

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1912.

A Happy Christmas!

We wish all our readers at home and abroad a very happy Christmas.

Advent Services.

ADVENT is the season of the Christian year when our thoughts and prayers are specially directed to the Second Coming of our Lord. We know not when the Day of the Lord will come, but we are told to Watch and Pray lest that Day come upon us unawares. Advent then is a call to higher fuller service and more strenuous labour in the Lord's Vineyard.

To help our people in the keeping of Advent as a season of special preparation the following special arrangements have been made.

On the Sundays in Advent special addresses will be given in the Parish Church on the following subjects:—

- DECEMBER 1st, Morning—"Signs of the Second Advent."
Evening—"The Day of Judgment."
" 8th, Morning—"Prophecies concerning the First Advent."
Evening—"The Messiah."
" 15th Morning—"The Growth of the Kingdom."
Evening—"The Coming of the Kingdom."
" 22nd Morning—"The Meaning of Christmas."
Evening—"The Message of the Angels."

On the Wednesdays in Advent the following special Preachers have been arranged.

Dec. 4th—Rev. George Wright, of Saskatoon, Canada.

Mr. Wright left Donaghcloney Parish some years ago to engage in Mission work in Canada, and returned home last week. He will speak on "Church work in Canada."

Dec. 11th—Rev. Oswald Scott, M.A., Rector of Gilford.

Dec. 18th—Rev. T. J. Forsythe, M.A., Rector of Drummaul.

On Sunday, Dec., 22, Christmas Carols will be sung after Evening Service.

Seagoe Singing Class.

This class began operations on Monday, October 21st, in Seagoe School. There are now 30 members who study singing. Fees for quarter:—men, 1/6; ladies, 1/-. The class meets every Monday at 8 o'clock. Those who wish to join the class should do so without delay.

The Sustentation Fund.

The Collectors for the Sustentation Fund will call on the Parishioners during this month. It is very necessary for the welfare and efficiency of the Parish that the Sustentation Fund should be increased very much above its present figure. Last year it totalled £169 8s 10d, out of which £128 15s 0d was paid in Clerical Income, and the balance £40 13s 10d was invested towards the Glebe purchase scheme. A paid lay-helper is much needed in the Parish, as the task of visiting frequently 642 separate families numbering 3,200 individuals is more than the present staff can accomplish.

An analysis of last year's subscriptions to the Sustentation Fund proves that the average sum subscribed to the Fund is much below what might be expected in a thriving industrial Parish such as Seagoe. The total number of subscribers to the Fund last year was 411, and they subscribed a sum of £169 8s 10. If we deduct from this amount 37 subscriptions of £1 and upwards, we find that the total subscribed by the remaining 374 subscribers only amounted to £105, 213 of those who subscribed gave less than 5/. each, and 86 gave 2/6 or less, while 200 families at least, of those whose names appear in our List of Church Families published last year do not subscribe anything to the Fund.

We add an analysis of the subscriptions given last year—1 Subscriber gave £20; 1—£5; 3—£4; 1—£3 3s; 1—£2 10s; 2—£2; 1—£1 17s 6d; 1—£1 15s; 2—£1 10s; 3—£1 5s; 21—£1; 6—15/-; 15—12/6; 17—10/-; 7—7/6; 4—7/-; 5—6/6; 6—6/-; 50—5/-; 55—4/-; 16—3/6; 56—3/-; 64—2/6; 22—2/-. In many families there are sons and daughters earning large wages. We hope they will join our list of subscribers this year. Even a small subscription from each of the workers in the family would enable us at once to get a lay helper or Scripture-reader to work in this large and populous Parish.

Might we also suggest that subscribers as far as possible would have their subscriptions ready when the Collector calls, so that it may not have to be called for a second time.

Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, there will be celebrations of Holy Communion in the Parish Church at 8 a.m., and after Morning Prayer. The Morning Service will begin as usual at 11.30 a.m. The offerings at both services will be in aid of the Poor of the Parish.

The Parishioners are very earnestly invited to partake of Holy Communion at the Christmas festival. There is no more fitting time to join in the Lord's Supper than when we are commemorating His Birth into this world. "He shall be called Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins."

Harvest Services.

The Services at DRUMGOR on Sunday, Nov. 3rd and Monday, Nov. 4th, were as usual largely attended. On Sunday the Hall was crowded, and presented a very pretty sight with its harvest decorations. Some of the young men of the district spent several evenings making a fringe of wheat and oats long enough to reach round and across the whole room. The Rector preached on Sunday evening, and the Rev. T. W. Aldwell, Curate of Donagheloney on Monday evening. The extremely heavy rain kept many away on Monday, but notwithstanding there were some sixty present.

