

THE JANUARY PARISH NOTES can never be out on time because of the Christmas holidays. So, belated new year greetings herewith to all our readers. How many these are, and how widely scattered over the world, we cannot know, but the number may be around a thousand; for our circulation has crept up to three hundred.

NONE OF THE BLACKOUTS that we half expected in the lead-up to Christmas came to pass, and even the petrol situation did not prevent the remotest members of the Loders congregation, Mr. and Mrs. Parham, getting to church from their home in Weymouth. The festivities began as usual at school, with the children's concert and mission sale. The old building seemed to be bursting at the seams, with performers and audience on top of each other. When somebody remarked to one of the new mothers that conditions would be better if the new school building materialised she answered surprisingly that she adored the school as it is. This seemed to be the general feeling; for when Mrs. Willmott began her speech with a reference to Loders School as "the best school in Dorset" she was loudly applauded. The children's concert was a version of Ancient and Modern, with the modern coming first in the form of "The Charleston" and ditties such as "When you took a penny single you could hear the bell push jingle". The ancient was of course the Christmas story, beautifully done, in clothes devised by Mrs. Price. She, the headmaster and staff, the performers and donors, were thanked by Mrs. Willmott. Within two hours of starting, concert and sale had made £60 for the church overseas.

THE UPLODERS CHAPEL also was crowded for the annual nativity play and carols, and the young performers, shepherded by Mrs. Stebbings, and cleverly dressed by Mrs. Dunn made very effective use of the rostrum as their stage. A party feeling stole over the service when Mr. Morris, the steward and father figure of the chapel, gave presents to performers and producers; and no present gave greater satisfaction to the whole company than that to the well tried and ever faithful organist, Miss Daisy Boxall. It looked like a bottle. As Miss Boxall accepted it with unconcealed delight the congregation were assured that it had come from "the health shop". A collection towards repair of the chapel garnered nearly £20. The repairs are reckoned to cost £400 in all. But so perfect a little gem of Regency architecture deserves to be well looked after on that score alone. In its time of need it will doubtless receive thank offerings from all those who attended its Sunday School in the old days.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE BARN of Knowle Farm, Uploders was the happy idea of its new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Wood. They put down carpets, laid on heating, and embellished the walls with holly and ivy. Mulled wine issued from a big brown teapot dedicated to the occasion, and mincepies managed to be still piping hot when they arrived from the distant kitchen. Loders choir led the singing of carols, with Mr. Maurice Lawson and Mr. Harry Crabb in charge of lubrication. Dancing to a small band from Sherborne occupied the rest of the evening. Guests were glad to hear that the party was an established custom of the Wood family which they hope to continue here.

CHILDREN read all the lessons at the school carol service in Loders Church, and some of the carols were accompanied by recorders. A goodly congregation of parents and friends much enjoyed the service. A collection of £11 was taken towards S.A.A.F.A.'s efforts to make Christmas happier for the families of soldiers killed in Ulster. The school breaking up party followed next day. The children did justice to a high tea under the indulgent eye of the school managers. School staff contrived to run organised games above the shriek of whistles from crackers and then the arrival of Santa Claus was greeted with a cheer which exhausted the remaining energy.

ASKERSWELL SUNDAY SCHOOL had their prize giving for good attendance during the December Family Service. The Rector congratulated them on the encouraging report he had received from the Superintendent.

TO AN ORDINARY OBSERVER Askerswell Church might have seemed crowded for its carol service, with most of the village present, but Captain Lumby tells us there were four untaken seats. The church can never have looked prettier for Christmas. It bore evidence of an overall design, and this ties up with the known partiality of Askerswell ladies for being organised. The old wooden candlesticks, relegated to the parish chest when electric light came in, made a graceful comeback, supporting tall red candles to light the body of the church, while short red candles illuminated other strategic places in cluster. A dash of red ribbon here and there picked up the red of the candles among the elegant floral decorations. The whole effect was delightful. Lessons were read by representative people - a ringer, a sidesman, a Sunday School child, a member of the Women's Institute, and so on. To show that she had a sweet voice of her own, the organist, Miss Thelma Record, sang two carols, solo. When the Rector announced that last year's soloist, Mr. Maurice Connell, had flown from Rome to sing two carols, he sensed an undercurrent of incredulity surfacing in a gasp from the congregation. But it was true, Mr. Connell took a day or two off from his operative engagement in Rome at the invitation of his friend, Mr. Michael Savage, and stayed at Askerswell Post Office. His powerful baritone voice was heard to fine effect. It was good of members of Loders Choir to be there gingering up the congregational singing.

THE JUNIORS of Loders choir went to the Sidney Gale Home, and sang carols to Loders' oldest inhabitant, Mrs. Beatty Clarke, on her ninety-fourth birthday. They also sang to another Loders inmate, Mrs. Sanders, who had just had her eightieth birthday. Granny Clarke has since died. Which does not mean that the carols were lethal. She was ailing when the carollers came, but sensible enough to appreciate their kind thought.

Loders choir sang carols round the parish and collected for the Children's Society, ending up as usual, a party of thirty, round the big open fire at the vicarage. They were grateful for the hospitality provided at Uploders House by Mrs. Rust, the Wykes and the Sanctuaries, although doing justice to this made them too late to serenade New Road and Matravers. In Loders on the following night they enjoyed the hospitality of the Court and of Miss Mona Edwards, and tried to give better measure.

DESPITE THE EARLY HOUR of Christmas morning service at Dottery, the brightly decorated church was well populated with communicants young and old - brawny farmers' sons, and old "boys and girls" some of whom had come from afar. There was an invigorating family feeling about it. At Askerswell there was another sizeable congregation. Towards the close of the first hymn a procession of the Sunday School presented at the altar a gift of candles to the church, and a purse of money collected in carol singing. In the family service at Loders the Sunday School sang carols on the chancel step, and received the packets of sweets put on the tree for them by ladies of the congregation. Previously, at the midnight service the church had been full as usual, but this time the service had been by candle light, which everybody liked. The decorations were individual creations, some of considerable splendour, which agreed with each other very well.

