

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1917.

An Alphabet of Seagoe.

[The "Alphabet of Seagoe" contains a large number of facts relating to the Church and Parish, which all the Parishioners should know. Being in rhyme, and each set of rhymes being linked up with a letter of the Alphabet, it can very easily be learned by heart. Anyone possessed of an ordinary memory should be able to repeat it correctly after reading it over three times].

- A** for Antiquity, Seagoe appears
On History's page 1400 of years.
- B** stands for Blacker a name of renown,
Distinguished for Service to Church and to Crown.
- C** denotes Campbell, the Vicar who fought
At Derry and Boyne and never feared aught.
- D** that's the Townland of Drumlisnagrilly,
Where Blacar the Dane beat O'Neill willy-nilly.
- E** Edenderry a part of the town
Where Seagoe joins hands with its friend
Portadown.
- F** for our brave Fusiliers, who in France
Are leading the Huns and their Kaiser a dance.
- G** the old Graveyard, where peacefully lie
Our fathers, who lived in the days long gone by.
- H** for the Heroes who midst shot and shell,
For God, King, and Country, so gloriously fell.
- I** for the Interest the people should show
In their own Church and Parish wherever they go.
- J** is for Junction of River and Rail,
Which combine to make business and traffic
prevail.
- K** for the Townland of Kernan, where stood
Sir Oliver St. John's first Bawn of wood.
- L** begins Lylo, a notable place,
In the days when the coaches went flying apace.
- M** marks the Mountains of Mourne so nice,
Which in old glacier days covered Seagoe with ice.
- N** for Lough Neagh, to whose fossilized beach
The Parish of Seagoe did formerly reach.
- O** that's O'Neilland, the Barony's name,
On the map you will find Seagoe marked in the
same.
- P** Parish Magazine, interesting, bright,
If you purchase a copy you're sure to do right.
- Q** stands for Querns, large stones, flat and round,
So useful of old when the Corn was ground.
- R** for our River, the Bann broad and slow,
For four miles of its course it bounds Seagoe you
know.
- S** must be *Sedes Gobhani*, to tell
The place where old Gobhan delighted to dwell.
- T** Hear the Trains as they speed on their way,
From the year '41 they have run till to-day.
- U** for the Union—old Seagoe is true—
And the colour it loves is the Red, White and
Blue.
- V** for the Vicars who once did adorn—
The Parish—their names Buckby, Blacker and
Saurin.
- W** for William—King William of course,
You can cheer him and cheer him again till
you're hoarse.
- X** for extremes will two Townlands unlock—
Kilvergan to North and to South peaceful Knock.
- Y** for the Years in our Registers noted
1-6-7-2 is the first to be quoted.
- Z** stands for Zeal it will carry you through,
But no letters remain, so we bid you adieu.

Lent, 1917.

On February 21st being Ash Wednesday, Divine Service will be held (D.V.) in the Parish Church at 11-30 a.m. and at 8 p.m.

Special Temperance Sermons will be preached in the Parish Church at Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday, February 25th being the 1st Sunday in Lent.

The War Loan.

Everyone in Seagoe Parish who has any money to invest should put it into the War Loan. It is the best investment you will ever get, and your money is as secure as the Empire itself. Applications must be made at any Bank or at the Post Office before Friday, February 16th. You will help our brave Seagoe lads at the front, and many a precious life will be spared if you put your money into the loan. After next Friday it will be too late, so do it now.

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War Tillage.

It is all-important that every available piece of land should be cultivated this year. The spectre of starvation often follows War. Ireland knows what a Famine means. But the remedy is in our hands if we plough! plough!! plough!!! Food is scarce. Prices are high. Profits are sure. Never was there such a chance for Farmers as in this year of War—1917.

A Record Frost.

King Frost has now reigned, without a break, for four weeks. Every day has been marked by an Arctic temperature. Fortunately, the piercing winds have subsided. The air and ground are very dry. The roads are as white as in summer time. The Bann has been frozen right across, and skating and sliding are in full vogue on every pond in the country. The farmers are having a splendid opportunity to prepare their land for the sowing time. The wettest November on record has been followed by the driest and coldest January.

“Teaching a Class.”

This was the subject of the Rev. G. Bloomer's Lecture to the Superintendents and Teachers of Seagoe Parish on Thursday, Feb. 1st, in Seagoe Parochial School. There was a large attendance—representing most of our Sunday Schools. Mr. Bloomer dwelt on the need of regularity, punctuality, preparation, and discipline. After the Lecture, the Rector, who presided, suggested that the meeting should take the form of a conference. Many of those present joined in the discussion, and many practical suggestions were made.

The second Lecture of the series will take place in Seagoe School on Tuesday, Feb. 27th, at 8 o'clock. The Lecturer will be the Rev. R. H. Morrison, B.D., Rector of St. Saviours', Portadown, and his subject will be: “The Sunday School and the Parish Church.”

Rain in East Africa.

[Here is a description of how it rains in East Africa, from Lieut. W. Walker, M.D., R.A.M.C.]

B Section,
18th Motor Amb. Convoy.
B. E. A.

