work was not helped by the activities of men laying pipes for North Sea gas. Their trenches scarred the fields, and their great machines, too wide for the lanes, cut into the banks and plastered the roads with mud. A fracture in one of the pipes they had laid took much discovering and delayed their departure. But now they are gone, and those who like to meditate in country lanes, instead of being preoccupied with the hazards underfoot, may think of the hazards to the soul, and the onset of Lent, the time to grapple with them. Ash Wednesday falls on the eighteenth of February.

ONE OF THE BRIGHT SPOTS of winter at Askerswell was the Sunday School party, which was able to spread itself in the new village hall. Fun and games and prizes went hand in hand with more than adequate refreshments. A pleasing feature was that the children not only felt grateful for all their superintendent, Mrs. Garrard does for them, but were able to express it in speeches at the end.

THE "SNOWBALL" on the counter of the Loders Arms, which invites customers at Christmas to give something to underprivileged children produced the useful sum of ten guineas, which the land lord, Mr. Smith, passed on to the Children's Society, whose local treasurer wishes to thank the kind donors, and Mr. Smith. The Children's Society have reason to be thankful that Mr. Smith settled in Loders.

DOTTERY were shaken to learn that their Mr. Smith of New Close, lay uncomfortably poised between life and death in Dorchester Hospital. Nobody could remember him ever being ill, and it was proof of the virulence of this brand of 'flu that it laid him low. He had pleurisy as well. Now he is home, looking more his old self, and a strong advocate of more pay for nurses. It is pleasing to report that Mr. Roper, also of Dottery, is home from his long session in Bridport Hospital, and making a good recovery. Mr. Hughes' many friends in Loders Church hope that by the time these Notes are out, he also may be out of Bridport Hospital.

CHURCHYARD FINANCE The accounts of Loders churchyard for the year ending 31st December 1969 were presented at the winter meeting of the Parish Council. Maintenance expenses came to £105. 14s. 3d. These were met by fees of £6, a church contribution of £49. 14s. 3d. and £50 from the rate. The Council voted £50 to the churchyard for the current year, and £65 to the cemetery. The sixpenny rate precepted for this year is a penny reduction on last year. Incidentally, Loders Parish Council manage their affairs very economically. According to a leaflet issued by the National Association of Parish Councils, the 7,500 parish councils of England spend an average of £370 p.a. each. Loders Parish Council will be spending £168 this year.

THE ASKERSWELL VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ask us to publish their scale of charges, which include caretaker but not electricity. All ordinary Askerswell functions 10/-. Outside ones, four-hour sessions 20/-; bingo and whist 25/-; dances and wedding receptions 35/-; political meetings 30/-. Anybody suffering from long winded meetings in the winter would be wise to hold them here. When the shilling in the slot expires the hall is plunged in darkness and the warm glow of the electric fires fades. This happened the other night when the Church Council were trying to answer the eighty-odd questions on the Bishop's Visitation forms. And it happened several times before the forms were filled. It seemed like mind over matter. When a specially obtuse question numbed the mind the lights went out and only the urgent need to find a shilling restored consciousness.

THE BELLS of Askerswell and Loders have recently had a servicing by a professional at a charge of £10 per tower. He has since submitted a report on each. As was to be expected after their fairly recent rehangng, Askerswell bells need nothing that cannot be done locally and the offer of a volunteer has been accepted. This should save nearly £70. Loders bells are in good condition, but need more attention. For urgent work, which only the expert can do the estimate is £76; for work which could be done by amateurs the estimate is £149. Church councillors may ponder this before their next meeting.



A FRAMED CERTIFICATE OF MERIT has appeared on the wall of Loders School. It is the first county prize for the 1969 National Farm Safety Poster Competition, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Although awarded to the school as a whole, it was actually won by Alfred Crabb before he moved on to Colfox. The presentation was made by the High Sherriff, Sir John Colfox, at morning assembly, and Alfred, who was there, received a personal prize of £3.

TWO LETTERS have come from ladies who once lived in Loders Vicarage. Mrs. Prisca Barrow Dowling (nee Hutton) writes from Port Alfred, South Africa: I was so interested to see in our daily paper, The Eastern Province Herald, a news item from Loders. I was waiting for my car to be serviced and reading the paper when the name 'Loders' caught my eye. I was so interested because my father was Vicar of Loders from 1914 - 1935. My husband and I came here in 1956. Your wife kindly allowed me to show my husband over my old home. The other letter is from Mrs. Charles Palmer, whose husband was Vicar 1939 - 1946. She says "I often think of you in that beloved happy place and feel grateful for the time we spent there". She enclosed a colour photograph of the church at harvest festival two years ago. Her home is now in Swavesey, near Cambridge.

