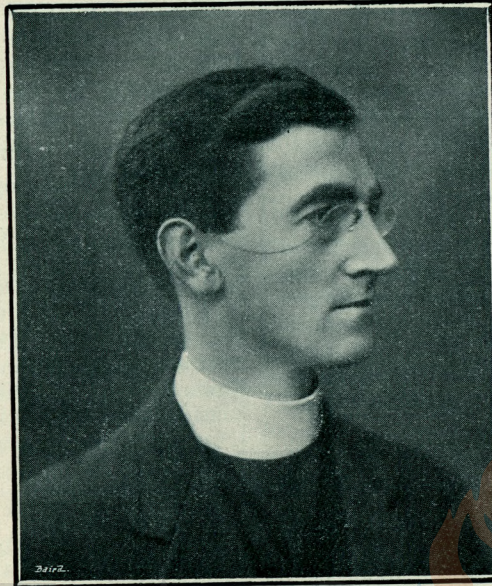


# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1916.



[Moffett]

[Portadown]

REV. GEORGE BLOOMER, B.A.

Curate of Seagoe, Dec., 1911, to Oct., 1915.

OUR readers will be glad to possess a likeness of the Rev. G. Bloomer, who was for four years Curate of Seagoe, until October last, when he became Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown.

## Our Sunday Schools.

At a meeting of Sunday School Superintendents held in Seagoe School on Thursday, January 20th, it was decided to give Prizes in our Sunday Schools this year. First Prizes will be given to those who have attended 45 Sundays and over; Second Prizes to those who have attended 40 and over, Only those who receive First Prizes can have choice of Bibles or Church Service Books. Prizes will also be given for Church Attendance, and it is hoped also to have an Examination in the work done during the past year, and to give Prizes to those who answer best.

The following dates have been fixed for the Prize Distributions at the various schools:—

Hacknahay,	7-30 p.m.,	Friday,	Feb, 18th
Seagoe,	8 p.m.,	Monday,	„ 21st
Drumgor,	„	Tuesday,	„ 22nd
Carne,	„	Thursday,	„ 24th
Edenderry,	„	Tuesday,	„ 29th
Levaghery	„	Thursday,	March 2nd

## S. S. Teachers' Meeting.

The Rev. Canon Moeran, M.A., Rector of Portadown, gave an inspiring address to the teachers of our Sunday Schools on Thursday evening, February 3rd. The Rector presided. Towards the close of the meeting a conference on Sunday School work was held, and many useful suggestions were made.

## Mr. J. H. Stevenson.

Mr. J. H. Stevenson, a member of Seagoe Select Vestry and Superintendent of Edenderry Morning Sunday School, has been seriously ill, but is now, we are glad to say, rapidly regaining strength. Mr. Stevenson does a most useful work in the Parish, and is very much respected and beloved by a large circle of friends in and around Portadown. We hope shortly to see him able to resume his various activities, with health completely restored. He will have during his illness the prayers and sympathy of many.

**Bits from the Front.**

**A Bank Note from Bulgaria.**—Private Arthur Allen has sent home a Bulgarian Bank Note. It is value 5 Drachmas, and is very finely printed, and bears very favourable comparison with our recently issued "Bradbury" notes. It is printed in Russian characters. In sending it Private Allen says—"I sent you a letter last week with a note in it. I hope you will get it all right. It will be a nice thing to put in the Church Magazine. I have some coins, but I cannot get sending them home. I have got a lot of all sorts. The note is value for 4s 2d."

[We are greatly obliged to Private Allen for so kindly remembering Seagoe Parish Magazine. We hope all our readers at the Front will interest themselves in their surroundings, and get to know as much as possible about the countries in which they happen to be. The great war is giving our Seagoe lads an opportunity of seeing the world which they never had before or will ever have again.]