Just a note to say that I am quite well. We are still in the same place, and I don't suppose we will move for some time. We had an awful rain last night. I was lying in my bed in my tent, and all at once a flash of lightning followed by a crash of thunder came, and then the rain came—it was as though the heavens had opened and rain poured into the top of my tent as if from drain pipes.

It frightened me very much as I fully expected my tent would have been broken down by the weight. Luckily I had a trench about one foot deep and one foot wide, so that most of the water drained away and

my things were not wet very badly. About half an hour later I had to cross the road which is about 50 yards away, but there was such a torrent of water that I could not cross, so I had to come back without any dinner (my mess room is in a house across the road.) If I had attempted to cross I would either have dropped into a deep rut, or been carried down by the current. The water usually flows away by the roads here, as there is so much grass and bush wood everywhere else, and the roads after a heavy rain have ruts about 5 feet deep owing to the force of the water.

P.S.—This is an awful country for rats and flying beetles. I can't keep the rats away, and every insect seems to be provided with wings and a sting—even beetles and cockroaches fly here not to speak of hornets and scorpions and mosquitoes.

Concert at Carne.

On Thursday, January 25th, a splendid entertainment was given in Carne School. It was arranged by our energetic and popular local Superintendent—Mr. David Murray, of Ballinarty. The Hall was more than full, and the Programme lasted for 2½ hours. Every item was first-rate, and the comical songs and sketches were funny, without being vulgar. Mr. Wright, of Portadown, brought out a concert party—who undertook most of the Programme. Almost every piece was encored, and the audience seemed delighted with everything. Mrs. Pallett presided at the piano. The proceeds were given towards the cost of decorating and painting the Hall.

Among Submarines.

Capt. J. J. Dobson writes as follows on his way to Salonica:—

MONDAY AT SEA,
21/1/17.

Just a line to let you know that I'm still on the surface and in the best of form.

I have had a great time since I saw you; very enjoyable and most interesting. My letter would be better if I were allowed to mention or tell you about the places I saw and have been in.

All along the weather has been fine, but to-day there is a distinct change—wet, cold and wind. I had a very rough crossing from Ireland; I never saw it so bad.

This boat is a very fine one, safe and most comfortable, and we get the best of grub. If she were put down, the life-belts are of such a kind that we could float as long as we were able to stand the exposure, so that I think there is no danger of any loss of life; and I may say, too, that every precaution is taken, and nothing is left to chance.

I hope to be able to write you a more interesting letter next time.

Yours very faithfully,
J. J. DOBSON.

ITEMS.

Please do not forget the birds. Throw them some crumbs. They are very hungry this cold weather. They will sing to you when spring comes.

* * *

3½ acres of the Glebe lands have been ploughed. It is many years since they have been tilled.

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Since the cheap fares on the G.N.R. have been abolished, very few of our people go to Belfast. The trains are empty.

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L.-Cpl. Harry Adair, R.I.F., of James Street, has been home on a holiday from France. He has been 2½ years at the war, and took part in the famous Retreat from Mons, as well as in many other engagements.

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David Boyce writes from France to the Rector. He says there are many members of the Edenderry Men's Bible Class in the Trenches. They are all well and cheery.

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Master William Blacker, of Carrickblacker, Colonel Blacker's eldest son, has been entered as a pupil at Eton College, and began residence there on January 25th.

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Private MacMullen, of the Canadians, son of Mrs. MacMullen, of Drumgor, spent a few days here lately. It is 16 years since he was last in Seagoe.

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If you have not yet sent in your subscription to the Sustentation Fund, please do so without delay.

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Sermons on behalf of Foreign Mission, will be preached in the Parish Church on Sunday, February 11th at Morning and Evening Prayer.

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During Lent the "Benedicite" will be sung instead of the "Te Deum" at Morning Prayer.

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The "Church Army Gazette" price ½d weekly is now being sold in Edenderry District each Friday. It is an excellent paper. Every line of it is interesting and profitable. The illustrations are very clever and appropriate. We recommend our readers to get a copy whenever they have a chance.

Death of Mrs. Hadden.

Deep regret has been occasioned by the death of Mrs. Hadden, wife of Dr. R. E. Hadden, of Ardralla, Stewart Avenue. For many years Mrs. Hadden had been in weak health, but the recent severe weather brought on further weakness, to which she succumbed on Monday, January 22nd. The interment took place in Seagoe Graveyard on Thursday, January 25th, the officiating clergy being the Rector, the Rev. W. R. Crichton, and the Rev. G. Bloomer. Mrs. Hadden was deeply interested in Seagoe Church and

Parish, and, whenever possible, was present at Public Worship. She was always ready to help any deserving object, and gave liberally towards the various Missionary Societies and other organisations held by the Parish. Her bright and happy disposition kept her at all times cheerful, and her steady faith in a Divine Providence, which over-ruled all for good, enabled her to bear with Christian fortitude the heavy burden of constant weakness. Her many friends will sadly miss her, and the memory of her kindly presence will not soon fade away. To Dr. Hadden and her bereaved relatives and friends we tender our sincere sympathy.