THE CHAPTER OF CLERGY of Bridport Deanery died at the birth of the new Lyme Bay Synod, which comprises most of the old Lyme Regis and Abbotsbury Deaneries and the whole of the Bridport Deanery except Toller. The last of the Bridport Chapter was presided over in Bridport Rectory by the expiring Rural Dean, the Rev. W. Rowley, whose office like that of the Rural Dean of Abbotsbury, is merged in a new one filled by the present Rural Dean of Lyme Regis, the Rev. G.V. Syer. For the Bridport Deanery clergy it was a sad and reminiscent occasion. They all signed the minutes book after the chairman. It is to be hoped that the minute book will not perish with the Chapter, if only because some of it was written by one of those individualists for whom the C. of E. is famous, the Rev. C.B. Moss, a good classical scholar and former county cricketer for Worcester. Mr. Moss was allergic to the then Rural Dean, Canon Clare. The latter's would-be masterful conduct of meetings was somewhat deflated by the former's deadly sniping. As Chapter Clerk Mr. Moss exercised his talent for irony and sarcasm in the minutes at Canon Clare's expense. Once the worthy Canon could stand it no longer when Mr. Moss was reading the minutes. "Blast you, Moss, you're always getting at me" he shouted and rushed out of the room. Mr. Moss appeared not to notice, finished the minutes, handed them to be signed to the empty chair, and said "Dear me, I had the impression, the Dean Rural was here when we started". Rationing continued into those post-war days, and the clergy would bring a contribution of food to the tea with which the Chapter ended. Mr. Moss used to make and bring a confection called "parkin", whose main constituent was black treacle. At its first appearance the clergy wolfed it down. But only once. Ever afterwards when the tea party dispersed the pile of parkin remained untouched, which did not deter Mr. Moss from continuing to manufacture it. The clergy had discovered its medicinal properties! Another ornament of the now defunct Chapter was the Rev. Claude Streatfield, Rector of Symondsburys. But neither space nor time is to spare for the saga of the famous voyage to the Chapter meeting at Rampisham, when Mr. Streatfield, who was guide to three other divines in an open sports car, missed his way in a country lane, and took the car through several fields of mowing grass (it was June) through a hedge and down a steep bank on to the main road. Small wonder that he fell asleep at the ensuing Chapter and annoyed Canon Clare by his intemperate snoring.

#### SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

LODERS 1st Holy Communion 8 and 12 Matins 11 Children 2  
 8th Holy Communion 8 Matins 11 Children 2  
 15th Holy Communion 8 and 12 Matins 11 Children 2  
 ASH WEDNESDAY Children 9.15 Communion 10.  
 22nd Holy Communion 8 Matins 11 Children 2

ASKERSWELL 1st Children 10 Evensong 6.30  
 8th Matins 10  
 15th Family Service 10  
 ASH WEDNESDAY Communion 10.  
 22nd Holy Communion 10.

DOTTERY 1st Holy Communion 9.30  
 ASH WEDNESDAY 7.30 . . .

ALL OTHER 3.



## PARISH NOTES

### LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

MARCH, 1970

FORWARDED IS FOREARMED - The people who seek to make Jesus fit the contemporary scene are certainly enterprising. Not long ago a scholar of standing suggested in no less a place than the pulpit of the University Church in Cambridge that Jesus might have been a homosexual. Now a lecturer in Old Testament studies in the University of Manchester insists that if Jesus was not actually a drug addict himself, he had his roots in a community of drug addicts who once lived in the wilderness round the Dead Sea. The lecturer is Dr. John Allegro. He has written a book on this theme. Excerpts from it will be published at Easter by a popular newspaper trying to step up its circulation and he will expound his thesis on television. He is one of the many scholars who have been studying the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in a cave by a shepherd boy in 1947. In case any of our readers fear what John Allegro may do to their faith, let it be said that nearly all the eminent scholars who have studied the Scrolls dismiss the allegro thesis as flamboyant nonsense. His previous book on the Scrolls was repudiated by the six greatest authorities on the subject in a letter to The Times. The Scrolls were a tremendous discovery. Your Editor has browsed through the translations of them, and been mightily impressed by the way in which they confirm what was already known about this Dead Sea community on the evidence of Josephus, Philo and Pliny. Until the discovery of the Scrolls our earliest manuscript of the Old Testament was 9th century A.D. Among the Scrolls is a manuscript copy of Isaiah nearly a thousand years earlier. But here is the vital point, the Scrolls text of Isaiah is virtually the same as the later one, and the same as in our English bible. If you hear John Allegro on television, ask yourself why he differs from the other authorities on the Dead Sea Scrolls. You may not be far wrong if you sense a financial motive. His first eccentric book on the Scrolls sold a quarter of a million copies. His publishers have sold the serialisation rights for this second book for £90,000, and there will be other cash to come. Shocking the public is an easy way to big money in this year of grace. One hesitates to say who is more to blame for this, the shockers or the shocked.

THE TIMES of our Holy Week and Easter services need not be given at this point, for they are in the table at the end. We can answer the Allegros and the Furioses by turning out in strength to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day.

LODERS POST OFFICE is celebrating the birth of a son there to Mr. and Mrs. Robin Wells. He is a brother for Sarah and is to be called John.

