

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1919.

If you wish the Ministrations of the Church in Seagoe Parish to be maintained in the future as in the past it will be necessary for you to double your Subscription to the Sustentation Fund, and also to increase your Offerings in the Sunday Collections.

## *The Advent Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

## *Special Advent Services.*

On November 30th, being Advent Sunday and also St. Andrew's Day, Special Services will be held in the Parish Church. The Preacher at Morning and Evening Prayer will be the Rev. E. A. Bennett, M.A., M.C., lately Chaplain to the Forces in France and in Mesopotamia, and at present Secretary of the Church of Ireland Young Men's Society, Clarence Place, Belfast. The men of the Parish are specially asked to be present.

On Sunday mornings, December 7th, 14th and 21st, three of the Reports of the Archbishops' (of Canterbury and York) Committees will be brought under the notice of the Parishioners, the subjects being "Worship" (December 7th), "Evangelistic Work" (December 14th), "Industrial Problems" (December 21st).

## *"Double Your Subscription."*

"Double Your Subscription," was the practical advice of Colonel Blacker in the address which he

gave to the people of Seagoe in the Parish Church after Morning Prayer on Sunday, November 23rd. He traced very clearly the beginning of the Sustentation Fund from the days of Disestablishment in 1870. At that time the State guaranteed to every Clergyman a capital sum to ensure his income for life, but the Clergy handed over that sum to the Representative Church Body, thus accepting an uncertainty instead of a certainty. Seagoe Parish unfortunately remained out, with the result that no permanent provision was made for its future.

In 1875 Major Blacker presented £6,000 as an endowment to provide an income for the Rector of £300 per annum. The Curate's Income was to be provided by the Sustentation Fund. If this Endowment had not been given the Parish would have had to raise at least £400 every year, or if it desired to come under the Diocesan Scheme it would have been necessary to provide a Capital sum of £1,500, to bring the Parish under the scheme, and a yearly Sustentation Fund of £290. As a matter of fact the Townland Subscriptions to the Sustentation Fund, up to 1907, only amounted to an average of £90 per annum, and since then have averaged about £150. Last year there were 400 subscribers to the Sustentation Fund, and 270 of them gave 5s and less, 165 Subscribers gave *three shillings and less*, most of them *less*. Considering the population and prosperity of the Parish this is an unworthy and inadequate return.

## *Almanacs for 1920.*

For the first time there will be published this year a special "Seagoe Calendar" so that the Parish will have an Almanac of its own. It will be printed in two colours—Blue and Red - which with the white of

the paper will make it a Red, White and Blue Calendar. It will contain Photographs of local interest, and also a full Roll of Honour of the Parish together with the Parish Motto for the year. The price will be threepence. The Calendar will be on sale on December 7th, and may be purchased at Collins' Grocery Store, Edenderry.

The "Seagoe Parish Almanac" will also be on sale, Price 2d. We advise our readers to purchase early.

### The Roll of Honour.

The Roll of Honour was dedicated by the Rector before Morning Prayer, on Sunday, November 16th. It was placed in front of the Holy Table covered with a Union Jack. The Dedication was "To the glory of God and in the sacred memory of those from this Church and Parish who laid down their lives in the Great War, also in grateful remembrance of all those who went forth from this Church and Parish to take part in the great conflict for Truth and Righteousness."

The Roll has been much admired and in its completeness forms a notable permanent record of what the men of Seagoe did for God and King and Country during the great war. The Roll will be placed in the Church Porch each Sunday for some time, and will then be placed in some accessible position on the walls of the Church.

### "A Garden of Roses."

The following Subscriptions have been received towards the planting of the Memorial Garden of Red and White Roses at the Church. They have been forwarded by Miss Coulsell, of Seagoe Villa, who first suggested the Memorial, and has kindly interested herself in it:—

Miss Coulsell	...	...	£1	1	0
Mrs. Blacker	...	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Atkinson, Eden Villa	...	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Bell	...	...	0	10	0
Rev. Canon Archer	...	...	0	10	0
Mrs. Watson Walker	...	...	0	5	0
Mrs. Forrest	...	...	0	5	0
Mrs. Calvert (Dublin)	...	...	0	5	0
Miss Emma Walker	...	...	0	5	0
			£5	1	0

We will be glad to receive further Subscriptions. The estimated cost of the Garden is £12. Subscriptions may be sent to the Rector, or to Mr. J. Sands, Hon. Treasurer, Killicomaine Road. Owing to the difficulty of securing labour it has not yet been possible to begin work in preparing the ground.

