

Thoughts about the Fete. We can look back on our gymkhana and fete with satisfaction. For the fourth year in succession we had a fine day. At midday there were a few drops of rain, and these may have accounted for the longer time than usual that the gymkhana took to "warm up", but warm up it did. Our friends in neighbouring parishes supported us in strength. The Symondsbury contingent brought a diocesan bishop in the person of Dr. Vernon Smith, Bishop of Leicester. He is a cousin of Commander Streatfeild. Symondsbury seemed grateful for the air of respectability that his lordship gave them. The children noted with satisfaction that in the matter of ice-cream the Bishop was a man of like passions with them, and that his enthusiasm for Punch and Judy was the equal, at least, of theirs.

The luck of the draw. The much coveted mystery parcel, full of butter, cheese, cream and eggs, given annually by Mrs. Barnes, of Belshay, was won by another farmer, Mr. R. Pitcher, of Boarsbarrow. Out of the three hundred or so people who took tickets for Miss Marjorie Randall's basket of fruit, and Mr. Ebbs' bottle of sherry, one person, Miss B. Lee, of Salwayash, drew both.

Increased Profit. The object of the fete is as much social as financial, but it is useless to pretend we are not pleased that last year's handsome profit was maintained and even exceeded by £1.7s.8d., this year's figure being £143.14s.5d. The optimists among us thought that £100 profit was as much as we could expect, because money gets tighter each year, and the end of clothes and points rationing has knocked the bottom out of the market for jumble provisions. Yet, with the exception of the jumble stall, which made only half of what it did last year, all the stalls were up, the sideshows were up, and so were the gymkhana, and the dance. The tea takings, at £32.6s.6d. were a record.

Cheerful Givers. If it is true that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, he loves Loders. The begging and the giving have of late been prodigious. The ladies of the congregation have fleeced the village on a scale that has made their menfolk blush for shame, and the joke is that one of the ladies got home from a round of fleecing to find that her husband, during her absence, had given much of her cooking fat and dried fruit to another lady collector. The one thing that the Loders male will not part with is sugar.

While the collecting for the fete was at its height, Miss Hinks, Mrs. Bunnell, Miss Janet Symes and Mrs. Gale (Dottery) were brave enough to go collecting for the Sunday School outing. It says much for their persuasiveness, and for the warm hearts of the parishioners, that they got £17.7s.6d. They were followed a little later by members of the Women's Institute, selling flags for the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund. This fund is to thank the countries of the Empire for sending us £80 million of food parcels. There is something to be said for the theory of Miss Holmes (late president of the W.I.) that one could collect £10 a week in Loders for any worthy cause.

A lone furrow. Tribute ought to be paid here to the very hard work that some members of the congregation put into the fete, and space forbids it, yet mention must be made of Colonel Scott, who bore the weight of the gymkhana. For days before the event his solitary figure was to be seen against the bigness of the park, hacking at a beech tree which had fallen across the course. When a mountain of firewood indicated that this job was completed, he took a scythe, and groomed the entire course.

The Balance Sheet of the Fete is as follows: RECEIPTS:- Gate £32.2.9. Jumble £11.11.8., New Stall £16.0.3., Produce £7.17.4., Ices £13.1.6., Cakes £11.14.6., Flowers £4.11.6., Teas £32.6.6., Garden sideshows £1.7.6. Measuring Chain £1.10., Skittles £12.4.6., Hidden Treasure £1.1.6., Darts £4.2., Fortunes £2.10., Egg Competition £1.5., Cake £2.11., Chicken £1.15.6., Mystery Parcel £2.17., Puppy £1.18.9., Cockerel 15s.0. Tea Caddy £1.6., Sherry £2.17., Basket Fruit £4.11., Gymkhana Entries £14.15., Schedules £1.18.4., Dance Entrance £9. Dance Refreshments £2.3.4. TOTAL RECEIPTS: £202. 4. 5. EXPENSES:- Printing and Advertising £4.11., Gymkhana £33.15., Punch and Judy £3.10., Cakes and Cordials £10.6.6., Sideshows £3.7.6., Dance £3. TOTAL EXPENSES £58.10. PROFIT £143.14.5.

New Residents in Uploders. Mr. and Mrs. Peck, of Egham, Surrey, have come to live with Mr. Pritchard. Mrs. Peck is Mr. Pritchard's daughter. It was Mr. Pritchard's illness (from which he is now happily recovering) that brought her to Uploders, and it was the benefit done to her invalid husband by the Dorset air that induced her to stay. Mrs. Peck is a professional dressmaker.

