

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1924.

A Happy Christmas.

We wish all our Readers, whether in the Old Parish at home or far from Seagoe in the Lands across the Sea, a Very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

Advent, 1924.

The season of Advent is with us once again with its call to a fuller, higher life of Christian service. It will be marked by special Services and Addresses in the Parish Church, and in Edenderry Parochial Hall. On Wednesday evening, December 5th, the Rev. S. M. Hankey, Rector of St. Patrick's, Newry, will preach at the 8 o'clock service in the Parish Church. On Advent Sunday, November 30th, the Foreign Missionary work of the Church will be uppermost in our thoughts, and Intercessions on behalf of Missions will form part of the Service. Our Advent Hymns are very stirring and impressive. We print here a favourite by the Rev. Charles Wesley. It is No. 65 in the Irish Church Hymnal :

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free ;
From our fears and sins release us ;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art ;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King ;
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone ;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Amen.

Christmas Day, 1924.

Christmas Day will this year fall on a Thursday. The following Services will be held (D.V.) in the Parish Church :—

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

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

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

New Year's Day, 1925.

On New Year's Day, 1925, Services will be held in the Parish Church as follows :—

11.30 a.m.—Holy Communion.

8 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.

A Service will also be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on New Year's Day at 8 p.m.

Services in Edenderry.

An Evening Service is now held on every Sunday Evening at seven o'clock in the Parochial Hall. On Thursday evening a Service is also held weekly at 8 p.m. These Services have been made possible by the addition of a second Curate to our clerical staff. We invite to these Services all who live in the populous District of Edenderry. The Services are being well attended, and they are much appreciated by the Edenderry folk. Miss Hawthorne and her children's choir have been of great help in the musical part of the Services.

Men's Recreation Rooms.

The Recreation Room for men in Bridge Street has been repaired and thoroughly cleaned. The process took a longer time than we expected, but all is now ready for a forward move. A small committee is being formed to arrange the Winter's Programme.

Mothers' Union.

A large number of members assembled in the Parochial Hall on Armistice Day afternoon at 4 o'clock for the Bible Class. The Rector gave an exposition of the portion of Scripture (St. Matt. viii. 23) and explained the importance of Christian Peace in the heart, in the home, and in the world.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held in the Parochial Hall on Tuesday, December 2nd, at 4 o'clock. It will take the form of a Bible Class, and the subject will be "The Religious Education of Children," based on II. Timothy iii, 10-17. A full attendance of the members is requested. Please bring your Bible and Church Hymnal.

The School Concert.

The children of Seagoe School are very busy practising for their forthcoming Concert, which will take place on Tuesday, December 16th, at 8 p.m. in Edenderry Parochial Hall. A varied programme of action songs, and attractive musical items has been arranged by Mr. Rennix. The Tickets (2s and 1s) are now on sale through the Parish. Perhaps many of those who read about the Concert will remember the former days when they themselves received in the old Schoolroom their own education, and they will be glad to give a helping hand to the Funds of the School by purchasing a Ticket besides securing the pleasure of an enjoyable Concert. The proceeds of the Concert will go towards the upkeep of the School.

Edenderry in the States.

The Rev. J. N. Mackenzie, who as a boy lived in Bridge Street, Edenderry, writes the following interesting letter to the Rector:—

St. Stephen's Rectory,
Grand Island, Nebr.,
November 10th, 1924.

Dear Canon Archer,—It is now a long time since I heard from you, also about four months that you have not sent the Seagoe Magazine. Is my subscription due or have you just forgotten my new address? Seagoe Magazine is always very interesting, so I shall appreciate getting it again.

I am thoroughly enjoying my work in this parish. The people are very congenial, just the kind one likes to work among.

St. Stephen's is a lovely stone Church, situated on a prominent corner of the city. It is splendidly equipped inside with everything complete.

Since coming to the Diocese I have been made an examining chaplain, chairman of the Board of Religious Education, a member of the Diocesan Council, chairman of the Diocesan Boy Camp Committee, Rural Dean of Grand Island Deanery, delegate to the Provincial Synod, and associate Editor of the Diocesan Magazine.

