

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1921.

Christmas, 1921.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

The Magazine.

The price of this copy of the Magazine is 2d. With our next issue we enter on our **Seventeenth** year, a very respectable age for a Parish Magazine. We have outlived many of our contemporaries. The past year was the most difficult of all years for a Magazine owing to the high cost of paper and printing. The expense of publishing has now been somewhat reduced. We have arranged to publish **Seagoe Parish Magazine** on the first Saturday of each month during 1922 at the price of Three Pence for each number. A new feature of great interest will be introduced. Each month we will print a block or photograph illustrating the past or present history of the Parish. This will, we believe, add greatly to the interest of the Magazine and to its value as a historic record.

We thank very sincerely all our readers who so faithfully clung to the Magazine through the past year, even though it cost fourpence a number. The sales were quite as large as ever—a good proof of the hold which the Magazine possesses over the Parishioners.

We owe especially a debt of gratitude to those who so kindly distribute the Magazine month by month. Without their help, so willingly rendered, the circulation of the Magazine would be greatly reduced, and its usefulness diminished.

This number will be read by Seagoe people in the United States, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Egypt and India, not to mention places nearer home as England and Scotland. As they read it they will think of the old Parish and of the Church where they and their fathers worshipped in bygone days. May the thought of the old place across the seas hallow and sweeten their lives and draw them nearer each day to the Throne of Grace.

Advent, 1921.

We have already entered the season of Advent which begins the round of the Christian year. Its message is "Watchfulness"—"Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping." We watch for the second coming of the Master. Worship will help us to be watchful. We will meet together in the House of Prayer and kneel together around His Holy Table and experience there the blessedness of those who wait for their Lord. Advent and Lent are the two great Mission Seasons of the Church. Let us mark this Season by an earnest and prayerful effort to be more faithful in our Service of Christ.

Special Advent Services.

Four great subjects will be considered on each of the four Sundays in Advent. Advent Sunday, November

27th—"Foreign Missions;" Sunday, December 4th—"Bible Study;" Sunday, December 11th—"Temperance;" Sunday, December 18th—"Sunday Observance;" and special subjects will also be considered on Wednesdays.

Christmas Day Services.

Christmas Day this year falls on Sunday, and the following Services will be held in Seagoe Parish Church:

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.30 a.m.—Morning Prayer, Sermon and Holy Communion.

7 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.

The offerings at 8 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. will be for the Christmas Clothing Fund for the Poor of the Parish.

The Sustentation Fund.

The Collectors are making the Annual Collection for the Sustentation Fund. Much depends on this year's Collection, and we hope the Parishioners will give increased subscriptions.

The Envelope System of Weekly Contributions has worked well during the past year, and the Select Vestry have decided to still further extend it during the coming year. The upkeep of the Parish Church and its Services have hitherto fallen on those Parishioners who worship in it, but this does not seem quite fair, and in future it is felt that the Parish as a whole should share the burden.

Band of Hope.

A most successful Band of Hope Meeting was held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Thursday, November 10th. The Hall was crowded, and every item was loudly applauded. Some nice choruses were sung and amusing dialogues, each enshrining an important Temperance truth, were performed. The Rev. A. O. Draper gave a stirring address to the children on the Evils of Intemperance.

Church Parade.

A well attended Church Parade took place in Seagoe Church on Sunday evening, November 13th. The Parish Scouts and Girl Guides were present under their officers. The Rev. F. J. Halahan, M.C., Rector of Drumcree, preached from the text "Look unto the Rock whence ye are hewn," and spoke on the value of Christian Training in youth. The offerings were on behalf of the Scouts and Girl Guides.

Old Seagoe Graveyard.

We are glad to see that an effort is being made by a Committee in Portadown to improve the condition of old Seagoe Graveyard. We hope they will persevere in their efforts until Seagoe Graveyard is brought into such order and neatness as becomes the resting place of our Dead. Money will be needed, but we are quite sure that most of those who have burial rights in the Graveyard will be prepared to subscribe. A new caretaker's house and a waiting room or shelter are urgently needed. More stringent regulations are also required as to the admission of young children to the Graveyard unless accompanied by adults.

Armistice Day in Seagoe.

