

LODERS & DOTTERY NOTES (JANUARY, 1950)

AN OLD ENGLISH CHRISTMAS. A GENTLEMAN WHO SPENT HIS CHRISTMAS WITH RELATIONS IN LODERS RIGHTLY SAID THAT ONE NEEDS TO BE IN A VILLAGE TO GET THE OLD SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS. WE DID ALL THAT TRADITION DEMANDS. OUR CHOIR SERENADED THE VILLAGE WITH CAROLS SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, DRINKING SHERRY WITH THEIR CHURCHWARDEN EN ROUTE, REFUELLING WITH SOME UNCOMMONLY POWERFUL COCOA AT A NAVAL ESTABLISHMENT OUT IN THE WILDS OF THE PARISH, AND ENDING UP WITH A FEAST AND GHOST STORIES AT THE BIG FIREPLACE OF THE VICARAGE. MATINS ON CHRISTMAS DAY WOULD HAVE HAD THE HEARTY APPROVAL OF SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY. THE SQUIRE'S PARTY FILLED THE CHANCEL STALLS, A VERY REPRESENTATIVE CONGREGATION FILLED THE CHURCH, AND WHEN THE CHILDREN HAD SUNG CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE, ON THE CHANCEL STEP, THEY RECEIVED PACKETS OF SWEETS FROM THE TREE, WHICH THEY STOICALLY REFRAINED FROM EATING TILL AFTER SERVICE. ON BOXING DAY THE CHRISTMAS SCENE WAS BEAUTIFULLY ROUNDED OFF BY THE APPEARANCE OF THE CATTISTOCK HUNT AT BOARSBARROW. THE BEST VIEW WAS TO BE HAD FROM THE SUMMIT OF BOARSBARROW. THERE THE SPECTATORS LOOKED DOWN, AND SAW THE PROCESSION OF REDCOATED HUNSMEN EMERGE FROM THE LANE, AND FAN OUT OVER THE BROWN BRACKEN OF LOSCOMBE. WHAT THEY HOPED TO SEE, AND DID NOT, WAS REYNARD BREAKING COVER. THAT SIGHT WAS RESERVED FOR ONE PAIR OF EYES ALONE. IN THE AFTERNOON, WHEN THE HUNT AND EVERYBODY ELSE HAD GONE, SIR EDWARD'S NEPHEW WENT SHOOTING IN LOSCOMBE, AND STEPPED ON A FAT OLD FOX WHO WAS ASLEEP IN THE VERY PLACE THE HOUNDS HAD DRAWN. THE BED WAS WARM AND DEEPLY DENTED, INDICATING THAT IT HAD BEEN SLEPT IN FOR SEVERAL HOURS. WE SUSPEND JUDGEMENT UNTIL THE MYSTERY HAS BEEN FULLY DEBATED IN THE VILLAGE INN.

THE CRIB, WHICH WAS ADMIRER BY THE LARGE CONGREGATION AT THE MIDNIGHT SERVICE, HAD BEEN MADE BY MISS VERA LEGG, AND THATCHED BY MR. HARRY LEGG. THE SCOTT FAMILY MADE THE VERY DELIGHTFUL AND SOLID FIGURES, OUT OF THE PAPER OF AN OLD GUIDE BOOK.

OUR CHRISTMAS COMMUNICANTS NUMBERED 115, AND THE COLLECTIONS CAME TO UPWARDS OF £10.

BOOK PRIZES, FOR HAVING ATTENDED CHURCH ON EVERY SUNDAY IN 1949, WERE PRESENTED TO TONY YARDE, MARGARET DRAKE, REGINALD DRAKE, MORWENNA AND RUTH WILLMOTT, BY MRS. WELSTEAD, ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

LODERS LIVED UP TO ITS NAME FOR GENEROSITY IN DECEMBER. REFRESHMENTS FOR THE SOCIAL WERE SO FREELY GIVEN THAT IT MADE A PROFIT OF £12; THE CHILDREN'S SALE PRODUCED £17, AND THE CAROL SINGING BROUGHT ANOTHER £10. (IT WAS BAD FOR OUR SOULS TO READ THAT THE BRIDPORT CAROL SINGERS ONLY TOPPED £6). ADD TO THIS THE CHURCH COLLECTIONS OF £10 ON CHRISTMAS DAY, AND IT MEANS THAT LODERS CONTRIBUTED SOME £50 TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER. THE REGULAR CONGREGATION IS GLAD TO HAVE THIS SUPPORT FROM THE PARISH AT LARGE. LIKE ALL OTHER COSTS, THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE PARISH CHURCH, AND OF FULFILLING THE DUTY OF THE PARISH TO THE CHURCH IN GENERAL, KEEPS ON RISING. IT IS NOW BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE SUNDAY COLLECTIONS. WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR FORTIFIED BY DECEMBERS EVIDENCE THAT LODERS HEARTS ARE IN THEIR CHURCH, EVEN THE BODIES ARE NOT.