Although the funeral service for the late Mrs. Ada Harris, of North Allington, was conducted by the Vicar at Weymuth Crematorium, prayers were said for her at Dottery Church, where she and her family had been worshippers and reference was made to their long and valued association with the parish. Mrs. Harris was a native of Powerstock. She and her husband left Vine Cottage about twelve years ago, he having lived in Dottery for 49 years. They would have kept their ruby wedding on October 11th. The other branch of the Harris family which used to live at Balshay also regard themselves as honorary members of Dottery Church, are great supporters of the fete, and put in a welcome appearance at the festival services. In a changing world it is strength to a church to have a large clan whose sentiments do not change.

THE ASKERSWELL MEMBERS of our Mothers' Union were hostesses to the rest for the February meeting, which was in the Askerswell village hall, giving those who had not been in it an occasion to sample its amenities. Mr. Garrard's excellent colour slides are never wearied of, and this time he obliged with a show supplemented by slides of local interest loaned by another expert, Mr. Richard Lloyd, organist of Hereford Cathedral. A bring and buy stall increased the funds by nearly £6. Because March 25th falls this year in Holy Week and Lady Day is officially in April, the branch will hold its corporate communion in Loders Church on Thursday, March 19th at 10 a.m. This will be followed by a meeting in the Vicarage.

TIME WAS when properly disposed people kept at bay the thought of making a will until they were within striking distance of kingdom come, and if they had to utter the awful word, did so under their breath. Our Women's Institute shewed how progressive they are by getting a local lawyer to give them a talk on the making of wills and on legal aid. They even followed it up with a competition to see



who could draw up the most humorous will. This was won by Mrs. Morris. Her will was cleverly done, on good old fashioned parchment, and the ladies found it highly entertaining. But ancient superstitions are not so easily eradicated. Unease lurked in the depth of some earthly Dorset hearts. If Mrs. Morris were shortly to be summoned to Higher Service the forces of Progress in Loders would suffer a reverse from which they might never recover.

THE FIRE BUCKETS which were once a feature of Loders Hut seem to have vanished. While the heating still depends on old oil stoves the W.I. think the Hut should have fire fighting equipment and have put in a petition to the Hut Committee for some. But that Committee is to be commiserated with, for its plan of improvement to the Hut is held up by the legal tangles which have prevented the sale of the Uploders Room. Somebody says that for the Hut to go up in smoke would be the best way out of the deadlock. The same body was neither Mr. Bradshaw nor our policeman, whose homes hug the Hut on either side. It would be too warm for their comfort.

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN in Loders School will be nearly sixty next term. In some respects this is good news, for diminishing numbers has long been the bugbear of village schools. With sixty pupils the school would be entitled to a third teacher and then would the problem of insufficient space be aggravated. In the days of big families the school had to cope with more than a hundred children, but that number would be impossible with the present midday meal service.

MOTHERING SUNDAY falls on March 8th (A guilty conscience over the date we gave Ash Wednesday has made us check and re-check this date). The mothering service in Loders Church will be as usual at 2 p.m. Easter is so early that the children are not likely to bring many flowers for subsequent distribution to senior citizens, but there is nothing to stop them bringing the little presents their mothers value so much.

THE EASTER VESTRY and Annual Church meeting which Askerswell usually hold on the Tuesday in Easter week will be held instead on the following Tuesday, April 7th at 8 p.m. Loders Easter Vestry will be on the Friday in Easter week.

OUR MANY READERS who do not live in the locality are probably unaware of the changes that have been wrought for the better in the appearance of the corner at the entrance of Loders Church. The unsightly farm buildings roofed with galvanised which caught with passing lorries and buses have gone. The stabling has been roofed with thatch, beneath which are a children's playroom and six garages, and the barn has become a thoroughly modern cottage in all but appearance. A big yard encompasses all. Its low wall vastly improves visibility on what was a dangerous corner, but the curve is retained to stop traffic from speeding. The occupants of the cottage are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Corbin and their daughter Penny. They have moved from Denhay, where he is cheesemaker and are well pleased with their new abode.

WE WELCOME a batch of newcomers to Uploders. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Barton from Shipton Gorge have taken up residence in Upton Peep. They have a girl of five, Suzanne, and a boy of two, Jason. The cottage vacated by Mr. Baggs when he took over as dairyman at Upton is occupied by a family of five; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pike, Julie aged six, Andrew aged four, and Jacqueline aged two. They come from Shaftesbury. Both Mr. Barton and Mr. Pike work at Upton. The farmhouse at Upton is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deer, their twenty-year old son, David, and a seventeen year old daughter, Janet. They come from Sturthill. The farm is managed by Mr. Seward, Sir Victor Crutchley's bailiff. The other vacant cottage at watercleaves is being rented by a cheerful yachtmaster, Mr. James Capel, formerly of Bridport. He reckons to be at sea for about ten months of each year.

