

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1915.

To Our Readers.

We wish all our Readers at Home, and at the Front, a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Victorious New Year.

ADVENT, 1915.

No season of the Christian Year brings to us so impressive a Message as Advent. It speaks to us of Sin, Death, Judgment, and Eternity. In the presence of this awful War which is hurling into Eternity every moment so many of our bravest and best, the lesson of Advent, should come home to Christian hearts with a new force. It calls for Special Prayer and Preparation, and a fuller realisation of the greatness of the Spiritual as compared with the Material. "The things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are Eternal."

We invite the Parishioners to attend the Parish Church with special regularity during Advent. At all the Services by special Prayers and Hymns, we will learn to think more constantly and seriously of that Day when God shall judge the world in Righteousness.

The Vacant Curacy.

The Rev. G. Bloomer having taken up his work as Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown, the Curacy of Seagoe is vacant. The Rector hopes that before long he may be able to obtain the assistance of a curate. Owing to the fact that a large number of Divinity Students, and also of the Junior Clergy have joined the New Army as Chaplains and in other capacities, the supply of Assistant Clergy has been greatly diminished and the task of filling a vacant Curacy is by no means an easy one.

Roll of Honour.

The following names were added to our Seagoe Roll of Honour, during November. We congratulate these lads heartily on their desire to service "King and Country" in this great crisis.

Samuel Best, Canadians.

David Boyce, 10th R.I.F.

David Webb, 10th R.I.F.

William G. Gracey, (Cadet) 10th R.I.F.

Protestant Orphan Society.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following sums from Carne Sunday School:—Collecting Cards—Pearl Grimshaw, 8s 3d; Hannah Coulter, 5s; Hannah Caddell, 14s; Theresa Ramsey, 5s 6d; total, £1 7s 9d; also from Dorothy Stevenson, 2s 6d.

The Sustentation Fund.

The Annual Collection for the Sustentation Fund is now being made through the Parish. The Collectors would esteem it a great kindness if contributors would please have their subscriptions ready when they call. We hope also that our subscribers will endeavour to increase the amount they give. Although we are in war-time, there is really more money in circulation than before the war broke out. The Government has dealt very liberally with the wives and families of those who have enlisted, and the Farmers also as a class, have had the advantage of good markets and high prices. The Old Church of Ireland which has weathered so many campaigns needs your loyal and generous help.

The Late Private F. Currie.



Many of our readers will be glad to have a portrait of the late Private F. Currie, formerly resident in Ballymacrandle, and a member of our Seagoe Church Lads' Brigade. He died in hospital at Alexandria from wounds received at the Dardanelles in August.

Malta's Tribute to a Seagoe Hero.

The Rector has received a kind letter from the Rev. Maurice A. Farren, Chaplain to the Forces at Malta, who attended Private Clayton before his death from wounds last month at Malta, as reported in our last issue. He says, writing on November 19th.—"Private Clayton was admitted to Tigne Hospital on September 11th, and died on October 2nd. He had a gunshot wound in chest and back and also pneumonia. He was buried in the Military Cemetery here. A photo of the Cemetery has been or will be sent to his Mother. He was buried with full Military honours. The coffin was covered with a Union Jack, and on the coffin rested a Helmet, Belt, and Bayonet, and a Wreath with the following inscription, "Malta's Tribute to Dead Heroes."

P.S.—The delay in answering your letter was due to the fact that there are 25 Hospitals in the Island.

Hunting "Turkeys" at the Dardanelles.

Private Arthur Allen, of Florence Court, Edenderry, writes from Gallipoli, under date 12/9/15, as follows:—

We are getting along fairly well these last two weeks, as we are not doing much fighting. We are still in the Trenches, but I can stand it all right, It is just the same to me as

GOING OUT FOR A HUNT.

It does not annoy me in the least, only when the shells and the bullets are flying. But I can tell you I have been very lucky so far, and I hope I will be always. I hope David is well. I was dreaming about him falling down stairs. I suppose Arthur will soon be able to do some fishing now, and as for Bob and Lizzie I suppose they could eat them. I hope Bob and his granda have some old yarns to tell one another yet.

Again, under date 26/9/15, he writes—

I received your papers all right, and also the Magazine. I see a few names in it of the wounded, and I can tell you there is a great lot not in it. We have lost the half of the Battalion, if not more. I may tell you we have not done much fighting since, but I can tell you we shall each other very hard every day, and I would not mind

TO HAVE ANOTHER DIG

at them if it would finish it, but I think it is going to last a good while yet.