On November 11th a special Service was held in Seagoe Church at 10.30 a.m. At 10.55 those who were present, with the Clergy, proceeded to the Memorial Gates, where the children attending Seagoe Day School were drawn up with their Teachers. Prayer was said, and at 11 the two minutes "Silence" was observed, after which all joined in the singing of the National Anthem. The Union Jack was held by Ernest Allen, whose father, W. J. Allen, fell on the 1st July, 1916.

Chota Nagpur Mission.

On Thursday, November 3rd, Miss Henry (who has recently returned after five years' work in Chota Nagpur, India) gave a very interesting address to a large gathering of Seagoe people in Seagoe School. The habits and customs of the Indian people were described, and a number of curios which Miss Henry had brought from Chota Nagpur were explained by the Lecturer. The children present sang a nice Missionary hymn and showed much interest in the proceedings. Cards were taken by many in support of the "Seagoe Cot" in the hospital in India.

A Seagoe Man's Adventure.

Dr. Victor Walker writes under date 1st July, 1921, on board the S.S. Woodarra—"We have been to Port Chalmers, Lyttleton, Christchurch, and Auckland. I took a trip to a place called Rotarua. There are hot springs with boiling water spurting out. You catch a fish in a stream and pop it into a hot spring two feet away and then make your dinner off it. I bathed in the warm sulphur water as it issued from the earth. Three nights ago

I was in an Earthquake.

It woke us all up at 1.30 in the morning. It lasted three minutes and shook the house, but did no damage.

We had a nice run from the Panama Canal. We had time to go ashore at Panama. It was very hot. While crossing the Pacific Ocean we had Fancy dress dances and Bridge parties every night. I dressed up in a Lampshade and Window Curtain and was the Belle of the Ball. Our voyage lasted seven weeks and I was very glad to get on shore again."

Seagoe School Concert.

On Thursday, November 17th, Edenderry Hall was packed, even the gallery was filled. A splendid Programme had been arranged, all the items being performed by the pupils of Seagoe National School. There were 23 items on the Programme and every one of them was well done. Where so much was excellent it is impossible to single out any for special mention, but the merriment reached high water mark when in "The Barber's Shop" the servant girl (Jack Hill) fainted at the sight of blood. Mr. McCount's "Awkward Squad" was also most amusing and useful too as illustrating the value of a Scout's training. Both girls and boys took part in the Entertainment. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Rennix and Mr. Dickson on the success of the Concert and the evidence of careful training shown by the children. Miss Greene, of Dunganon, proved a most efficient accompanist at the Piano. The proceeds, which amounted to the net sum of £13 10s 6d, go towards the Seagoe School Equipment and Expenses Fund.

Parish Register for Nov., 1921.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on November 5th, 1921:—

Cull—Louisa, daughter of William and Emma Cull, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Louisa Beattie, Emma Webb.

Thornton—Edna, daughter of William John and Louisa Thornton, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Elizabeth Green, Eveline Fox.

Neill—David Bell, son of James and Sarah Neill, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Mary Rachel Neill, Sarah Neill.

Russell—November 16th, 1921, Margaret, daughter of Joseph Thomas and Hannah Bella Russell, of Tarson.

Sponsors—Joseph Thomas Russell, Priscilla Caddell, Hannah Bella Caddell.

Burials.

Weir—November 6th, Isabel Weir, of Portadown, aged 1½ years.

Gilpin—November 16th, Robert Gilpin, of Belfast, aged 79 years.

Burns—November 21st, Mary Burns, of Edenderry, aged 68 years.

Obituary.

Mr. Robert Gilpin, whose Burial in Seagoe we record this month, was always very much attached to the old Parish. He was born on the 29th January, 1842, and was the youngest of nine, four boys and five girls. They originally came from the Blue Stone, and belonged to the Parish of Seagoe. His death severs a long link with the past, being the last of his family, extending from 1816 to 1921. The deceased spent about 36 years in Leeds, and on retiring some ten years ago came to Belfast, where he resided at 5 Donegall Square South. His death took place on 13th November, 1921. Some years ago he came to Seagoe and made sure that a burial place would be reserved for him in the old graveyard. His nephews, who were present at his funeral, carefully followed his wishes. Mr. Gilpin was a constant reader of Seagoe Magazine, and especially enjoyed the Old Seagoe Notes.