### A Seagoe Centenarian.

We extend our hearty congratulations to Mrs.

Sarah Lutton, of Edenderry, on having entered her 100th year. She is still, we are glad to say, in full possession of her faculties, though naturally weak in body. The record of her Baptism is in the Seagoe Registers, "October 1st, 1820, Sarah, daughter to Thomas Porter and Clarissa, his wife." It is entered in the clear and careful writing of the Rev. John Beatty, then Curate of the Parish. At the date of Mrs Lutton's birth George IV. had just ascended the Throne, she has lived through five reigns, George IV., William IV., Queen Victoria, Edward VII., and George V. Waterloo had been fought just six years before. Railways had not been thought of, and the old stage coaches rattled along the high roads. Dean Blacker was Rector of Seagoe, and Archdeacon Saurin was not appointed Rector until Mrs Lutton was five years old. She has vivid recollections of Archdeacon Saurin, and of his father, Bishop Saurin, of Dromore. Mrs Lutton comes of a remarkably long-lived stock, her brother, Mr Richard Porter, of Lower Seagoe, is still strong and active at the age of 94 years. The entry of his Baptism in Seagoe Registers is as follows—"June 18th, 1826, Richard, son of Thomas and Clarissa Porter, of Lower Seagoe." Their parents were married in Seagoe Church on February 25th, 1803. Their father, Mr Thomas Porter, was buried, according to the Seagoe Registers, in Seagoe Graveyard, on October 7th, 1854, aged 92 years, the Rev. James A. Beers, Curate of Seagoe, officiating at the grave. His wife, Mrs. Clarissa Porter, was buried in Seagoe on October 13th, 1871, aged 92 years (the same month and the same age as her husband), the Rev. R. MacWalter, Curate, officiating at the grave. Mrs. Lutton was married in Seagoe Parish Church on March 9th, 1847, to Mr Andrew James Lutton, of Drumnagally Parish of Seapatrik, and her age is still further verified and possibly extended by the fact that at her marriage she is entered as 27 years of age. The recent death of Mr John Lutton, so highly esteemed in Seagoe Parish, has been a great grief to his aged mother, and our sympathy is extended to her in her sorrow and weakness.

### Penny-a-Week Fund.

This Fund for the Improvement and Repair of Edenderry Parochial Hall has proved very successful. A sum of more than £30 is already in hand. It has been decided by the Committee to spend the money in improving the seating of the Hall, and ensure its proper heating. Further improvements are also in contemplation as funds admit. We thank all who are helping so liberally.

### Our Sunday Schools.

On next Sunday (Advent Sunday) our new Sunday School Calendar comes into force. This year it is Course V. in the Diocesan Course and the Teachers' Notes, which are especially good, are by the late Archdeacon Wynne. Every Teacher should possess a copy. Price One shilling.

**PARISH REGISTER for NOVEMBER 1919.****Baptisms.**

**Coulter**—November 1st, 1919, George, son of Thomas John and Elizabeth Coulter, of Tarsan

*Sponsors*—Thomas John Coulter, Mary Campbell, Elizabeth Coulter.

**Atkinson**—November 22nd, 1919, William Edward Bunbury, son of Bunbury Archer and Alice Kathleen Atkinson, of Hacknahay.

*Sponsors*—William Henry Atkinson, James Searight Atkinson, Jane Selby Lowndes.

**Marriage.**

**Robinson and Wilson**—November 5th, 1919, Thomas George Robinson, of Tanniflasson, to Margaret Jane Wilson, of Drumnagoon.