We can see plenty of them

NICE TURKEYS RUNNING ABOUT

here, but we are waiting until they get fatter and nearer Christmas.

Under date 1/10/15 he writes—

We are in a place they call Salonika. It belongs to Greece. We are not in the firing lines yet, so we are safe for a while longer. I can tell you I am a happier man than the Kaiser. I never worry about nothing.

Under date 30/10/15 he writes—

I got the "Portadown Express" all right. We are now at Salonika, and we will be getting a shot at the Bulgarians next. I had a letter from Wm. James, and he was telling me I was reported killed, but there is

NOT A DROP OUT OF ME

yet, Do not be uneasy, I am all right. Never get down-hearted.

Hacknahay G.F.S.

The opening meeting of the G.F.S. at Hacknahay, was held on Tuesday, November 9th, at Miss Calvert's house in Breagh. There was a large attendance. The Rector presided, and, after prayer, gave a short address on "The Word of God." Three new members were admitted. The meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays.

Christmas in Seagoe.

Christmas in Seagoe will be very different this year from other years. So many of our men are at the Front, that our thoughts will be turned away from home rather than towards home. Perhaps the result of this will be, that our Christmas will this year partake less of Social Mirth, and more of deeper Christian feeling. The Birth of our Lord with its significant accompaniment of promised Peace, will touch a chord in many a heart saddened by the anxieties of War.

On Christmas Day there will be Celebrations of Holy Communion at 8 a.m., and after Morning Prayer (11-30 a.m.).

The offerings on Christmas Day at both Services will be given to the Clothing Fund for the Poor of the Parish.

Women's Emergency Corps.

SEAGOE BRANCH.

The following gratifying results have been accomplished between Sept. 1st and Dec. 1st:—

Amount received in Boxes for Comforts, £20 0s 9d.

71 Pairs of Socks.

60 Pairs of Mittens.

5 Mufflers.

Quilt Squares, Nightshirts and

2 Full Kit Bags.

Miss I. Atkinson acts as Hon. Sec. of the Branch.

His Last Letter.

[A pathetic interest is attached to this letter from Private Isaac Gilpin of Florence Court, Edenderry, who was killed in action in France, on September 19th. It was his last letter. Private Gilpin was in "C" Company, Durham Light Infantry. The letter was addressed to his sister, Mrs. Tate, 25 Railway Street, Edenderry.]

26/7/1915.

Dear Sister,

Just a few lines, hoping this finds you all well, as this leaves me at present. I received your little present, and was very thankful for it, and I have got George's address also. This is by return of post.

Dear Sister, I am in the firing line with the Battalion, doing my little bit with the rest of them. It is a bit noisy out here just now, but we will have to beat them.

I will write to George later. This is all now.

Yours,

ISAAC.

Seagoe Parish Almanac.

The Parish Almanac for 1916, Price One Penny, is now on sale throughout the Parish, and at Mrs. Collins, 18 Bridge Street.

ITEMS.

Mr. Devine, of Knock, has very kindly offered to visit in the Parish as a Voluntary Helper during the vacancy in the Curacy. Mr. Devine for many years gave valuable help in assisting the Rector of Charlemont in his Parish work.

* * *

Mr. Thomas Carroll, National Board Inspector, made his Annual Inspection of Seagoe School on Thursday, November 18th. He expressed himself very much pleased with the progress of the pupils, and the comfort and complete equipment of the School buildings.

* * *

During the past month Messrs. George Locke, David Best and John Greene have taken the services in Tamnificarbet Hall at 7 o'clock on Sunday evenings.

* * *

The children of Seagoe Day School, both boys and girls, are busily engaged working for the soldiers. The following girls have already done useful work;— Amy Holmes (Muffler), Henny Porter, Isabella Best, Martha Ellis, Lily Lewie, May Best, Mary Wilson, Mary J. Atkinson (Socks), Mary Coulter, Eva Magee, Pearl Reid and Amy Reid (Mittens). These gifts will be sent to the Soldiers at the Front at Christmas.

* * *

When writing to the 9th Battalion don't put "Ulster Division" on the address.

* * *

We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. David W. Walker on their recent marriage. Mr. Walker has always shown a keen interest in Seagoe Parish. We wish him and Mrs. Walker much blessing and happiness, and we hope often to see them amongst us, although for the present, owing to the claims of business, they have to reside in Belfast.