THE CHILDREN ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE RESULT OF THEIR MISSIONARY SALE. THEIR £17 CONCEALS A LOT OF HARD WORK; FOR IT WAS MADE OUT OF MANY USEFUL ARTICLES CHEAPLY PRICED. WE ARE LUCKY IN HAVING MISS JESSIE CRABB TO MOTHER AND TEACH THE CHILDREN, WHO NOW MEET AT HER HOME.

WHEN THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING A CENTENARIAN PARISHIONER SEEMED TO BE CERTAINLY OURS, IT ELUDED US. MRS. ANNIE LEWIS MARCH, OF HIGHER PYMORE FARM, DIED WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF HER HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY. LODERS RINGERS RANG A MUFFLED PEAL IN MEMORY OF HER, AND SHE WAS LAID TO REST ON HER LATE HUSBAND AT A BIG FUNERAL SERVICE IN DOTTERY WHICH QUITE DEFEATED THE SEATING CAPACITY OF THE CHURCH. OUR REGRET AT LOSING SO OUTSTANDING AN EXAMPLE OF CHURCHMANSHIP IS TEMPERED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT NOT ALL THE LOVE OF HER FAMILY COULD MITIGATE THE BURDEN OF HER YEARS. SHE LONGED FOR THE OTHER LIFE. MR. CECIL MARSH, HER SON, HAS PRESENTED TO DOTTERY CHURCH AN ENGRAVING OF THE LAST SUPPER WHICH USED TO HANG IN HER ROOM. IT NOW HANGS ABOVE THE ALTAR, AND WILL KEEP THE MEMORY OF HER FRESH.

A PERUSAL OF THE BURIAL REGISTERS SHEW THAT MRS. MARSH WAS OF A GREATER AGE THAN ANYBODY BURIED IN THIS PARISH SINCE 1813. WE CANNOT SAY HOW SHE COMPARES WITH OTHERS PREVIOUS TO 1813 BECAUSE THE BURIAL REGISTERS ONLY BEGAN IN 1813. BEFORE THAT, THERE WAS NO RECORD KEPT OF INDIVIDUAL BURIALS. THE CHURCHWARDENS ACCOUNTS MERELY GAVE THE NUMBER OF BURIALS IN A YEAR. MRS. MARSH'S NEAREST RIVALS WERE: MATTHEW SALISBURY, 98, BURIED IN 1906; DIANA HANSFORD, 96, BURIED IN 1832; AND AMELIA BROWN, 96, BURIED IN 1945. THE BURIAL REGISTERS ARE SHOCKING EVIDENCE OF THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN THE 19TH CENTURY. THERE ARE TWO SUCCESSIVE PAGES OF BURIALS IN WHICH EVERY ENTRY EXCEPT ONE IS OF A CHILD UNDER EIGHT, AND THE EXCEPTION IS A GIRL OF TWENTY. THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN LODERS BEGAN A MARKED DECLINE IN THE GREAT WAR, AND NOW CHILD BURIALS ARE THE EXCEPTION INSTEAD OF THE RULE. WHEN WE SHUDDER AT THE AWFUL FORCES OF DESTRUCTION SCIENCE HAS LET LOOSE IN THE WORLD, WE MUST REMEMBER WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

RINGERS' MEETING. AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING, THE RINGERS ELECTED MESSRS. HARRY LEGG, CAPTAIN; HARRY CRABB, VICE-CAPTAIN; ELSTON PAUL AND CLEM POOLE, TOWER WARDENS; AND GEORGE HYDE, SECRETARY. MESSRS. C. CHARD, R. DRAKE, E. BUNNELL, B. HARRIS AND J. DRAKE WERE ADMITTED FULL RINGERS.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE PARISH IS WITH MR. HARRY CRABB IN HIS RECENT MISFORTUNE. WHEN HE WAS FENCING AT UPTON, A NAIL PIERCED HIS LEFT EYE, AND SO BADLY DAMAGED IT THAT THE EYE WAS REMOVED AFTER THE WEYMOUTH EYE INFIRMARY HAD DONE WHAT WAS POSSIBLE TO SAVE IT. THE PITY IS THAT THE LEFT EYE WAS MR. CRABB'S "GOOD" EYE. THE RIGHT EYE, WHICH REMAINS, HAD BEEN INJURED IN AN EARLIER ACCIDENT.

