

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER 1911.

A Happy Christmas!



WE wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas. Some of those who will read this are far away from the old Church and Parish, but they can be with us in spirit on that joyous day when Christian people everywhere commemorate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enjoy your Christmas by giving it a true spiritual meaning, and you can best do that by joining with God's people in kneeling around his Holy Table and there partaking of the Sacred Memorials of His Cross and Passion.

The Curacy of Seagoe.

Mr. George Bloomer, B.A., R.U.I., has been appointed to the Curacy of Seagoe, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. W. R. Crichton to the Curacy of Hillsborough. Mr. Bloomer is not a stranger to Seagoe. On several occasions has given us valuable help on Sunday evenings by taking the services in outlying Districts of the Parish. Mr. Bloomer is a graduate of the Royal University, and had a successful collegiate course. He has recently passed, at first trial, the difficult examination known as the Cambridge Examination Preliminary to Ordination. Mr. Bloomer was elected as auditor of the Belfast Theological Society during the season 1909-10. He will be ordained Deacon on St. Thomas's Day, December 21st, and will immediately afterwards take up his duties in Seagoe Parish. The people of Seagoe will give him a hearty welcome, and many prayers will be offered that his labours will receive an abundant blessing from on high.

The Rev. W. R. Crichton will be leaving the Parish about the third week in December. He has done four years of strenuous work amongst us, and his many friends sincerely regret his departure. His activity on behalf of Foreign Missions has produced a splendid result in stirring up enthusiasm in that sacred cause, and his efforts in strengthening our Temperance organisations have done much to promote habits of sobriety among the people. He has done excellent work in connection with the Sunday and week-day Bible Classes, and he has put the Parish under a perpetual debt of gratitude by his compilation of the complete list of Parishioners, which is published in the Parish Report just issued. Mr. Crichton will carry with him to his new sphere of labour the good wishes of the people of Seagoe, and they will unite in the prayer that the blessing of the

Lord will enrich all his work in whatever part of the Master's vineyard he may be called upon to labour.

The Annual Report.

The Annual Report for 1910-11, which has now been circulated throughout the Parish, contains several new features which call for notice. In the first place the **shape** of the Report has been altered to a neater and more convenient form. **The Preface**, signed by the Churchwardens and Hon. Sec. of the Vestry, Mr. Wolsey Atkinson, contains some good advice and interesting information. It tells us that the Glebe Purchase Scheme has made vigorous advance, so that a sum of £269, producing £12 6s 0d of interest each year, is now in hands towards the total of £958, the cost of purchase. This is a very encouraging result, as the Scheme has only been a year and a half in operation.

The Heating System lately introduced into the Church has cost £120, and the Parishioners have paid in £80, leaving £40 still to be paid.

The Sunday offertories are not yet sufficient to meet the various charges that fall upon the Parochial Fund. We notice a slight increase in the offerings, but they are not yet as liberal as they might be. Our Sunday offering should bear a reasonable proportion to the amount which we spend on ourselves during the week.

The Choir Fund does not yet reach a sum sufficient to cover the cost of the musical part of the services. In Seagoe Church the Choir and Organist always do their part well, and their efforts add greatly to the warmth and dignity of our worship. This fund should receive a wider support.

Legacies are also referred to, and this should be a regular source of income in the Parish. Everybody who makes a will should remember to give something to the Parish. Bequests might be left to the Rectory Purchase Scheme, or the Fund for the support of the Choir, or to the Sustentation Fund, so as to bring in a certain annual increment. Or a Bequest might be made towards the erection of a suitable Church Hall in Drumgor, or for the repair of Hacknahay School, or towards the support of the Day Schools. In making a Bequest it is very important to make clear that it is for the "**Church of Ireland**" in Seagoe Parish.

We regret to see that there is a reduction of 9 in the number of subscribers to Sustentation as compared with last year, although the total amount exceeds last year by £2 12s 9d. **Edenderry** has a splendid increase of £7 13s 3d with fifteen new subscribers. Seagoe has also had a substantial increase. Nine collectors show a decrease amounting to £2 11s 0d, while eleven show an increase amounting to £13 5s 0d. On the Townland collection there

is an actual increase of £10 14s 0d, to which Edenderry contributes a good two-thirds.