THE CHRISTMAS of two of our families was overshadowed by the death of their heads. In Uploders, Mr. George Stubbs died after a brief illness, and was buried in Loders churchyard. The Post Office was represented at his funeral, he having once been head postman of Bridport. He disclaimed any connection with his great namesake George Stubbs the painter, but he had considerable talent with the brush, and at woodcarving, as samples of his work at Happyknowle clearly show. On the fringe of the parish, at Woodstock, Mr. John Robinson died after weeks of brave effort to live a normal life with a difficult illness. He finished writing his Christmas cards shortly before he died. The Uploders Chapel remembers him for the help he gave the steward, Mr. Morris, in keeping it viable, and Loders Church remembers him for what he put into the fete. It spoke volumes that the busy farmers who were his immediate neighbours took time off to come with their wives to the service in Loders Church which preceded cremation. The Church Council are grateful to Mrs. Robinson and friends for giving to the church repair fund instead of flowers.

MISS DIANNE HARRISON is the new occupant of Group Captain Trumble's former home at Askerswell, and has already been made welcome at church. She comes from London, where her duties included that of honorary secretary to the Friends of King's College Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Denis Gibbs, of Bridport, have taken the vacant cottage in Loders next to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Morgan. Mr. Gibbs is a painter employed by Mr. Copp.

THE LODERS PARISH MEETING decided by twelve votes to nine not to go ahead with the restructuring of the hall on a grant of £3,375, and a loan of £200 raised by a parish rate. The parish referendum had been apathetic and indecisive. Of the 185 houses circulated, only about half returned papers. Of these 45 were for, 40 against, and 12 blank. The main objection to the scheme was that village societies are non-existent except for the Women's Institute, and the hall is little used. It has already been improved, and less ambitious improvements will continue.

#### SERVICES IN JANUARY

LODERS	6th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	13th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	20th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	27th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
ASKERSWELL	6th	Children 10	Evensong 6.30	
	13th	Matins 10		
	20th	Family Service 10		
	27th	Holy Communion 10		
DOTTERY	6th	Holy Communion 9.30		
		All others at 3.00		

FEBRUARY 1974

A CONFIRMATION SERVICE comes our way only about once in four years because bishops are extremely busy men, and we have not enough young people to merit more frequent visits. We have been notified that the former assistant Bishop of Bath and Wells will hold a Confirmation in Loders Church on Palm Sunday, April 7th, at 6.30 p.m. Lots of young people have already sent in their names and there is still time to do so for those who have not. Classes will begin at the Vicarage on Wednesday, February 13th, at 7.30 p.m. Those of our readers who do not know what Confirmation is, may welcome a word of explanation. When a baby is christened it is made a junior member of the Church. It does not know what is being done, but then, we are always doing good things for babies before they themselves know how to choose. And when they are mature enough to choose the choice cannot be unbiassed, because we do not grow in a vacuum, we absorb subconsciously some of the manners and outlook of the family we grow up in. That is why, at the christening, the godparents promise that the environment the child grows up in shall be Christian. At Confirmation it is the child, now come to years of discretion who confirms what his godparents did for him, and is admitted to full membership of the Church by the laying on of hands of the Bishop, who is in the present-day Church what the Apostles were to the early Church. Confirmation qualifies the candidate for receiving Holy Communion, which is a Christian's highest privilege. In many churches today, Holy Communion is T H E service, attended by all and sundry. There is much to be said for this. There is also much to be said for the practice of the saintly Tractarians (based on ancient precedent), which we follow, of making matins or evensong a kind of evangelistic service for all and sundry, and reserving the inmost mystery of Holy Communion for the committed.

THERE WERE TWO christenings at Loders in January. That on the fourth was on a weekday when the church is cold. The baby wore two christening gowns. She was Rachel Anne, the Vicar's latest grand-daughter, and the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Griffiths (nee Mary Willmott) of St. Leonards-on-sea. The second baby, Graham Martin Roger, was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Hunt (nee Diana Forbes) of Shipton Lane. This christening was on a Sunday, the twentieth, and the Sunday School children had the support of a full turn-out of the Hunt and Forbes clan, which included Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Nelson (nee Elizabeth Forbes) who had come especially from their home in Mallow, County Cork. Nigel Hunt read the lesson. This service was rare in that one of the godfathers held the baby. The liaison was perfect, for the babe was "good as gold" and the nursing effortless.

MISS MURIEL SMELT put Loders on the map when she appeared in the B.B.C. Television programme "Nationwide". Few parishioners are aware that she nobly sits in an upper room for hours on end translating books into Braille for the blind. She also has the gift of languages. It is a pity that the television appearance came on without notification in the Radio Times, and some of us missed it. Miss Smelt herself was told only about an hour before. Another connection of Loders, the poet and educationalist Mr. Leonard Clark, appeared recently in a Sunday night religious discussion on B.B.C. television. He had been called as a witness by Cardinal Heenan in defence of the R.C. church's educational record. Mr. Clark is a convinced and convincing Anglican. We trust it is not "spilling the beans" to say that part of the small fee paid him by the B.B.C. got into the till of the Loders mission sale at Christmas.

ANOTHER ITEM OF NEWS that many of us missed, in the newspapers, was the announcement in the New Year Honours List that a knighthood was to be conferred on Mr. Denis Laskey, Her Majesty's Ambassador and Plenipotentiary in Vienna, son-in-law of the late Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton, formerly of Loders Court. We offer our congratulations to Sir Denis and his Lady.