#### SERVICES IN MARCH

LODERS 1st Holy Communion 8 and 12 Matins 11 Children 2  
 8th Holy Communion 8 Matins 11 Mothering Service 2  
 15th Holy Communion 8 and 12 Matins 11 Children 2  
 22nd Holy Communion 8 Matins 11 Children 2  
 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 10. GOOD FRIDAY, Litany 9, Devotional 11.  
 EASTER DAY Holy Communion 7, 8, and 12. Matins 11, Children 2.

ASKERSWELL 1st Children 10 Evensong 6.30  
 8th Matins 10. 15th, Family Service 10.  
 22nd Matins 10. GOOD FRIDAY, Devotional 10.  
 EASTER DAY, Holy Communion 10. Evensong 6.30.  
DOTTERY 1st Holy Communion 9.30. Other Sundays 3.  
 GOOD FRIDAY. Devotional 7.30.



## PARISH NOTES

### LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

APRIL, 1970

"ON THE AIR" Southern Television informed us a few hours before the event that they were proposing to include shots of Loders Good Friday morning service in a religious feature to be shown after the news the same evening. The camera men were here early on Good Friday and not lacking in energy. They took pictures from Boarsbarrow and the church tower. They caught the congregation filtering into church and gushing out of it. In the service itself for the sake of the evangelistic element in the broadcast we endured the distraction of camera eyeing us over as we sang, and even repeated verses for its convenience. In the afternoon our policeman summoned us to the telephone where a camera man told us that the pictures were perfection, and what channel they could be seen on. Southern television is not readily available in this region, but many locals saw themselves on the screen that evening, and excited friends from further afield let us know they had seen us. Incidentally, television editors are like newspaper ones: they have a genius for leaving out the really interesting pictures, like that of little Rachel Price hiding from the camera behind her hymn book.

IF SNOW HAD TO FALL at Easter time it was kind in keeping clear of Easter Day, when sunshine streaming through the church windows made the gold decorations all glorious. For some of the lady decorators the scarcity of garden and wild flowers made their labour of love costly, but every one of our churches looked very beautiful. One was even sporting a buttonhole of red rhododendrons. At Loders a new St. George's flag fluttered from the church tower. It was the gift of a lady of the congregation. The choir books had received a welcome reinforcement provided by two gentlemen, but the hymn books for Askerswell and Loders given by other members of the congregation had not arrived. They would have been specially welcome at Loders, where the church was crowded for matins. All the congregations were good, so was the singing, which at Loders included an anthem that accorded well with the jubilant mood of the service. Communicants totalled 175. The Easter collections came to £79.7s.9d. (Dottery £6.8s.3d. Askerswell £19.16s. Loders £53.3s.6d). These form part of the Vicar's stipend and he would like to thank the kind donors.

A VILLAGE FETE is not a regular feature of the yearly round at Askerswell so it is noteworthy that one is to be held there on July 11th. It will be run by the Hall Committee with the object of meeting the remaining financial requirements of the new Hall, which the parish is justly proud of.

THE AFTERNOON of Easter Day was a family occasion for the Smiths of New Close, Dottery. They were at church in strength for the christening of the daughter of Peter and Rosalie. She was named Annabelle Jayne, and she graciously allowed the preaching of a sermon, which some babies don't.

MR. GEORGE BRYAN, of Askerswell, is to be congratulated on emerging unscathed from a frightening motor accident. He was driving home one night and had rounded the notorious bend at Vinney Cross when a car driven by a man who is charged with being drunk, was unable to take the corner and struck George's car, turning over in the process. George was unhurt, and the other man had only superficial bruises, but both cars were a write-off. The cottage of Miss McKenzie Edwards, which is just off the corner, was again found useful as a first aid depot. Her sang-froid is generally admired. Nobody sampling her lively and objective mind would suspect that her quaint little cottage and she herself live in daily danger of being carried away on the bonnet of some errant lorry.

THE LATE JIM RIDOUT was a resident of New Road, Uploders, but the nature of his vocation as an external vendor of newspapers ensured that he was better known in the district than in his own parish. The high opinion we had of his kindness, especially to old people, has been echoed and implemented by instances of one kind and another over a large area. When he failed to come for his newspapers to the shop of our own newsagent, Mr. Jones, that worthy phoned Mr. Ridout's neighbours, the Randalls, and Miss Muriel Randall found him dead in bed. An inquest showed heart trouble - quite unsuspected - to have been the cause. He was only fifty. His daughter Caroline, who was on tour in the North, could not be located for some days. The funeral was at Over Compton, near Sherborne, where his wife is buried. She died eighteen years ago. Mr. Ridout had lived in Loders nine years. He was a native of Sixpenny Handley.

THE DEATH OF MISS AMELIA TUCK at Askerswell, in the home of her niece, Nurse Dorothy Fooks, was not unexpected. She had been ailing a long time, and had transferred from her home with Mr. Bjb Fooks. She was a native of Chideock. At the ripe age of 93 she was only a few months younger than the oldest inhabitant, Mrs. Marsh of Hembury. When Mr. and Mrs. Mark Fooks gave up the caretaking of



the church and the school, she took on the school, which she kept in apple-pie order. To generations of Askerswell children she symbolised authority, possibly more than the teachers. Pupils past as well as present contributed to her retirement presentation. She was buried at Askerswell.