With my parochial duties, together with those of the Diocese, you can understand my hands are full.

We have a lovely Bishop. He is kind and thoughtful at all times. This summer he took me for a trip with him in his auto for over twelve hundred miles. We finally landed in South Dakota, where we attended the Diocesan Synod for the Indians of South Dakota. It was a wonderful sight to see over fifteen hundred Indians at one service. The reverence and devotion of the dear old Indian far surpasses the white man. I just wish it were possible to sit at your fireside in Seagoe Rectory and tell you all about it.

The entire trip took about two weeks, and the good Bishop paid all my expenses.

We need more men in this Diocese. Do you think I could find one or two at the Church of Ireland Young Men's Society in Belfast? I want young consecrated men who want to take orders. Should any want to present themselves, and come out to me I shall arrange for their college course. They would be expected to do missionary work in the summer and attend college in the winter with all their expenses paid in the whole of their preparation.

It is a splendid opportunity for those who have not the means to get through in Ireland.

If you can lay this matter before some of the young men and ask them to write me I shall be very happy.

We have quite a lot of T.C.D. men holding good parishes here in the west. They all seem to like America, and also find the work here extremely interesting.

Just wish you could run over to see America some time. I think you would be delighted with the splen-

did life in the Episcopal Church. As you Irish do not travel much, I suppose there is nothing to do but wait until I go over and tell about it.

Hoping these few lines may find you well.

I am, very faithfully yours,

JAMES N. MACKENZIE.

P.S.—Kindly remember me to Mrs. M'Mullin at Drumgor.

New Sunday School Calendar.

On Advent Sunday (November 30th) the new Sunday School Calendar comes into use in our Sunday Schools. There are several new features in this year's Calendar. There is a special Calendar for Teachers (2d each) and another for the children (½d each). Only the Repetition portions are printed in the Children's Calendar, while the Teacher's Calendar contains the Study Portions as well. Special books of Lesson Preparation are arranged for the Teachers. They have been written by the best authorities on Sunday School Teaching, and the Calendars are arranged to fit in with them. No Teacher can efficiently teach the children unless provided with the Book. Will every Teacher please be careful that each child in his or her class has got a Calendar. Superintendents will please see that each Teacher has a Teacher's Calendar and a supply of Children's Calendars for the class. The Teachers' Book for the afternoon schools is "Our Lord's Life and our Belief" (price 2s 6d), and for the morning schools "Characters and Scenes from Hebrew Story" (price 2s 6d.) The Infant Classes (under 8 years of age) do not follow the Calendar, but the Teachers have a Book of their own "The Way of Love" (price 2s 3d.)

Seagoe Parish Almanac.

The Parish Almanac will be on sale on Friday, December 12th, and may be had at Mr. Vance's, Bridge Street, or through the Sunday School Superintendents.

Seagoe Select Vestry.

A meeting of the Select Vestry was held in Seagoe School on Tuesday, November 18th, at 8. After dealing with the business arising out of the Minutes the forthcoming collection of the Sustentation Fund was considered. The importance of this collection was emphasised if the financial liabilities of the Parish are to be met. The members of the Select Vestry express the hope that the Parishioners will subscribe liberally to the Fund. The liabilities of the Parish at present amount to £450, and the sum hitherto received only amounts to £350.

The Annual Report.

The Report for 1923 will be circulated by the Collectors when they are calling round for the Sustentation Fund subscriptions. It contains a full statement of all the finance of the Parish. We ask the Parishioners to study it carefully, and if they notice any errors in it will they please communicate with the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Hugh Stoops.

The Penny-a-Week Fund.

The Committee of the Parochial Hall wish to acknowledge the sum of £39 12s 9d which has been collected by weekly contributions during the last 6 months from the parishioners residing in Edenderry and a few friends, towards paying for the new heating apparatus.

