

The white Christmas predicted by the weather forecasters turned out to be green and mild. Influenza germs liked it, as some of our parishioners know to their cost, but a spring-like Christmas Day makes for mobility, and a large number of worshippers got to all our three churches. It was good to have so many old friends among them. Loders was full for the midnight service, and again for the family service on Christmas morning. The carols sung so enchantingly by the children at the chancel tree included one to an accompaniment of recorders. It had been composed by Leonard Clark and set to a tune by Richard Lloyd. We have not yet been able to satisfy the ensuing clamour for copies - it "caught on" immediately. The early hour of Christmas morning service at Dottery did not defeat the faithful: indeed, some of the spiritual athletes among them had been at the Loders "midnight" a few hours earlier, and the church radiated a full and happy feeling. The Askerswell service was enlivened by a parade of the Sunday School with bright morning faces. They made a present at the altar of cash towards church expenses. On view in the chancel were new seats they had acquired for their tiny tots. One of these (the seats) had been made by Miss Marjorie Rendall, of Loders.

One of the pleasing features of Loders Choir's carol singing round the parish is that year by year more and more voices went to reinforce them, and the development is not disproportionate; for the kind households which administer hospitality seem always able to wine and dine them, however distended the number. At Uploders House Mrs. Rust, Mrs. Sanctuary and Mrs. Low had assembled a crowd of neighbours in the drawing room to hear the carollers. If they felt any qualms when a crowd of performers as big as the audience trooped in, they continued to look inviting, and the delicious soup and home-made wine gave no hint of judicious watering. This is equally true of the Loders hostesses, the Hon. Mrs. Hood and Miss Mrs. Edwards, who entertained the invasion without batting an eyelid. By this time the Vicarage had an idea of the number that would end up round the log fire. But so replete were the carollers when they arrived that they devoted more energy to extracting favourite ditties from Mr. Tilley than to the groaning board. All was satisfactory from the viewpoint of the C of E Children's Society. The collecting boxes yielded £18.80.

Carollers in Askerswell were also industrious for good causes. The children of the Frier family did a few singing sorties and brought Mrs. Garrard a pound for the Guide dogs for the blind. At Spyway Tine and Carol Wykes brought their box for Bernardo's Homes to over £16, representing a fine year's work.

Baby news. Christmas Day babies are not an unfixed blessing. Mr & Mrs Bill Hunt, of Shipton Lane, were probably glad that their latest son was born on Dec. 20th, and the proud grandparents, Mr & Mrs Ian Forbes, about to pilot the Bull and Bycle's Mouth hotels through hectic Christmas festivities, were doubtless glad to have their blessings a little staggered. Mr & Mrs Graham Roper brought their new daughter home to Dottery for christening on Nov. 28th. She was named Hayley Marie, and could not have been insensitive to the welcome of a large congregation. Loders Sunday School were delighted to have a christening in their service on Dec. 5th. It was of David, the son of Mr & Mrs Michael Moor, of Upton Dairy. On this occasion the children conceded the right to read the gospel to one of the godfathers, a doctor who is a lay reader in his own church. The christening of Justin Rees Griffiths, son of Daniel and Mary (nee Willmott) in Loders Church on Dec. 27th coincided with a large family gathering which enabled the sole surviving great grandparent to be present, a maternal grandparent to be godmother, and two uncles, Michael and Nicholas Willmott, to be godfathers. Mr & Mrs Griffiths now live at St. Leonards-on-sea.

The above paragraph was inserted at that point to guard against the account of Christmas activities becoming monotonous. Askerswell Church had its first carol service for many a year on Dec. 19th. The weather could hardly have been worse. Every time the door opened to admit a worshipper, the curtains tried to take off, and the attendants became lords-a-leaping in their efforts to hold them down. Yet the nave was quite full, and the service very cheery. It was no surprise to have the village hall Christmas party notching up another success. There was a good attendance, which enjoyed a programme of games and dancing under the genial direction of Mr George Bryan, with Mrs Groves at the piano and a radiogram alternating in the musical accompaniment. To make a profit was not an object of this enterprise: that it did not make a loss after providing such lavish refreshments on so modest an admission charge was remarkable.

The Uploders Chapel carol service was so enjoyed by the "full house" taking part, that a programme lasting 1½ hours left them still ready for more. Christopher Miles, the junior-organist of Loders Church, was at the harmonium, and children from Loders School with violins and recorders reinforced him. Mrs Stebbings, of Uploders, and ladies of the Bridport Methodist Church (which was well represented at the service) sang solos. The collection was made-up to £6.50 and given to the Rev. Percy Smith's Home at Filsdon Manor.

Loders School held its carol service of seven lessons in the church shortly before Christmas, delighting a large congregation of parents and friends, some of whom, no doubt, felt the same urge to clap the children's performance which other parents confessed to feeling when the children sang on the chancel step on Christmas Day. A collection of £8 was sent to Shelter, which provides homes for the homeless.

At this stage in the saga of Christ's festivities, here are a couple of "commercials": At the monthly meeting of the Y.U. at the Vicarage on Jan 20th at 2.45 p.m. the speaker will be a Marriage Guidance Counsellor. Any young wife who cares to attend would be most welcome. Askerswell are departing from tradition in holding their annual church meeting and vestry in January instead of St Easter. All parochial electors may attend, and it is hoped many will do so. The meeting will be in the village hall on the 20th at 7.30 p.m.

Father Christmas was somewhat late in reaching the Loders School party, and the cars of parents who had come to collect their children piled up outside. The headmaster announced that he must have been delayed by snow at the North Pole. The children were either too absorbed by the games or too dulled by the super-abundant tea to wonder why 'snow, which is no stranger to the North Pole, had not delayed him in other years. But the delay seemed to make the contents of his sack the more desirable, and they came up to the highest expectations.

The mission sale was perhaps more enjoyable than ever, and certainly the most successful financially. It took £60, and Mrs Willmott thanked the donors of things to sell, and the school staff and children for their entertainment. This began with a fiesta in sunny Mexico, and ended with the visit of the three kings to Bethlehem. The angels were wonderfully angelic, but the unrehearsed touches were also delightful - the fidgets of Joseph as he guarded the Babe and longed for the loco; the thinking arresting the fat king's wandering attention with a brotherly pinch.