Edenderry Hall, thanks to the efforts of its Committee and Secretary, begins to pay its way.

The Sunday Schools are fairly solvent.

The Bible Class Account presents a large deficit of of £7 12s 6d. Some effort must be made to cover the cost of Socials and Prizes.

The General Sunday School Account for the first time shows a **strong Balance** in hand of just £5. This is no doubt due to the fact that for the first time this year the Bible Class Account has been kept separate from the Sunday School Account.

Seagoe Day School Account this year runs up to its highest point, £41 8s 2d. Last year it only reached £31.

The most important feature in the Report is the **Alphabetical List** of Householders in the Parish who are members of the Church of Ireland. It reaches the great total of 642. Allowing an average of 5 members in each household, this would bring the total number of Church people in Seagoe Parish up to **3210**. For a country Parish this is an exceptionally large number. To visit so many individuals and to bring them into close touch with the Parish Church would require additions to the clerical staff, besides a well organised Band of District Visitors. The proportionately small number of the Parishioners who frequent the Parish Church is a proof that the present organisation is insufficient to meet the needs of the Parish. This is the **problem** which must be faced in the near future, and we are sure that the Parishioners will see the need of a Forward Movement, so that the work of visiting may be well and thoroughly done. We hope that a paid lay-helper will be at work in the Parish early in the new year.

We are glad to see that almost all the Funds mentioned in the Report have substantially increased since last year. We add a list which will enable our readers to see the Result at a glance.

Sustentation,	1909—£174.	1910—£177.
Treasurer's A/ct	„ 133.	„ 164.
G.F.S.	„ 9.	„ 12.
Day School	„ 31.	„ 41.
Parochial Hall	„ 7.	„ 10.
Special Collections,,	50.	86.

£404. £490.

Increase, 1910—£86.

Seagoe Day School.

Structural improvements are at present being carried out in Seagoe School. A large window is being inserted at the end of the Jnnior School-room, which will give abundance of light and air and make the room much healthier than it has been before.

Offertories—November.

Sunday—Morning, £5 15 3
„ —Evening, 2 0 4
Week-days, 0 9 0

Baptisms.

“ The Circumcision of Christ.”

- Nov. 4th—William John, son of John and Ellen Jane Loney.
 „ „ —Elizabeth, daughter of William and Mary Anne McClatchey.
 „ „ —Robert, Son of Woolsey James and Margaret White.

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Marriages.

“ By love serve one another.”

- Nov. 4th—Thomas Wilson, of Edenderry, to Elizabeth Morrison, of Portadown.
 „ „ —Thomas Stanfield, of Portadown, to Mary Jane Weir, of Edenderry.
 „ 16th—George Price, of Tartaraghan, to Margaret Lavery, of Kilvergan.

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Burial.

“ Oh, Death, where is thy sting.”

- Nov. 12th—Anne Anderson, Drumgor, aged 80 years.
 „ 30th—Henry Lavery, Kilvergan.

Hymns for December.

- 3rd, Advent Sunday:—
 Morn—499, 65, 70, 363.
 Evg.— 68, 73, 71, 299—Litany.
 10th, 2nd Sunday in Advent (Bible Sunday):—
 Morn—238, 237, 467, 335
 Evg.—239, 470, 131, 166.
 17th, 3rd S. in Advent:—
 Morn—121, 343 (pt. i), 416, 367.
 Evg.— 50, 48, 277, 381.—Litany.
 24th, 4th S. in Advent:—
 Morn— 79, 102, 98, 17.
 Evg.— 46, 92, 337, 268.—Carols.
 25th, CHRISTMAS DAY:—
 Morn— 79, Holy Communion.
 Morn— 83, 87, 86, 361.
 31st, S. after Christmas:—
 Morn— 90 (ii), 256, 134, 148.
 Evg.— 33, 90 (pt. i), 27, 14, 562.

Missionary Meetings.