Parish Report for 1920 (Continued).

HACKNAHAY SUNDAY SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

Monthly Collection up to December, 1920, £5 16s 9d; Rent of Garden, 15s; Rent of House, £2 12s 0d; Balance in hands from 1919, £3 4s 11d; Received for Prizes, £2 4s 0d.—£14 12s 8d.

Paid for Books, £6 13s 5d; Oil, 2s 5d; Caretaker, 15s; Coal, £2 5s 0d; Rates, 11s 0d; Repairs, 15s 0d; Balance in hands, £3 10s 10d.—£14 12s 8d.

District Harvest Services.

The following sums were collected at the District Harvest Services recently held—Hacknahay, £3 1s 2d and £1 13s 4d; Drungor, £1 9s 2d and 19s 9½d; Carne, £1 19s 5d and 16s 9½d; Levaghery, £1 6s 4d and £1 4s 0½d; Edenderry £3 6s 0d and 10s 11d.

The Misses Dawson.

Miss Mary and Miss Cherry Dawson have returned from South America and have recently been staying with Miss Forde, near Lurgan. We hope soon to see them at some of our Services and gatherings in Seagoe. They have had a long experience of work in the Foreign Mission Field amongst the Indians of the Chaco. Their many friends in Seagoe will be glad to see them once again. They had a very eventful voyage out when returning to Chile in 1918. They came in for the Revolution in Lisbon and were chased by submarines in the South Atlantic.

Almanacs.

Seagoe Kalendar, Price 3d, is now on Sale at Mr. Kyle's, 16 Bridge Street, and may also be had from the Sunday School Superintendents. It is printed on Art Paper and contains a beautiful Coloured Picture "The Boyhood of Christ." Only 150 copies of it have been printed so an early purchase is essential.

Seagoe Parish Almanac, price 3d, will also be on sale in a few days. It contains a text of Scripture for every day of the year, and many bright coloured pictures.

Mission Week.

The House-to-House Collection for Foreign Missions was made in the Parish during the week November 6th—13th. We thank all the Collectors who did their work so efficiently. If they have not yet handed in their Envelopes will they please do so without delay so that the returns may be printed in our January number.

In France.

The following from Seagoe Parish were present at Thiepval on Saturday, November 18th, for the Dedication of the Memorial to the Ulster Division—Mrs. Gerrard, Miss Isobel Atkinson, Mr. Joyce, and Mr. James Shepherd of Levaghery. Miss Atkinson writes from Amiens under date November 18th—"The weather was perfect, clear and cold, but sun shine, and everything went off well except for the absence of the two leaders. There was a large gathering of French as well as British to take part in the ceremony, and a great many famous people, civil as well as military. General Weygand is such a small neat little man. The lunch was a wonderful affair, and such a distinguished crowd! We start at 9 a.m. on Monday in a motor to visit the Cemeteries at Hamel."

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE.

By Lieut.-Col. S. W. BLACKER, D.S.O.

(Continued from October-November Magazine.)

Monday, March 6th.—Wounded were all only slight, I'm thankful to say, so far. 2 last time in. They seem to have got on all right, but had rather a bad time. Send all socks and keep making more. I'm quite warm and have never felt cold in day time. Reason why they relieve every 48 hours at Ypres is the trenches are so awful. Berry returned to-day all right again. **Tuesday**—Such a sharp frost, the sharpest we have had yet. Hard to keep warm in bed. Yes, Byng got the XVII. Corps. We are now in X. Corps, commanded by Morland. Had a long trek round the Trenches with Fergie this p.m. In places they are bad and will be worse when the thaw comes. A man in 'C.' was badly wounded near us by Whizz-Bang, 4 shrapnel wounds in his head. Fear he will not recover. Stewart is his name. I had a long talk with our new Battery Commander, Selag-Montefiore (our own gunners have taken over the line) a most capable fellow. Came out as a Sub in F. He says the men are coming on fast and have done a lot of shooting. We still have our old Heavies, only new Field Gunners. We relieve the 2 Coys in the line by the other 2 to-night. I relieve Pratt **Thursday**. We come out Sunday now, but another Coy goes in Thursday, as we take over more of the line. This bit of the line is more convenient both as to relief and the shorter distance to carry supplies. Better dug outs, a good deal, and with fine weather will soon be all right. I believe we go out to rest at Hedauville about 2 miles back from this. Wheatley is Lt.-Col. of the R.A. Bde. I knew him in India, and 'Oky—a fine fellow. He was commanding 7th Baty in 29th Div. at Gallipoli, so has seen a bit.