Mr & Mrs Elmore seem to have slipped away from Dottery to their new home in Bridlington, Yorkshire, quite unobserved. Perhaps they did not wish to parade their grief at leaving, which Dottery shared. According to a letter since received from them, even the furniture van broke down.

Opposite the paragraph in our last Notes referring to the demolition of the homes of some of the staunchest supporters of Dottery Church, at the Blue Bell crossroads, Mr Robert Ward, who is zealous for road improvements, bids us say he did not envisage the uprooting of Headstone, Reynish, Roper and Parker, and utterly deplores it, as being quite unnecessary. Knowing Mr Ward, we accept this correction unreservedly, and penitently.

May we end these Notes on one of gratitude to Michael Willmott and his Selwyn Singers for their moving performance of Advent music in Loders Church, and to Miss Anna Edwards for helping to feed them afterwards. The fact that many of the congregation attended the Colfox performance the same afternoon, and that the large hall was well filled with an audience that preferred Selwyn to the Sundry Afternoon Sister, is convincing evidence of their acceptability in a town noted for musical appreciation.

Services in January.
Loders: Afternoons ... 9th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
16th HC 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
23rd HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.
30th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Askerswell: Afternoons ... 9th Matins 10,
16th Family Service,
23rd HC 10, Matins 11
30th Matins 10.

Dottery: Afternoons ... All at 3 p.m.

Parish Notes : Loders, Dottery & Askerswell - February, 1972.

The roof of Askerswell Church engaged the attention of a well attended annual church meeting, held for the first time in January instead of the traditional Easter week. At Askerswell meetings, divergence of view can sometimes develop into a dialectic exercise divorced from the business in hand, but on this subject there was absolute unanimity and firm resolve: the roof could not be left long as it is, with the south side re-slated and secure, and the north side still decrepit and at the mercy of the elements, both held together by a thin parsony ridge. Mr. Fry, who made such a good job of the south roof, is to be asked for an estimate for the north, and the work done as soon as possible. Group Captain Newall's gallant offer to provide the necessary funds until the kitty could be replenished was gratefully accepted, with recollections of an earlier occasion when Mrs Newall had helped with a similar gesture. A combined flower festival and gift day is to be the money raiser for the roof. The time of this has been fixed by the Bridport Flower Arrangement Club, who have kindly agreed to turn the church into a temple of flora for three days - June 17, 18 & 19. On June 17 the Rector and Churchwardens will sit in church to receive gifts towards the work; on the following day there will be a festive evensong at which it is hoped a diocesan dignitary will preach; and on all three days there will be refreshments and things to buy on the lawn of Court Farm, adjacent to the church.

Loders Church Council will meet on Friday, 25 Feb at 7.30 p.m. to consider the architect's proposals for the next phase of church repairs and estimates. He proposes the re-pointing of the walls, the re-glozing of certain windows, and the redecoration of the chancel, which suffered from the bad weather at the time of the chancel re-roofing.

Churchyards. Captain Lumby has kindly agreed again to be in charge of the volunteers who trim Askerswell churchyard. The annual church meeting congratulated him and them on the appearance of the churchyard last year. Mr George Bryan has charted most of the graves in the new part of the churchyard. A few cannot be accounted for. He would appreciate it if people with graves in the new section would check with him. Although Dottery churchyard is legally under the jurisdiction of Loders Church Council, it is felt that the Dottery congregation could best arrange a more satisfactory method of maintenance. A meeting of the congregation with the sexton will be held this month.

A New parishioner. Mrs Iris Knighton-Hammond, has taken up residence at Sea Glimpse, and her part in Dottery church life - a thing to which she is no stranger. She was vicar's warden in a previous parish, and is an aunt of the present Vicar of Frome. Her husband was a well known artist, who died two years ago at the age of ninety-four. He was still producing first class work at ninety. Mrs Knighton-Hammond comes from Scarborough, near Crewkerne, and has a daughter living at South Petherton. A Dottery housewife said of Mrs Knighton-Hammond "I only hope er'll like we as much as we likes er".

Home from Australia. Mrs Sarah Reed, the second oldest inhabitant of Uplodders, has just parted company with her son Fred, who has been spending a month with her from Western Australia, where he has worked for the past twelve years as manager of a building firm. He was the only son among four daughters, and Mrs Reed leaves nobody in doubt as to what his visit meant to her, though she is quick to admit that nobody could have better daughters. Fred's own family have divergent views about Australia. He loves it; his wife (who was here last summer) would prefer to be back in England, and his son Alan, who positively dislikes it, has been working in Bridport for the last two years.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Robert Johnson, of Loders, on the birth of their first child, a son, at Portway Hospital, on St. Paul's day, Jan 25th. He was a reluctant arrival, but neither mother nor son seem to have suffered much by the delay. He was an eight pounder.

Mr & Mrs Alan Goldie, of Canegar Lane, were not deterred by a local outbreak of chickenpox from bringing their infant son to Loders Church on Jan 23rd to be christened Richard William. Mrs Goldie senior, the grandmother, was among the congregation of relatives. It was good to have these former residents of Shipton Lane renewing their ties with Loders.

Loders lost the only remaining one of its many forgers when the late Mr Charlie Gale retired from work. It now looks to have lost its only working mill by the death of Mr Hamilton Barnes, of Loders Hill. In literature millers appear as a race apart (readers may remember the one on the River Dee who sang "I live by my mill, she is to me like parent, child and wife; I would not change my low degree for any other in life...and I care for nobody, no, not I; if nobody cares for me"). Tomil, in his forty one years at the Mill, seemed to grow attached to it as by an umbilical cord. The lures of the outside world, and even poor health could not wean him from his work, in which he was a great believer. Occasionally his powers of expression exceeded his powers of thought - and that was the time to be listening - but he had a philosophy of life to work by, which made him a rare and colourful bird in times like these. A devoted wife and four daughters saw to it that they were not suburban to the Mill in his affections. They will

leave us pleasant memories of times shared in Sunday School and in their family occasions at church, also the tantalising thought that had Derek, the only son not died in all the promise of his young manhood, the full right not now be passing out of Loders life.