* * *

The 9th Battalion has emerged from a second period in the front trenches without a single casualty, although we hear they inflicted some serious losses on the enemy.

* * *

We regret to record the death, in October last, of John, the infant son of Mr. Thomas E. Maginnis, of Breagh, aged 9 months. The Interment took place at Knocknamuckley. Much sympathy has been expressed with Mr. and Mrs. Maginnis in the loss of their little child.

Offertories for November.

Sundays—Mornings,	£3 12 9
Evenings,	... 1 10 0
Week Days	... 0 5 4
	<hr/>
	£5 8 1

A Relic from the Trenches.

Private Samuel Gracey (Canadians), Carrick-blacker Road, picked up the following German letter in a captured German trench. It has been translated by Miss Amy Walker, of Seagoe:—

21-4-15.

My dearest Auguste,

In this beautiful evening hour I take up my pen to answer your loving letter, which I have been expecting for so long a time. I was glad to learn that you are still well. You are in my dreams both night and day. Everybody here is talking about peace, and how happy should I be if it were true We shall hope that things will soon be changed. Write and let me know if W. and H. Kassinck are well. Give them my kindest regards.

I remain,

Your ever-loving

LINIE.

Farming in France

[Mr. George Calvert has received the following very interesting letter from a Parishioner of Seagoe now serving in France with the 9th Batt. R.I.F.]

14/11/15.

Dear Mr. Calvert,

You might like to know how we are getting along out here. Well, we are enjoying the best of health, though the weather this last fortnight has been very cold and wet. At the first when we arrived in this country we could not understand the language of the people, so when we wanted to buy anything we had to use signs to get them to know what we wanted. But now we are able to ask for the most of things. There are no houses scattered through the country like at home. Every two and three miles there are small villages, which are very old. The walls of the houses are built with mud, and the roofs are a kind of very thick slates. The best buildings are the Chapels, which are fine structures. There is one in each village.

The farmers all live in the villages, some of them having to travel as far as three miles to their farms. They have wheels made for carrying all their machinery to and from their farms. They store their mangold and potatoes in cellars below their houses. The apples are very abundant: there are trees growing everywhere. Sometimes when we are out marching we see apples lying thick along the roadsides, but the Irish apples are the best flavoured. The people make cider for their own use; they don't seem to care much for eating apples raw.

The horses are the very best, and are well-trained. They plough with teams of three, and have only a single rein to the hand horse for driving. I can never find out how they get them to turn to the right; it must be by speaking to them. The majority

of the horses are grey ones. I suppose the Government bought up all the dark coloured ones for the war. The most of the farmers thresh their grain with the old-fashioned windmills. The small farmers and bakers use something like the old tread-mill; the horse is started to walk up an endless staircase, which is boxed in very narrow. It seems funny to see him walking as hard as he can and getting no further, as the weight of himself makes the stairs revolve. The cattle are the shorthorn type, and are fine animals; they are all a deep red colour. I have not seen a single beast a bad colour. The women and children lead the cows to the fields, as many as four cows being tied to the one rope. There are few young calves or bullocks to be seen. The pigs are much the same as Irish. Whenever they are killing one, they tie its hind legs to a cart wheel, tumbles it and bleeds it the same way as ours, then covers it over with straw, and sets the straw on fire, and burns the pig until the skin begins to come off, then wash it in water.

One thing that seems very strange is the people going on with their everyday work and the war so near their homes. The farmers are sowing corn and wheat, and ploughing the land for the spring crops, all within the sound of the big guns.

Rev. F. J. Halahan is one of the Chaplains attached to our Brigade. He holds a service twice on Sunday for us in an old barn; our Colonel reads the lesson. We have got a choir of men started, and it greatly improves the singing at the services. The people are very pleasant and agreeable. Eatables are all very dear. Eggs are 2d each; milk, 4d a quart; bread, 10d a loaf; butter, 1s 3d a three-quarter pound print.

This will be a very tiresome letter to read, as I have written it in a very rambling style.

Baptisms.

Baptized on November 6th, 1915:—

M'Kerr—James, son of James and Sarah Anne M'Kerr, of Portadown.

Sponsors—Emily Neill, Sarah Anne M'Kerr.

Tate—George, son of Thomas and Sarah Tate, of Portadown.

Sponsors—Mary Watson, Sarah Tate.

M'Loughlin—Martha Jane, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Anne M'Loughlin, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Martha Smartt, Elizabeth Anne M'Loughlin.

