

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

OCTOBER, 1936

## Death of Mr. Hugh Stoops.



**The Late Mr. Hugh J. Stoops.**

Little did we think when writing up our last issue that we should this month be recording the sudden death of our esteemed parishioner, Mr. Hugh Stoops. He seemed such a picture of health as we saw him each evening taking his accustomed walk round by Seagoe Church, it seemed as if years of life and strength were in store for him, yet in a moment his life passed from him. He was spending his summer holiday at Newcastle, when on the evening of Sunday, September 20th, without apparently a moment's illness he passed to his eternal rest. Mr. Stoops had filled almost every position of responsibility in connection with Seagoe Church. He had been a member of the Select Vestry for many years and also for a lengthened period held the difficult and responsible post of Honorary Treasurer. His annual statements of Parochial accounts were most carefully made out and displayed the accuracy of his work and the care he displayed that everything should be absolutely correct. The funeral took place to the new Churchyard at Seagoe on Tuesday, September 22nd, and was very largely attended. The service was taken by the Rev. W. F. Hayes. The Rector was unavoidably absent through illness. Deep sympathy is expressed on all sides with Mrs. Stoops and Mr. Douglas Stoops.

### **Church reference made on the occasion of the funeral by the Rev. W. F. Hayes.**

Seldom is such profound sorrow and widespread regret so keenly experienced as it has been in this neighbourhood and parish at the sudden passing of Mr. Hugh Stoops. That deep feeling of regret is occasioned, not so much by the tragic suddenness of his death, as by the sense

of the great loss that his family, and we in this district have suffered. As we look back to his life, we feel what a unique place he filled in our midst. The one thing that strikes us forcibly about him is that which always impressed us—his stirring character and uprightness of life. Correctness, straightforwardness and a love of fair and just dealing characterised all his actions and relationships as he moved amongst the public. That uprightness of life, coupled with his genial good nature and his love for his native place won him a very special place in our hearts. In all circles he was trusted and respected in a manner and to a degree of which any man might well be proud. He was exemplary in public; that was equally true of his life in private. Those of us who were privileged to know him intimately know the singular devotion he gave to his home and the deep affection that bound him to those within his family circle. That consideration and thought was extended to others. It was always given in such a quiet, unostentatious manner that of him it might be said his left hand knew not the kindness shown by his right. We in Seagoe cannot forget the place he took in our parochial life. The devotion that he gave to his native place and to his home was bestowed with equal generosity upon his Church. The concerns and interests of this Parish were dear to his heart. He gave most liberally of his substance, of his time and of his talents to the welfare of Seagoe. For many years he served on the Select Vestry, and in its deliberations he gave wise counsel and thoughtful advice. During that time he served as our Honorary Treasurer. In the discharge of that office the thoroughness and sincerity that he brought into it won him our utmost trust and confidence. The whole-hearted interest that he took in the Parish centred round the deep attachment which he had for the Parish Church. In it he was a regular worshipper. In the course of his customary evening walk he never passed it without pausing or entering the grounds or the building to see if all was well. It seemed to enshrine for him that which matters most in life and about which we do not talk much. In his passing the Parish has lost a most valued parishioner and friend. His memory and example will long be treasured in our midst. We will remember him as one who walked uprightly with his fellow-men and humbly before God. To his wife and son in their loneliness and sorrow our hearts go out in sympathy. We trust they will find comfort in the thought that "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God," and feeling that be content to leave them there.



**CLERGY :**

Rev. Chancellor Archer, B.D., The Rectory,  
Seagoe.

Rev. W. F. Hayes, B.A., The Bungalow, Lower  
Seagoe, Portadown.

**CHURCHWARDENS :**

Rector's— Mr. ROBERT SCOTT.

People's—Mr. THOS. E. MAGINNIS.