Askerswell also lost one of its worthies by the death of Bob Focks. His next of kin asked for a "quiet" funeral. A note about him here will merely echo what they who knew and respected him were thinking. He was a son of the late Bark Focks, who ruled the roads of the neighbourhood in the name of the County Council. The land attracted Bob more than the roads, and he joined the staff at South Eggerdon Farm, where he acquired skill in all the arts of husbandry and worked for most of his life. (His ex-player, Group Captain Newall, told the annual church meeting of his merits, and how the farm was missing him). He disliked holidays and had to be coaxed into them, convinced that his weekly visit to the Saturday afternoon pictures at Bridport, preceded by an hour's contemplation of the traffic by the Town Hall, was recreation enough. He took little part in village life, but was liked by everybody. The puzzle is that one who seemed so robust and rarely in need of a doctor should fall to bronchitis and be dead in two days at the age of sixty-four.

The visitors book in Loders Church given by Mrs Joyce Harrison is full with the names and remarks of four years of visitors, and has been kindly replaced by a new one from Mrs Marjorie Vacher, who was here for Christmas from Toronto. The old book is interesting to browse over. The visitors were from all over the world, and these are a sample of their remarks:- "Please keep it like this. The holiness of beauty." "Words fail. Marvelous petit-point hassocks. Mother worshipped here ninety years ago. Lovely tapestry (altar frontal). Flower arrangements original and beautiful. So glad we found Loders. Thank you all. May the spirit of forgiveness the lily Mary Magdalene essence radiate from this house. Happy to visit for the fourth time. I like your sun tree (i.e. Mrs Bartlett's tall pot plant on the chancel step).

Askerswell church accounts for the year ended Dec 31st 1971 showed expenditure of £926.34, receipts £1075.80, and a credit balance of £149.46. Church collections were slightly up at £181.58, Covenants and tax returns slightly down at £157.16 because of the lower rate of income tax.

Older inhabitants of Loders may have had nostalgic feelings when they heard of the death of Miss Edith Hinks at Sturminster Newton. She was ninety. Her active life was spent at Loders Court as head housemaid, and Mrs Phyllis Bunnell, the present holder of that office, is a pleasing product of Miss Hinks' training. Miss Hinks' father was coachman at the Court under the Colvilles, and Miss Hinks claimed to have been born when the family were once en route to Scotland, with her mother in the entourage.

Loders Parish Council breathed a sigh of relief when they heard from their clerk, Mr Harold Brown, that the twelve years of negotiation with the Charity Commission were about to end with the offer for sale of the Uploders Room. An unforeseen and lucky consequence of the delay is that the site has rocketed in value, and grants to parish halls have proliferated. When Mr Derek Skerts and his committee set about renovating the present village hall they should not be hampered by lack of funds.

Services in February

Loders. 6th H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

13th H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

16th Ash Wednesday, Children 9.15, Communion 10.

20th H.C. 8 & 12, Matins 11, Children 2.

27th H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.

Askerswell. 6th Children 10, Evensong 6.30.

13th Matins 10.

16th Ash Wednesday, Communion 11.

20th Family Service 10.

27th H.C. 10.

Dorset. 6th H.C. 9.30.

All others 3.

THE ASKERSWELL FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS on June 17, 18 and 19th is now taking shape. The Dorchester West Walks Choir, who have made quite a name for themselves, will be singing at the Sunday Evensong. Mr. Frost has ideas of an attractive souvenir of the festival giving the most interesting items of the history of Askerswell. But getting a diocesan dignitary to preach at the evensong at short notice is very difficult. They get booked so far ahead. Dr. Victor Pike, Bishop of Sherborne, was the obvious first choice, but he writes: "I am so sorry I cannot come, as I am at a similar service at Chickerell at the same time on the same day. Otherwise I should have been very happy to come. May I come to Askerswell another time if it would be of any help? I have never been there".

A gratifying number of Dottery people attended a Sunday evensong last month and stayed behind afterwards to discuss how to make it easier for the sexton to keep the churchyard tidier now that a considerable part of it is covered thickly with mounds. A general levelling to make it amenable in the growing season to bi-monthly cutting by rotoscythe was considered too expensive. It will continue to be scythed by hand, and the sexton will grapple with the present situation until the end of this season. People who want to keep their mounds will have to trim them, or make some financial arrangement with the sexton to do it. At the end of the season the mounds which have not been tended will be levelled. The sexton was thanked for his good work in the churchyard; the meeting congratulated itself on having a sexton at all, and voted him an increase in pay of 80%. Somebody piped up that the organist deserved an increase, too and she was promptly awarded 50%. This makes the miners' recent victory look like defeat. Anybody inclined to report the matter to Ted Heath had better tell him, before he gets a coronary, that the increases bring the sexton's pay to £18 and the organist's to £12, both per annum. To give the organist more freedom in the summer months (she being a busy farmer's wife) it was agreed to reduce the 3 p.m. evensongs by one, and to have a 9 a.m. matins instead.

At a Loders Parish Meeting summoned to hear addresses by County officials, Colonels Le Quesne and Woodward on impending local government reorganisation, Colonel Woodward said that the new Act placed the responsibility for parish burial grounds firmly on the shoulders of parish councils. He congratulated Loders Parish Council on being a pioneer in this, and said that more than half the parish councils of Dorset were now following Loders' example.

Two christenings of more than usual interest have taken place in Loders Church. On January 30th the latest addition to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hunt, of Shipton Lane, was brought to the font, and named Rodney William Ambrose. The paternal grandparents had the misfortune to be ill, but it was a field day for the mother's side. The maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ian Forbes, unfaltering and long standing friends of Loders Church, were present, and so were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nelson, (nee Elizabeth Forbes) from County Cork, shewing no sign of the nervous prostration that would be ours did we live in homely expectation of kingdom come by those energetic forwarding agents, the I.R.A. Mr. Nelson stood godfather with Mr. Michael Forbes, and Mrs. Jennie Forbes was godmother. Mrs. Nelson was at the organ for the hymns. The other christening was of Catherine Victoria Chick, of St. Andrew's Road, Bridport, on February 20th. About this young lady the remarkable thing was that she had been longed for by her parents, who were married in Loders nearly eleven years ago, and she had only recently arrived. So the welcome was terrific. Friends and neighbours filled most of one aisle of the church, and pitched into the hymns in spite of a power cut which deprived them of light and organ. How they would all get into the parental home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Chick was a problem more apparent than real, for they adjourned to the West Mead Hotel for the feast.