A CHANGE OF PREACHER will be afforded the long-suffering congregations of Askerswell and Loders on Sunday, February 17th. The address will be given (Askerswell at ten, Loders at 11) by Mr. Roy Rusbridge, the dynamic young area secretary of the C.M.S.

BAD NEWS seems always to travel faster than good news. The story was circulating in Loders that one of the key figures in Askerswell, namely Captain Michael Lumby, churchwarden and village hall chairman, had been badly thrown in the hunting field and had broken his neck. This turned out to be true, except that the events were given in the wrong order. In hospital the x-rays disclosed that his neck had been broken before the fall. It seems that he had broken it without knowing at rugby in his college days at Dartmouth, and it had mended itself. This fearsome accident only kept the Captain away from church for one Sunday. He was on duty at the Family Service, wearing a surgical collar, and showing no



A BAD NIGHT did not stop a goodly proportion of the parishioners of Askerswell attending the annual church meeting and Easter Vestry early in February. The accounts for the year ended 31st December 1973, presented by Mrs. Bryan, assured the meeting that the solvency of the parish church was not in doubt, whatever else might be. Expenditure had been £1,596.09 and receipts £1,714.80, leaving a credit balance of £118.71. The major items of expenditure had been £645.88 for repairs to the floor, and £500 repayment of loans. Church collections had increased to £268.68, donations to £82.21, the offertory box to £25.85, Christmas cards to £39.95; and a new item, the sale of pens, had produced a welcome £19.30. Covenants remained static at £95, but the Inland Revenue refund on these had declined to £50.64 because of the reduction in income tax. It was agreed that a letter should be sent round the parish drawing attention to the benefit to the church of giving by covenant. The mechanism of covenanting has been simplified. As no major repair work is in prospect for this year, it was decided not to have a fete, and to leave the devising of money raising events for general church purposes to a committee consisting of Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Frost, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Bellis, with power to co-opt. A *crie-de-coeur* from Capt. in Lumby (now happily recovered from his hunting accident) for a new mower for the use of the volunteers who cut the churchyard, was answered by an allocation of up to £90 to buy one, and the volunteers were warmly thanked for the excellent condition in which they kept the churchyard. The danger to unwary feet of the frayed coconut matting just inside the church door was "brought up", as it always is, and swallowed again. This annual airing seems sufficient of itself to make the congregation watch their first few steps into church.

THE NUMBER on the Askerswell church roll was reported by Mr. Garrard the Master of the Roll, to have increased to 73. He was thanked for his good offices. Our advice to those who are not on the roll, and think they should be, is, not to worry. Because the C. of E. is the established church, every parishioner has the legal right to attend public service in the parish church, to be baptised, married and buried in it, and also to vote for churchwardens. Surely this is enough to be getting on with?

OFFICERS appointed to serve Askerswell Church for the current year are :- Sidesmen, Messrs. N. Adams, F. Garrard, M. Evans and G. Bryan; Church Council (excluding Mrs. Garrard and Mr. Bellis who are Deanery Synod and who with the churchwardens are *ex officio*): Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Lumby, Mr. Frost, Mr. Stevens, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Brook, Mr. D. Marsh and Group Captain Newall. Acceptance by Captain Aylmer of nomination as Rector's warden and by Captain Lumby of unanimous election as People's warden gives Askerswell the unusual and continuing distinction of being churchwardened by two former submarine commanders.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY the SEVENTEENTH was a great day for the farming clan of Newberry's in Loders. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the wedding of its head, Mr. Harry Newbury senior, and his wife, Rose. It was also their last family gathering in the farmhouse at Yonderover; for they are shortly retiring - in the village fortunately - and the farm is up for sale. Members of the family from afar converged on the old farmhouse on the night of the seventeenth for a feast of good things, and a "tell" about old times. No farmer worthy of the name is addicted to the bath. On this occasion the smile on Mr. Newberry's newly reaped face, and the shine on his whole person, suggested that he did not regret it. The joy of the company of his large family obliterated his rheumatics. For Mrs. Newberry the high light of the evening was to step into the yard and listen to the bells ringing in honour of the event. She confessed afterwards to being deeply touched by the fact that four of her grand-daughters were ringing that night - Sheila and Dulcie, Cynthia and Linda, with Captain Harry Crabb and the Vicar manning the two heaviest bells. Thanks to Harry Crabb the campanological programme survived the breaking of the rope of the fourth bell, which did not disconcert Cynthia, who was ringing it. With an agility belieing his seventy-odd years Harry was up the stairs to the belfry, down with the errant rope, splicing (or "marrying" as he called it) the broken ends, up the belfry again, and down to ring. What Loders tower would do without him, heaven only knows.

THE DEATH OF MRS. ENA CRABB at the age of 65 came as a great shock to her friends, and a still greater one to her family, who were expecting her home from her long sojourn in hospital, quite recovered from her illness. Indeed, one of the family received a cheery postcard from her a few hours after she had died. Mrs. Crabb was born in Bridport and came as a child to live in Mr. and Mrs. George Hyde's cottage in Uploders, from which

she never moved far. Her father was caretaker of the chapel, and she used to play the harmonium when needed. Like many of the other housewives of Lodgers she was a member of the cottage braiding fraternity. She featured in the documentary film of the industry and was proud that her friends could recognize her in it, though only her hands were shown. Her repertory of favourite hymns was large, and choosing some for her funeral in Lodgers church was no easy task. She was cremated afterwards at Weymouth. We are pleased that her husband, Mr. Frank Crabb, is recovering from the "turn" he had after the funeral.