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**A Dance in France.**—Another letter from France, dated November 29th, 1915, gives the experiences of one of the 9th Battalion as follows:—We returned here from the Trenches. It is raining very hard this morning. When I got back to the village that I left the woman I stopped with was very glad to see us back. She gave us a nice dinner and some coffee. Her husband is at the front. She has one boy of 12 years and a little girl of eight. They took greatly on with us. They said we were "bon," that is "very good." I had a dance in it that night with a French girl. It was a great time. It made one feel at home. We were sorry we had only one night to stay in that village. We might never see them again. We had to kiss them all good-bye. We got their address and promised to write to them if we got back safe to "Irlande," as they call it. They learned us a deal of French. I am sorry I can't tell you a lot more. It would be cut out. Our letters are all read before you get them. I have got a big fur coat. It is great. You would think I was an Esquimaux in it. I would like you to send next time some fags and some notepaper, as I can't get none here, and the Seagoe Magazine as soon as it comes out.

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**A Tight Corner in Serbia.**—Private Arthur Allen writes from Salonica under date December 24th, 1915—"Just a few lines in answer to your kind and welcome letters, which I received all right, also the parcel. I may tell you we had a very tight corner to hold against the Bulgarians. In fact we could not do so, and had to draw back till we got some more troops out, but we did not lose so many men as we did in the Dardanelles, but the Bulgars

must have lost hundreds. This Division has been in some of the tightest corners in this war, so I think they should give us a chance of getting home for a while, as we have done our bit; but as long as all is well at home I am content. Hope you and the children had a good time at Christmas, as mine was no good. But do not get down-hearted—when the field is white with daisies I will return."

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**A Christmas Primrose for the 9th Battalion.**

—Private Gilliland, of the 9th Battalion, discovered a primrose in full bloom "somewhere in France," on Christmas Day. No doubt it came out thus early to welcome our lads to "La Belle France." It is rather interesting, now that so many of our men are in France, to know that the Lily is the National Flower of France. The emblem of that interesting land and nation is the "Fleur de Lis," or the Lily-flower. It is the White Lily, no doubt, but it is first cousin to the Orange Lily.

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**Auld Lang Syne in Seven Languages.**—An

officer writes from Egypt under date January 11th, 1916—On New Year's Eve I spent the evening with a Syrian Doctor. There were seven different nationalities represented among the guests. When midnight approached we all joined hands around the table and sang "Auld Lang Syne." Syrians, Greeks, Russians, Italians, French, Egyptians and English all joined together, and the efforts of some of the guests to say "Auld Lang Syne" was very funny.

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**The Soldiers' Rest at Portadown Station.**—

A constant stream of soldiers and sailors on war service passes each day through this most useful room. The floor is covered with the mud of the Trenches (swept out, of course, every morning), and every corner of the room is filled with battered rifles, rusty trench axes, mud-stained water bottles, and all the implements and baggage of war. In fact to enter the door is quite like a visit to the Front. Occasionally Belgian, French and Italian soldiers or seamen give it a call. On Monday, January 31st, two Belgian soldiers came in on the late train—Private Victor Daems and his comrade, of the Belgian Artillery. Being of a musical turn and possessed of fine voices, they sang lustily their native Belgian songs, "Le Fatherland Belgique," "A bas le Kaiser," and "Tipperary" in French. In this latter song, and in the "Marselaise," some Irish Fusilier Sergeants joined, one of whom accompanied the songs on a melodeon. The midnight hours of waiting were passed in the midst of song and refreshment, and the visitors left on their journey to the Front at 2 a.m. with a cheery "adieu" and "good morning" to the helpers who saw them off.

**Seagoe in Australia.**

Mr. Tom McCrory has received the following interesting letter from Miss S. Simpson, a cousin living at Teesdale, Victoria, Australia:—October 11th, 1915. —We had such a drought last year, no rain all through the winter; cattle, sheep and horses died. They had only sand to eat. The war is dreadful. A great number of our friends have gone and been killed—thousands of Australians and the pick of the country. Every week I hear of the death of boys I knew well. Our minister's son was killed last week. Australian boys are very daring, and they are well liked wherever they go. Those that went to the Dardanelles did splendid work. We are very proud of them. Mr. Gillison, the chaplain who was killed, was a grand man. Wool is hard to get here; there is not a bit hardly to be got at all. It has all