An apology herewith to Mr. and Mrs. B.R. Sheppard, of Uploders Farm, for failing to note one of their great occasions, the birth of a son, David Roy, on December 19th last; we had not even heard that he was expected, and we fear we are not as observant as some.

Our branch of the Mothers' Union will hold their quarterly corporate Communion in Loders Church on Thursday, March 23rd, at 10 a.m. The last monthly meeting heard an interesting talk by Mrs. Shiner on Canterbury Cathedral.

Two ways of looking at it. A recent visitor to Loders noticed on an afternoon's walk through the village that a small farm had a card sticking out of the wall with AI on it. Down the road he saw a bit of slate stuck into another wall with AI on it. Further along he met a third card on a gate saying AI. "Well", said he "How truly spendid this is. The spirit of Churchill lingers on. These farmers take the power cuts and all the inconvenience in their stride and instead of giving the V sign, put up these little notices to say they are A One". (The Milk Marketing Board's Artificial Inseminator on his daily round reads the notices less romantically).

The late Mrs. Lily Hyde, who died at the age of 71, and was buried in Loders church-yard on February 22nd, had many friends, in spite of her secluded life at Mudlark Cottage in New Street Lane, as the attendance at the funeral service showed. She was a true countrywoman, who lived in daily enjoyment of her corner of the Dorset countryside, and had a serene outlook that kept the troubles of the world in perspective. She was a great maker of country wines, and always had a case ready for the fete. The old do not always live happily under the same roof with the young, but she did, delighting in the company of her son John and his wife, Barbara and their children, and appreciating their unfailing kindness, especially in her last illness.

We enter the month of March weary of industrial and political strife, and of the horror of man's inhumanity to man emanating from Ireland, once "the island of saints" and a cradle of Christian culture in the Dark Ages. This year March is co-terminous with Lent, and ends on Good Friday. When we feel sorry for ourselves, who deserve what comes to us, we might give a thought to Him who suffers more than anybody from the present eruption of evil passions.

A clash of tastes. A gasp of consternation was the reaction of Loders Church Council to their architect's proposal to remove the stained glass window from over the altar, and replace it with clear glass. The window is not a work of art by any means, but when one enters the church from the west it catches the eye and focusses it on the altar, and is altogether pleasing until one is close enough to see the detail. The generality of Loders people love it, and a surprising number of visitors write in the book that it is one of the many pleasant features of the church. The architect was proposing to replace three lesser windows, as well, and to eliminate all colour except for the medieval and Flemish fragments in the Ladye Chapel, and the Norman window in the Chancel. His predilection for clear glass might suit a post reformation church but is here historically incorrect, for Loders Church belongs very much to the pre reformation when church walls as well as windows were a blaze of colour. As custodians of the money put up by the parish for essential work, knowing also that the present windows still have years of life in them, the Council agreed unanimously to clamp down on the architect and direct his attention to the exterior work that needs doing.

Loders Church Council considered an invitation from the Bridport Council of Churches to join them, and declined it. The Church Council's relation with the Methodist Church in Uploders is cordial and helpful, it is already an energetic supporter of some of the causes sponsored by the World Council of Churches, and sees no need to saddle itself with obligations to the Bridport Council. The Church Council felt that the World Council of Churches does Christianity no good by financially supporting guerrilla fighters in Africa; and then making itself ridiculous by later passing a resolution on Northern Ireland holding "that the problems there could not be solved by violence and counter violence, and that a military solution is no real solution".

With a feeling of dismay and apprehension Loders Church Council considered the proposals of the Pastoral Reorganisation Committee as they affect the Lyme Bay Deanery in general and these parishes in particular. The Committee want Powerstock, West Milton, Poortton, Askerswell and Loders to be one unit under one Vicar, with Dottery going to the Bridport group. It even envisages the Vicar not living in Loders, where the biggest population in the new unit would be. If this plan materialises, the Church Council sees the number of services per church reduced, income reduced, churches made redundant, and flourishing church life destroyed for no other object than to fulfil the statistician's dream of clergy evenly distributed over the country irrespective of whether the people are responsive or not.

SERVICES IN MARCH

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|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------|
| LODERS | March 5th | Holy Communion 8 and 12 | Matins 11 | Children 2 |
| | 12th | Holy Communion 8 | Matins 11 | Children 2 |
| | 19th | Holy Communion 8 and 12 | Matins 11 | Children 2 |
| | 26th | Holy Communion 8 | Matins 11 | Children 2 |
| | Maundy Thursday | Holy Communion 10 | | |
| | Good Friday, | Litany, 9. | Devotional 11. | |

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| ASKERSWELL | 5th | Children 10. | Evensong 6.30 |
| | 12th | Matins 10 | |
| | 19th | Family Service 10. | |
| | 26th | Holy Communion 10 | |
| | Good Friday, | Devotional 10. | |

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| DOTTERY | 5th | Holy Communion 9.30 |
| | All others at 3, | except Good Friday at 7.30. |

APRIL 1972

THE DEAN OF SALISBURY (the Very Reverend Fenton Morley) has agreed, at short notice to preach at the Askerswell Festival of Flowers on Sunday, June 18th, at 6.30 p.m. This is specially good of him. He will have addressed a morning conference at Salisbury and officiated at the cathedral evensong before driving the fifty-five miles to Askerswell. After the service there will be the fifty-five miles return; for he must be back that night. The Dean is so nice on personal acquaintance that one can almost forgive him for being the author of the Morley Report, which townspeople would dub "famous", and countrypeople "notorious". Like Pascall's, the Dean's heart may have reasons that his reason knows not of.

