LODERS AND DOTTERY NOTES (MARCH, 1950)

Mr. Charles Hine. At a time when we are rather gloomy about the impending departure from the parish of staunch supporters of Loders Church, comes the gloom cast by the sudden death of Mr. Charlie Hine, of New Road. The Local Newspapers may safely be left to describe his colourful career as a coachman in the service of a Duke of Atholl, when he drove King Edward V11; and as coachman, during the Great War, to the War Office, when he drove the leading generals - and Mr. Winston Churchill. We like to recount what we curselves know of his days of retirement in Loders. Our lanes were nicer for the chance they offered of meeting his ample, jovial figure, with his hounds, and his pockets full of rabbits. The soliciting of a subscription from him was fraught with no fears of a snubbing; for he gave generously to good objects. St. Paul's injunction to take a little wine for the stomach's sake was a text he approved of, and his hospitality was a cout of a desire to support a good old English institution. On the long walk from New Road to the church, the condition of his heart and legs enforced frequent rests, and then he envied the vitality of younger folks who were not responding to the bells. He was essentially an extravert, yet he had in him a streak of malancholy, and was given to strong premonitions. When there was hope of his recovery, he was sure he would never see the daffodils again. He even wrote down a few details about himself for these Notes, to save his widow being asked for them. He entered the fuller Life on Shrove Tuesday.

Gratitude where it is due. Lately, a bill for nearly £15 came in, for replacing the fan in the organ blower. This is more than our church collections produce in month, and to have taken £15 from the offertory account would have badly unbalanced it. Thoughts turned, as they always do on such occasions, to the free will offering fund, and the bill was paid out of that. Last year new hymn books for choir and congregation were needed, and the bill of £9 was paid from the same fund. This fund is our widow's cruze. It never fails us. We take it for granted, and are not a bit curious about the mystery of its replenishment. The time has come to acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to Lady Le Breton, and Captain Welstead, who are the only subscribers to the fund. It was they who paid for the new hymn books, and the new fan. A practical show of gratitude would be to give the valiant two a hand by saving up our collection when we are not at church, and dropping it in the free will offering box when we are passing the church.

"Better late" Quinquagesima Sunday is not a fashionable time for dedicating war memorials, but Dottery was not disposed to wait until next November to honour the four local men who died in the two world wars. A memorial in oak had been fixed to the north wall of the church, and it was unveiled by Colonel Scott on Quinquagesima Sunday. He turned out to be a very apt choice. An appreciative congregation got the benefit of his mature, and not unhumorous, reflections on the merits of the British private soldier, and left the church determined to emulate him. The Vicar need not fear falling ill, and might even dare to comtemplate a Sunday off, now that the parish contains a maker of good sermons.

Wedding Bells. Flowers, music, bells, and a large congregation, combined to make a notable event of the wedding of Miss Ann Crabb and Mr. John Haines. The flowers' were given by the Women's Institute, of which Miss Crabb was a member, and were displayed with all the skill at the command of Mrs. David Crabb and Mrs. Harry Legg. Mr. Tiltman played wedding music, and the bells were not slow in saluting a bride whose father and brothers are ringers. It was surprising to discover that most of the large congregation, comprising nearly a quarter of the village, were relations of the bride. Miss Crabb broke with the powerful local tendency to in - marrying by going to London for a husband, and that alone should win her the blessing of eugenists. We wish her, and her husband, every happiness, but it is hard to forgive him for taking away a regular member of the Sunday evening congregation.

At the time of going to print, Mrs. Hilton, of Gribb Farm, was still in hospital, but making a good recovery from her operation. Mrs. Ethel Crabb is now home, and so is Mrs. E.J. Legg. Mrs. Pritchard, in Port Bredy Hospital, was giving cause for anxiety, but seems to be much better. Mrs. Sophie Crabb, in the same hospital, has rallied again from one of her severa attacks.

A Reminder that the evensong sermons in Lent are being preached by the Revd. B.N. Carver, Vicar of Bradpole, to whom we owe the courtesy of coming to listen! The Thursday afternoon services in Lent are open to all comers, and are not for the Mothers' Union only.

It is pleasing to report an increased number of communicants at the 8 o'clock service. They had thinned out in January and early February. It must hurt Our Lord to be there waiting in vain to meet His people in His own service.