**BEEN KNITTED UP**

for the soldiers. The ladies are trying to spin wool as they did in the old time. Everywhere you go you see people knitting—in trains, trams, and even in church they have their knitting with them. I hope God will protect peaceful Australia from the Germans. Sheep-shearing is going on now on all the stations. It is a very busy time. Three of my nephews are managers of stations. One of them is on a station with 32,000 sheep. Golf Hill is the name of it. I often think of Mrs. Lutton. Is she still alive? Mother used to talk of all the old neighbours, so that I often think I know them. I like to hear from you and all about

**MY PARENTS' HOMETLAND.**

They always talked so much about it. This was all a wild bush when they came here first. I often hear them say they had to get men to clear the place to put a tent up, and they

**LIVED IN A TENT**

for a long time, as everyone did in those days. This house was built first where the tent was. There are some lovely big "gums" in front now. They must be very old. We send gum-leaves to Melbourne to the ladies to sell for charities and for the wounded soldiers, and wattle-blossom too, it is so pretty and sweet-smelling. Some friends of mine gave me a phonograph, and the children next door and my nephews and neices come in sometimes at night to hear it play. It is great company, but I do not bother with it when I am alone. I hope you will not be tired of this long letter. With kind love for you all, hoping all are well, I will stop for the present, and remain, your affectionate cousin, S. SIMPSON.

**Sailors' and Soldiers' Comforts Fund.**

Miss Atkinson acknowledges, with many thanks, £1 from two Parishioners in America—Miss Charlotte Allen and Mrs. Susan Hardy. We hope their example will be followed by many others.

**ITEMS.**

The Misses Dawson, daughters of the late Dean Dawson, who have been engaged in Missionary work in South America during the past five years, hope to return home for a holiday in March. Their many friends in Seagoe will be glad to see them once again.

Portadown has lost a heroic son in the death of Lt.-Col. Law, of the 8th Lancashire Fusiliers, in action in Mesopotamia. We offer our sincere sympathy to his father, Mr. Thomas Law, in his bereavement.

The spring seems to be coming very early this year. On Sunday, January 30th, the yellow blossoms of the greater celandine were to be seen in the hedgerows along Church Lane.

During January the thermometer only on two nights fell below freezing point, whereas in January, 1915, it fell below it on 18 nights.

The custom of placing in the window a Red Cross card for each member of the family who has joined the Army is now widely followed through the Parish. We hope soon to see cards in every window. Visitors to Edenderry have noticed the large number of houses displaying these cards, and proving what a splendid response the Parish of Seagoe has made to the call of King and Country.

The Litany for our Soldiers and Sailors sung in the Church on Sunday and Wednesday evenings is very impressive, and is joined in with great fervour by the congregation.

Two of our soldiers back from the front have brought "petits chiens" with them, otherwise French dogs. They will be great pets, and are making themselves quite at home in Seagoe. The French people are very fond of dogs as pets, especially Poodles. The French Poodles are one of the sights of Paris, with their curiously cropped curly hair.

The German Zeppelins are getting very venturesome. If the wind, on which they so much depend, should some night suddenly change and begin to blow strongly from the east, they might find themselves compelled to land in this neighbourhood. German prisoners in Seagoe would be a novelty, but of course we would prefer that they had no bombs in their possession if they come our way.

Five planets are now visible each night in the western and southern sky. Standing on Portadown Bridge and looking towards the town any evening at 6-15, Venus is to be seen just over St. Mark's tower, Jupiter a little higher up in the heavens, and still further to the south are Saturn, Neptune and Mars.

We deeply regret to record in our columns this month the deaths of two young parishioners who have been called away just at the opening of life. Christina Cordy passed to her Eternal rest on Sunday, January 16th, after a brief illness, and on Tuesday, January 25th, Jeannie M'Cormick succumbed to a long and weary illness borne with much patience and resignation to the Divine will. Both of these young people were members of Seagoe Sunday School and were much beloved by all who knew them. We mourn their loss, and yet our loss is their gain. Our readers will sympathise deeply with the afflicted households who are called upon to bear such a heavy burden of grief.