THE STAFF AND CHILDREN of Loders School have gladly agreed to do what they can to make the Askerswell Festival of Flowers a success. They will put on an open air display of country dancing, accompanied by recorders, on the Saturday afternoon of the Festival. If June should favour them with a repeat of the present balmy March weather, this should be a great draw, as the Maypole dancing at the school fair always is. Nobody could be busier than our headmaster, yet he is ever ready to help - and cheerfully - in good causes.

ENGLISH PEOPLE once had a reputation for being phlegmatic and undemonstrative. Surely this has been demolished by the present passion for "demos", of which there seems to be at least one a week. It does not do religion any harm for Christians to "show the flag" occasionally, and what better time than Easter? If all who bear the baptismal cross of Christ on their foreheads were to spare their Leader one hour on his triumph day, and attend a service in their parish church, then the churches of England could nowhere near hold them. A simple act like that, costing nothing much in effort, could hit the world harder than a Belfast bomb explosion, and for good.

AS STUDENTS FROM THE MIDLANDS will be using Loders School as an hotel throughout Easter week, the annual church meeting and Easter Vestry will be held in the vicarage, on Friday, April 7th, at 7.30 p.m. For practical purposes, any member of the congregation, or parishioner, may attend, and it is much to be hoped that some may. At this meeting an account is given of the money contributed during the year for church purposes, and officers are appointed. This time the rank and file will be able to let the-powers-that-be know what they think of the latter's proposal to group Loders, Askerswell, Powerstock, West Milton and North Porton under one parson, and possibly that parson living at Powerstock.

MOTHERING SUNDAY coincided with a rumbustious north-easterly wind which came down the chimney of the big Tudor fireplace at the vicarage, and kept blowing some of the log fire on to the carpet. The house was filled with smoke more potent than in Isaiah's vision, and the fire had to be put out - the first time the present incumbent had had to do such a thing. But the wind was powerless to deflect a large congregation from the morning service at Askerswell. The Sunday School presented posies of flowers at the altar for blessing, and later distributed them to the mothers. The plan that the congregation should join hands round the church afterwards had to be abandoned because of the wind, and because the senior worshipper, Mr. Norman Adams, didn't look up to it. By the afternoon the wind had subsided, and a goodly number of mothers joined their children for the service taken in Loders by Mrs. Willmott. She distributed to the mothers the presents brought for them by their children. After service she took the children through the village giving posies to the senior citizens and the sick. As flowers were in short supply at the time, these did not reach beyond Well Plot.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND have captured the imagination of Askerswell. "Bumbo", the Yellow Labrador Guide Dog who made such a hit last year, will be collecting again for this worthy cause in the village hall on Friday, April 7th. Proceedings will begin with tea at 4 p.m. and continue with a film show of the dogs' work. There will be a bring and buy stall. The general public are earnestly invited to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. Barry Legg, of Court Cottages, Loders on the birth of a daughter, at Bridport Hospital. She was somewhat premature, but neither she nor her mother seem the worse for that.

BAD FOR THE NERVES Two inhabitants of Uploders happened to be on the road near their homes late one night. Indeed, it was near midnight, and a pall of darkness hung over everything; for there was a power cut. They stopped in their tracks. One had heard a burst of music, as of an organ. He thought it must be noises in his own head, or in his stomach. But the other had heard it, too. And the music seemed to be emanating from the nearby chapel. Yet there was no light from the windows, and the sacred edifice was as still as the grave. These local worthies were a true son and daughter of Dorset. A wholesome respect for the powers of darkness urged them to hurry to their beds. But curiosity prevailed. They approached the chapel cautiously, and tried the door. It was unlocked, and now they did not doubt that the organ inside was playing. Bracing themselves for what they might see, they opened the door, and shone a torch on the organ. The player was not the skeleton of the haunted ballroom, but young Christopher Miles, the chapel organist. The intruders had frightened him. When all had got over their frights, the intruders agreed with Christopher that there

were worse things one could do in a blackout than put in a little organ practice. (Loders Women's Institute recently had a session of ghost stories told by dimpsey light, and this was one of them). Our local clairvoyant will doubtless divine a good omen for Christopher in this. Was not the young Handel also given to playing in the dark at midnight?

LODERS SCHOOL M/N/GERS held their termly meeting recently with Mr. Charles Miles in the chair. The resignation of Mrs. Bryan as a manager was accepted with regret and many thanks for her conscientious service to the school. Mrs. Vickery, of Meons Farm had been appointed in her place, and was warmly welcomed. In his report the headmaster, Mr. R. Price, said next term would start with fifty-nine pupils, and when Mrs. Norman took leave of absence later on she would be replaced by a French teacher, Mlle. Hallais, of Cherbourg. The recent high winds had caused blowbacks in the oil fired stoves, and Mr. Price had asked for cowls to be fitted to the chimneys. He understood that when the lease of the school playing field from Dr. Henderson ran out, facilities would be available at Well Plot, and the County would be responsible for the mowing. The Correspondent, Mrs. Gladys Newberry, read a letter from the managers of Powerstock school inviting Loders managers to a consultation about the new primary school proposed for this area. This was agreed to, provided Powerstock also invited the County official concerned with the project; for it seemed that he alone had information which could make a discussion worthwhile. The May Fair has been fixed for Saturday, May 20th. This is relied on to replenish the School Fund, which finances those extras that public funds do not.

A SPECIAL MEETING of Askerswell Church Council decided to accept Mr. Fry's estimate of nearly £700 for relaying the north side of the church roof. Guesses were hazarded as to the amount the Gift Day and the Festival of Flowers might add to what is already in hand, and Group Captain Newall stood stoically by his promise to lend the difference till such time as the parish had raised the full amount. A discussion ensued on the suggested joining of the parish with Powerstock. The meeting hoped that an amalgamation would not so reduce the services as to make the church redundant, and suggested that a better combination than the one proposed would be Askerswell, Loders and Bradpole - all in the same valley. The lock on the church door was again discussed, as it is year in and year out. When Mr. Garrard offered to try to make it work, there was a stunned silence, as if the council were being robbed of an everlasting bone of contention. We have since heard that Mr. Garrard already has the lock working perfectly. If anybody becomes suspicious of a comparative newcomer who is an expert with locks, let it be said that Mr. Garrard's antecedents are impeccable.

