

Remembrance Sunday, when we honour the dead of the two great wars, falls on November 12th. this year. Our big service will be at 11 o'clock, instead of the usual 10.45 ~~p.m.~~ The earlier time seems just a bit too early for those who have work to do before Sunday morning church. The Dottery remembrance service will be at 6.30 p.m. At both services the collections will be for Earl Haig's Fund. Mr. J.C. Shoobridge, local secretary of the British Legion, has asked us to give generously. His account of what is done with the Poppy Day money makes interesting reading. Poppy Day helps to provide a weekly allowance for 3,336 permanently disabled ex-Servicemen, homes for nearly 4,000 convalescents, nearly £4,000 for homes for paralysed men, and over £800,000 for the benevolent department. Last year it even granted £3,000 to 25 Ex-Servicemen who are training for Ordination.

Saint Pumpkin. Marrows and pumpkins were conspicuous in the decoration scheme for Loders harvest festival. We would not care to estimate the weight of the giant green marrow that came from the Court. Captain Welstead's pumpkin was so big that it lent credibility to the alleged origin of Cinderella's coach. One of Mr. Stevens' two pumpkins was inscribed "Be thankful", and the other "Harvest Festifful" (Only one person commented on the originality of Mr. Stevens' spelling). A bunch of strawberries, and not the preacher, was the focus of the congregation's attention to the pulpit. Miss Hinks had sent these. There were also eggs in abundance, and honey and preserves. The piece de resistance was the five barley loaves and the two small fishes on a dish, done in bread by Mr. Caddy. If the tenth commandment was broken during the service, the breakers should be the small poultry keepers in the congregation, who were expected to think of God in full view of two bags of corn adorning the chancel arch. Mr. Lenthall will have something to answer for - but not to the Parish Clerk and the Vicar, who keep a hen or two. Seeing that several neighbouring parishes were keeping harvest on the same day, our congregations were surprisingly large. They greatly enjoyed the music of Mr. Bill Tiltman and the choir. Miss V. Legg was the soloist in the anthem. The total harvest collection for Loders parish (which includes Dottery, of course) was £15.

New Governess. To the great satisfaction of school managers, parents - and schoolchildren - Miss Barlow has accepted the headship of Loders School, where she has been doing supply duty since Miss Wilkes' departure. Other parishes have been trying to get her. She promises to be a worthy successor of Miss Wilkes.

The death of Mr. G. Pritchard has left a void in the life of Uploders, where he was often seen, and seldom heard, but greatly liked. His cottage garden, with its array of flowers, was eloquent of his skill as a gardener, yet by birth he was a townsman, who began life in Reading. He started work in Huntly & Palmer's biscuit factory. Then he entered the service of the Arden family as a gardener, and remained in it for forty years. His garden produce was well up to exhibition standard, but he could never be persuaded to compete in shows. In his last illness he was nursed by his daughter and son-in-law, who had come from Egham, Surrey. His age was 76.

A Mothers' Union Occasion. The Mothers' Union assembled in the Lady Chapel in strength for the induction of their new Enroling Member, Mrs. E. Lenthall, who had been elected to that office some months previously. Mrs. Minnie Crabb was at the organ for the first time, and the members were surprised to find they had an organist of such talent in their ranks for so long without knowing it. After service they adjourned to the dining room of the Court, where they found a tea of the quality that only Lady Le Breton can seem to command. She was warmly thanked for her hospitality.

Congratulations - to Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Bishop, of Yondover, on the birth of a daughter Vivian.

The bells of Loders were chiming for another wedding in October, the bride being Miss Dorothy Read, second daughter of Mrs. Read of Uploders, and the bridegroom Mr. C.R.B. Broom, of Bridport. The marriage was by licence, the lucky couple having unexpectedly acquired a bungalow in West Bay.

A handsome donation of £60 has been made by Lady Le Breton towards the cost of repairing the boundary walls of the vicarage. She may not be pleased to see this in print, but the parish ought to know how cheerfully she steps forward and shoulders parish responsibilities. It is not widely known that she gave the entire sum in the church heating fund, which now amounts to £240, and which awaits the licence of the Ministry of Works before it may be expended on its object.

Miss Sheila Drake is home again after a nose operation in Weymouth hospital.

The Winter activities of the village have begun. The Agricultural Discussion Club started the new season with some fifty members. Captain Allen's election to the chair holds a promise of spicy meetings to come. Mr. R. Ascott is vice-chairman, and Mr. Edgar Bishop secretary. The Women's Institute is in the throes of a general election. Many candidates have offered themselves for election, to the committee, thus submitting their popularity to the acid test of a secret ballot. The children's sewing party have begun their weekly meetings at the vicarage. They are making articles for their Christmas sale in aid of the church overseas.