THE LATE MISS ELIZABETH HINKS who with her sister Edith used to live at Court Cottages, Loders, was buried at Sturminster Newton, where she died. Her father was coachman at Loders Court in the reign of the Nepeans. Her sister Edith, who survives her, was not well enough to attend the funeral, but Mrs. Willmott and Mrs. David Thomas did, and so did a fellow teacher of Miss Hinks at Loders School, Miss Garland. Miss Elizabeth Hinks had spent nearly all her active life in Loders School. Going there as an infant, she stayed on as an apprentice teacher at fourteen, and when she had finished her apprenticeship, continued all her working life as assistant. Many of the present senior citizens of Loders were taught by her. By today's standards she would be reckoned as unqualified, but she was a born teacher, of great character, and her surviving pupils cherish their memory of her.

THE EASTER TERM MEETING of the Managers of Loders School was presided over by the chairman, Mr. Miles, who reported on the joint meeting of managers and teachers of the area attended by him and Mr. Price. The latter announced the good news that the school, whose numbers are now nearing sixty, had been granted another part time teacher, for the mornings. With the afternoon part time teacher, the two full time teachers and the Vicar taking divinity, the school will benefit in varying degrees from five teachers.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the ringers in the Farmers' Arms Mr. Harry Crabb was re-elected captain, Mr. Frank Good vice-captain, and Mr. Bill Maddison secretary and treasurer. Mr. Nicholas Willmott was made tower warden in succession to Mr. Tom Dennett, who is now full of farm work. Miss Dulcie Newberry and Mr. Good undertook to collect the annual tribute from grateful parishioners. Miss Susan Short has agreed to pilot a ringing outing in her minibus. The younger element found this prospect more congenial than the Bacchanalian "Out In" beloved of Harry and the ghosts of the Ancients.

THE CORPORATE COMMUNION of the Mothers Union and the meeting which followed in the Vicarage was very well attended. Members were pleased to have with them, and again at the Easter services, their former Enrolling Member, Mrs. Olive Lenthall. This year's Deanery festival is to be at Loders.

THE CONTROVERSY in the Bridport News about the fire arrangements at Loders Hut has led some people to think the Hut is now unavailable for functions. This is not so. Fire precautions were never as bad as alleged in the press and the additional ones suggested by the Fire Officer are being provided. Nobody is more conscious of the need to improve the Hut than the present Hut Committee. But until the trustees of the Uploders Room sell it and hand over the proceeds the Committee lack the wherewithal to effect the scheme of improvement for the Hut. The sale is held up by a dispute over the boundaries of the Uploders Room between the trustees (Mr. Wilfred Crabb, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Bartlett and the clerk Mr. Brown) and Mr. John Ellis, the owner of the adjoining ground. Only a few square feet are involved. It is a pity the Hut improvement scheme was not mooted when the Hut came out of the war with a big nest egg from government requisitioning, which could now have been used to better advantage than it was.

MR. AND MRS. JACK VERRINDER, following the tragic loss of both his legs, have left the Uploders Crown for Shoreham, and the licence has been transferred to Mrs. Verrinder's brother, Mr. R.H. Small, of Whitton, Middlesex. Jack and his lady will be horribly missed, but their example of how to meet adversity will long outstay them.

#### SERVICES IN APRIL

<u>LODERS</u>	5th Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	12th Holy Communion 2	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.



THE MONTH OF MAY is now connected pleasantly in our minds with the annual May Fair at Loders School. Saturday, 16th. May, 2.30 p.m. is the time fixed for the crowning of the May Queen followed by Maypole dancing and the fancy dress competition. No fair would be complete without stalls. Here there will be cakes, sweets, fancy goods, handicrafts, groceries, produce, plants, discarded toys, books, bric-a-brac and discarded garments. Gifts of these articles will be welcome. Of last year's takings £35 was spent on new books for the library, £22 on the Christmas party, and the rest on the netball team, handicraft tools and oddments. The money raised this year will be for the Christmas party and presents and to buy some of the more expensive instruments needed in the school orchestra.

SPRING is by long usage the meeting time of the parish parliaments, both civil and ecclesiastical. This year the meetings should have been unusually lively, the civil because the Maud report threatens to take from parishes their small part in local government, and the ecclesiastical because under the new measure of synodical government the laity have been given a bigger part in church affairs. On top of this, the age of local government electors has been reduced to eighteen and of church electors to seventeen. But the meetings showed no visible effect of these stimulents. At the parish assemblies the speeches of the chairmen warmly welcomed the young new electors, but none was present. At the church assemblies the laity had no enthusiasm for the new powers thrust upon them. They eschewed the new lock, re-elected their old well proven officers and wondered whether the back room boys in London, pinning their hopes for the future on a new kind of committee realised that "if Moses had been a committee the Israelites would still be in Egypt".