£10 for a Sermon. Richard Travers, in his will proved 26th. June 1815, left "To the Vicar of Loders £10. If not in residence, to the Curate at the time, for a sermon on the Sunday after my burial. It is desired that no comments or praise be given of the deceased, only let it be a common practical discourse to warn others to prepare to pay the same debt. My wish is to be buried on the north side of our family tomb, next the chancel, where my dear good mother was buried." Any vicar in these days of high prices and low clerical stipends would find it hard to comply with the direction of this will not to praise a man who was willing to pay £10 for a sermon.

Mrs. Budden's Cottage near the school has the forlorn air of a deserted nest. Passengers miss the familiar sight of the old lady standing at her door in her black felt hat, or bending over the little flower border beneath her window. Her health had so declined that she could no longer be left alone, and as she refused to be a "burden" to her children, who were all keen to have her, she had to go to Port Bredy Hospital, where she is receiving the kinder attention for which that Hospital is becoming famous. Mrs. Budden bids us tell househunters that they need not cast covetous eyes on her cottage, as she is coming back to it to live until she is a hundred. Miss Pearce is also in Port Bredy, and her sister, Mrs. Slade, is having a much needed rest from nursing her.

The Sunday School Outing has been voted the "best ever". The morning mist cleared by 11.0'clock, and the two coach loads of children and mothers reached Lyme in warm sunshine which lasted all day. At Lyme the children received ice-cream money, and at Sidmouth, their ultimate destination, they each received a florin with which to get tea in a cafe of their own choosing. On the way home there was an hours halt at Seaton, where they emptied a fried fish shop. The mothers found the Sidmouth shops irresistible, and some of them came home brandishing empty purses and full bags.

From Vancouver to Dottery. We welcome to the parish Mrs. Rolston, late of Vancouver, Canada, who is busy settling in at Number Five, Dottery. She has lived for half her life in Canada. In the spring she had the misfortune to lose her husband. She has a daughter and a son. The daughter is married and living in New York; the son is in the Royal Navy and is stationed in Belfast.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

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. HC 8, Matins 11, HC 11.45., Children 2.15.

Dottery

3rd. HC 9.30.
10th. Evensong 3.30.
17th. Evensong 3.30.
Harvest Festival Thursday, 21st. 7.30 and Sunday 24th. 6.30.

Harvest Festival. At the time of going to print, Dottery was keeping harvest festival with the great zeal which is characteristic of that small place. Loders Choir went over and sang their anthem to a large and appreciative congregation on the Thursday night, and on the following Sunday the children of Dottery Sunday School sang a harvest hymn to the evening congregation. The ladies who decorate the church had so transformed it, that to step into it was to step into a harvest scene of Thomas Hardy's imagining, which evoked warm feeling and hearty singing. Dottery kept harvest before Loders because it got in its corn before Loders. We are thankful to report that the bigger acreages of Loders are being bought in with less loss than was expected. Loders Harvest is on Sunday, October 1st., with services at 8 and 11 a.m., 2.15 and 6.30 p.m.

A money-box in his car. When the parish church of St. Mary, at Walton, Liverpool, was bombed in 1941, nobody was more upset than Mr. John Sankey, an engineer who had worshipped in this church and loved it. Being a man of action, he put a money box in his car for the St. Mary rebuilding fund, and the many people to whom he gave lifts put donations in the box. He never asked for a donation, but his box yielded £490, which he has just sent to the Rector of Walton.

Church Council Versus Vicar. Differences between Vicars and their church councils are not at all uncommon, but it is rare for disagreement to arise when the council wants to help the vicar to shoulder the heavy burden of vicarage dilapidations. Yet a disagreement arose at the last meeting of Loders Church Council, whose business it was to allocate the profit of £143.14s.5d. made on the recent fete. The Council wished to pay £100. of the fete money towards the £160 which the Vicar had been ordered by the Diocesan Surveyor to spend on repairing the vicarage walls. This desire of the Council's would doubtless have had the hearty approval of the Diocese, which wants councils to realise that the parsonage belongs to the parish, and not to the parson, and that the parish is morally, if not legally, responsible for its repair. The Council's desire to help was deeply appreciated by the Vicar, but he felt that to hold a fete chiefly for one object - the church repair fund, - and to give most of the profit to another object, was out of order. He also felt that the church needed the money as badly as the vicarage walls, and that in its laudable desire to help shoulder the vicarage dilapidations the Council was too much in advance of parish opinion, which needed enlightening. The Council did not altogether agree with this, and insisted on paying £80, but eventually agreed, under protest, to £60. So, of the fete money, £70. is for the church repair fund, £60 for the vicarage walls, and £13. 14s. 5d. to the Offertory Account, for Parish quota, etc. Of the £160 to be spent on the vicarage walls, the Vicar pays £80, the Council £60, and the Church Commissioners £20.