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The practice of throwing orange peel on the pathways is a very dangerous one. Many have thereby slipped and fallen, with the serious result of broken bones or even worse. The pathway along the Lurgan Road from Seagoe and through Bridge Street is often thickly strewn with bits of orange peel. Who is the offender?

## PARISH REGISTER for JANUARY.

### Baptisms.

Baptized on January 1st, 1916,

**Ellis**—Dorothy, daughter of James and Agnes Ellis, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Eliza Jane Ellis, Agnes Ellis.

**M'Neill**—William Hubert, son of John and Elizabeth M'Neill, of R.I.C. Barracks, Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—John M'Neill, Elizabeth M'Neill.

**M'Cann**—James, son of William Henry and Phoebe M'Cann, of Killicomaine.

*Sponsors*—Ellen Matthews, Sarah M'Kerr.

### Marriage.

**Thornbury and Brown**—On February 2nd, 1916, William Thornbury, Private 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, to Elizabeth Brown, of Edenderry.

### Burials.

**Guy**—January 15th, Sarah Anne Guy, of Ballyhannon, aged 57 years.

**Cordy**—January 18th, Christina Cordy, of Killicomaine, aged 19 years.

**M'Cormick**—January 27th, Jane M'Cormick, of Ballyhannon, aged 20 years.

### Old Seagoe Notes.

**Seats in the New Aisle, 1755.**—On Nov. 4th, 1755, a meeting of Seagoe Vestry was held "for ascertaining the Seats to be built in the New Isle. It is agreed," so the Record proceeds, "that the New

Isle be seated uniformly at the expence of the Parishioners, that the one-half of the Isle so built shall be for the use of the Parishioners in general, the other half of the Isle so seated, shall be sold to the best bidder for each seat, and the money arising from the sale of the said seats shall be applyd to the other repairs of the said Church. That the sum of Forty Pounds be levyd off the Parishioners for the building of said Seats, and the following Persons be appointed by the Parishioners to oversee the building the said seats, namely, Mr Thos. Newel, George Shepherd, and the present Churchwardens, Johh Medcalf and James Toulerton."

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**Seatholders in the New Aisle, 1756.**—At a Vestry held in the Parish Church, Seago, on Tuesday, 9th of March, 1756, it was agreed that the New Aisle be seated uniformly, and the ground equally divided into ten seats. Five of which lying on the norwest side are to be for the use of the Parishioners in common, and it was agreed upon that the said five seats be built by George Shepherd for the sum of Fifteen Pounds sterling, in the same manner and form with the seats purchased at the sum of Three pounds each by the gentlemen undernamed, viz.:—

No. six by Mr. Woolsey Mathers.

No. seven by Mr. William Overend.

No. eight by Mr. George Shepherd.

No. nine by Mr. William Dixon.

No. ten by Mr. Thomas Newell.

THOS. HIGGINSON, Curate.

In 1760, 8th April, it was decided to lay the floor of the new Aisle with brick. The building of the Aisle necessitated the altering of the Pulpit and Prayer Desk. The bricks for the floor of the Aisle cost £1 10s, and this sum was paid by the Vestry on August 19th, 1761. In 1762 repairs to the Aisle and the Gavel (gable) of the Aisle cost £10.

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**A Careful Vestry, 1773.**—At a Vestry held in the Parish Church, Seago, on Thursday, 16th day of September, 1773, after due notice given, the following sums were laid on by the Minister, Churchwardens and Parishioners assembled to defray the expenses of a founding child being kept upwards of two weeks by Roger Highins, of Lilow, said child to be sent to the founding Hospital in Dublin by Rebecca Richey:—

To Highinses wife for keeping it,	3	3
To Rebecca Richey for taking it to the Hospital,	1	2 9
For one yard of Flannin to wrap it in,	1	1

Alexr. Mecredy, Curate.

George Shepherd, } Church  
Thos. Watson, } Wardens.