CHURCH OFFICERS. In Askerswell and Loders these are the same as before, with the secretary-treasurers (Mrs. George Bryan and Miss Muriel Randall) and Group Captain Newell and Mr. John Marsh joining their respective standing committees. Our representatives on the new Deanery synod are reinforced by Miss Elsie Male and Colonel A.W. Shirley. The Loders meeting to the surprise of the Vicar insisted on his taking the new post of Electoral Roll Officer. The Askerswell meeting bestowed it on Mr. Garrard.

CHURCH FINANCE. The Askerswell statement of accounts showed income of £412.4.7d. expenditure of £367. 2s. 5d., and a credit balance of £45. 2s. 2d. The church repair fund stands at around £200. Church collections were £136. 13s. 9d and covenants plus I.R. returns £152.11s.6d. Dottery accounts showed income (including realisation of securities) of £505. 8s. 7d, expenditure of £443. 11s. 11d., and a credit balance of £61. 16. 8d. During the year the exterior of the church had been renovated at a cost of £300. Loders accounts showed ordinary income of £972. 15s. 9d., expenditure of £945. 16s. 9d., and a credit balance of £26. 19s. -. The church repair fund stands at £1,659. 16s. 8d. Church collections were £616. 5s. 5d. and covenants plus I.R. returns £155. 4s. 2d.

THE CHANCEL ROOF of Loders, long in a delicate condition, has now reached a state in which it would be folly to postpone restoration any longer. After heavy rain a puddle of water is to be found at the foot of the chancel arch, and marks on the north wall from top to bottom show where it gets in. The architect has made an inspection and will be producing tenders for uncovering the roof, replacing the decayed medieval timbers and re-laying the slates. This will have to be done without hurt to the barrel ceiling beneath and will need skill. The cost could be in the region of £3,000. A little over half of this is in hand. But our belief is that if this urgent work is begun right away, this year's fete, and the generosity of the many friends of Loders Church, will see that we are not long in debt.

THE CHOIR OF SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE will be in these parts next month and are kindly giving a concert of choral music from the year 1,500 to the present day in aid of Loders chancel roof. The concert will be in Loders Church on Thursday, 18th. June, at 7.30 p.m. Coffee will be served on the Vicarage lawn afterwards. This method of paying for the roof should have its compensations. Incidentally the occasion should do something to correct the prevailing adult notion that all students are irresponsible rebels. The vast majority are anything but this. The Selwyn choir of twelve give their time and talent freely to maintain the services of the college chapel.

HELP FOR THE BLIND. Loders Women's Institute raised £24.10s.2d. for the Royal National Institute for the Blind and enjoyed themselves in the process by means of a coffee evening which was also attended by members of three other W.I's. Mrs. Wilkins was in her element in charge of the refreshments. Mrs. Tom Rudd had decorated the Hut beautifully with flowers. Miss Smelt produced an excellent charade based on scenes from history. The costumes, described by our correspondent as "magnificent", had been lent by friends, mostly by Mrs. Price. The cast were



Mesdames Wells, Osborne, Taylor, Spencer, Morris and Newbury. Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Morris also ran the bring and buy stall. Miss Ping and Mrs. Chubb sold raffle tickets.

CAPTAIN AYLMER has given £30 to Askerswell Church to buy something in memory of his late wife, Phoebe. The treasurer has put it by until a need arises, as it is sure to do. The congregation will appreciate Captain Aylmer's kindness.

THE LATE MR. TOM HUGHES and his wife had not been long retired from Canada and become devoted to Loders Church, when he died. It was his wish to be buried in our churchyard and the Vicar exercised his discretion in favour of this, feeling that Mr. Hughes' generous support of church and churchyard, if nothing else, gave him a claim. The Vicar of Collaton St. Mary, Paignton, who was unable to take part in the funeral, wrote "Tom Hughes was quite a fine young man. He and I met by chance in the 1914-18 war, in the battle scarred town of Albert, just under the leaning statue of Our Lady above the shattered cathedral. We met again in England, have remained friends ever since. He was perhaps the finest man I have known." Much sympathy was felt for the widow, who is now back from a successful eye operation in Weymouth.

A GREAT GRANDMOTHER in her ninety second year attended the christening of the infant son (John) of Mr. and Mrs. Robin Wells, of Loders Post Office, on April 12th. She was Mrs. Eveleigh, formerly of Uploders. The christening robe was a mere youngster of seventy. The service was in Loders Church and was brightened further by the posies of flowers the Sunday School had brought to distribute afterwards to senior citizens, a gesture which the lack of flowers on Mothering Sunday had prevented.

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Parker, of Well Plot, on the birth of a son in Bridport Hospital.