Two young ladies who were at the Shrove Tuesday social told their mother it was the best ever. Colds, and general election activities, slightly reduced the number present, but the extra room for manoeuvre was welcome. This social was the choir's effort to raise funds for their summer outing, and it made a profit of about £10. It had more than the usual quota of set entertainment. Mr. Roy Poole led the singing of songs which were new to the sedate people, but which the multitude (who seem to listen to something called "Worker's Playtime") took up with gusto and enjoyed immensely. The choir sang some songs, including a very local adaptation of the Vicar of Bray, and Mr. Harold Brown gave two delightful viclin solos. Roars of laughter were raised by a shadowgraph play, depicting a bioycle accident, a surgical operation, and the sequel. This was put on by the Misses A and J. Scott, V. Legg, and Mrs. E. Bishop. The Choir challenged a team consisting of Ringers and Women's Institute to a pancake race. Ringers and W.I. were under a considerable handicap. Their stove was nothing like as hot as the Choir's, and playful spectators kept stealing their fat and batter. Luckily for the Ringers, Mr. Harold Brown tossed his pancake to the floor, and his fat into the Choir stove, which then acquired a habit of bursting into flame, and gave Ringers and W.I. an easy win. Music for dancing was supplied, to everyone's satisfaction, by Mr. Billy Darby, and cur organist, Mr. Bill Tiltman, made a successful debut as M.C. A Competition for grocery (given by Mrs. Brown) was won by Mrs. Chard, and for a cake (given by Mrs. Willmott) by Mrs. Rice-Oxley. Mr. Oscar Gale was at his usual post of door steward. Mrs. Harry Legg, who was in charge of the refreshments, conjured up a prodigious array of cakes and jellies, and added - we know not how - £2.6.0. to the profits. Her helpers were Mesdames R.Drake, B.Osborne, S.Hyde, F.Taylor, W.Gill, F.Crabb, C.Chard, P.Darby, H.Bishop, and R.Pitcher. Requests have been made for a mid-Lent social. We w

The following poem is culled from the Lymo Regis parish magazine. It is equally true of Loders:-

"That Sick Person".

So the Doctor called to see her,
But the Vicar did not go;
For the Doctor had been sent for,
But the Vicar did not know.

Now the Doctor gets his bill paid
With a useful little cheque,
But the Vicar, for not knowing,
Simply gets it in the neck.

Parish Registers.

Holy Baptism. 29th Jan. Graham Michael Peckham.

5th Feb. Linda Ann Pitcher.

Holy Matrimony. 4th Feb. Albert John Huntley Haines and Ann Crabb.

Burial. 25th Feb. Charles Walter Hine, aged 68.

Services for March.

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.
26th. H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.

Dottery. 5th. H.C. 9.30. 12th Evensong 3.30.

LODERS & DOTTERY NOTES (APRIL, 1950)

Holy Week and Easter. We have come to the most sacred season in the Church's year. To our modern minds it seems a pity that Jesus did not keep a diary (as did Julius Caesar), giving us his own thoughts about the Passion. But it is his will that we should be content with the account in the Gospels. These tell us what happened to Jesus on each day of Holy Week. The language is restrained and unemotional, but it goes right to the hearts of those who let it touch their imagination. The Last Supper was two thousand years ago. It was two thousand years ago when the Cross was reared on Calvary. But what are two thousand years beside the millions of years of the earth's existence? Good Friday seems like yesterday. The diary of Holy Week has been left to us so that we may live through that week, and have our eyes so opened to the badness of our sins, that we crucify them on Good Friday, and rise to a new life of goodness on Easter Day.

The following are our Holy Week and Easter arrangements:—
On Palm Sunday the children will be at Matins to sing the processional hymn "All glory, laud and honour"; there will be Holy Communion at 10 o'clock on Maundy Thursday, which is the day on which Our Lord instituted that service; on Good Friday the Ante-Communion at 8 a.m., Matins at 11 am and a devotional service at 8 p.m., on Holy Saturday the decoration of the Church; on Easter Day, Holy Communion at 7, 8 and 11.45, Matins at 11 am. children at 2.15 and evensong at 6.30. Our Mother Church of England is not dictatorial about attendance at Holy Communion. Like Our Lord, she leaves it to the individual conscience. But she does ask specifically that Easter be one of the days on which Communion is made, and her loyal sons and daughters will not let her ask in vain. Milking is a problem for some would-be communicants, but the services at 7 a.m. and 11.45. should give them an opportunity. At Dottery the services will be:-Palm Sunday, Evensong 3.30., Good Friday, devotional service 6.30., Easter Day, Holy Communion 9.30 am., Evensong 3.30 p.m.