SERVICES IN APRIL

| <u>LODERS</u> | <u>EASTER DAY</u> | Holy Communion 7, 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> | <u>EASTER DAY</u> | Holy Communion 10 | Evensong 6.30 | |
| | 9th | Matins 10 | | |
| | 16th | Family Service 10 | | |
| | 23rd | Matins 10 | | |
| | 30th | Matins 10 | | |
| DOTTERY | <u>EASTER DAY</u> | Holy Communion 9 | Evensong 3 | |

All other at 3, except for Matins at 9 on 23rd.

PARISH NOTES : LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL : MAY, 1972.

Our readers are hereby reminded of the May Fair, to be held at Loders School on Saturday, May 20th at 2 p.m. It is a sale in aid of the school fund as well as an entertainment, so things to sell will be very welcome. Last year takings topped £90. The target this year could be £100.

Looking back on Easter, we relish the memory of happy services in churches beautifully decorated for the "Queen of Seasons". Those who advocate the shutting of small country churches would do well to ponder the attendance at ours. Askerswell, with a population of 130, had Easter congregations totalling about 80; Dottery, with a population of 60, also had congregations of about 80; and Loders, with a population of 540, had 114 communicants, and such a crowd at matins that the congregation filled the chancel as well as the body of the church. The singing was gay and vigorous. Mrs Vera Tiltman was the soloist in the Loders Easter anthem. On Good Friday a junior member of the choir, Miss Thelma Record, sang solo in church for the first time, and showed that the seniors are backed by good reserves of junior talent. Easter collections go towards the incumbent's expenses of office, and (including PCC contributions) came to about £144 - Loders £80, Askerswell £52 and Dottery £12. The Vicar would like to take this opportunity of thanking all who gave to the Easter Offering.

Askerswell Church has had its outward appearance improved by new wrought iron gates at the south and east entrances to the churchyard. They are worthy samples of the local forger's work at Powerstock, and are the gift of Miss Dorothy Fooks in memory of her late mother. Incidentally, they remove from the Easter Vestry agenda an item that appeared year after year and prompted a speech from Mr Norman Adams which the Vestry was waiting for, and never in vain. Inside the church, the business of presenting the alms has been made more decorous by the gift of a handsome alms dish in walnut. It was from the Sunday School in memory of one of their most energetic supporters, the late Angela Garrard, and replaces a dish that was stolen.

Three christenings are for the record. At Loders on Palm Sunday the former Shirley Foot, now Mrs Stuart Crabb, and her family, brought the latest addition to be baptised Eugene Stuart. It was good to see the grandfather, Mr Ronnie Foot, well recovered from the illness which made him give up The Traveller's Rest. At Dottery on Easter Day the baby was the son of Mr & Mrs Peter Smith, of New Close Farm, and all the young life of the parish seemed to be there to support him. Jason Peter were his names. At Loders on April 16th the clan of Mr & Mrs Roy Sheppard, of Uploders Farm, were out in strength for the christening of their son David Roy. This might be the moment to congratulate Mr & Mrs Peter Gale, of Well Plot, on the birth of a daughter.

Mr Malcolm Trickett, of Gribb Farm, Uploders, was married to Miss Linda Margaret James, in St. Mary's, Dorchester, on April 8th. Malcolm has undergone a sea change on moving into matrimony. He used to be the soul of mischief in Scripture lessons at Askerswell school.

Advancing years and indifferent health have prompted Mrs Olive Legg of Well Plot, to resign from Loders Church Council; and to give up the distribution of the Parish Notes, which she has done since they were first published. The sad news was conveyed in a letter to the Easter Vestry. It evoked many expressions of regret, from the members and the chairman, and tributes to her long exemplary service to Loders Church, especially at the fete and in church decoration. She began attending Loders Church at the age of three. Her whole life has been bound up with it, and nobody can have served it more faithfully. She has got the better of so many illnesses in the past that we do not despair of seeing her in her familiar pew yet again. Meanwhile, Mrs Martin Thornton has kindly offered to take round the Notes in Loders. To walk worthily in Mrs Legg's footsteps, she will need to do the job leisurely, having a homely little "tell" with each customer.

At Loders Easter Vestry the church accounts for the year ending 31st Dec 1971 showed general receipts of £1195.49, expenses £1152.99, and a credit balance of £42.50. During the year £859.99 had been added to the repair fund, which stood at £1634.55. Thanks were accorded to the treasurer, Miss Buriel Pendell, and the auditor, Mr William Graves. Dottery accounts showed receipts of £142.47, expenses £47.14 and a credit balance of £95.33. The treasurer, Mr Cecil March, was congratulated on producing twice the balance of Loders out of an eighth of the Loders income. After thanks to retiring officers, Mr Malcolm McDowell and Mr John Marsh were elected people's wardens for Loders and Dottery respectively. The Vicar nominated Mr Dick Deacon as his warden for Loders, and Mr Cecil March for Dottery. The sidesmen were re-elected with the addition of Mr Ian Roberts and the Church Council with Mr Mick Prideaux in place of Mrs Olive Legg. The offer of the Hon Alexander Hood of Loders Court for the fete on July 29th was gratefully accepted, and it was hoped Mrs Hood would again chair the committee.

Lucky Loders. The Uplovers Parish Room was sold at auction for the remarkable sum of £3,750 to a Londoner who proposes to turn it into a holiday cottage. Three quarters of the net proceeds - augmented by a government grant of equal amount, and a like amount from the County Council - will be available for the improvement of the village hall. That is not all. The Charity Commission will keep a quarter of the net proceeds of the sale, and when in due course, the interest on this has recouped the loss to the charity of the three quarters, the interest on the whole charity will be available to the hall for maintenance. The ten years' tussle with the Charity Commission to bring the Room to market gave the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr Harold Brown, an awful lot of work, but saved it from being sold years ago for a song, or let at a small rental. The parish deserves well of Mr Brown for all his work, which extended even to the design for the outline planning permission.