Silver Wedding. Mr. & Mrs. Harry Crabb, of Rose Cottage, celebrated their silver wedding on Sunday, September 17th. They were married in Loders Church by Mr. Reader, than Vicar of Bradpole. Rose Cottage had more than it could do to accommodate the relations and friends who came for the party on the 17th.

Mr. & Mrs. Goldie have left their smallholding at Hillcrest, on the outskirts of Loders, and taken another smallholding at Winfrith, near Dorchester. Their successors at Hillcrest are Mr. & Mrs. Davey of Sidling, St. Nicholas. Mr. Davey is not unknown to the parish; for he once lived at Callington, in Uploders. Alan and Michael Goldie learnt to ring at Loders Church. It is hoped that they will be an asset to their new parish.

Keeping a promise. The Vicar promised the Church Council he would give a short explanation of vicarage dilapidations in these notes. Here it is: A surveyor examines the vicarage and its outbuildings every five years, and serves notice on the vicar to execute the repairs. The vicar has to pay for these repairs out of his own pocket, although he gets some assistance in the form of grants. At present the Vicar pays £30 year dilapidations, on a net stipend of about £350. Rates, also have to be paid out of this £350. Many parishes now pay their parson's dilapidations for him, and many pay his compulsory pension premium as well (which is £15 per annum for Loders). Our Church Council wishes to relieve the Vicar of the annual dilapidations payment, and would like to have the whole parish behind it in the matter.

Loders Bells chimed merrily for the wedding of Mr. & Mrs. F. Cleal's adopted daughter Dorothy, and Mr. Frank Powell, of Salwayash. The sun shone, the bridal party was a nice study in white and pink, the organ responded vibrantly to the touch of Mr. W. Tiltman, and there was a large congregation. Mr. Cleal, as people's warden of Dottery, had the support of his fellow warden, Mr. C. Marsh, and also of the church warden of Melplash. The reception was held at Allington Church Hall, where the festivities were kept going long after the bride and bridegroom had left for Paignton. They will make their home at Salwayash. It is good to be assured that their familiar place in Dottery Church will not miss them.

Farewell to Summer. The stream of summer visitors to Loders Church has now thinned to a trickle, and we miss them. In July and August Scouts camping in the park swelled the morning congregations. Sometimes the church was so full of visitors that Loders faces had to be looked for. Eyes new to Loders are captivated by the beauty of the church and its approach, and strangers cannot think why the villagers do not flock to it. Several families holidaying at West Bay did all their worshipping in our church, one such family attending at 8 and 11 each Sunday for three weeks. Another family came specially from Bournemouth for evensong, having previously sent the Vicar a list of their favourite hymns, in the hope that some might be included that evening! It is a mercy for us that our church is old and attractive and not young and ugly. The collections from visitors keep our finances solvent, and it is visitors who supply our church with worshippers.

The Preacher at Dottery on Sunday, October 8th. at 6.30 p.m. will be the Vicar of Powerstock.

Sunday September 10th, saw Mr. Eli Lenthall in church for the first time after his long illness. He received a warm welcome.

Mrs. Lilian Foot died at New Road, where she had been living with her niece, Mrs. Bond, and was cremated at Weymouth. In spite of persistent ill health, she reached the ripe age of 85. Her home was originally at Yeovil. Our sympathy will be with Mrs. Bond, and Mr. Foot of the Travellers' Rest, who have recently lost their father as well as their aunt.

Services for October

Loders.

1st. Harvest Festival. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.
8th. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.
15th. H.C.8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.
22nd. H.C.8, Matins 11, Children 2.15.
29th. H.C.8, Matins 11, H.C. 11.45, Children 2.15, Evensong 6.30.

Dottery

1st. H.C. 9.30.
8th. Evensong 6.30. Preacher Vicar of Powerstock.
15th. Evensong 3.30.
22nd. Evensong 6.30.
29th. Evensong 3.30.