Launching Out. Miss Eileen Tilley has left home and embarked on a nursing career at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton. Here, her favourite pastime was the airing of babies, there, she is in paradise; for the Queen Mary prams are charabancs in miniature, holding six babies apiece. As we go to print, we learn with regret that Mr. & Mrs. Follett and family are leaving Uploders for a new home between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol. The Sunday School and the Junior Choir will be reluctant to part company with Pauline, who was one of the mainstays of both.

A Doctor in the Pulpit. St. Luke's, which notes the connection between Church and Medicine, was marked by the appearance of Dr. Maxwell Jones in Loders pulpit. He held the attention of a large congregation with a thoughtful sermon on the Christian attitude to suffering.

Fireworks on Boarsbarrow. Sir Edward Le Breton and Mr. R. Pitcher are allowing the children to let off their fireworks on Boarsbarrow on November 5th. When the children pool their fireworks in this way, they get a better show, as was proved by the communal celebration on Waddon last year.

Hats off to the Young Farmers! It is a safe bet that our Young Farmers will win the Gardiner Loving Cup for their harvest supper in the Ex-Servicemen's Hut. Even Miss Sally Barnes, of the Beaminster Club, who was a guest, is not entirely unwilling to consider the possibility of this. The dinner was as delectable as ever, the decoration of the hut was better than it had ever been, and the entertainment which followed the dinner could not be bettered. It was unabashedly rustic, and the audience at once caught on to the fun that the performers were having with it. By the way, the shudder which passed through the high table when the Loyal toast was drunk had no political significance. It had something to do with the lack of sugar in the elderberry wine.

Services for November.

Loders

1st. All Saints HC 10.
5th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.
12th. Remembrance Sunday, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.
19th. HC 8, Matins 11, HC 11.45, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.
26th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.
30th. St. Andrew, HC 10.

Dottery

5th. HC 9.30. 12th. Remembrance Sunday 6.30.
19th. Evensong 3.30. 26th. Evensong 6.30.

"Yf Crystemas Day on Monday be,
A grete wynter that year have shall ye,
And fulle of wyndes, lowde and styлле".
So runs the prophecy of an old manuscript kept in the British Museum, and the present weather suggests that the prophet knew what he was talking about. But he was as liable to error as the B.B.C. weather forecasts; for he prophesies that if Christmas on a Sunday be, the summer following shall be "fayre and drye". It could not be inferred from the summer through which we have just waded that last Christmas did fall on a Sunday.

One of the joys of last Christmas in Loders was that the festival hinged on the parish church. The nave was full for the midnight service on Christmas Eve, and the whole church was full at eleven on Christmas morning, when the children sang carols round the Christmas tree, and received the packets of sweets which the Mothers' Union had hung on it. The programme will be the same this year. On the evening of the Sunday after Christmas the congregation of Dottery come to their mother church for the carol service. At this service the Nine Lessons will be read by representatives of the parochial organisations.

The children are busy making useful articles for their annual mission sale on Saturday Dec.16th. (beginning at 3 p.m.) The kindly co-operation of the day school governess, Miss Barlow, has made this year's effort more ambitious. It will be held in the school. During the sale, teas will be served by the children, and then the day school will present two plays. Grown-ups are never happier than when Christmasing with children, and doubtless they will support the children in strength. It is hoped that many of them will also come to church at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec.19th., when the day school children will hold a carol service.

Merry Mummers. It used to be part of the Christmas sports for villagers to put on outlandish clothes and masks, and go mumming from one neighbour's house to another, partaking of Christmas cheer. The custom survived at Powerstock until modern times. The Vicar has a faded photograph of the Powerstock mummers, and some of them are still alive - very much so. In Loders the mantle of the mummers has fallen on the church choir. They sing carols through the village in the week before Christmas, and partake of Christmas cheer where it is offered. But their mumming has a philanthropic side; they carry a collecting box for the C of E Children's Society. This Society is particularly deserving of our support; for it has just taken a Loders child under its wing.

We hear that the party which Sir Edward and Lady Le Breton give the village children at Loders Court is to be on Dec.30th. No child would miss this party for anything. It has become an institution. Some of the parents who now help in serving the tea used to attend the party as children.

Dottery Sunday School children are to have a Christmas party at the Vicarage on a date they will know later.