**ITEMS.**

Mr. William Flannigan, late of Railway Street has been appointed Verger of Belfast Cathedral. This is a most important and responsible post, and we congratulate Mr. Flannigan most heartily on his appointment. Mr. and Mrs. Flannigan, when they resided in this Parish, were ever ready to help in every good work, and since they went to Belfast they have been most useful helpers in St. Mary's Parish. Mr Flannigan was at one time a member of Seagoe Church Lads' Brigade.

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There has not been a Funeral in Seagoe Parish for more than two months. The season has been remarkably healthy.

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Lieutenant Fforde Hall, whose notes we publish, has just returned from North Russia where he was on active service with an English Regiment the Royal Fusiliers. He had a narrow escape on the River Petchora when temporarily attached to a Cossack Regiment. The other Russian Regiments in the same camp mutinied and killed their British officers, but fortunately Lieutenant Hall's Cossack Regiment remained loyal.

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Mr William Major and Mr James M'Cabe have joined the staff of Teachers in Seagoe afternoon Sunday School.

**In Northern Russia.**

[Lieutenant T. Forde Hall, of the 2nd Royal Fusiliers, who has just returned from active service against the Bolsheviks in Northern Russia, has kindly sent us the following account of that

strange land. The notes will be continued in our next issue.]

Comparatively few Britishers have had the experience of a visit to this remote corner of Europe, which is part of the vast country of Russia. It may be interesting, therefore, to read something of it, and of the primitive people who inhabit the frozen wastes on the shores of the Arctic Ocean and the White Sea.

The province of Archangel, where our troops were operating against the Bolsheviks, is situated in and on the border of the Arctic Circle. It presents as desolate a picture as the eye could dwell upon. The land is flat and marshy, crusted with snow and ice for nine months of the year, and is wholly uncultivated. Even for the scanty population enough grain cannot be grown to support them. In the southern districts of the province, along the shores of the River Dwina, are immense forests of Pine. Bears, wolves, and foxes are plentiful in these forests. The skin of the fox is very valuable, and is much sought after by the native hunter. The principal occupations of the natives are seal fishing and the cutting down of timber. There is no shortage of timber there, and at the present time large quantities for shipment to other parts of the world are stacked at the ports on the White Sea.

The people are largely Laplanders, and are a very simple, almost uncivilized race. Arriving in that country from England is like going back about five centuries. I do not think they have changed their ways of living and national customs for at least three hundred years. In the outlying districts, particularly in the North, they live in little villages consisting of twenty to thirty little wooden houses, and probably two or more families in each house. In one village I know they had never seen an ordinary bicycle, and our troops created quite a sensation in the settlement when they arrived on bicycles. This was in a village near Mezen on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. The climate is very severe. It is subject to extremes of heat and cold. In the short summer season, which they have for only six or eight weeks in the year, the heat of the sun is often oppressive. For this period the sunshine is continuous for the twenty-four hours of the day. It seemed very strange to be in bright sunlight at 12 30 a.m. I have taken photographs at 1 a.m. with excellent results. Of course they have the other extreme in mid-winter. For three months the sun is never seen and everything is in complete darkness except for the glow of the "Northern Lights," which present a wonderful spectacle there. I did not see it at its best, but one night in September last the sky was ablaze with these wonderful lights. We were so fascinated with the unusual sight that we spent most of the night gazing up at the ever-changing colour.

Even in summer the change from heat to cold is sometimes very rapid. If clouds shut out the sunlight, or the wind blows from the North, the change is so instantaneous that a man working in shirt sleeves

is forced to go in and search for a fur coat or other warm garment.

The town of Archangel was the most interesting place I found in the country, in other parts we saw very little except dreary tracts of practically uninhabited country and forests, occasionally coming across a small village.