The expenses have been much heavier than was anticipated, amounting to considerably more than £100, so it is hoped that all will continue their subscriptions until the necessary amount is raised. Very grateful thanks are due to the subscribers for giving so kindly and regularly, and especially to the collectors, without whose unflinching help the work could not be so successfully carried on.

The Sustentation Fund.

The Envelopes for the Sustentation Fund Annual Collection will be left at the houses of the Parishioners early in December. Each Envelope bears the following statement:—

PARISH OF SEAGOE.

1924 You are asked to place your Subscription to the Sustentation Fund in this Envelope. It will be called for by the Collector. The sum required to meet the liabilities of the Parish this year is £450. A sum of £100 is urgently required before December 31st, 1924.

Those who have the "Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes will not of course receive these envelopes or be asked to subscribe, but there are some hundreds of Church householders who have not taken the Weekly Envelopes, and they are asked to give a libreal subscription to the Sustentation Fund. A sum of £100 must be raised before December 31st if an overdraft on the Bank is to be avoided.

Drumgor Harvest Festival.

The last of the Harvest Festivals was held in Drumgor Church Hall on Thursday, November 13th, and the following Sunday. The Services on both occasions were largely attended. The Hall was nicely decorated with corn, fruit, and flowers. Miss Lizzie Gracey had charge of the musical part of the service, and the singing was very hearty. The Rev. W. T. Wilson preached at both services. The offerings on Thursday were for Missions and the Local Sunday School Fund, and on Sunday for the Hall Renovation Fund.

Jumble Sale.

On Friday, December 19th, a Jumble Sale will be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall. The hour will be announced later. It is being organised by the Superintendents and Teachers of Levaghery Sunday School to provide funds for purchasing a new Harmonium for use in the Sunday School.

Mission Services.

Mission Services have recently been held in Mr. W. England's house at Killicomaine, Mrs. M'Donald's house at Ballyhannon, and Mr. J. E. Lavery's house at Kilvergan. Similar services are being arranged in the Districts of Tarson, Drumgor Lane and Lylo.

Parish Register for November.

Baptisms.

M'Minn—November 1st, 1924, Miriam, daughter of John and Charlotte M'Minn, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Emily Forde, Charlotte M'Minn.

Hewitt—November 1st, 1924, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Moses and Rachel Jane Hewitt, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Eva Watson, Alice Hewitt.

Burials.

Weir—November 9th, Eliza Weir, of Edenderry, aged 64.

M'Neill—November 20th, David M'Neill, of Killicomaine, aged 28.

Bible Class Social.

A Social for the members of the Parish Bible Class will be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Tuesday, December 9th, at 7.30 p.m.

ITEMS.

The Rev. R. W. Johnston's new address is: 35 Church Place, Portadown.

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All copies of last month's Magazine were sold in a brief space after publication.

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A new cover is being prepared for our Magazine. It will appear on the January Number.

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The best way to secure a copy of the Magazine each month is to order your copy and pay your annual subscription in advance.

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21 copies of the September number of the Magazine have mysteriously disappeared, and cannot be traced. We suspect that some person greatly interested in the Magazine got possession of them, and finding that everybody was eager to purchase them, sold them, but we hope they will honourably remit the profits.

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Five out of our six Synodmen attended the Diocesan Synod in Belfast last month.

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Mr. James Twinem is First on the supplemental list for the General Synod.

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The Rev. Gordon Hannon, B.D., Rector of Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, has been appointed Rector of Shankill (Lurgan) Parish in succession to the Very Rev. Dean O'Loughlin, who has resigned.

It is hoped to have Lantern Services in Edenderry Parochial Hall on each Thursday in Advent, beginning on December 4th, at 8 p.m.

When the Sustentation Fund Envelope is left at your house early in December please place your Subscription in without delay, so as to have it ready for the Collector when he calls.

The new Weekly Offering Envelopes for 1925 are now in print, and ready for distribution. The Envelopes for Edenderry will be printed in red ink, and will be numbered from 1 to 200, those for the country will be printed in black ink, and numbered 201 to 500.