THE MENTALITY of robbers of churches is disgusting. Hard-up tramps prizing open an offertory box for the price of what he calls a cup of tea does not engender the indignation that the thief does who robs a church of its irreplaceable old furniture because the furniture is antique. Askerswell Church has been robbed of one of its two coffin stools. For well over three hundred years these two stools have supported the coffins of the village dead at their funeral service. A magazine shown us by a member of the congregation gives a picture of a similar stool which now fetches £150 as an antique. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Office will probably replace the stolen stool by a reproduction. But it won't be the same. The thought of keeping a church locked out of service time is abhorrent. Probably God would rather a church lose all its treasures than that. And it seems that anybody intent on robbing a church is not deterred by its being locked. Antique chairs were stolen from Powerstock Church when it was locked, and Salisbury Cathedral was locked when somebody stole the silver altar cross.

A CASE FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES One evening in the dimpley light the Vicar was walking along the road on the edge of Bridport that leads from St. Andrew's Well to the door of the Brit Works. A car going up the main road to the King's Head, with a string of cars behind it, slowed down sufficiently for the head of its lady driver to poke out of the window and shout "Vicar, mother is in Weymouth." Then the car was gone. The Vicar is always grateful to be told the movements of his flock, who assume, most of them, that he already knows by divine intuition, but on this occasion he did not recognise the lady, and therefore, could not deduce her mother, though he assumed that "Weymouth" meant one of the Weymouth hospitals. On the ensuing days he followed out a process of elimination, calling on all the likely ladies with mothers, but drawing a blank every time. Then it occurred to him that two senior members of the congregation, Mr. and Mrs. Mears, of Melplash, had missed church for a couple of Sundays, which was unlike them. So to Melplash he went, Mr. Mears was busy in the kitchen but saw him through the window, and shepherded him into the lounge where Mrs. Mears was immobile, with a black eye, but welcoming as ever. She, it proved, had been the mother in Weymouth, and she had a wonderful escape to tell of. She was gardening one day - her eighty years are no impediment to this - when she had a black-out and rolled down the garden on to the road, which is a busy and dangerous one. Fortunately the traffic stopped, her son in the motor works opposite took charge of her, and five days in Weymouth hospital put her right. No more gardening on this slope we trust.

A BELATED WELCOME to Lieut. Commander Noel (Jimmy) James, his wife and son Hugh, who are now established in Purbeck Close, Uploders. Their other son, John, is away at school. It might offend Askerswell if we heralded the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clark (nee Susan Savage) to Uploders. Susan is a good ringer and we foresee a tug of war for her between Askerswell and Lodgers towers.

CAPTAIN AYLMER'S SON, GERALD who is Professor and head of the history department in the University of York, has just had his fourth book published. "The State's Servants, 1649-1660". It was enthusiastically reviewed on the Third Programme by Professor Woolvych, of Lancaster University.

#### SERVICES IN MARCH

<u>LODGERS</u>	3rd	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	10th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	17th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	24th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	31st	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	3rd	Children 10	Evensong 6.30	
	10th	Matins 10		
	17th	Family Service 10		
	24th	Matins 10		
	31st	Holy Communion 10		

BECAUSE OF THE CONFIRMATION at Loders at 6.30 p.m. on Palm Sunday, April 7th, there will be no service at Dottery, and no Evensong at Askerswell, that day. The Confirmation will be the climax of two months of classes which the Vicar, if not the candidates, will look back on as a moving experience, for several reasons. None of candidates had had to be rounded up. Each had come forward when the notice of the Bishop's intention was given. One former member of Loders Sunday School now living at Dorchester and herself a mother brought her children all that way each week to the classes, another brought his from Bradpole; and a mother formerly in Askerswell choir brought hers from the border of Melplash. Parents at Askerswell and Dottery never failed to get their offspring to class at the Vicarage on time. The atmosphere of the class was pleasant. The children, numbering thirty-two in all, made a big horse-shoe round the Tudor fireplace, and were not put to sleep either by the heat of the fire, or by it being at the end of a strenuous school day. There is something to be said for Vicarages big enough to accommodate an occasion like this.

STANDING UP to be counted as a follower of Jesus Christ is one of the ingredients of Confirmation. We wonder whether all people attending service on Easter Day will see themselves as partaking in an act of witness to the fact of Jesus Resurrection? They should do, because they are. The accounts of the Resurrection in the New Testament do not stand alone. They are supported by a living company of believers in every age, which existed before the accounts did. Those who will be attending Easter services received the message from the preceding generation, and the preceding generation received it from its predecessor. So the unbroken chain of living witness reaches back to Bishop Irenaeus who was a pupil of Bishop Polycarp who was a pupil of St. John and others who had seen and talked with Jesus Christ when he was risen from the dead. Changing the metaphor, it is the business of our generation to pass the torch firmly and convincingly to the next.

AT A RECENT MEETING of Askerswell Church Council, the chairman of the committee for raising funds for church purposes, Mr. Bellis, reported that a wine and cheese and raspberries and cream party would be held at South Eggardon House in July, and a jumble sale at the W.I. Hall in Bridport in September. Mrs. Bryan and Mrs. Lumby had been co-opted to the committee, and the next meeting would be at Mrs. Frost's on April 22nd at 7.30 p.m. The stolen coffin stool came in for a lot of discussion. The P.C.C. secretary, Mrs. Bryan, reported having informed the Ecclesiastical Insurance Co. that a reproduction stool would cost £57, but it seems that as the coffin stools had not been insured as specific items, the company is under no obligation to pay. Nobody had been aware that their shop value as antiques was £360. But this is where the good fortune of Askerswell in having handy men in the congregation shows up. Mr. Garrard had already offered to make a table to hold the visitors' book etc. near the south door. Mr. Stevens now offered to make a matching pair of stools in old oak, and this was accepted with alacrity. If anybody has any old oak that might be suitable, Mr. Stevens is the man to get in touch with. He lives at the mill cottage that was formerly the post office.