The death of Mr Wilfred Fry of Innssacre Farm, occurred quite unexpectedly before he began the day's work, and must have been a great shock to his family. Innssacre Farm is to suffer by the road improvement scheme at Stony Head, and possibly by another scheme. In view of this, Mr Fry was about to move into Higher Sturthill Farm. Now his widow and son David will be going without him. The Funeral service at Loders Church was well attended by the farming community. Cremation followed at Yeovil. The ashes will be buried in the family grave at Askerswell.

The death of Mr Dick Deacon, churchwarden of Loders, was not unexpected, and must have been a happy release from the pain of his final weeks. At the funeral in the well filled church the Vicar spoke of the void he would leave in church life, and the happy memory of the social occasions he shared with the choir, and his utter dependability as a friend. A full choir led the singing of the hymns he loved, and in the evening the ringers rang half muffled peals. Cremation was at Weymouth. The ashes will be buried in Loders Churchyard.

Loders Church Council is very grateful to the friends of the late Wilfred Fry and Dick Deacon for giving £34.90 to the repair fund instead of sending flowers. Askerswell Sunday School sponsored a function in the village hall on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind which raised over £32 for that worthy object. The film show of the dogs at work which was to have followed the tea, did not materialise because of a fault in the projector, but the operator said what the film would have.

Length Corporal "Chuck" Willmott, youngest child of the Rev. G.L. & Mrs Willmott, was married at St. Mary's Throckley, Newcastle on Tyne, on April 11th to Christine, only daughter of Mr & Mrs Robert Liddle. The priest-in-charge took most of the service, which was choral, but the bridegroom's father did the actual "tying". Northern hospitality showed its paces in the Union Jack Club afterwards. Only a mechanic of Chuck's calibre could have made the bridal car take off after its decorating and doctoring by loving sisters and brother. Bell, at Loders, was the base for honeymoon excursions into the West Country. A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on Loders bells to mark the wedding. April 22nd, 1947 was the day on which the Vicar and Mrs Willmott began work in Loders. To mark the 25th anniversary of this, the Church Council presented Mrs Willmott with a delectable box of chocolates, the Vicar with a survey of the historical monuments of West Dorset (skilfully inscribed by Mrs Thornton) and both with an oak garden seat. Mr McDowell made the presentation after the Easter Vestry. The surprise caught the Vicar at a loss for sensible words, and showed Mr McDowell to be as good at speechmaking as he is at cross-examining. But Mrs Wells has presided over village communications at the Post Office for more than 25 years and Mr Brown has dedicated more than 40 years of his life to the clerkship of the Parish Council. What have the Vicar and his lady done compared with these?

Services in May

Loders: 7th HC 8 and 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
11th Ascension Day, HC 8, Children 9.15.
14th HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2, Evensong 7.
21st Whit Sunday, HC 8 and 12, Matins 11, Children 2.
28th Trinity Sunday, HC 8, Matins 11 Children 2.

Askerswell: 7th Children 10, Evensong 6.30.
11th Ascension Day, HC 10.
14th Matins 10.
21st Whit Sunday, Family Service 10.
28th Trinity Sunday HC 10

Dottery: 7th HC 9.30.
All others at 3 except
28th Matins 9.

PARISH NOTES
LODERS, DOTTERY AND ASKERSWELL

JUNE, 1972.

RED LETTER MONTH FOR ASKERSWELL. The re-laying of the slates on the north side of the church roof has been completed. Most of the slates put on in 1858 were used again, but the battens had to be replaced, and these were covered with felt. The builder (Mr. Fry of Long Bredy) took advantage of a long spell of dry but cold weather to press on with the work. The whole roof is now ship-shape, and with the church-yard newly mown by volunteers, Askerswell's meeting place with God looks used and cared for. Now comes the paying for the second half of the roof, which will cost £675. With the help of its friends the little parish hopes to demolish much of the debt at its festival of flowers on June 17th, 18th and 19th. Given seasonal weather, a country occasion like this should be a "draw". Ladies especially will be curious to see the tactics employed by the Bridport Flower Arrangement Club on a church which does not lend itself readily to decoration, but is very rewarding to the right touch. Mr. and Mrs. George Bryan are kindly converting their lawn into an annexe of the church for the festival, to which resort may be had for refreshments and the purchase of souvenirs etcetera. On the afternoon of Saturday, the 17th the children of Loders School will give a display of country dancing on this lawn. It is good of headmaster, staff and children to come. On the next day, Sunday, at 6.30 p.m. the West Walks Choir, of Dorchester, will lead the singing of evensong, and the Dean of Salisbury, the Very Reverend Fenton Morley, will preach. The Dean is the author of the famous Morley Report. Formerly he was Vicar of Leeds, and he is an ardent advocate of directing clergy from country to town parishes. Here is a chance to show him that clergy are not altogether wasted in the country. This said, he remains a very nice man, and you will like him.

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY raised at Loders School May Fair, £120, was still the main topic in the neighbourhood when we went to press. "Money talks", and here it is eloquent of the esteem and affection in which the whole community hold the headmaster, his family, and the school staff. It is no accident that the number of children attending the school hovers around sixty, which is more than the number of children of this age group living in Loders and Askerswell. Children brought in from outside the parish by perspicacious parents make up the number. The morning of the Fair was cold and wet, and depressing to those not knowing how we arrange things in Loders. The afternoon was perfection - a slight breeze tempering the warmth of the sun and playing with the new ribbands on the maypole and requiring all the energy of the page (Mark Stanley) to keep the crown on its velvet cushion. Photographers amateur and professional darted about trying to catch the Queen (Tina Harris) and her attendants (Julia Hyde and Jane Cornish). One wished that the eye of some super camera might have taken in the whole scene - the school field, the spectators, and the gay performers, ringed about by Boarsbarrow and the little hills of Dorset in all the greens of May. Reports in the local press suggest that what captured the news-men's imagination was the headmaster's choice of a French teacher, Mlle. Claire Hallais, to do the crowning. As he put it, she was bestowing a French benediction on Loders in return for that being bestowed on France by the Queen.

MORE DONATIONS have come for Loders Church repair fund in memory of the late Mr. Dick Deacon, bringing the total received on behalf of him and the late Mr. Wilfred Fry to a handsome £50.