Keep Sending Socks and Candles,

Socks urgent. Nice gum boots, wear them out very

soon. Have got the Paper about forwarding comforts. It's hard to make head or tail of it, but as socks and candles have not materialised yet I have written him saying we want them urgently. A letter from Duchess of Abercorn about prisoners' Comforts. Must now wrestle with Battalion accounts. Sharp frost again. They threaten to take Pratt for Divisional School. **Wednesday, March 8th.**—Lovely warm day, but still frosty. Had great inspection of Transport; horses and men looking very well. Corps Commander Morland came to-day and sent for Co.O.'s to make their acquaintance. Very pleasant, recalled Aldershot days, when he was attached to I Battery. Very sound soldier—knows Nugent, as he was in 60th. We had a poor Barossa celebration, everyone being on the move and upset. General (Div.) ordered a heavy strafe by our artillery on Hun Transport at 6.30 p.m. No use, as they retaliate on ours and make things unpleasant for the fighting troops, and increases discomforts in front line. Atkinson has to take over a very bad bit to-morrow night. No dug outs for Officers. Very limited for men. Trenches knee deep in slush; its rather hard. The men have done splendid work on the Trenches. Thank goodness this is only for 3 days. Pratt's name has not gone in for Div. School, so I hope I shall not lose him, though I know it's only a matter of time. Menaul has gone map making in the neighbourhood, and doing Intelligence Officer for the Battalion, and training Scouts. Still lives with us, but is struck off Trench duty. The amount of paper that is launched at one every day is remarkable, and most of it contradictory of some former Order, so you don't know where you stand. Though the frost and snow is hateful the fine sunny days are delightful. **Thursday, March 9th.**—Another frost, hard and black, and cold. Here I am in the line again and quite comfy.

Quite a Decent Dug-Out.

long and narrow, with a partition off for my part, containing bed and small table, and much easier, of course, than usual. I came in with Berry about 3.30 Rode to within a mile and only had about 1,000 yards of communication Trench. Hooper and kit were here before me. Had tea and wandered off round the line. The bit we have been in since Sat. is wonderfully clean; they must have all worked hard. Where it was over knee deep in water and slush, quite clean—that is main artery and fire trench. Of course, side trenches and accessories still bad. But the new bit 'B' Coy. has taken over to-day is awful—18ins. deep everywhere, except where it is 3 feet deep! Few and bad dug outs, but they are quite cheery.

Friday, March 10th.—Very quiet so far. Another snow fall in the night, and frost. Had quite a good night. Very quiet. Dearth of water this morning. Just off to wander round. A quiet day and Trenches improving by hard work. Poor 'B' Coy. had a wretched night. 2 Platoons in Fire Trench all night, and snowing and freezing. Thawing all day, and still doing it. Have now got the old Trench dirt ground into me. Hands, face, and clothes grimy and muddy. A new youth, Ozzard, joined to-day. He seems a good sort. Only saw him for a few minutes on his way to 'A' Coy. Ensor laid up with erysipelas in London. All leave still stopped. Accommodation here is very limited. Padre returns to-morrow, but doubt if he can stay in the line this tour any way. We've rigged up quite a good stove in this dug out in place of the coke brazier, which is a great improvement. We are just on the right of where we were in November. Bavarians opposite us I think.