THE EXHIBITION OF VILLAGE GARDENS at Askerswell was so successful last year that it is to be repeated this year, in aid of women's Institute funds.

THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE DEATHS in Loders since our last Parish Notes. Askerswell never seems to have any, and Dottery but few. Funerals might appear to be the chief industry in Loders, but both morticians assure us that Loders is not unique. Other places have shared in keeping the morticians exceptionally busy. Apparently it is the long spell of mild weather that they have cause to be grateful to. We owe the weather no thanks for death has robbed us of parishioners who were veritable institutions. To mitigate the gloom, we will sandwich the obituary notices among other more cheerful slices of news. We begin with Mrs. Olive Lenthall, who died aged 79 at the West Mead Hotel, and was buried in the grave of her late husband at Loders cemetery, after a well attended service in Loders Church. She had lived for forty years at Upton, and had been a head of our Mothers' Union who showed great care for the persons of the members especially when they were ill. It was her nature to be "given to hospitality", and the choir have fervent memories of the spreads she used to provide for the Christmas carol singing. Church attendance was something she never faltered in, whatever she thought of the parson. On the rare occasions when her pew was empty, everybody knew she must indeed be poorly. The vicar was in the happy position of knowing exactly where he stood with her. On one occasion when he was summoned to her sick bed, he found her sitting up under a wall text which read "Without Me ye can do nothing".

THE CHURCHWARDENS of Loders and Dottery ask us to draw attention to the benefit that would accrue to church funds if more parishioners who pay income tax at the standard rate contributed under covenant. This can be done on a weekly or yearly basis, and

any other covenants a person might have are no bar. A weekly covenant with the church of tenpence, costing the covenanter £5.20 per annum, would, with the tax refund, give the church £7.44 - a welcome gain in these days of rising costs. Covenant forms are available at church from the churchwardens, or from Miss Muriel Randall. (Askerswell P.C.C. are circulating their parish with a notice of similar import)

MRS. ROSA JACOBS (nee Gale) of West Bay, the only surviving sister of Uploders' Mrs. Harry Crabb, did not long outlive the flooding of her house in the February storms. She died on the day Mr. and Mrs. Crabb gave her a refuge in their home and was buried in Loders churchyard in the grave of her husband, who had died the year before. She was 82. She was a relic of the palmy days of the Church, having been in service in Loders Vicarage with Parson Thomas.

MOTHERING SUNDAY had an abundance of spring flowers for the Sunday School children, but was a wintry day for them to distribute on. Perhaps the greyness of the sky made flowers the more appreciated; for a larger than usual number of recipients wrote letters of thanks. At Askerswell the flowers were presented by the children at matins, blest by the Rector and distributed to the congregation after service. At Loders Mrs. Willmott took a combined service for mothers and children, and went round the parish with the children afterwards, leaving bunches of flowers with the senior citizens, and newcomers to the parish.

THE TOWER ROOF is the only part of the roof of Loders church remaining to be put in a state of permanent repair. Presumably this will be done after the architect's next inspection. Meanwhile the temporary roof of felt and bitumen is letting in moisture that is doing the supporting timber no good. A member of the P.C.C. Mr. Nick Prideaux, hopes to have stopped the rot by treating the vulnerable spots, at his own expense. Many thanks to him.

LODERS CHURCH WAS WELL FILLED with friends of the late Mrs. Caroline Thomas lamenting her death which came unexpectedly when she was seemingly well and active. She was 77, and showed the love for the church of her late husband, Mr. David Thomas, who was parish clerk and vergar for many years. To within a week of her death she rang the minute bell for the early communion, took the collection, tolled the funeral bell, and rarely missed matins. In his funeral oration the Vicar recalled the accident that incapacitated her husband years ago, and how nobly she had played the part of bread-winner to her family. She had an innate refinement of character, and knew how to make the most of her personal appearance. At a village fete some years ago the stage celebrity Vic Oliver had judged her the most glamorous grand-mother out of a pretty bunch of competitors. She was proof that genuine religion need not be long faced. In the hey day of village whist drives she was the keenest of players, much given to trumping her partner's ace, yet seeming always to emerge with a prize - The Church Council wish to thank all who gave donations to the church repair fund in memory of her.

MRS. DEREK NEWALL'S COFFEE MORNING at South Eggardon House was much enjoyed, and helped the Dorset Marriage Guidance Council to the tune of £54.

The late MR. GEORGE FORD was buried at Loders cemetery in the grave of his wife, after sung service in church, on March 27th. She had been buried on March 28th last year. Mr. Ford was rarely seen far from his home near the school, and took no part in village activities, but was well thought of by his neighbours. He endured much physical affliction with amazing fortitude.

EASTER SERVICES These will be Holy Communion Loders 7, 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Dottery 9 a.m. and Askerswell 10 a.m. Matins, Loders 11 a.m. Children Loders 2 p.m. Evensong Askerswell 6.30 p.m. No afternoon service at Dottery.

STOP PRESS As we go to print we hear of the death at Port Bredy Hospital of another old stalwart of Loders Church, Mrs. Olive Legg. This was not unexpected, and she herself welcomed it.

#### SERVICES IN APRIL

<u>LODERS</u>	7th Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2	<u>CONFIRMATION</u> 6.30
	Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion 8.	Good Friday, Litany 9.	Devotional 11	
	Easter Day Holy Communion 7, 8, and 12,	Matins 11,	Children 2.	
	21st Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2	
	28th Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2.	
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	7th Children 10.	Good Friday Devotional 10.		
	Easter Day Holy Communion 10	Evensong 6.30		
	21st Family Service 10	28th Matins 10		
<u>DOTTERY</u>	7th No Service.			
	Easter Day Holy Communion 9.			