OUR NOTION THAT CAPTAIN WELSTEAD AND MR. CLARK ARE THE ONLY REMAINING BOER WAR VETERANS IN LODERS IS WRONG. THERE IS A THIRD - MR. TOM WARD, OF YONDOVER, WHO SERVED IN BOTH BOER WARS. MR. WARD IS NOT AS KEEN TO PUT UP HIS AGE NOW AS HE WAS THEN.

FIVE GENERATIONS. BY THE RECENT BIRTH OF A SON TO MRS. PECKHAM JUNIOR, A FIFTH GENERATION WAS ADDED TO THE FAMILY OF MR. PECKHAM, WHO SUCCEEDS MR. GILLARD AS BUTLER AT THE COURT. THE NEW BABY HAS A GRANDMOTHER, A GREAT GRANDMOTHER, AND A GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER, ALL VERY MUCH ALIVE!

A DEVOUT DOG. TESSA, THE VICARAGE DOG, CAME INTO CHURCH WHILE THE CHURCHING OF A MOTHER WAS IN PROGRESS, ASSUMED A REVERENT POSTURE BETWEEN THE MOTHER AND THE VICAR, AND INSISTED ON BEING CHURCHED. WE ARE TROUBLED. WE DID NOT KNOW THERE WERE PUPPIES, AND WE CANNOT FIND THEM.

THE SCHOOL TERM, WHICH BEGINS NEXT WEEK, WILL, ALACK, BE MISS WILKES' LAST. THE MANAGERS HAVE RECEIVED HER RESIGNATION, WHICH TAKES EFFECT ON APRIL 30TH. IT WILL BE HARD TO FILL THE PLACE MADE BY HER STRONG AND DUTIFUL CHARACTER.

PARISH REGISTERS.

HOLY BAPTISM.

4TH DEC. ANDREW PHILIP SKEATS.
18TH DEC. TERESA JEAN PAVEY.

BURIAL.

6TH DEC. ANNIE LEWIS MARSH, AGED 99.

SERVICES FOR JANUARY.

LODERS.

JAN 1ST. HC 8, MATINS 11, CHILDREN 2.15, CAROL SERVICE 6.30.
JAN 8TH. HC 8, MATINS 11, HC 11.45, CHILDREN 2.15.
JAN 15TH. HC 8, MATINS 11, CHILDREN 2.15, EVENSONG 6.30.
JAN 22ND. HC 8, MATINS 11, HC 11.45, CHILDREN 2.15.
JAN 29TH. HC 8, MATINS 11, CHILDREN 2.15, EVENSONG 6.30.

DOTTERY.

JAN 8TH. EVENSONG 3.30. JAN 15TH. EVENSONG 3.30.
JAN 22ND. EVENSONG 6.30. JAN 29TH. EVENSONG 3.30.

Another Successful Experiment. On the Sunday evening after Christmas we tried out the Service of the Nine Lessons, and it was well received. A large congregation sat and watched the lighted Christmas tree, and listened to the choir singing old carols, such as "I saw three ships", "God rest you merry", and "The Holly and the Ivy". Each of the nine lessons should have been read by a parishioner representing a part of the parochial organisation, but only two could be induced to lift up their voices in public. The prevailing shyness may wear off by next year. It was good to have the Dottery congregation in their mother church for this service, and to see them round the vicarage fire with cups of tea afterwards. Their feeling for Mr. Charlie Gale was warm; for he had hurried back from an emergency job to be their coachman. While the People's Warden, Mr. Eli Lenthall, was reading one of the Nine Lessons, he became a grandfather for the third time. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. Ascott on the birth of a second son - on New Year's Day.

Spring Cleaning. When wives begin to plan this, long-suffering husbands protest that the annual disturbance would be unnecessary if the routine cleaning had been done properly. To which wives retort that the best ordered house is better after spring cleaning. So it is with Lent. Nobody likes this annual disturbance, but it is good for us, and is more than ever necessary now, when we are slack in the routine duty of Sunday worship. We are living in a house whose windows are cobwebbed over, and so coated with dirt that the sunshine of God's Spirit cannot get in. We make for ourselves an artificial light, and give our energy to the moth-eaten interests of making money to secure our future, or of pandering to the flesh which we know is only dust. Lent means cleaning our windows, seeing the brightness of the love of God all round us, seeing our own dinginess, and finally throwing open our windows to God's influence. On Thursday afternoons in Lent at three o'clock, we shall study one of the prophets; on alternate Sunday evenings in Lent the sermon will be by the Vicar of Bradpole. A new voice from the pulpit should be welcome.

The Late Mr. G.J. Chubb, of Dottery, was a quiet, unobtrusive man, but the number of people who attended his funeral was proof of the esteem in which he was held. His wife, who had predeceased him, and his daughter, used to be the mainstay of the choir, in those remote days when Dottery had a choir.