The Archdeacon of Sherborne has invited the church councillors of Bridport Rural Deanery to meet him over coffee at the Church House, Bridport, on Tuesday, December 5th., at 7.15 p.m. Loders councillors who would like a lift into Bridport may have one if they ask the Vicar beforehand.

Mrs. Harold Brown gave birth to a daughter, Valerie Christine, in Bridport Hospital, on November 10th. Mother and babe are doing well. This happy event was especially gratifying to Loders Choir, of which Mr. & Mrs. Brown are both staunch members.

Loders Choice. The result of the general election in the Women's Institute is that Mrs. Fred Taylor, of Uploders, succeeds Mrs. Bradbury as president. A flourishing Women's Institute is an asset to the life of a village. We offer Mrs. Taylor our congratulations, and best wishes for her year of office. The first official function of the new

President was to preside over the November sale and party, in which she had the support of a past president, Miss Holmes. Most of the village children were present, despite the bad weather, and they vastly enjoyed their games, a puppet show, and an entertainment. Fortunately for the entertainment, the leading artist was fetched out to remove a tree blocking a road - the moment the entertainment ended! The sale made a profit of about £15 of which £10 is for the Empire Cancer Campaign.

The late Mrs. L.A. Bartlett, who died at the home of a daughter in Wimborne, and was buried in Loders churchyard after an impressive service in the church, was a member of a family which has held the licence of the Crown Inn, Uploders continuously, since it was built, some 200 years ago. At one time she may well have been the youngest licensee in England; for, both her parents having died, the licence was transferred to her at the age of 19. Her husband pre-deceased her by 23 years, so she had the distinction of holding the licence in all three of woman's estates - as spinster, wife, and widow. The family have kept the licence unblemished for two centuries, but Mrs. Bartlett could recall stories she had heard from her parents of raids by the Excise men in search of smuggled liquor. By all accounts, while the Excise men were wasting their energy on the Crown, the neighbouring wives were in their cottages "sitting pretty" on kegs of brandy, for which their voluminous skirts were "just the job". To the end of her life Mrs. Bartlett was a model of industry. She kept her whole family of eight surviving children, and her in-laws, in knitted hose.

Another luminary of the world of licensed victuallers, Mrs. Pitcher celebrated her ninetieth birthday on November 19th. She is the mother of Mrs. Osborne, hostess of the Loders Arms, and of Mr. Tom Pitcher, host of the Farmers' Arms. She has been confined to bed for some weeks, but her mind is clear, and her interest in village affairs unwavering.

The deep sympathy of an area considerably bigger than Loders is with Miss Enid Allen, of Callington, in the sudden loss of her brother, Captain Roland Allen, R.N., at the age of 50. He will be a loss to the church, of which he was a councillor who worked hard at fetes, and to the Agricultural Discussion Club, of which he had just been elected chairman. It was an achievement for a newcomer to farming to have won, in two years, the regard and affection of a band of Dorset farmers, who are thought to be clammy than oysters. It must be long since so many men attended a funeral in Loders Church. He had managed completely to regain his old cheerfulness in the short interval between his collapse at the farmers' meeting on the Friday, and his death in hospital on the Sunday.

In Sick Bay. Mrs. Darby, caretaker of Loders School, and mother, for seven hours a day, of all the children who attend it, is in Bridport Hospital for observation and treatment. To rest and be waited on makes her feel like the Queen of Sheeba, she says. The children, impatient for her return, send her letters, and the tiny tots send her drawings. Occasionally from the hospital there comes a reply in Mrs. Darby's own hand, which is read out by the governess at school opening, and listened to intently by the children.

P.C. Edrich is also in Bridport Hospital for observation. He is delighted by the discovery that Mr. Bengree, of Uploders, served with him on the submarine Maidstone during the war. Mr. Harold Read, late of Uploders, is convalescing at Milton Abbey, after eleven weeks in the district hospital, Weymouth.

Mr. Pethen, of Uploders, returned to Horsham, his old home, in the hope of buying a house, and was taken by a seizure. At the time of going to print he was dangerously ill.

Services for December.

Loders. 3rd. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15, Evensong. 6.30.
10th. HC 8, Matins 11, HC 11.45, Children 2.15.
17th. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.
24th. Christmas Eve, HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15, 12 Midnight
25th. Xmas Day, HC 8, Matins & Carols 11, HC 11.45. Communion.
31st. HC 8, Matins 11, Children 2.15, Carols Service 6.30.
Dottery. 3rd. HC 9.30. 10th. Evensong 6.30. 17th. Evensong 3.30.
24th. Evensong 3.30. 25th. Xmas Day HC 8.30.