On Monday, Nov. 10th, and on the following Monday Harvest Services were held in TAMINFCARBET Orange Hall. The hall was handsomely decorated, and was crowded on both occasions. The preacher on Sunday was Mr. J. W. Storey, B.A., Secretary of the C.I.Y.M.S., Belfast, and on Monday, the Rev. W. J. Sirr, B.A., Curate of Lurgan.

Edenderry held its Harvest Services in the Parochial Hall on Thursday, Nov. 7th, at 8, and on the Sunday following. The Hall had been transformed by the decorations, and presented a very pretty appearance. The Rev. A. W. Barton, B.D., Head of the Trinity College Mission, Belfast, gave an address on Harvest. The Rector preached at the Sunday Service. For the first time, this year LEVAGHERY had a Harvest Festival. The School has recently been re-decorated and painted. Two frescoes have been painted on the walls, one representing the Return of the Prodigal, and the other Christ blessing the children. They have been painted by a local artist, Mr. Myten, and reflect great credit on him. Harvest decorations had been very prettily hung all round the room. The Preachers were on Sunday the Rector, and on Monday the Rev. A. Cooke, Curate of Portadown. The services were largely attended.

Carne Harvest Services.

The Harvest Services in Carne Church Hall were held on Sunday, October 27th, and Monday, October 28th. The Hall was lavishly decorated with roses and flowers and fruit of all kinds. Pretty wreaths were hung around the platform, and quite transformed the ordinary appearance of the place. The service on Sunday was held at 3-30, and the Hall was quite filled. The rector preached on "The Laws of the Harvest." The offerings were in aid of Carne Sunday School Fund. Mr. T. H. Wilson kindly gave his services at the harmonium, and the choir chanted the Psalm and sang the canticles and hymns very sweetly. The services were continued on Monday evening at 8, when the Rev. W. R. Crichton, M.A., curate of Hillsborough, preached. He made an earnest appeal on behalf of Foreign Missions towards which object the collection was given. The congregation was large, and the music was again excellent. Mr David Murray, the energetic super-

intendent of Carne Sunday School, gave valuable help in the arrangement of the services.

Items.

The Rector receives frequent application for Baptismal and other Certificates. Such applications should be accompanied by the necessary Fees, a list of which is published on the inner side of the front cover of the Magazine each month. This will save much time and trouble.

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It is very hard to find out the right time in Portadown. There are three different times kept. The Post Office Clock, St. Mark's Clock, and the Station Clock, are all at variance. A proper electrically controlled clock to give standard time should be available in a progressive community like ours.

*

Weekly proficiency cards are now issued to the pupils attending Hacknahay Day School. They will encourage the pupils in their studies, and also enable parents to judge of the progress made by the children from week to week.

*

The East window erected some years ago in the chancel of Armagh Cathedral was copied direct from the East window of Seagoe Church, but it is not nearly so effective. The colouring is decidedly weak.

*

The First Portadown Presbyterian Magazine for November contains an interesting letter from Mr. H. Joyce, late of the G.N.R., Portadown, and now a student in Saskatchewan, Canada.

*

Important structural alterations are about to be made in Portadown Railway Station including a new roof. We hear the new roof will not cover the whole line, as at present so as to admit more light and air.

*

The congested state of the approach to the Station is a cause of great inconvenience to passengers. It is always blocked up by lines of cars and busses. If the present level of the Station floor were continued beyond and outside of the pillars it would at once relieve the congestion.

*

The alterations in the Edenderry approach to the Bridge have now been completed and are a great improvement. The widening of the Bridge should now be undertaken without delay.

*

Constable Bunting has been spending a holiday in Portadown.

*

We hope every Subscriber to the Sustentation Fund in the Parish has got a copy of the Annual Report and read it.

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At the services on next Sunday (Advent Sunday) an Advent Anthem will be sung by the Choir.

Girls' Friendly Society.

The following G.F.S. Classes have been arranged : Hacknahay branch meets in Miss Calvert's house at Breagh on every alternate Tuesday at 7.30, beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd.

Drumgor branch meets at Mrs. M'Mullan's house on every Tuesday evening at 7.30, beginning on Tuesday Dec. 3rd.

Edenderry Class for Candidates meets every alternate Saturday at 2.30 p.m. The first meeting in December will be on Saturday, Dec. 14th.