The Cattistock Hunt were rewarded for giving Loders a second chance after drawing a blank at Boarsbarrow on Boxing Day. When they met recently at Matravers Corner, they started a fox right away, and thereafter so many foxes that they did not know which to follow. It is a healthy sign of the times that many more farmers follow the hunt.

Looking Ahead. The Bridport News reported that a site had been chosen, off New Road, for a new school to serve Askerswell and Loders. What it did not report was that the Dorset Education Committee does not expect this school to be built before circa 1965. Meanwhile, our school managers are going ahead with improvements to the existing school. The roof has been repaired, and the big classroom re-decorated, the outside is about to be repainted, and plans have been passed for an internal water supply with wash basins. The new school may never materialise. It is hard to see the wisdom of building a new expensive school when a small outlay on the old schools would modernise them; and of deliberately increasing the number of scholars who would live at a distance from school. Today there is too much enthusiasm for new schools, and too little for new houses. The parish would rise up in righteous wrath if the authorities tried to give us a new school before they give us new houses.

Miss Hinks alarmed her many friends in Loders by an unpremeditated departure to hospital for an urgent and serious operation. We are happy to say that she is convalescing with a friend at Maiden Newton. Mrs. Ethel Crabb, of Uploders, has also undergone an operation successfully.

The Wedding of Miss Margaret Harris, of Belshay Farm, and Mr. L.E.J. Mudford, of Allington, was the biggest that Loders Church had seen since that of Miss Perronelle Le Breton. It was a bitterly cold morning, and some of the congregation were waiting forty minutes for the service. The bride is much admired for the way in which she took her mother's place, and ran the home, at the latter's death in 1940.

A burning question. The answer may now be given to the persistent question: "When is the next social?" It will be on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21st at 7.30 p.m., at the Hut. We shall thus be "going continental" in having a last fling before Lent.

A Date for Dottery. The memorial tablet to the Dottery men who died in the two world wars has been made, and is ready for fixing. It will be unveiled at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, February 19th, by Colonel D. Scott, who will also give the address. It is appropriate that Col. Scott should do this. He served in the two world wars which the tablet commemorates.

Tantalising! At midday on a recent Saturday, the Bridport Fire Brigade, and a wedding reached Loders together in a great hurry. The wedding was for the church, and was ten minutes late. The fire brigade was for a house near the church, which had a chimney ablaze. Fate had managed things badly in giving simultaneously two such absorbing spectacles to a village in which nothing ever happens. It was a strain on local eyes and necks to give both events the attention they deserved, and it is feared that much of interest went unobserved.

The News that Miss Holmes and Miss Butterworth are to leave Loders for a new home near Cirencester in March has been received with dismay, both by the Women's Institute, which they successfully reorganised, and by the Church Council. These Notes have a private grief; for the idea of them was born of these ladies (and of Mrs. Harry Legg). It was certainly a bright idea; for the Notes have a local circulation which the News of the World itself can in no wise rival.

The Passing of George Ellery. No - this picturesque character is anything but dead, but he has passed from Loders scene, to which for many years he had given the rustic touch. "Doing" for himself in his tumbledown cottage opposite the Loders Arms was getting beyond him, so he sought, and obtained, admission to the Infirmary at Stoke. By ancient reckoning he would be in minor orders of the Church; for he was once our Sexton, and so had been his father, and his grandfather. By modern reckoning he should have been the announcer of the wireless feature "Those were the days", for to him there were no days like those when ale was a penny a pint, and baccy twopenne a screw, and the mother of a family could acquire the inside of a pig for a song. Before giving up his cottage, George chalked on a board "A few things for sale", and put it outside his door. As an afterthought, he added "By order". Seekers of bargains found George a shrewd salesman, and came out wondering which had got the better of the deal. Two weeks of Stoke, and George was back in Loders to see if the place was much altered. He supped some tea, and pulled at his pipe, over the stove in the vicarage kitchen, and was certain he had done right in going to Stoke. They already thought well of him there. Why? - Although he had not touched water ALL over, at the SAME TIME, for four years, the bath attendant had told him he was "cleaner than most".

Parish Registers.

Holy Matrimony, 21st Jan. Leslie Edward John Mudford and Constance Margaret Harris.

Burial, 6th Jan. George James Chubb, aged. 67.

Services for February.

Loders. 5th, H.C. 8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45, Children 2.15.
12th, H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.
19th, H.C. 8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45. Children 2.15.
Ash Wednesday, H.C. and Communion 10.
26th, H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.

Dottery. 5th, H.C. 9.30, 12th, Evensong 3.30.
19th, Memorial Dedication 6.30, 26th, Evensong 3.30.