

THE CONTRIBUTION made towards the Vicar's stipend on Easter Day amounted to £23. 0s. 3d. (Loders £20. 11s. 0d.; Dottery £2. 9s. 3d.) He wishes to extend his thanks to those who were not at the Easter Vestry to hear them, and especially to those old people and invalids who sent their offering. The goodwill behind the offering was even more precious than the offering itself. Churchpeople everywhere are always saying it is not fair that the Easter offering should be subject to income tax. In the last Parliament a group of M.P.'s fought hard to get it exempted, but in vain. The Law Lords took the view that the Easter offering is a voluntary payment for services rendered, and not a gift. The Income Tax authorities argue that as the Church authorities reckon the Easter offering to be part of the benefice income, why shouldn't they? Let us hope that the gentlemen at Dorchester are not readers of the Bristport News. They might argue that the load of stable manure, included in this year's Easter offering, is worth its weight in gold.

THE FARM SERVICE in Loders Church on Rogation Sunday has become a popular institution. This year it will be on May 14th at 6.30 p.m. The farmer who suggested that it would be more in keeping with the times to have a tractor in the chancel, instead of our ancient plough, did not say how we were to get the tractor in.

MISS. BUTTERWORTH writes from her new home; "We are nowhere near straight yet, as we are held up for a carpenter, but we don't much mind, as we are concentrating on catching the season in the garden." How characteristic of her! By a coincidence, the house in which she and Miss. Holmes have taken up residence was inhabited by an ancestor of Miss. Holmes in the early 17th century. By another coincidence, the Parish Magazine of their new Parish is almost exactly like ours. Miss. Butterworth complains that their Magazine is not as "racy" as ours. We suppose that they lack our Derbys, our Ascots and our Newburys.

CONTENTMENT. The Annual Church Meeting was well satisfied with the good service it gets from its Officers, and re-elected them all, with the addition of Commander Streatfield to the sidesmen and Mrs. B. Osborne, Mr. Drake and Mr. H. Legg to the Church Council. Mr. Gillard's removal to West Bay and his consequent inability to attend Loders Church, made him ineligible for the post of Vicar's Warden, which he had held for eleven years, and Colonel Scott was appointed in his place. For Mr. Gillard this meant a great wrench and it will be regretted by those who dislike changes. In the long line of Loders Wardens, few can have served Church and Vicar as he served them.

THE LATE MRS. SOPHIE CRABE was away from the Parish for a long time before she died, but her interest in the Parish was unflagging, and it was sustained by the regular visits to her of her parishioner friends. In the course of her long illness she survived so many deadly attacks that her relatives, who live at a distance, were not fetched for the fatal one. Her passing was a shock to them, but for her it could be none other than a blessing.

LODERS CHURCH looked rather gay in Lent. Loders Court kept the altar beautiful with flowers, Uploders Place sent a lovely cluster of pot plants for the base of the chancel arch, the Lady's Chapel and the War Memorial were specially attractive and somebody put pots of primroses round the font. A person with a sense of liturgical propriety might well have thought that we were ultra-protestants, brazenly defying the tradition of no flowers in Lent. But that is not so. It just happened that way. Our Lord is certain to have been pleased with these offerings and they gave the Church an air of being loved.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. & Mrs. Tilley on the birth of a son and to Eileen and Beryl on having a baby brother to wheel about.

MR. RALPH WIGHTMAN, the well known Broadcaster, was recently in Loders Church. He stood godfather to Stuart Ascott.

THE BUDGET presented by Mr. Gillard to the Annual Church Meeting shewed a balance on the year's working, as did Sir Stafford's, but this had no snags in it, and Sir Stafford's had. Receipts in the General Account were £221. 10s. 0d; expenditure £215. 12s. 4d. and balance £5. 17s. 8d. Which means that we now manage to pay our way without the subsidy of £25. 0s. 0d. which had been taken, year after year, from the Free Will Offering.

WE WELCOME to the Parish Mr. & Mrs. George Hughes, who have taken the house vacated by Miss. Holmes and Miss. Butterworth. They come from Wandsworth Common and have three children - Alan, who is Minister of Elm Park Baptist Church, Essex; Kathleen, who holds an Honours Degree in History and is doing research work; and Dennis. who is at Bournemouth Grammar School, and is hopeful of becoming a farmer.

A YOUNG AUSTRALIAN was looking over Loders Church the other day. He said that his surname was Loder and that his ancestors had once lived in the Court. There is no record of a family of that name having held the Manor of Loders, but Mr. John Crabb, now aged 85, an authority on local history, recollects that we once had a policeman whose name was Loder, but he operated from Bradpole.