It has not been found possible to arrange for the weekly meeting of the Edenderry Girls' Class.

Church Attendance Cards.

Third Quarter.

SEAGOE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Gold Seal—total, 65, Wm. George Turkington, 65; Willie Holland, 65; Mary J. Atkinson, 65; Charles M'Laughlin, 65.

1st Rank—60-65. Jennie England, 60.

2nd Rank 55-60. Rachel Turkington, 53.

3rd Rank—50-55. Anna M'Loughlin, 54; Christina Cordy, 52.

4th Rank—45-50. Louie England, 49; Teresa Ramsay, 46.

EDENDERRY SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Gold Seal—Total, 65. Annie Walker, 65; Mary Best, 65.

1st Rank—60-65. Sarah Walker, 64; Maggie Magee, 60.

2nd Rank—55-60. None

3rd Rank—50-55. Arthur Allen, 51; Sarah Martin, 52; Sarah Coulter, 52; William Best, 52; Wm. H. Best, 52; George Watson, 52; William Coulter, 51; Mary Crawford, 50; John Atkinson, 50

4th Rank—45-50. Emma Best, 49; Jane Magee 49; Jeannie Dawson, 48; Jane Forde, 48; Willie Cox, 45.

LEVAGHERY SUNDAY SCHOOL.

1st Rank—60-65. Nellie Lewie. 60.

The Concert.

The Concert held in Edenderry Hall, on Thursday, Nov. 21st, was a great success in every way. The Hall was well filled, and each item on the Programme was good. The performers were first-rate musicians, and the high level of the songs and music was maintained from start to finish. In response to the applause of the audience, encores were generously given. We are greatly indebted to all who so kindly gave their assistance at the Concert. The proceeds will be given to the Seagoe Day School Improvement Fund. The following is a list of the various items on the Programme:—Part I—Piano Solo, "The Liquid Gem," *Richards*, Miss L. Montgomery; Song, "Roses Softly Blooming," *Spahr*, Miss Amy Walker; Song, "Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes," *Sullivan*, Mr. James Briggs; Recital, Humorous, *Anon*, Mr. Alex.

Hunter; Song, "The Trumpeter," *Dix*, Mr. W. A. Scott; Song, "The Scent of the Roses," *L. Carey*, Miss Shannon; Comic Song, Mr. Alex. Hunter.

Part II—Piano Solo, "Fragment of Mendelssohn," *Caspar*, Miss L. Montgomery; Song, (a) "Sweetest Flower," *Hawley*, (b) "It is good to be Alive," *Cowdell*; Song, "Mifanwy," *D. Foster*, Miss Amy Walker; Comic Song, Humorous, Mr. Alex. Hunter; Song, "Nirvana," *Adams*, Mr. James Briggs; Song, "Love's Coronation," Miss Shannon. God Save the King.

Parish Register for November Baptisms.

"Knock and it shall be opened unto you."

On Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 1912.

GRAHAM—Robert James, son of William John and Martha Graham.

HUMPHREYS—Robert, son of Robert and Martha Humphreys.

MAYES—Samuel Abraham, son of James William and Margaret Mayes.

HARA—William James, son of William John and Margaret Hara.

Marriages.

"Love is the fulfilling of the Law."

WRIGHT AND PRESTON—November 5, Silas Wright, Tamnificarbet, to Maud Preston, Ballinacor.

ROBINSON AND HOLMES—November 8, Joseph Robinson, Tamnificarbet, to Winnie Holmes, Tamnificarbet.

VEITCH AND ROGERS—November 11. Thomas Veitch, Ballydurgan, to Elizabeth Rogers, Hacknahay.

Burial.

"Jesus called a little child unto Him."

BEST—Nov. 8, William Robert Best, aged 5 years.

Offertories For November.

Sundays—Mornings, £6 10 10

Evenings, 2 4 11

Wednesdays 0 5 11

Total, £9 1 8

From the offertories on Nov. 10th, £2 was sent to the Diocesan Board of Education, and £1 1s 11d to the Hibernian Bible Society.

Harvest Service Offertories.

	Local Funds.	Missions.
Parish Church	£7 0 0	£4 2 9
Hacknahay	3 8 9	...
Carne	0 12 9	0 12 7
Drumgor	1 4 10	0 11 4½
Edenderry	2 8 9	...
Tamnificarbet	0 13 8½	0 5 0
Levagherey	0 15 0	0 10 0
	£16 3 9½	£3 1 8½

Two Social Gatherings.