All others at 3.



EVERYTHING CONSPIRED to make this Easter one of the happiest we remember. The Confirmation service on Palm Sunday had created thirty-four new communicants, and most of these were making their first communion on Easter Day. Our three churches, lovingly and skillfully decorated, looked their very best in the morning sun, and most of the new communicants had parents and godparents kneeling beside them. Several whole families were present, giving a family feeling to the whole service. In all there were two hundred and nine communicants. Over and above this, Loders Church was crowded for matins, and Askerswell had a pleasant, reflective evensong, although the absence of the senior churchwarden, Captain Edward Aylmer, was something we could not be unaware of. He is with his son and family in York, recovering from a fall which broke an arm. We wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return to Askerswell.

LODERS CHURCH began to fill for the Palm Sunday Confirmation an hour before the service. Chairs borrowed from the School filled all the free space in the chancel as well as nave. The Bishop was Dr. D. J. Wilson, former assistant Bishop of Bath and Wells. Two candidates additional to the thirty-four of ours were presented by the Rector of Litton Cheney. It was a red-letter day for the branches of the old Symes clan in Uploders. Seven of the candidates were theirs, and they were present in strength to support them.

THE INTRUDERS who broke into Loders Court on April Fools' Day also broke into the church. They broke a small panel of the coloured east window, as if they intended to get through there; then they burst open the doors in the south porch. They prised an alms box, which was empty, off the wall, opened drawers, and bundled all the brass pots and dishes they could find with the brass cross and candlesticks on the altar. The safe, which only contains the modern registers, was untouched. Nothing seems to have been taken. The church was tidied up in time for the Communion service for the clergy of the Deanery at 8.30 a.m.

THE CHURCH COLLECTIONS on Easter Day are part of the Easter offering, which legally is part of the Vicar's stipend. They totalled £115. 72 (Loders £74.44; Dottery £12.46 and Askerswell £28.82). The Vicar is grateful to all who contributed.

THE ARCHDEACON OF SHERBORNE will hold his annual Visitation at St. Mary's, Bridport on May 15th at 7.30 p.m. The clergy and churchwardens of the Deanery are obliged to be present, but the Archdeacon extends a welcome to sidesmen, church treasurers and secretaries and church councillors.

"THE FLOWERS APPEAR ON THE EARTH, the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the cuckoo is heard in our land". With apologies to the Song of Songs, the time of the mowing of lawns, and of churchyards, has come also. The arrangements for keeping in order our three churchyards need to be re-stated. Askerswell churchyard is cut by volunteers under the guidance of Captain Lumby, and the Church Council has equipped them with a new mower. The trimming of all the mounds and curbs and tombstones is too much to expect them to do, and is the responsibility of the surviving relatives of the deceased. Relatives should take this duty seriously. It is not asking much. A few unkempt graves spoil the appearance of an otherwise well groomed churchyard. Loders churchyard is mown by Mr. Dunford and Mr. Kick, at a total annual cost of around £100. The borders, paths and yew hedges are cared for by volunteers. But here again, mounds and curbs are the responsibility of relatives of the deceased. It is a relief at Dottery to have Mr. Turner willing to continue the cutting in spite of his removal to Allington. The pay is small, and he cannot be expected to trim the graves as well. Many hands make light work, so would relatives kindly "get cracking".

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. OLIVE LEGG took place in Loders Church on April 1st. Most of her numerous nephews and nieces were present, and so were many of her friends in the W.I., the old M.U., the Church Council, and the parish generally. Mrs. Tiltman was at the organ. Burial was in the grave of her husband, the village thatcher, who died in 1960. In his address, the Vicar remarked that she had been a supposedly delicate child who survived several major operations and reached the age of eighty-one. The great love of her long life had been the church, and what the village offered her in the way of interests completely satisfied her. She began attending church when she was three, before the restoration, when there were box pews focussing the eyes of the congregation not on the altar but on a three-decker pulpit reigning where the war memorial now is. She kept up attendance all through her life. In old age she and her friend the late Mrs. May Osborne used to meet in church at two on Saturday afternoons to do their flowers, then sit in a pew till tea time having a subdued and doubtless kindly, "tell". This came naturally to them, as church was a homely place. The Vicar was sure that the Lord Himself listened in with delight to the prattle of His faithful old servant.

EASTER CHRISTENINGS. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Good, of Well Plot, took their infant son to his mother's home church at Mosterton, for christening on Easter Day. Corporal

Nicholas Willmott, R.E., and his wife, Christine, brought theirs from Brompton Barracks Chatham, to the home front at Loders, where he was named Adrain Bogle Edward. The Sunday School participated, and Cathy Miles read the lesson.

THE ACCOUNTS of Loders and Dottery churches presented at the church meeting, for the year ended December 31st, 1973, showed both churches with a credit balance on the year's working, Loders £48.02, and Dottery £37.92. Loders ordinary account showed an income of £1463.55, including church collections of £882.68. The income of the church repair account was £951.78, and expenditure £385. The treasurers, Miss Muriel Randall and Mr. Cecil March, and the auditor, Mr. William Graves, were thanked for their services.

CHURCH OFFICERS appointed for the current year are:- Loders and Dottery Vicar's wardens Mr. G. Beavan and Mr. C. March respectively; Loders and Dottery people's wardens Mr. M. McDowall and Mr. J. March respectively. Deanery Synod representatives Mrs. Moorby, Miss E. Male, Mrs. Shirley and Mr. G. Beavan. Sidesmen Messrs H. Crabb, R. Price, R. Thomas and I. Roberts. Church Council Mesdames F. Randall, E. Wilkins, L. Strachan, Misses M. Edwards and M. Glover, Colonel Stack and Messrs N. Prideaux and M. Lawson. The Hon. Alexander Hood is an ex officio member.