**Death of Mr. George Reid.**

On Sunday, September 27th, there passed to his eternal rest at an advanced age, Mr. George Reid, formerly of Lower Seagoe, and in recent years resident in Edenderry. The recent death of his wife and his own burden of years combined so to weaken him that for some time recently his health had been very uncertain. Mr. Reid and all the members of his family were always greatly interested in Seagoe Parish. We sympathise with them very sincerely in their bereavement.

**The Harvest Services.**

The annual Services of Thanksgiving for the Blessings of Harvest will (D.V.) be held in the Parish Church on Sunday, October 25th, and on the preceding Thursday, October 22nd. The Sunday Services will be at 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m., and the Service on Thursday at 8 p.m. The collection on Thursday will be for Foreign Missions, and on Sunday at all Services for our local Parish Fund. The preacher on Thursday will be the Rev. Canon Moeran, Rector of St. Mark's, Armagh. The Rev. G. W. Millington, M.A., Rector of St. Mark's, Portadown, will preach at the Sunday evening Service.

**Bocombra Harvest.**

A Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in the Bocombra Church Hall on Sunday, 20th September, at 3.30. The Hall, which has recently been improved by wood-lining of the walls, was tastefully decorated with abundant supplies of fruits, flowers and vegetables. Suitable music appropriate to the occasion was arranged by Miss Betty Kearns, who presided at the harmonium. The Service was taken by the Rev. W. F. Hayes. The preacher was the Rev. J. M. Wright, Curate of Drumcree. The Services were continued on Monday evening at 8 p.m. The Rev. S. J. Warner, B.A., Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown, gave a very impressive address on the subject of Thankfulness. Both Services were remarkably well attended. The congregations joined heartily in the familiar Harvest Hymns. The collections were divided between the local Sunday School Fund and Foreign Missions.

**Harvest Thanksgiving at Hacknahay.**

The Service of Thanksgiving for the harvest was held in Hacknahay on Sunday, Sept. 27th, at 3.30. The School was very beautifully decorated with splendid samples of flowers, fruit, grain and vegetables. Mr. T. H. Wilson paid his annual visit and took charge of the musical part of the Service. The singing was led by the School choir. There was a very large congregation present, the seating capacity of the room was taxed to the utmost. The preacher was the Rev. Canon Orr, LL.D., Rector of Gilford. His subject was God's witness to Himself in the Harvest. On Monday evening, Sept. 28th, the Service was continued. The Rev. J. Douglas, B.A., Curate of Maralin, gave a very striking Missionary address. His text was, "The harvest truly is great but the labourers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the Harvest that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." The collection at this Service was given to the support of Foreign Missions. On Sunday the offerings were on behalf of the Sunday School Fund.

**The New Churchyard.**

Our new burial ground at the Church is filling in and there are now several handsome monuments erected there and several more are about to be erected. Those who would like to secure a plot should purchase one without delay as those in more favoured positions are being taken up almost weekly. Application should be made to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Scott, Grove Lodge, Seagoe, Portadown.

**The Sunday Schools.**

The nine Sunday Schools, two morning and seven afternoon, are now at work again after their Summer holiday. All the absentees have returned. We hope that all parents will see that their children attend regularly and learn their repetition during the week. A great debt is due to our Superintendents and teachers for the care they display in the instruction and welfare of the children. Every Sunday for one hour the children are taught the great lessons of spiritual truth from the Divine Word. Do the parents of the children realise what a debt they owe to the kind and good teachers who instruct their children in the Way of Life.

**Brick Card Correction.**

In the list of Brick Card subscriptions published in the August Magazine the amount of £2 was by mistake credited to Mrs. Johnston, of U.S.A. The donor was her son, Mr. Charles Johnston.



**Seagoe P.E. School.**

The School is now very busy with its Autumn session. There are many new pupils. There is always a very happy spirit in the School between the teachers and children. The School garden is a great source of interest and produces wonderful results. The cookery class is also very interesting and its productions are most appetising. We would be very glad if from time to time parishioners and parents would visit the School during school hours.