Miss Wilkes' twenty one years as governess of Loders school come to an official end on Sunday, April 30th, when she goes to retirement in Bournemouth. So passes a faithful teacher in the old tradition, who has trained two generations of Loders children. These children (many of them are now grown up, and she has taught their children) combined a wholesome fear of her stick with a genuine love of her person, and they are all sad at her departure. The whole village shares the regret. She recognised that the training of children is as sacred a calling as that of priest or nun, so she never quibbled about wages, hours and conditions, as modern teachers sometimes do. Indeed, she was always dipping into her own pocket for her children. When they left the School, she gave each girl a brooch and each boy a purse, or half-a-crown in lieu. It was she who bought the oranges and crackers at Christmas, and paid the children's fare to the folk dance festival at Bovington, and she regularly sent a treasury note, unasked, towards the Sunday School outing. The collecting book will soon be going round on her behalf. We want to give her something she will be able to prize to the end of her life as a token of Loders affection. The presentation will be made at the school at 3 o'Clock on Friday, April 28th. Everybody will be welcome.

One of Twenty-Two. The late Mr. Arthur William Studley, of Dottery, was full of distinction. He was, at 82, the oldest member of Dottery congregation, and was one of the most regular. He was also one of Twenty-two children, eleven of whom died in infancy. Dottery still misses him acutely at the Sunday service, but recalls with satisfaction that the very last service he attended was the dedication of the new war memorial. His son's name was on this, and it was a project near to his heart.

The Easter Vestry and annual church meeting is open to the whole village, and is an important event. The parishioners receive from the retiring church council a balance sheet and an account of their year's stewardship. Churchwardens and sidesmen are then appointed, and a church council elected. Attendance in the two years previous to this has been excellent, and we hope it will be maintained. This year the meeting is on the Wednesday in Easter week, at the School, at 7.30 p.m.

Commander Streatfeild has been invalided out of the Navy. Probably this is regretted by the Navy as much as anybody, for he was obviously a "coming" man. He has now turned his energy to food production, and is at present learning farming in Worcestershire.

During a recent gale the church weather cock took off from his perch on the turret of the tower. His absence became first apparent to eyes turned heavenwards from Loders Court. The alarm was sounded, and the confusion which prevailed at the Court might have overtaken the Vicarage had the Miss Willmotts remembered to pass on an urgent message. However, a search disclosed that on present rations the cock had been unable to get further than the tower roof.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler, of Loders, on the birth of a son.

The General Election drew attention to the curious position of Dottery. Although the Allington Polling Station was easily the nearest - and Dottery is in the civil parish of Allington - the people of Dottery had to vote at Symondsbury. Why should these things be? And who substituted the inelegant name of "Dottery" for its proper name, "West End of Loders"?

Spreading their wings. Mr. Stanley Diment and family have been spending the last few days with his mother in Loders. He, his wife, and two children, are about to sail for Australia. By trade he is a mechanic, but he means to try his hand at farming. He sees no future for an enterprising man in England. He hopes to be met at Sydney by the Williams, late of Spyway, who are now well established in Australia.

Mr. Tony Chard, of Loders, has long had an ambition to be a pilot. He went recently to Hornchurch under the National Service scheme and passed all the medical and written tests, thus becoming a cadet pilot. He was to have gone immediately for training in Southern Rhodesia, but is being held back for another draft.

Present-giving in church. On Mothering Sunday our children took to their service presents they had made for their mothers, and bunches of flowers they had collected for old people and invalids. The presents were put on a table in the chancel, and the flowers were laid at the altar. The mothers, determined not to disappoint their children, came to church in strength, bringing other grown-ups with them, and in the course of a pretty service the children had the satisfaction of seeing their mothers called up to the chancel by the Vicar to receive the presents the children had made. After service, the children collected the flowers from the altar, and went in a body from end to end of the village handing out their posies. Faces appeared at many doors and windows, and sometimes the mothering was applauded.

Parish Registers.

Burial, 2nd March, William Arthur Studley. 82.

Services for April.

Loders 2nd (Palm Sunday), H.C. 8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45, Children

6th (Maundy Thursday) H.C. 10.

7th

(Good Friday) Ante-C. 8, Matins 11, Devotional 8. (Easter Day), H.C. 7, 8 & 11.45, Matins 11, Children 2.15. 9th Evensong 6.30.

16th H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.
23rd H.C. 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.
30th H.C. 8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45, Children 2.15.

(Palm Sunday) Evensong 3.30, 7th.(Good Friday) Devotional 6.30. 9th.(Easter Day) H.C. 9.30, Evensong 3.30. 16th. Evensong 6.30. 23rd. Evensong 3.30. 30th. Evensong 3.30. Dottery 2nd