A PETE is to be held at Loders Court on either the last Saturday in July or the first in August at the kind invitation of the Hon. Alexander and Mrs. Hood. If the Village Hall Committee wish to have a stall for Hall funds they are very welcome to.

A BAND OF RINGERS collected by the Master Ringer of the Diocese, the Rev. Roger Keeley, rang a peal of "Kirkstall Delight Minor" on Loders bells on April 20th. It was conducted by Mr. Brian Woodroffe, consisted of five thousand and forty changes, and took three hours and eight minutes to ring. The time was a Saturday morning, and the flag of St. George proclaimed Easter from the tower top. The church ladies were giving the floral decorations a face lift for Low Sunday, tennis was in play at the Court, and several other people were about. It is safe to say they all enjoyed the music of our deep-throated bells dancing a measured tread with six expert campanologists.

OUR GUIDES AND BROWNIES entertained their friends with a play of their own devising, and refreshments, at Colfox School. The school is a big place, the location of the Guides' entertainment was presumed by them to be known by the visitors, one of whom strayed into the region where the local film society was about to go into session. He happened to be a cleric. The anxiety of the film people to get him to where the Guides were performing would have enticed any ordinary mortal to stay for the film. But he reached the Guides, enjoyed their play, and marvelled at the good work being done for the youth of the parish by Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Price and Mrs. Evans, who have the zealous support of the parents.

WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE two members of Loders choir, Alan Read and Kevin Tiffin, on their convincing performance of major parts in the Bridport Operatic Society's presentation of "Oliver". As the Artful Dodger and Oliver Twist respectively, each was the perfect foil to the other. The marvel was that they could appear so fresh after so many weeks of rehearsal intermingled with Confirmation classes, school plays and homework.

LODERS IS GETTING LITTERY in the region of the church, and it is not the Sunday worshippers who are the culprits, but people with a passion for crisps and Benson and Hedges cigarettes, who throw the empty packets about during the week. In the sylvan glade at the top of Yellow Lane two abandoned mattresses are in an advanced state of decay. Tramps are not likely depositors of these, nor of fish and chip wrappings.

#### SERVICES IN MAY

<u>LODERS</u>	5th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	12th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
	19th	Holy Communion 8 and 12	Matins 11	Children 2
	Ascension Day	Holy Communion 8		Children 9.15
	26th	Holy Communion 8	Matins 11	Children 2
<u>ASKERSWELL</u>	5th	Children 10	Evensong 6.30	
	12th	Matins 10		
	19th	Family Service 10		
	Ascension Day,	Holy Communion 10		
	26th	Holy Communion 10		
<u>DOTTERY</u>	5th	Holy Communion 9.30		
		All other services at 3.		

PARISH NOTES  
LODERS, DOTTERY & ASKERSWELL

LODERS FETE has been fixed for Saturday, August 3rd, and will be at Loders Court by kind invitation of the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hood. It is the social event of the year in this area, and as such produces much enjoyment. It is also the main replenisher of the church repair fund, which will soon have to provide a new roof for the tower. The present roof is only a temporary one, dating from 1953, and it is now deteriorating fast. Trips to the tower roof cannot be a feature of this year's fete. For the first time in twenty years Miss Muriel Randall will not be fete secretary. Pressure of work at home obliged her to resign. Her mantle is waiting to fall on Mr. Geoffrey Beavan when he returns to stable from his latest globe trot. His noble nature can be relied on not to dodge it. Whether the price of petrol will greatly affect attendance at the fete remains to be seen. It seems to have reduced the number of explorers of our lanes who drop in to look at the church. The death in the past year of several of the most generous givers to the fete is bound to affect the profit unless others assume their mantle.

If variety is indeed the spice of life, then Askerswell's substitute for a fete this year should make exceptionally pleasant the raising of money for the church. Mr. and Mrs. Derek Newall are issuing a general invitation to a summer supper at South Eggardon House. It will be on Friday, July 19th, at 8 p.m., admission by ticket only at £1 a piece. The ticket promises buffet, fruit and cream, and a glass of wine; and shows a benign evening sun dipping behind the Iron Age fortress of Eggardon as the guests regale themselves in the house nestling beneath. Surprising, perhaps, that the guests are not invited to come looking like Iron Agers. Or is that because our trendier brethren look that way already?

The Annual Meeting of Askerswell Village Hall, presided over by Captain Michael Lumby, had a year of solid achievement to mull over. Cash in the bank towards building an extension to store things in now amounts to £425. The bingo sessions run by Mr. George Bryan had made a profit of nearly £76, and the Y.T.F.C. football lottery run by Captain Lumby £89. Hall fittings and the loan of equipment had made a further £30. Voluntary work cheerfully done by various parishioners had reduced expenses. Ladies do the cleaning by rota; gentlemen had between them redecorated the hall, fitted a rail to protect the walls from chair-backs, made a new notice board, and given the wine for the harvest supper. Mrs. Norman Marsh, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Finlay were appointed village representatives to the hall committee. Mrs. Stevens, the secretary, was wished a speedy restoration to health. Her minutes always bear the impress of her personality. To this was added a becoming dramatic fervour from Mrs. Bellis, who kindly read them for Mrs. Stevens, with the unusual result that the minutes were the most entertaining part of the meeting.

The subscription of some of our readers for these Notes falls due in June. We regret that with V.A.T. and rising costs the price from now onwards will have to be twenty pence per annum. If it is any consolation, the price of most parish magazines today is around sixty pence per annum. These are always bulkier than ours; but not, we submit, meatier.