Miss Greer, of Lurgan, formerly a C.M.S. Missionary in the Province of Fuh-Kien, China, has been holding Missionary Meetings at four centres in the Parish last month. The meetings were very largely attended, and great interest was shown in Miss Greer's description of Mission work. The meetings were organised by the Rev. W. R. Crichton and were held in Drumgor, Edenderry, Carne, and Hacknahay. A large number of Collecting Boxes and Cards were taken at the meetings. Will holders of Collecting Cards remember that they must return their Cards on Dec. 3rd and Box-holders on March 1st, 1912.

Items.

A service of Missionary Intercession was held in the Parish Church, at 11-30 a.m., on St Andrew's Day, Nov. 30th.

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A great improvement has been made in the townland of Breagh by a new cutting, which takes off the double right-angle corner near Mr. Samuel Abraham's gate.

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The right-angle corners on the road to Carne constitute a great danger to cyclists and others. Their removal would be a great improvement.

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A fine row of red-brick houses is in course of erection in Upper Seagoe. The houses are beautifully situated, and command splendid views of the winding Bann. We believe they are being built by Mr. Watson Walker, and that he contemplates building more in the same neighbourhood.

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Other houses are being erected, which will add greatly to the appearance of the District. A very handsome villa is in course of erection on the Lurgan Road. Mr. Holmes, of Killycomaine corner, has also rebuilt his house, and it presents a very neat appearance.

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It will become a matter of great importance that when the town increases so as to include Seagoe, the streets and roads should be wide and the houses well built. Seagoe district if mapped out carefully would make a fine site for a "garden city" or suburb of Portadown.

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The new Heating Apparatus was used for the first time on Sunday, Nov. 5th. It was a very stormy day, but the Church was nice and warm. Every Sunday now the Church is splendidly heated. "We never had a Church until now" was the opinion expressed by a regular worshipper the other day.

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The new Sunday School Calendar will be ready next week. The Teachers have already received advance copies.

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Some of the boys in Florence Court have started a flute band, and are practising twice weekly in a loft in Bridge Street. They would be greatly obliged if some one would make them a present of forms to sit on. They have raised money for a set of flutes.

Seagoe Parish Almanac.

This beautiful Almanac is now ready. Copies 1d each may be had at Mrs. Metcalfe's, Bridge Street, or from the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools in the Parish. Parishioners should secure a copy early as the Almanacs are limited in number.

Scholarship Class.

A Preparatory Class for the valuable Scholarships offered each year by the Incorporated Society of the Church of Ireland is being formed in Seagoe School. The boys will be prepared for the Dundalk Scholarships and the girls for the Celbridge Scholarships.

It is possible now for a child who succeeds in getting one of these Scholarships to pass *without any expense* through the higher grade secondary Schools into Dublin University and from there into a Profession. We understand that twelve children of Seagoe Day School are entering the Scholarship Class.

Advent Services.

The season of Advent is one of the great Mission Seasons of the Church. It is a time for serious meditation on the Judgment to come and for an earnest effort to realise that "the Absent Master" is on his way to ask us for an account of our stewardship.

During Advent special addresses will be given in the Parish Church on Wednesday evening, at 8, as follows:—

- Dec. 7th — Preacher—The Rector.
- „ 13th—Rev. E. S. Medcalf, M.A., Rector of Warrenpoint.
- „ 20th—Rev. W. H. Dundas, B.D., Rector of Magheragall.

Special Sermons will be preached in the Parish Church on the Sunday Evenings during Advent, as follows:—

- Dec. 3rd, "Life;" 10th, "Death;" 17th, "Judgment."
- „ 24th, "Eternity."

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES.

- 8 a.m.—Holy Communion.
- 11-30 a.m.—Morning Prayer, Sermon, and Holy Communion.

The Offertories at both services on Christmas Day will be in aid of the Clothing Fund for the Poor of the Parish.

Christmas Carols will be sung in the Parish Church after Evening Prayer on Sunday, Dec. 24th.

Presentation.

The Teachers and children of Carne Sunday School presented Mrs. Price (Miss Margaret Lavery) with two interesting and handsome gifts—a beautifully bound Bible and a silver mounted Biscuit Box on the occasion of her marriage. Mrs. Price had acted as a Teacher in Carne for some years. We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Price on their marriage, and hope that they may have a long and happy life and God's blessing resting upon them at all times.

The Exhibition of Antiquities.