The Finance Committee now meets on every Tuesday evening in Seagoe School at 8.

A brass tablet in memory of the late Mr. Carleton Atkinson, son of the late Mr. J. Buckby Atkinson, is about to be placed in the Parish Church.

The names of those in Seagoe Parish who fell in the Great War are to be inscribed on the Portadown War Memorial.

Edenderry Parochial Hall is proving more useful than ever. Without it the work of the Church in that District would be greatly crippled.

The new heating system in the Hall is working splendidly and makes everything very comfortable.

A fine new Printing Machine and Folding Machine have been introduced into the "Portadown News" Office.

Memorial Pillars have been erected at Ardmore Parish Church, and on them have been inscribed the names of those from Ardmore Parish who fell in the War. They are very handsome and massive.

The Rev. Canon Archer dedicated the Pillars and Gates at Ardmore Church, and at the Service which followed preached the Memorial Sermon.

Wireless is now quite the fashion in Seagoe Parish. Everywhere one is beginning to see the poles for the aerals. Crystal sets receive the Belfast and London programmes of news and music, and are very cheap. A set may be purchased for 25 shillings, and it never wears out.

Please read our Advertising Columns.

Several new features will mark our Magazine in the New Year. As usual the cover will be changed, and we shall have a new set of advertisements.

David McNeill, whose death we regret to record, fought bravely on two of the battle fronts in Fland-

ers and Mestopotamia during the Great War. Early in the war he was severely crushed, but went out again to continue the fight. His death was accelerated by Malaria contracted on active service.

Lt.-Colonel Blacker is still in France with his family. He is staying at Ker Urne, Dinard.

The Bible Classes.

The men of the Parish are invited to join the Bible Classes which are held for those living in Edenderry in the Parochial Hall on Sunday mornings at 10, and for those living in the country districts in Seagoe Church at the same hour. Mr. Rennix holds a Class for girls in Seagoe School every Sunday morning at 10. Attendance at a Bible Class is of the first importance for all those who wish to obtain an intelligent and profitable knowledge of the Scriptures. Those who attend the Classes always testify to the Spiritual benefit they derive from them. Come and join these Classes. "Search the Scriptures" is the motto of the Bible itself.

A Seagoe War Diary.

[We publish here some extracts from the War Diary of Private Herbert M. Murray, 47595, P.P.C.L.I. It is headed "Diary of my Experiences as a soldier in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France, December 1st, 1915." Private Murray's name is one of those inscribed on our Memorial Pillars. Before he went to Canada he was a useful Church worker in Seagoe Parish.]

November 30th, 1915.—Reveille 3.30 a.m. Breakfast 4 a.m. Parade full marching order 4.30. Marched to Shorncliffe Station and arrived Southampton at noon, left at 4 and arrived at Havre, France, midnight after a most stormy and rough voyage. Landed at 7, and marched to camp (Canadian base about 7 miles away) arriving mid-day December 1st.

Sunday, December 5th—Up at 6.30 p.m., raining, went to Training Camp. Lecture on Poison Gas. Afternoon off. Sing-song in Y.M.C.A. at 7. Service at 7.30.

December 6th (Monday)—Up at 4.30, marched to Training Camp. Route march 10 miles, passed through Harfleur. Afternoon off. Debate in Y.M.C.A.—"Should Bachelors be taxed?" Negative won by sweeping majority.

Wednesday 8th—First fine day in France.

Saturday, 11th—Reveille 4.30. Breakfast consisting of "Hard Tack," and Butter, Jam and Tea. Terrible explosion in ammunition works. Shook buildings and broke windows for miles round. Hundreds killed and wounded. Lecture illuminated by Lime-light views on "Ireland" in Y.M.C.A. Very interesting.

Sunday, 12th—Visit of Sir John French. Evening service in Y.M.C.A.

Monday, 13th—Debate in Y.M.C.A. on "Conscription." Very hot and interesting arguments on both sides. Debate not concluded, time not permitting.