Received into the Congregation:—

Smith—Margaret, daughter of Aaron and Sarah Anne Smith, of Edenderry, having been Privately Baptized, through illness, on September 26th, 1915, was publicly "received into the congregation of Christ's flock" on November 6th, 1915. *Sponsors*—Margaret Hawthorne, Sarah Anne Smith.

Marriages.

Magee and McNeill—13th November, 1915, Alfred David Magee, of Kernan to Judith McNeill, of Ballymacrandle.

Simpson and Livingston—19th November, 1915, George Simpson, of Carne, to Susanna Jane Livingston, of Killicomaine.

Burials.

Magee—Nov. 10th, 1915, Margaret Anne Magee, of Kernan, aged 42 years.

M'Cormick—Nov. 13th, 1915, Wilhelmina M'Cormick, of Drumnagoon, aged 7 years.

Old Seagoe Notes.

Levaghery Girls' School, 1845.—Miss Rachel Magee, of Breagh, sends us the following lines which she learned from a Mrs. Millar when coming home one day from Levaghery Girls' School (taught by Miss Burrell), over seventy years ago. We regret we have only space for a few lines:—

MY BANKER.

I have a never failing Bank,
A more than golden store;
No earthly Bank is half so rich,
How can I then be poor.

'Tis when my stock is spent and gone,
And I without a grot,
I'm glad to hasten to my Bank
And beg a little note.

I know my Bank will never break,
No, it can never fail;
The firm, Three Persons in One God,
Jehovah, Lord of All.

* * *

Seagoe Surnames, 1898-1912.—An Index has recently been compiled of the Baptismal Register of Seagoe during the 14 years ending in 1912. The total number of Baptisms for that period numbered 1,056. The section under the letter M is by far the largest, containing over 200 names. "W" makes a good second. The names beginning with B rank third. Among the surnames which occur most frequently are Best, Coulter, Dickson, Gracey, Magee, Neill, Porter, Thompson, Webb, Wilson. The Christian names most in favour for Boys are—William (always with a second name following), Samuel, Thomas (with second name), Joseph, Robert; and for Girls—Mary, Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah, Elizabeth Charlotte. No surnames begin with the letters O or I.

Schools and Classes.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS - Morning, at 10 a.m., in Seagoe Parochial School and in Edenderry Parochial Hall.

Afternoon, at 3 p.m., in Seagoe, Edenderry, Hacknahay, Levaghery, Carne. At 3-30 p.m., Drumgor.

Infant School—Wooden Hall, Edenderry, at 3 p.m.

BIBLE CLASSES—Sunday Morning, at 10 p.m.

For Men—Edenderry Wooden Hall.

„ „ Seagoe Orange Hall.

For Women—Edenderry (Anchor Cafe).

„ „ Seagoe Parochial School.

Sunday Afternoon, Edenderry Parochial Hall, at 3 p.m.

Week-day Classes are held from October to May in Carne and Drumgor at 8 p.m., and in Hacknahay at 7-30.

The Girls' Friendly Society meets in Edenderry, Hacknahay, and Drumgor each week from October to May.

DAY SCHOOLS—Seagoe National School, 9-30 a.m.
Principal: Mr. S. R. Chambers.

Hacknahay School, 9-30 a.m.
Principal: Miss M. Wilson.

Men's Recreation Room, Edenderry Wooden Hall, is open each evening from 7-30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Band of Hope meets each month at various Parish centres.

Parish Services.

Holy Communion—1st Sunday of Month, after Morning Prayer; 3rd Sunday at 8, and on Chief Festivals.

Holy Baptism 1st Saturday of Month at 3, and at any Public Service of the Church, if due notice is given.

N.B. Two sponsors at least are required in the case of each child brought for Baptism.

Churchings before each Baptismal Service.

Sunday Services—Morning Prayer, 11-30 a.m.
Evening Prayer, 7 p.m.

Services are also held in Hacknahay School, Drumgor Church Hall, and Tamnificarbet Orange Hall, at 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

Week-day Services—Every Wednesday evening, in the Parish Church at 8 p.m.

Marriages may take place in the Parish Church between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Fee, 5/- and upwards.

The Very Rev. Dean O'Loughlin, D.D., Rector of Lurgan, issues Licences for this Parish.

Funerals will be attended by the Clergy, if due notice be given.

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ESSENCE OF LINSEED.

+X+X+

When run down in health, a Bottle
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