THE CHURCHYARD. Mr. Gray, the poet, was inspired by the peace of a country churchyard to write his immortal Elegy. We wonder whether that same churchyard spelt peace and inspiration to the Vicar of Stoke Poges, who was responsible for its good order. In these days, the difficulty of getting labour, even at a high price, makes churchyards and cemeteries the desperation of those who have the care of them. The Parish Council are now forced to make a levy of £4. 0s. d. on each new grave in Loders cemetery to meet the maintenance charges. This is additional to the other funeral expenses. In Loders churchyard there is no maintenance charge of any kind, and people who have graves there are entirely responsible for clipping them. This is done regularly by some. We hope that in future it will be done by all. We are very grateful to Mr. Elliott, of Yondover, for undertaking our scything on reasonable terms. He might be willing to make an arrangement with people who would like him to clip their graves.

A CHEAP OUTING. Our Mother's Union had a delightful motor coach ride to their Festival Service in Wimborne Minster, and partook of a sumptuous tea in a cafe afterwards. All this cost the Mothers no more than 3/6d. each. The facts are hard to elucidate, but it seems that the teas were paid for by Mrs. Welstead and Mrs. Lenthall. It was nice to hear one Mother remark, apropos the glories of Wimborne Minster, that she liked Loders Priory better.

LODERS HALT is now a full stop. The offer of the Parish Council to build the Halt themselves has been declined by the Railway Executive, whose letter, dated March 3rd, was passed round the Annual Parish Meeting for all to read. It said "The potential revenue to be derived from the Halt would not be sufficient to justify the capital expenditure which would be involved and to meet the annual charges which would arise, it is regretted that the way cannot now be seen to proceed further with the scheme". A letter from the M.P. was also passed round the Meeting. It appears that when the Railways belonged to private companies, questions about them could be asked in Parliament. Now that they belong to the Nation, questions about them in Parliament are not allowed. The Halt, therefore, is not likely to materialise, and the Council is trying to improve the bus service.

Parish Registers.

Holy Baptism.

26th. March, Stuart Arthur Lenthall Ascott.

Burial.

25th. March, Sophie Violet Crabb, aged 71.

Services for May.

Loders. 7th. HC 8, Matins 11, HC 11.45, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.

14th. HC 8, Matins 11. Children 2.15, Farm Service 6.30.

18th. Ascension Day, HC. 10. 21st. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.

28th. Whit Sunday HC 8. Matins 11. HC 11.45. Children 2.15.

Presentation to Miss Wilkes. Friday, April 28th., was Miss Wilkes' last day as Governess of Lodgers School. Lessons ended at three in the afternoon. The children sat on the floor in a half moon round her desk, and behind them sat a big assembly of parents and old pupils. Miss Wilkes was at the desk, supported by Sir Edward & Lady Le Breton, and the Vicar and Mrs. Willmott. Sir Edward started the speechmaking by thanking Miss Wilkes for her twenty-three years of devoted and highly efficient service to the school, and wished her every happiness in her retirement. This was echoed on behalf of the old pupils by Mrs. Pearl Symes. Mrs. Willmott then presented Miss Wilkes with an envelope containing £26. 1. 6d., emphasising that it was the result of spontaneous giving by pupils, old pupils and friends, and not of a house to house collection. Mrs. Symes and Miss Jessie Crabb, two old pupils, had acted as treasurer. On behalf of present pupils, Jennifer Paul handed to Miss Wilkes an exquisite bouquet, which had been made by Mrs. D. Crabb. The reply must have been something of an ordeal for Miss Wilkes; for by this time it had dawned on the children that they were losing their beloved teacher, and several were crying. She, however, braced herself like the departing schoolmaster in Dr. Manpassant's "La Derniere Classe", and reviewed her twenty-three years at the school. She thanked everybody, from Sir Edward, who had paid the managers' share of school repairs out of his own pocket, down to the school neighbours, Mr. & Mrs. John Crabb and Mrs. Burrell, who had passed pears, carrots and strawberries over the playground wall. She made a warm reference to Mrs. Darby, the caretaker, for her help with the school meals. She ended by saying that she hoped to buy a good watch with the money she had been given, and commended to the school Miss Barlow, her successor for the time being.