Saturday, March 11th.—Still dull, slight frost and light snow. A very heavy bombardment just S. of us near our last place, from 11.15 p.m. to 12.40 a.m., but apparently nothing developed of a serious nature anyway. We were all up and ready. A thick fog and one could walk about on top or 'on the lid' and get a better idea of the trenches. Such a maze of unused half complete trenches as there are. Went round the line after breakfast. There met the R.E. Fd. Coy. Major and Sub. (both capital fellows), and prospect-ed sights for new dug outs. Then Bull came and I went round with him, then lunch and a rest; then the Padre, and then round 'on the lid,' and so home. I hear Ross Smyth's Battalion lost 3 killed and about 12 wounded in last night's strafe, which was wonderfully little considering the amount of heavy stuff the Huns put in. 'B' Coy have worked so well in fearfully miserable conditions, and

Never a Murmur or Grumble.

Relief to-morrow, I hope by daylight. Even so don't expect to be back at H— till 8 or 9 p.m. Drizzle set in this evening so hope the thaw has really come at last. Rather fear the French will have to fall back, not really serious, but will help to hearten the Huns. I see the German Fleet is out, but I expect won't go far. It may be they are going for a big thing all round. They don't seem to suffer from lack of ammunition judging from last night, which was just retaliation for Nugent's strafe of their Transport.

Sunday, March 12th.—Such a glorious spring morning, sunny and warm, but of course everything muddy. A quiet night. We killed a large rat in the dug out this morning.

Monday, March 13th.—The

daylight relief was vetoed after all, and I didn't get in here till 11 p.m., and the last Coy not till midnight. The relief began at 7 p.m. and finished at 9.30 p.m. Berry, Cather and I then walked to E— 1½ miles, got on ponies and rode on here, 2½—3 miles. Such a lovely day, perfect spring day, and so poozy. The men had breakfast at 9 a.m. and are basking in the sun and cleaning themselves and resting. Quite comfy here. I really hope now the fine weather has come to stay. It is really heavenly to-day. The usual old billeting worries. No straw, billets dirty, men crowded, loss of kit, alleged damage of all sorts, lack of firing, fuel etc. But with fine weather and everybody cheerful difficulties melt away. We have arranged for the Div. Folly Troop to give performances for the men Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I'm convinced its

Essential to Rest the Men.

body and mind while out of the line, to keep them fit and well.

Tuesday, March 14th.—Severe thunderstorm last night from 7.30—8 and torrents of rain. A slight frost and another lovely day. The concert by Div. Follies of 8 men was quite good, and the men enjoyed it; it bored me to tears. John Redmond writes to me he has sent a parcel of Shamrock for the men of the 17th! So peaceful in the sun; one hardly hears the guns I hear leave is to open again next week. Just had a bath and feel clean. I had a talk to the N.C.O.'s to-day, the first time I had been able to get them together for ages—their duties and responsibilities as leaders—and a general talk about the war, and how it is progressing everywhere. Am having a short Battalion parade in the morning, and we have to send 600 men for working party to dig trenches, at 6 p.m. The shower last night was very partial, and they did not get it in the line, I believe. Poor Stewart has died at Rouen. He was badly mauled about the face, eye, and brain, with shrapnel. If this weather lasts we shall soon have the trenches in grand order. 2 bales of socks have come and Fergie is to let me know how many. He and the Transport are 3 miles away, which is rather a nuisance, but he's got such a splendid store and place generally, and is so handy to the Trench line, that it's not worth moving him. I couldn't manage Barossa Day.

Wednesday, March 15th.—A dull day, but fine, not so warm, roads drying up well. I see Lloyds' are laying 5 to 1 against the war being over in 1916. I hear that troops that have been in Gallipoli are coming here. The 29th Div. is coming to us, I believe. They are forming a new VIII. Corps.

Thursday, March 16th.—Do hope you are having this nice weather. To-day another sunny warm one. We had 500 men out digging a new Trench last night, from 7 p.m. till 1 a.m. It was a lovely night, and they left us alone. 29th Div. does not come here. We are 32, 36, and 49. Sir George Richardson has sent the Shamrock to all the Battalions. The roads are drying up splendidly and the Trenches also, I'm thankful to say. Padre back again and in grand form.

A Concert on St. Patrick's Day.

We all had a late breakfast after our night out; men as well. They love a lie in bed, which they seldom get. Never can see why they should be routed up at dawn, when there's nothing to be done and they are resting.

(To be continued.)