Just as we go to press the Exhibition is being held in Edenderry Hall, and promises to be very successful. It was gracefully opened by Mrs. Blacker. During the afternoon an interesting "Talk" on "Antiquities" was given by the Rev. Canon Lett, Rector of Loughbrickland, and Hon. Sec. for Ulster of the Royal Society of Antiquaries. The collection of Antiquities exhibited is very complete and most interesting.

Old Seagoe Notes.**THE EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUITIES.**

The Exhibition of Antiquities held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Friday, December 1st, has been the means of bringing to light a number of most interesting antiquities, and a careful description of them will occupy a space in our Old Seagoe Notes for some time to come. We call attention this month to some exhibits of special interest.

The Rev. Richard Buckby's Pulpit Bible.—

This most interesting and well preserved relic of Old Seagoe is deserving of special mention. The Bible itself is dated 1613, and as the Authorised Version was first published in 1611 this makes Mr. Buckby's Bible one of the oldest extant. But for Seagoe people its interest chiefly lies in the fact that for many years, from 1764 to 1796, it was in constant use in Old Seagoe Church. The margins are filled with carefully made manuscript notes in Mr. Buckby's writing and bear witness to his industry as a Bible Student. No doubt the notes formed the basis for many of the sermons preached in the old days from the old pulpit within the walls of the old Church. The Rev. Richard Buckby died in 1796, and his remains lie in the north east corner of the chancel of Old Seagoe Church, and the oval marble monument to his memory, which now occupies a place in the new Church over the entrance door, was originally placed in the old Church near Mr. Buckby's grave. The Bible is among the objects exhibited by Mr. Sloan.

A Saxon Coin from Seagoe.—Another most interesting exhibit was that included in the objects lent by Miss Atkinson of New Stone. It was a silver coin very perfectly preserved, bearing on one side a clear but rude image of the crowned head of a king. The lettering round the edge of the coin is quite distinct and the obverse bears an ancient coat of arms. The coin was found about 40 years ago in what is known as the "Three cornered field" on Mr. Wolsey Atkinson's property. It is interesting to think how a Saxon coin came to Seagoe, but its presence here proves that even at that distant date (8th cent.) there was intercourse between Saxon England and Celtic Ireland.

A Hank of Yarn 60 Years Old.—Among the exhibits was a finely spun hank of yarn which left the spinning wheel no less than 60 years ago. It is the property of Miss Rachel Magee, of Breagh, and was spun by her mother, Mrs. Letitia Magee, at the time mentioned. The yarn is very fine and beautifully made up. Two similar hanks were recently put on a loom at Laurelvale, and the piece of cloth woven from them (also exhibited) is of fine texture and bears favourable comparison with that woven from yarn of the present day.

A Quaint Scheme.—The following curious scheme for improving the finances of Seagoe Parish was published in 1876:—

SEGOVIANUM,

or the Parochial Club or Order established to carry forward the new order of things, and the Rules by which it will be regulated—

- 1.—The object of the Club is simply this—To promote a proper union and organisation in every part of the Parish: man, woman, and child of every class.
- 2.—That no Club can be managed or properly carried on without a Subscription. The Subscription of this Club be so fixed as to allow all willing to join and aid in so noble and good a purpose to voluntarily try themselves in any class, and to any amount they may deem right and proper.
- 3.—The Members will be divided into three great classes. The first will be called GRAND SEGOVIANS; and their payment will be from One Pound up to any amount which they consider proper or right, as representing their position in the Parish.
- 4.—The second class will be REGULAR SEGOVIANS; and pay a sum of at least Five Shillings. These two classes will be the only voting classes, and have votes amounting to each Five Shillings they pay.
- 5.—The third class will be what will be called APONETES; and include any member of a Royal Segovian family, at any sum, not less than a Shilling or Sixpence a Quarter, that they may wish to put down their name for. This class will have no vote with regard to the funds and such papers as can be afforded. They shall be welcome to General Meetings; but the two first only to Particular Meetings.
- 6.—Every Townland shall have Three Officers—1. a Collector; 2. an Auditor; 3. an Umpire. The duty of the Collector will be to receive and account for each Subscription; the Auditor will check the same and class; the Umpire will be a referee to settle all rights with.