GOINGS AND COMINGS Mrs. Parker's long residence at Dottery has ended. She is now on a housing estate at Bradpole, and her Dottery neighbour, Mrs. Roper, is reckoning to move to Allington soon. Mrs. Reynish and Hyacinth say they prefer their new home at Skilling, but devotion to Dottery church often brings them back. Loders Court has acquired another gardener in the person of young Mr. Mick Morgan. He comes from Puddletown with his wife and son Tony, and has yet to see whether Loders can measure up to Puddletown. Mrs. Latta, of Pound Cottage, Loders, who lost her husband Surgeon Captain Latta in such sad circumstances, is settling into a new house in Cambridge. Her friends here will wish her and her family well. Pound Cottage has been taken by Air Vice Marshal and Mrs. Adams, who will doubtless impart to the parish any air of respectability that the vicarage fails to supply. If first impressions are anything to go by, they will be well liked. In his retirement the Air Vice Marshal has become energetic in the cause of mental health, and this will occupy him much in London. At Askerswell Mr. and Mrs. Wykes, having made a reputation for their hostelry The Three Horseshoes, have transferred it to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hern, of Sevenoaks, who had no previous experience of innkeeping but are resolved to maintain the high standard of Spyway. The Wykes family have not left the parish, but moved to their bungalow higher up the hill, which should please all the friends who were afraid of losing them. Down at Grey Cottage, Miss Shimeld has been joined by Mr. and Mrs. Bingham (brother-in-law and sister). The therapeutic smiles which helped to make their chemist's shop in Bridport such a house of healing are already being felt to good effect in The Square and in church. Finally, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Bellis have come from Liphook, Hampshire to live in the splendid bungalow they have built on School Hill (or whatever it may be called), Mr. Bellis

was in management, and his lady in the Citizens' Advice Bureau. They have a daughter and three grandchildren. Already they have shown an active interest in village institutions, and been warmly welcomed. With neighbours Mr. Norman Adams on one side, and Mrs. Faith Garrard on the other, they can hardly go wrong.

THE MOTHERS' UNION will hold their corporate communion in Dottery Church on Thursday, June 22nd, at 10 a.m. Their May meeting in Loders village hall was notable for an address by Canon Percy Smith, of Pilsdon, and for a toothsome birthday cake made and given by the Enroling Member, Mrs. George Bryan. It happened that the hall got booked by the M.U. and the County Fire Officer for the same afternoon. When the M.U. tried to get in, they found the key was with the Fire Officers' party, who were nowhere in evidence. Mr. Robin Wells sawed a way in for the M.U. The Fire Party were surprised to find the M.U. in possession, but listened courteously to the proceedings, and were rewarded with tea and birthday cake.

MISS BRIDGET NEWALL, the daughter of Group Captain and Mrs. Frederic Newall, of South Eggardon, who has made a name for herself at skiing, was married on May 20th to a Scotsman, Mr. Robert Fraser Clyde, at St. Paul's Knightsbridge, with a reception at the Hyde Park Hotel. To commemorate the event Mrs. Newall has very kindly given to Askerswell Church a pleasing pair of richly worked hassocks for use at weddings. Askerswell being unlikely ever to wear them out, they may be borrowed by Loders.

LT.-COL. ARTHUR SHIRLEY has pleased the congregation of Loders by accepting nomination - albeit reluctantly - as Vicar's Warden in succession to the late Mr. Dick Deacon, who proved that good elder statesmen inhabit the olympian heights of Coneygar.

A COMPLIMENT Dr. William Barclay, the Glasgow University Lecturer whose name is a household word as a popular Bible expositor, is prevented by illness from preaching at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, on June 4th. Dr. Martin Thornton, of Loders was asked to take his place, and has agreed to.

THE WARMEST OF THANKS to Mrs. Spiller and Mrs. Swaffield for sweeping, dusting, scrubbing and polishing Askerswell Church after the workmen had finished with it. We concede feminine superiority in this kind of exercise.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL LUMBY presiding over the annual general meeting of Askerswell Village Hall, was able to report that the hall has been well used in the year under review. The report of the treasurer, Mr. George Bryan, showed an eminently satisfactory credit balance of £120.73, and revealed that about £85 was now deriving from the football competition. Mrs. Stevens is secretary and her report thanked Messrs. G. Bryan and D. Marsh for laying tarmac in front of the hall, Mr. Frost for repairing the kitchen hatch, Mrs. Frost for making kitchen curtains and Mr. Stevens for assembling six new tressle tables. Twenty new stack chairs had been acquired. The committee are now saving up to add a new cloakroom and store room.

THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY sent the Vicar and Mrs. Willmott a kind personal letter about their twenty-five years in Loders, and regretted that his engagement list prevented his coming to preach on the occasion. The poet laureate of Loders, Mr. Leonard Clark, kindly sent a poem. (He has lately been awarded the thousand dollar prize of the International Poetry Society for the best published poem of 1971, which he shares with another poet, and could have been forgiven for forgetting Loders). The poem to mark the Vicar's 25th anniversary is headed "Easter at Loders 1972" and continues:?

"The woods come green again, the meadows waking; Lambs charge at nothing on the hills, And what a din the crazy rocks are making, With April but a name for daffodils. The lanes look primrose and first blackthorn's showing; Five spots of ladybird are going for a walk, And here the ploughing's done, and there the barley's growing, A drowsy mouse is nibbling at a stalk. A shower of rain, three magpies for a wedding, As now on Waddon's slope the shadows creep, And half across the sky a glorious rainbow spreading, And only moles on Eggardon asleep".

SERVICES IN JUNE

| | | | | |
|---------------|------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| <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 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <u>ASKERSWELL</u> | 4th | Children 10 | Evensong 6.30 |
| | 11th | Matins 10 | |
| | 18th | Festal Evensong 6.30 | Dean of Salisbury. |
| | 25th | Holy Communion 10. | |

| | | | |
|----------------|------|---------------------|------------------|
| <u>DOTTERY</u> | 4th | Holy Communion 9.30 | 18th Matins 9 |
| | 11th | Evensong 3 | 25th Evensong 3. |