THE SENIOR MEMBERS of our Mothers' Union, hard workers all of them, who usually fall into a little nap during the address at the monthly meeting, did not "drap off" last time, and are glad that they kept awake. The speaker was a man, and a young man at that, Mr. Michael Willmott. For the best part of an hour he held them enthralled by his experiences on the island of Grand Turk, in the West Indies, where he and the son of the chaplain of Mill Hill School did a stint of Voluntary Service Overseas before they went their respective ways to Cambridge and Oxford. Mr. Gerrard contrived to show colour slides illustrating the talk, with an expertise not noticeably cramped by the thirty bodies squeezed into the vicarage dining room. Members who sell their garden produce were especially interested in a place where cabbages fetch six shillings each.

NEW PARISHIONERS The "unchanging countryside" is never static for long, in these parts at any rate. Miss Jonas has moved to Devon with her job, from the imposing home she build overlooking The Square in Askerswell, and it has been taken by Mr. and Mrs. Edward George, of Epping. They have a married son who lives in Bridport. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bryant have left Hill View, Uploders, for the vale of Evesham, where he has a new appointment. The Vicar's visits to Hill View to welcome the new occupants never seem to coincide with theirs, but he gathers that they are another Mr. and Mrs. George. St. Anthony in Uploders, long vacant, is now the home of Miss Pamela Pockett, who comes from the Midlands. She is in business in Beaminster, and finds it a welcome change from her former institutional work. Knight's Pightle, also in Uploders, is soon to exchange Miss Ursula Armitage for another occupant, which must mean that Uploders is to lose its distinctive tang. Miss Armitage's work for the young people will long be remembered. But who is to keep the Vicar in order now?

THE SUMMER EVENSONGS at Loders will begin on May 24th, Trinity Sunday at 7 p.m. Would lovers of the evening hour make a note?

A REMINDER to our churchwardens and sidesmen that the Archdeacon's Visitation is this year superseded by a Visitation of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese himself, which they are cited to attend. It will be at Sherborne Abbey on May 14th, at 6.30 p.m. Diocesan registrars are bigger fish than Archidiaconal and feed bigger. The fee of two guineas is to be sent to the Registrar in the Close, Salisbury, beforehand!.

#### SERVICES IN MAY

<u>LODERS</u>	3rd Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	10th Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	17th WHITSUN Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	24th Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2 Evensong 7
	31st Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2.
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	3rd Children 10.	Evensong 6.30.	10th Matins 10. 17th Whitsun H.C.10.
	24th Family Service 10.	31st Matins 10.	



THE CHOICE of June 18th for a General Election is thought by some of our friends to have cancelled automatically the visit of the choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, to Loders Church, fixed long beforehand on the same date. But the young gentlemen who compose the choir think that if something must indeed give way on this date, then it should be the General Election. They will come according to plan. There is no need for either to be cancelled. A feast of choral music from the year 1,500 to the present day, served up by young enthusiasts in the dispassionate calm of Loders Church at eventide, should take away the taste of the election and nourish us with less ephemeral food. A collection will be taken towards the restoration of Loders Church, and coffee will be served later on the vicarage lawn to give the congregation an opportunity to meet the choir. Last summer they sang in the Lorna Doone country, including Oare Church. They are keen to see how the Hardy country compares.

LAST MONTH produced a nice uplift for the restoration fund of Loders Church, although the occasion of some of it was sad. Mrs. Jessie Hughes sent £10 in memory of her late husband, Tom. Mrs. Doris Rudd, and family and friends sent £24 in memory of the late Mr. Tom Rudd and that ever-faithful friend of Loders in Canada, Mr. Fred Vacher, has sent 100 dollars on the eve of going into hospital for a major operation. He is now in his 82nd year, though few would think it, and we wish him well. The Honourable Alexander Hood and the Viscount Hood, who have already helped the restoration considerably, have encouraged us by promising further help. The major effort of the parish will be concentrated on the fete, which the Hon. Mrs. Hood has again kindly consented to take charge of. It will be on Saturday, August 1st, at Loders Court.

TO THE EDITOR, A lady writes: "Dear Sir, I do hope you will pardon me bothering you. My reason for writing is this: A year or so ago we spent our holidays in Dorset and one Saturday you had your garden fete. We came, and enjoyed such a pleasant afternoon, I am wondering if you are having one this summer? If so, I should be grateful if you would let me know the date, please, as we are hoping to spend our holidays again this year in lovely Dorset". The letter is signed "Mrs. Kathleen Gardiner". She is probably unaware of the real compliment she pays the setting of Loders Court and so of the fete, for she writes not from among the dark Satanic mills - but from 3, The Village, WINDSOR GREAT PARK! What has Loders that the Queen lacks? A few years ago your editor came near to being snowed up in Windsor Great Park and never regretted it. The tracery of the frost on the great trees of the forest, especially the old oaks, was breathtaking in its beauty.

SO MUCH PRAISE has been bestowed on Loders Whitsun anthem that we asked the organist what it was, imagining that it was one of the lesser known classics. It turned out to be by a Mr. T. Smith, and even has to share a book with many other composers. Surely it must be one of the best of Whitsun anthems. Some of these are so spiritual that they fall asleep. This one was full of verve and exultation, reproducing more nearly the excitement and power of the first Whit-Sunday.