**The Renovated Church.**

We hear on many sides expression of approval of the way in which the Church has been renovated both outside and inside. It was never thought that the outside could have been so much improved. Seagoe Church was always said to be a beautiful Church as far as the interior was concerned, but now the outside is quite a beautiful structure, the pointed stonework being quite an ornament in the building. Although no change was made in the fitting of the bell it has been noticed that it sounds out much better and with better tone. During the winter months the electric lights at the various doors will be a great help to those attending the Church. The floodlight in the Chancel has been strengthened so as to give more light to those who sit in the choir.

**The C.L.B.**

The C.L.B. opened its session for the year with two very enjoyable social evenings. On Thursday, Sept. 10th, a social was held in the Parochial Hall, Edenderry, at which the Cadets and their friends were present. The hall was decorated for the occasion. After a very good tea, games were enjoyed. During the course of the evening presentations were made to two members of the Cadets who were recently married. Sergeant and Mrs. John Reid were presented with a very handsome barometer by the members of the Brigade. Piper and Mrs. Thos. Dunlop received from the Band members a very beautiful eight-day clock. In handing over the presents, the Rev. W. F. Hayes expressed to the happy couples good wishes and congratulations on behalf of the Brigade. He referred to the steady support given to the Brigade and the Band by the two members thus honoured. His remarks were supported by Capt. E. Mitchell. On the following evening, Friday, Sept. 11th, the Training Corps social took place. There was a full turn-out of the members. They did justice to the well supplied tea tables and showed the same enthusiasm in the games which followed. We are pleased to note that many new recruits have come forward both for the Cadets and Training Corps.

**Parish Register for September.****Baptisms**

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on September 5th, 1936:—

**M'Crory**—Uzziah, son of Joseph and Margaret M'Crory, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Mabel Totten, Margaret M'Crory.

**Dowd**—Margaret Jean, daughter of David and Ellen Dowd, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Eliza Jane Anderson, Ellen Dowd.

**Hynes**—Joseph, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Hynes, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Joseph Hynes, Sarah Anne Halliday.

**Craig**—Osmond Garfield, son of Desmond and Irene Craig, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Gwendoline Mulligan, Irene Craig.

**Hewitt**—Audrey Adele, daughter of George and Lucy Hewitt, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Eliza Hewitt, Lucy Hewitt.

**Freeburn**—Ethel Mary, daughter of Thomas Henry and Lilian Elizabeth Freeburn, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Sarah Anne Best, Lilian Elizabeth Freeburn.

**M'Loughlin**—Thomas Joseph, son of Thomas Joseph and Beatrice Lilian M'Loughlin, of Killicomaine.

*Sponsors*—Kathleen Cordner, Beatrice Lilian M'Loughlin.

**RECEIVED INTO THE CONGREGATION.**

**Freeburn**—Margaret Jean, daughter of Thomas Henry and Lilian Elizabeth Freeburn, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Sarah Anne Best, Lilian Elizabeth Freeburn.

**Freeburn**—Marion Louise, daughter of Thomas Henry and Lilian Elizabeth Freeburn, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Sarah Anne Best, Lilian Elizabeth Freeburn.

**Marriages**

**Reid and Webb**—June 30th, 1936, John Reid, of Edenderry, to Agnes Webb, of Lylo.

**Adams and Gracey**—Sept. 9th, 1936, Maurice George Adams, of 3 Downview Avenue, Belfast, to Mary Elizabeth Winifred Gracey, of Balteagh.

**Burials.**

**Stoops**—Sept. 15th, Hugh John Stoops, of Killicomaine Rd., Edenderry, aged 58 years.

**Reid**—Sept. 19th, George Reid, of Killicomaine Rd., Edenderry, aged 81 years.



**District Harvest Services.**

- Leraghery**—Sunday, October 4th, at 3.30 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 5th, at 8 p.m. Preacher,  
Rev. A. N. Parkinson, B.A.
- Drumgor**—Sunday, October 11th, at 3.30.  
Preacher, Rev. Canon Marks, B.D.  
Monday, Oct. 12th, at 8 p.m.
- Carne**—Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 3.30 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 19th, at 8 p.m.
- Edenderry**—Sunday, Nov. 1st, at 4 p.m.  
Monday, Nov. 2nd, at 8 p.m.