During the month two pleasant social gatherings took place. On Friday, November 8th, the children attending Hacknahay Day School had tea and games in the School, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. On Thursday, November 14th, the Sustentation Fund collectors took tea together in Seagoe School, and afterwards made arrangements for the annual collection for the Fund. The tea was most kindly provided and dispensed by the Misses Atkinson of Eden Villa.

Seagoe Parish is now well represented in Diocesan Circles. At the recent Synod Mr. Woolsey R. Atkinson was elected a member of the General Synod; Major Stewart Blacker obtained a seat on the Diocesan Council and in the General Synod, and the Rector was elected to the Council, General Synod, and to the post of Supplemental Diocesan Nominator for the Diocese of Dromore.

Hymns for December.

"Singing and making melody in your hearts."

MORNING.

1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
67	76	256	513	343 pt. 1
Anthem	97	500	102	92
95	315	631	700	148
369	499	166	113	172
EVENING.				
71	73	335	79	90 pt. 2
66	65	416	77	399
260	210	579	87	615
237	32	632	98	285
70	34	308	Carols	35

Christmas Day, 8 a.m. - 79.

„ 11-30 a.m. 83, 86, 87, 363.

The above list contains Hymns carefully chosen to suit the seasons of the Christian year—Advent and Christmas—through which we are passing. Carols will be sung on the Sunday evening before Christmas. The Hymns on the last Sunday of the year have special reference to the flight of time, and its solemn lessons.

Special Chants.

Venite, 185; Te Deum, 131, 203; Benedictus, 165; Responses, 48; Gloria, 11; Magnificat, 237; Nunc Dimittis, 60.

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Old Seagoe Notes.

Lough Neagh Floods.—Lieutenant Graves, of the Royal Engineers, when engaged in making the Ordnance Survey Map of this locality in the year 1825, discovered by careful measurement that the Lake, after a heavy rainfall, may suddenly rise perpendicularly from 6 to 9 feet, and cover with its

flood waters no less than 10,000 acres of adjoining land. He attributed this sudden rise of the river to the fact that no less than 14 rivers empty their waters into the Lough while the sole outlet for its waters is the Lower Bann.

It is interesting to learn that as recently as the year 1609 an armed flotilla sailed the Lough. It was commanded by Sir John Clotworthy, whose nephew, the Rev. John Campbell, was Vicar of Seagoe from 1687 to 1729.

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Seagoe Railway Notes, 1840.—The making of the Ulster Railway through Seagoe in 1842 was an event of great importance. An old guide book of that date gives us the following particulars:—The Ulster Railway Company was formed in 1835, and incorporated by Royal Assent on 19th May, 1836. The number of shares was originally 12,000 of £50 each. This railway was the first to adopt a 6ft 2 inch gauge. The rails were laid, not on cross sleepers as now, but on continuous longitudinal bearings of timber. The actual date of the opening of the line between Lurgan and Seagoe was January 31st, 1842. The first portion of the line for traffic was that between Belfast and Lisburn, and it was opened on August 12th, 1839. The Guide Book adds—“The ground over which the railway has to pass between Seagoe and Portadown is a complete morass, and the difficulty of raising the necessary embankment over it has been the cause of the delay in finishing the line to the bank of the River Bann, but in the course of the ensuing summer the works at present (1842) in progress will be completed.” The total cost per mile for the making of the line (including law expenses) amounted to £12,500. At the time the Railway was made an interesting history of the work was written by a Mr. Whishaw. The engineer who superintended the making of the line through Seagoe Parish was Mr. Godwin, “a very urbane and courteous man.” The line was originally laid out by two Engineers, Messrs. Bald and Woodhouse, Mr. Stevenson was appointed, but Mr. Godwin carried out the work.

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Revival Days in Seagoe, 1859. The following extract is from a touching letter written by Mrs. Beers, wife of the Rev. Leslie Beers, formerly curate of Seagoe, to a parishioner during 1859. The letter is dated June 17th, 1859. “I suppose you have read or heard of the wonderful work in Antrim and Belfast, how many once careless sinners are turning to the Saviour. Let us pray for the spirit of God to convert our friends and neighbours and to water our own souls. I trust that your Bible feeds you, comforts you, satisfies you, and helps you to pray. Let prayer include praise, and thank God for His electing love in calling you. God bless you and yours with such earthly blessings as He sees good for you, and in all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

My love be with you. Goodbye.”