In a letter recently received at the Vicarage, Miss Wilkes says "I spent the day in Exeter last Thursday, which resulted in my becoming the possessor of a watch which Brufords assure me is the best which can be bought. It has a very clear neat dial, and, what I think will please the donors most, a gold case. The price was £18. 6. 5d. With the surplus money I propose to buy a very homely article, an electric blanket. Then I shall have a Lodgers watch to look at by day, and a Lodgers blanket to keep me warm by night. On looking through the list of donors, I find that so many of them have left Lodgers that I do not know their present addresses. As the Parish Notes travel far and wide, I wonder if they could include a notice of my thanks to the donors for their kindness and generosity?"

A Legacy of £5 has been left to the Vicar and Church wardens by the late Mrs. Sophie Crabb, for the general purposes fund of Lodgers Church.

A sad coincidence. It is rare for two next door neighbours to die within a few minutes of each other, but that happened recently in Uploders to Mrs. Pritchard and Mr. Eveleigh. Mrs. Pritchard passed away in Weymouth hospital, to which she had been removed from Port Bredy Hospital, and was cremated at Weymouth. Both she and her husband were comparatively new to Uploders, but they have won many friends, and her death cast a gloom on the village. Mr. Eveleigh was a native of Dottery, and was buried at Bradpole, where he had once been sexton. Nobody seeing his lithe and cheery figure mowing his lawn would imagine him to be the great sufferer he actually was.

Birthday Party. Our Mothers' Union kept the anniversary of their branch at Upton Manor, where they were the guests at tea of the Enroling Member, Mrs. Lenthall, who had provided a large iced cake. The next meeting will be at the Vicarage on the third Thursday in June, when an address is to be given by the Matron of Port Bredy Hospital.

Mr. Ian Scott, elder son of Colonel Scott, has lately obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of the University of London, and is now a fully qualified doctor. Both he and Miss Alison Scott have been joined a caravan party which is making for the Passion Play at Oberammergau, in the Bavarian Alps.

Enterprise at Dottery. Miss Thelma Cleal and Miss Doris Parker have started a Sunday School for the children of Dottery. It meets in church at 2.45 p.m. Parents seem to be very co-operative, and the little school has made a good beginning. We are lucky to find two young ladies to do this work for the Church.

Ninety-five Rooks fell to the guns of the recent shooting party at Lodgers Court. The shooting is an annual event whose drawing power, judging by the number of spectators, is on the increase. Next day the village dined on rook pie. A newcomer to this dish found it edible in a high degree -

not quite up to partridge, but superior to pigeon. The village wives can turn six rooks into a pie ready for the oven in half an hour.

"Patriarch of Loders" This was the epithet applied to the late Mr. John Crabb, and not without justification. He had reached the great age of 85, had come of old Loders stock, and had lived all his life here. Nobody knew more about Loders than he, and he could conjure up a clear picture of the village as it was three quarters of a century ago. His widow, Martha, is also remarkable. At an age not far short of her husbands, she was able to do most of the nursing of his long illness.

The Choir has produced an offspring. Some half dozen young girls, with nice voices, turn out for practice before the main choir practice, and sit in front of the choir on Sundays, when they are most useful. They are styled "The Junior Choir".

Mr. Walter Tudball, our village cobbler, has not been deterred by the weight of his years from going to Weymouth for an operation. His joke is that he is tired of a milk diet, and the operation will reintroduce him to roast meat and vegetables. We await with some anxiety his first encounter with the meat. But be it never so tough, a cobbler can put it to some use.

Mr. Eades has successfully undergone an operation in Bridport Hospital.

Mind over Matter. A party of working men descended on The Travellers' Rest. They drank their beer with no sign of relish. Indeed, the signs were all the other way. "Watery stuff, this", they said, "Can't we have some of the new ~~Bridport~~ beer?" The Landlord replied in the affirmative, and refilled their pots. This time there were grunts of approval all round, and such remarks as "Now this is what you can call beer". The Landlord smiled. Both samples of beer had come from the same barrel.

June 30th. is a Friday, and on that day the children of our school hope to give a display of folk dancing to their parents and friends on the Vicarage lawn. This year the children are not of the right age for competing at Bovington, and this is to be a substitute.

Parish Registers.

Burial - May 16th. John Crabb, aged 85.

Services for June.

Loders. 4th.	H.C. 8.	Matins 11,	Children 2.15.
11th.	H.C. 8.	Matins 11,	H.C. 11.45, Children 2.15. Evensong 6.30.
18th.	H.C. 8.	Matins 11,	Children 2.15.
25th.	H.C. 8.	Matins 11,	H.C. 11.45, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.
29th.	St. Peter.	H.C.10.	
Dottery.4th.	H.C. 9.30.		
11th.	Evensong 3.30.		
18th.	Evensong 6.30.		
25th.	Evensong 3.30.		