**The Parochial Hall**

The fine railings and the gate of the Parochial Hall, Edenderry, were badly damaged a fortnight ago. A motor driven by Mr. J. Heaney unfortunately developed a skid and overturned. It struck the railing on both sides of the gate, causing considerable damage. One of the metal pillars was broken, several of the uprights were knocked out of place, others have been badly bent. The cost of repair will be considerable. We hope it will be covered by insurance.

**Seagoe Mothers' Union.**

A meeting of the Mothers' Union was held in Seagoe School on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, at 7.30 p.m. There was a large gathering of members. After a hearty tea, kindly provided by the Committee, the Mother's Union Hymn was sung and the Mother's Union Prayer offered. The President, Mrs. Twinem, presided, and called on Mrs. S. M'Cormick to give an address to the members. Her words were greatly appreciated by all present. Mothers who have not yet joined the Union should do so without delay. They will find it a great spiritual help in their daily life and work.

**New Buildings.**

There are still many new buildings being erected in the Parish, most of them being of the bungalow type. We hope those who contemplate building new houses will, as far as they can, choose nice plans so that their house will be an ornament to the district where it is erected. We hope in the interests of pedestrians that owners of hedges, especially at corners, will see that they are kept cut low to avoid the great and constant danger of motor accidents.

**Roses and Dahlias**

Portadown and Seagoe have become famous for flowers, and this year there seems to have been a greater profusion of bloom than on other years. The nurseries around Portadown were a magnificent sight for the last few weeks, especially with roses and dahlias. The size and colour seem to have surpassed other years. To

excel in the production of flowers is an achievement of which Portadown may well be proud. We notice, too, in our graveyards that many of the plots are now beautifully kept. This is as it should be. When one sees such beautiful flowers springing from the dead earth the fact of the Resurrection to Eternal Life comes home to us with a new and beautiful emphasis.

**Old Seagoe Notes.**

**Our Registers.**—Our Register for the month of September contains a long list of Baptisms. We exercise great care and attention in the entry of the names of those Baptized in the large Register. The Register is kept in the large iron safe in the Library of the Rectory. The many volumes go back to the year 1672, and have always been most carefully kept. There is a great variety of writing in these books, some very neat and some less careful, but on the average very neat and correct. In many of the old books there still glistens from the parchment page the grit of the sand which was used to dry the ink before blotting paper was invented. Of course all the entries up to a few years ago were made with quill pens (really sharpened feathers) and it is wonderful how neat the writing is. The old Marriage Books are very interesting. In modern times the entries are very full, but in the oldest books there are only about five names in each entry, the couple, the witnesses, and the clergyman. Now very full addresses and occupations are given.

**Archdeacon Saurin and his dog "Vicar."**

There are very interesting remains at the Rectory of the kennels in various parts of the yards and gardens used by Archdeacon Saurin for accommodating his dogs while he was Rector of Seagoe. Mrs. Saurin always kept pretty little Lap-dogs, but the Archdeacon liked the company of the big watchdogs which accompanied him everywhere. Dynes Atkinson, our former sexton, used to tell a story of "Vicar," a huge mastiff belonging to the Archdeacon. When walking with the "Deacon" near the Rectory gate the Archdeacon happened to meet the R.C. priest of Derrymacash, who was on very friendly terms with him. The Archdeacon asked Dynes to take charge of "Vicar" while he conversed with the priest. The conversation lasted a considerable time, while Dynes held the dog on leash. Suddenly the Archdeacon shouted out "Vicar" as the conversation had ended. The dog made a sudden leap forward towards the Archdeacon and Dynes found himself lying flat on the ground! Dynes used to tell this story with great relish. The kennels at the Rectory were built with great care and to each was riveted a heavy iron chain.