PARISH REGISTER for JANUARY.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on 6th January, 1917.

Coulter—Olive, daughter of Thomas William and Henrietta Coulter, of Ballyhannon.

Sponsors—Margaret Brownlee, Henrietta Coulter.

Gracey—James, son of James and Elizabeth Gracey, of Balteagh.

Sponsors—Margaret Brownlee, Elizabeth Gracey.

Best—Victor, son of Henry John and Helena Best, of Portadown.

Sponsors—Henry John Best, Elizabeth Best.

Hickland—Robert, son of John and Lucinda Hickland, of Breagh.

Sponsors—Elizabeth McKnight, Lucinda Hickland.

McCabe—James Alexander, son of Thomas and Mary McCabe, of Upper Seagoe.

Sponsors—Jane Ruddle, Mary McCabe.

Burials.

Rea—January 22nd, Joseph Rea, of Balteagh, aged 1 year and 8 months.

Hadden—January 25th, Thomasine Coles Hadden, of Ardralla, Stewart Avenue, Edenderry.

Robinson—January 26th, George Robinson, of Glasgow, aged 62 years.

Stenson—January 31st, George Stenson, of Killicomaine, aged 76 years.

Kane—February 2nd, James Kane, of Belfast, aged 64 years.

Moore—February 4th, William J. Moore, of Edenderry, aged 76 years.

McClelland—February 8th, Thomas McClelland, aged 80 years.

Gardiner—February 5th, Thomas Gardiner, of Edenderry, aged 84 years. Interred at Drumcree.

Offertories for January.

Sunday—Mornings,	£3 7 11
Evenings,	0 19 3
Week Days	0 9 0
	<hr/>
	£4 16 2

Old Seagoe Graveyard.

(SECTION I.)

723	760	769	808		843	842
724	759	770	806	821	841	
725	758	772	805	822		

[The above Plan represents *approximately* the Grave Plots within the Nave of Old Seagoe Church. The Numbers correspond to those on the official plans of the Graveyard. We hope to publish, from time to time, other Sections of the Graveyard, with the object, chiefly, of locating the monuments and gravestones, and of recording their inscriptions].

Old Seagoe Notes.

The following is a list of the Names of those who hold the plots in the above plan. The size of each plot in feet is added after the name.

723, Moore, 10; 724, Carleton, 8; 725, Dilworth, 10; 758, England, 7½; 759, Woolsey, 6; 760, Ruddell, 9; 769, Kinnear, 8; 770, Farrell, 6; 772, Morris, 3; 806, McIlveen, 6; 808, Walker, 8; 821, Kernan, 13; 822, Best, 9½; 841, Blacker, 11½; 842, Stoops, 10½; 843, Buckby, 10½.

Dean Blacker and the Highwayman.—The late Colonel Waring, M.P. used to tell the following story about Dean Blacker, who was rector of Seagoe from 1777 to 1826:—

On one occasion in the early years of the last century, Dean Blacker was collecting tithes in the neighbourhood of Bleary. When he was returning home to Carrickblacker, carrying in his pockets a large sum of money, he was met by a Highwayman who demanded the surrender of his treasure. The Dean was at the time over 70 years of age, but though small in stature was, for his years, very alert and active. The Highwayman who accosted him was burly and strong and tall. The Dean in reply to the challenge of the Highwayman said "I am old and small and weak but you are strong and big so I cannot resist you, but I agree to hand you over all the money I have if you accept this offer—I will run you a race to the top of this hill (at the time they were at the foot of a hill near Knocknamuckley), and if you win I will give you the money." In a moment they had lined up on the road, and the Dean and the Highwayman were sprinting up the hill. Very soon the big Highwayman got out of breath and lost pace, but the Dean waxed faster and faster.

Before you could count twenty the Dean had reached the top of the hill, while the Highwayman was struggling yards behind. The Dean, who knew the road well and had remembered the steep decline beyond the hill, when he reached the top ran with increasing speed down the hill leaving his rival hopelessly in the rear. In fact the Dean, with his treasure intact, was safely lodged in the security of his Carrickblacker home before the dejected and defeated Highwayman had quite time to recover his breath.

A Seagoe Record.—On the occasion of the Centenary of the present Parish Church, which was observed on Sunday, June, 1916, the Bishop of Down referred to the remarkable fact that there had only been three Rectors of Seagoe in the space of almost 100 years—1810 to 1905—Dean Blacker, Archdeacon Saurin and Dean Dawson. But the interval was much longer, for Dean Blacker was collated Rector of Seagoe on October 8th, 1777, so that during the space of 128 years there were but three Rectors. Dean Blacker and Archdeacon Saurin held the position for no less than 102 years 1777—1879.

Sympathy.

This month we have again to record a long list of deaths. Two of the number, Mr. George Steenson, of Killicomaine, and Mr. William J. Moore, of Foundry Street, had served with honour and distinction in the Army, one in India during the Mutiny and the other in the Crimea. Mr. Thomas Gardiner will be much missed from Edenderry, where he was well known and much respected. His manly appearance and his independence of character made him a notable figure in our midst.