Christenings. There were three at Loders in May, all boys. Adrian, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gale of Well Plot, was baptised on May 12th. He is a great grandson of the lately deceased Mrs. Caroline Thomas, and some of us felt her presence approvingly with us. The christening on May 19th was a double one, of Christopher Paul, the first born of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Marley, of Upton; and Lee, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hallett, of Bridport. Both fathers are worth their weight in gold. They are plumbers. But they did not forget to bring the babies.

A shower of rain shortly before the May Fair on the playing field of Loders School was a reminder to us that although it is always fine for this event, it is only so by favour of the clerk of the weather, whose existence must not be forgotten. The lesson applied, the clerk beamed his brightest, and a perfect afternoon was had by all. The maypole dancing was delicious, and not less so because of a slight tangle in the "Spiders Web" or because in another dance the elegant performance of a small gentleman with short legs dammed up the tide of taller dancers behind him. Julie Sheppard was the May Queen, Magdala Thornton and Rebecca Price her attendants, and Robert Prideaux her page. They might all have stepped from the pages of Alice in Wonderland. Mrs. Cross, the District Commissioner of Girl Guides, did the crowning. The statesmanlike speech from the throne was well delivered, which was more than could be said of the headmaster's until he detached himself from a microphone that keen young electrical engineers had insisted on fitting him up with. The microphone channelled his voice into a pavilion, and it came out sounding so shockingly different that he recoiled from the machine. Thereafter he spoke unassisted, as he always

does, and nobody had difficulty in hearing him. Buying and selling at the stalls ceased, and a fancy dress competition, judged by Mrs. G. Bryan and Mrs. G. Hall. Parents and friends departed feeling they had had their money's worth, and especially Mrs. Raymond Crabb, who had been allowed out of Bridport Hospital for the afternoon. Takings were for the school fund. They were a record, having been made up by a friend of the school to £151.

Friends of the late Mrs. Nellie Norman responded generously to her family's invitation to send donations to Askerswell Church instead of flowers. One relative who had been about to instal a telephone for Mrs. Norman gave £20 of what it would have cost to the church. These donations were evidence of the high regard in which she was held. Her death at the early age of 65 is a loss for Askerswell Church. Although she had long resided outside the parish she, and for that matter her three daughters, continued the support that flowed from them unflinchingly when they lived at Nine Bottles. In her personal effects was found a poem she had composed to mark the restoration of Askerswell bells. It is aglow with a hot local patriotism.

Lent savings boxes in Loders produced £11.39 for the work of the Church overseas.

With the help of chairs kindly lent by Askerswell Village Hall, Loders Church was able to seat a congregation of two hundred and forty for the wedding of Miss Alice Ascott, formerly of Upton Farm, and Mr. Robert Bernard Dupont, of Langdon, Beaminster. The seating was too close to be comfortable, but Margaret Cartwright singing "I'll walk beside you" helped the congregation to endure it while the register was being signed. Outside, the gloriously fine weather made the crowd within the church grateful for the coolness being exuded by the ancient walls. The speeches at the reception at the West Mead Hotel were models of what such orations should be. The proposer of the bride and groom informed the company that they had been brought together by their common love of horses, like that other Bride and Groom. To bear this out, the happy couple left the wedding for a tour of the locality in an open, horse-drawn carriage.

Continuing the tradition of self-help at Askerswell, Mr. Stevens has made and presented to the church a pair of coffin stools to replace the pair that had suffered the loss of one by theft. They are expertly made, of old oak, and Mr. Stevens has put a gloss on them which should allay any covetous desires in lovers of antiques visiting the church. The iron gates at the church entrance are also looking smart, thanks to Mr. Frost, who took them home and gave them a much needed painting.

"Local boy makes good" The man who came from Walker's, the organ builders, to tune the organ in Loders Church turned out to be Paul Gale, who used to live at Matravers, and was, with the rest of his family, a faithful member of the Loders congregation. Paul is now married, and lives at Plymouth. Our organist, Mr. Bill Tiltman, says he made a first-class job of the tuning.

"Many a slip..." The clergy of the Lyme Bay Deanery and their wives had their annual social evening at Shaves Cross, when fond farewells were said to the Rector of Bridport, the Vicar of Lyme Regis, and the Rector of Long Bredy, on their impending retirement. A buffet supper was followed by the customary skittles match, in which the Archdeacon's side takes on the Rural Dean's. A victory for the Archdeacon seemed certain. Only one player remained to throw for the Rural Dean. She was Mrs. Willmott, who had shown no particular aptitude till now. But this time she made the score of the evening, thirteen, and robbed the Archdeacon of victory just as he was ordering drinks on the Rural Dean. Quixotic bursts of talent like this do not help a clergy wife's husband to a canonry.

The Spring Holiday congregation at Loders included a venerable lady from Wareham, who lingered after service to tell the Vicar that she was ninety-four, a native of Loders, and a daughter of the late Eli Russell, who was churchwarden for a long stretch up to 1910, and died in 1912. She looked very fit, and to have the makings of a centenarian. She approved heartily of everything about the church, but wondered what had become of the piscina which used to be in the south wall of the chancel, near the altar, when she was a child, we wish we knew. There should be a piscina in that spot, but a search for it a few years ago failed to uncover it. She may be confusing it with the old holy water stoup near the chancel door.

#### SERVICES IN JUNE

LODERS	2nd	Whit Sunday, H.C. 8 and 12, Matins 11, Children 2
	9th	H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2
	16th	H.C. 8 and 12, Matins 11, Children 2
	23rd	H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2
	30th	H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2
ASKERSWELL	2nd	Children 10, Evensong 6.30
	9th	Matins 10, 16th Family Service 10
	23rd	Matins 10, 30th H.C. 10
DOTTERY	2nd	H.C. 9.30 All others at 3 p.m.