PREPARATIONS are going ahead for Askerswell Fete on Saturday, July 11th. It will be held in the grounds of the new village hall, and is being run by the hall committee to give the hall finances a sounder footing. Manning the stalls and teas and sideshows will absorb a large part of the population of this small village, so they will need the support of all their friends to make the effort worth while. This year they haven't Miss Edwards to be making and selling things and filling the kitty before the day.

THE MAY FAIR AT LODERS SCHOOL graduated this year to a full report in the local press. One paper sported two pictures, which in the brilliant sunshine following the previous day's continuous rain could not help coming out well. They showed the Maypole dancing (which suffered no defects from the ban on practice imposed by the bad weather) and the elected May Queen. Jennifer Crabb, being crowned by that shy friend and benefactor of the school, Granny Newberry. It says much for Mr. Price, the headmaster, that he managed to persuade her; and for the general esteem in which he and his staff are held that the takings for the school fund notched another record, £81. Success like this is not obtained without hard work and the headmaster would be the first to acknowledge what is owed to his unpaid staff, i.e. his wife and her ready helper Mrs. Miles. The coronation dresses were their creation and so was most of the needlework on the stalls, which they had been working at months before-hand. How true it is that only the busiest will find time for more. Both of these are mothers of large families. Mrs. Price was working at the fair with the youngest papoose on her back.



THE NEIGHBOURS IN UPLODERS are glad to have Mrs. Frank Crabb safely back from a major operation in Dorchester. Mrs. Brown is also back at Lock's Hill from a year's convalescence with her daughter in Yeovil. Approaching ninety though she may be, her mind is as clear as ever and her power of narrative undiminished. It is hoped that one of the familiar sights of the Uploders' landscape may soon be seen about on his bike again; Mr. Fred Collier, who has recovered from a tough bout of bronchitis, and has got as far as the braiding. Mr. Ron Thomas was in Bridport Hospital for a short spell, but was soon back at work catching up on the arrears of thatching.

THE LATE MR. TOM RUDD, and his family, would still be reckoned newcomers by Dorset standards but it is more than twenty-two years since they settled at Corfe Farm and began to pull their weight in the social life of the neighbourhood. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rudd were natives of Sunderland, arriving here via Chard and Exeter. They enrolled with Loders Church, and have been an unfailing strength to it ever since, as witness the colourful collection of kneelers, which capture the fancy of visitors and which deputations from other churches come to copy. Mr. Rudd had the old idea that it was not seemly for a man to be too prominent in church activities. The help he gave was mostly behind the scenes. He had a good head for business, a sound judgment, a kind heart and a strong sense of loyalty, and his pastor was one to benefit by these qualities over the years. Good health was another of his assets. The epidemics that bowled others over left him intact, to do the extra work cheerfully. At the time of his death he was working with his wife in the garden. His passing was so quick that he could not have known what dying is - a fine way if only those who remain can bear the shock. The funeral service in Loders Church was simple, and not much publicised, but it attracted a large congregation. On this occasion the comfort of hymns was eschewed and the Burial Office of 1662 reigned in unadorned majesty. Cremation followed at Weymouth.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN At the annual meeting of Loders Parish Council the retiring chairman, Mr. Wilfred Crabb, said that having reached his seventieth birthday, and served the Council as chairman for fifteen years, he did not wish to stand for election again. He was warmly thanked for past services. It was playfully pointed out to him that the Clerk, Mr. Brown, had filled that office for forty-four years and did not consider it too long. The retiring vice-chairman, Mr. Price, was proposed as chairman, but he not surprisingly declined because of his other commitments. He proposed Mr. Lucas. The latter is a busy man too. He is also the Loders representative on the R.D.C. and this, combined with his great interest in local government, made him the obvious choice. He agreed to nomination and was elected unanimously, with Mr. Price as vice-chairman.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING Loders ringers were practising their art one evening in May. The sky was overcast and thunder rumbled in the distance. Then came a clap that seemed only a few feet away and made everybody jump. When the rumble had died away, the tenor bell was found to be swinging but not sounding. The clapper had broken off. It might have fallen awkwardly and damaged the bell or the cage, but it didn't. It is now at the Loughborough bell foundry being mended and the harmony of the peal is temporarily impaired. Now for the electrical disturbance: At evensong in Askerswell the Rector announced a hymn and the organist counter announced that the organ would not blow. So the congregation sang unaccompanied. The sermon was duly proceeded with, but could not hold attention against an incipient smell of burning. In the last hymn a churchwarden made a dash for the vestry and found acrid smoke rising from the blower. The electric motor had burnt out, fortunately when it could be prevented from setting fire to the organ. A new motor is on order. Meanwhile the old blowing handle comes in useful and Captain Lumby is getting a little exercise.

#### SERVICES IN JUNE

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 Children 10,	Evensong 6.30	
	14th Matins 10		
	21st Family Service 10.		
	28th Holy Communion 10.		
DOTTERY	7th Holy Communion 9.30		
All others at 3.			