This town, which is the most northerly in Russia, is built on the banks of the River Dwina about 40 miles from where it enters the White Sea. The port of Archangel is also of some importance, it is one of the oldest in Russia, and is interesting to Ulster people as the port from which we got a large quantity of Russian flax before the outbreak of war. As roads are altogether unknown in the country, the Dwina forms the great highway for commerce from the interior, Timber, grain, tar, used to be carried down river in large barges to the steamers lying in the port during the summer, and sent to all parts of the world. Owing to the troubled state of the central parts of the country this trade is now very small. The town of Archangel is badly built, being scattered for about 2 miles along two zig-zag streets running parallel to the Dwina, connected at intervals by narrow lanes. The houses, with the exception of four, are all built of wood. The Russian carpenters are very skilful, and a number of the houses are extraordinarily well built and finished, very much resembling wooden bungalows sometimes seen in this country. There are no paved streets. Along the sides of the houses runs a wooden footpath, raised about three feet from the street level, but the centre of the streets are purely beaten tracks. The town boasts of Electric Light, and one Electric Tram which runs the length of the Petrogradski (the name of the principal thoroughfare).

### **Girl Guides.**

The Seagoe Corps of Girl Guides meets in Seagoe School (for the present) every Monday evening at 8.

### **Men's Bible Class.**

The Rector's Bible Class for men meets every Tuesday evening at 8 in Edenderry Parochial Hall. All men in the Parish are invited to join.

### **OLD SEAGOE NOTES.**

**Church Property in Seagoe.**—The exact amount of land in the Townlands of Upper and Lower Seagoe held at any time by the Church is of interest and importance. We take the following measurements (in Decimals) from the Ordnance Survey Map published in 1905 (Scale 25 inches to mile). Old Seagoe Graveyard as in 1905, Acres, 2.193; Old School Plot, .397; Present School Ground, .805; Site of Present Church and Graveyard, .499; School-

Master's House with adjoining Grove, .734; Garden between House and Railway, .489. There is a remarkable uncertainty about the exact extent of the Glebe Lands. According to the Representative Church Body based on the Church Temporalities figures, it is as follows:—Garden and Curtilage, 1a. 3r. 34p.; Lands, 13a. 2r. 22p.; Total, 15a. 2r. 16p.; but according to Rural Council Books in Lurgan based on Griffith's survey of 1862, the total acreage is 17a. Or. 15p. The Ordnance Survey approximates to the lower estimate but it is incorrect as it includes in the Rectory lands portions of other property.

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**The Finances of Seagoe in 1877.**—This was a very critical year in the Financial History of the Parish, and but for the generosity of Major Blacker in advancing large sums to cover liabilities it would have been impossible to carry on the Ministration of the Church. Here is an extract from the Vestry Minutes for Monday, February 25th, 1877.—“Major Blacker produced a receipt for £50, which he had received from the Representative Body, being the amount paid by the Board of Guardians for a portion of land given by him to them to enlarge the Graveyard, which amount was placed to the credit of the Church Endowment Fund of this Parish. He also produced accounts showing the sum he had received towards the payment of the sum he had advanced to the Parish, making in all up to this date £547 19s 10d.

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**The First Diocesan Synodsmen of Seagoe, 1871.**—According to the Vestry Minutes of Seagoe dated April 10th, 1871, the following were elected to represent the Parish of Seagoe at the first Diocesan Synod held after Disestablishment—Wolsey Atkinson, T. Armstrong, jun., John Montgomery, Abram M'Cann, Henry Lavery and Joseph Macurey.

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**The Care of Seagoe Registers, 1821.**—The Rev. John Beatty who was Curate of Seagoe when Dean Blacker was advanced in years, was most careful in making entries in the Parish Registers and also in preserving the old Registers from injury. Here is a note which he wrote on a torn half-page of the Baptismal Registers for 1821.—“The end of this leaf was torn off, and several names of course lost, in consequence of there not being a lock on the Drawer to hinder improper persons from handling the Book.”

### **Departure of Mr. and Mrs. Bell.**

Mr Alan Bell, R.M., Mrs Bell and Miss Nicholl will soon be leaving Seagoe to take up their residence in Dublin. They will be greatly missed in the Parish where they have made many friends. Their kindness and thoughtfulness towards all with whom they came in contact has drawn all hearts to them. They will be followed to their new home by the good wishes of all in Seagoe.