

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JANUARY, 1927.

**A Happy New Year to all
our Readers!**

The New Year.

Seagoe Parish Magazine enters to-day its 22nd year. The first number was published in January, 1906. The cover was light blue in colour, and contained a photographic block of Seagoe Parish Church. Among the advertisers on the inside cover we notice names still familiar to our readers—Mr. John Waugh, Messrs. T. J. Montgomery & Son, and The "Portadown News." The Rev. John Taylor, B.A. (now the Rev. Canon Taylor, M.A., Rector of Lisburn Cathedral) was Curate. The Churchwardens were Mr. John Montgomery, of Levaghery, and Mr. Joseph M'Murray, of Ballinary. The following is a list of the members of the Select Vestry—Messrs. James Albin, W. R. Atkinson, George Calvert, Atkinson Costello, Robert Gracey, Wilson Irwin, Joseph Monroe, Thomas Martin, T. J. Montgomery, Wm. J. McDowell, David Rock, Joseph Stevenson, with Mr. W. R. Atkinson as Secretary and Treasurer.

A short editorial note says—"We believe that the Magazine will prove most useful in binding together all the Parishioners and keeping them informed of every branch of Parochial life. All items of Parish news will be recorded from month to month, also Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths. It is our intention also from time to time to publish extracts from the old Records of Seagoe Parish, and it will be well worth our Readers' while to keep each copy of the Magazine carefully and get all bound at the end of the year. They will thus possess a valuable record of Church work and life in the Parish." Among the deaths recorded in this first number of the Magazine are the following—William Simpson, of Seagoe, aged 79; Isaac Dynes, of Crossmacahilly, aged 84; John Sweeney, of Seagoe, aged 82; Matthew Robb, of Marsan, and John Graham, of Drumnagoon, aged 71. There is a reference to the special Advent Services and to the Missionary Prayer Union which had recently been started. Reference is also made to the Men's Recreation Room as follows—"The Room in Bridge St. is open every evening for the men of the District, and the room is frequented by large numbers of men. Much of the success of the room has been due to the exertions of the officers—the Hon. Sec., Mr. Hugh Stoops; the Assistant Sec., Mr. E. Holland, and last but not least, to Mr. Wm. Sherman, Hon. Treas., who has brought the undertaking to a condition of complete success."

An account is given of the Sunday School Prize Distribution at Hacknahay School, where Mr. W. J. Calvert gave a magnificent selection of pieces on his monograph. A long and very interesting letter is published from the Rev. W. T. Grey, dated from Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 12th, 1905, describing his first experiences in Japan. The Old Seagoe Notes are

very brief, referring to the meaning of "Seagoe," the building of the present Church in 1816, the building of Portadown Bridge in 1837, and a description of the Clock-Bann or Old Bell of Seagoe. Perhaps some of our readers still retain a copy of this first number of the Magazine. The number which we publish this week is the 247th since the Magazine first appeared. During the year 1927 we hope to keep the Magazine up to its traditional standard of interest as a record of Church Life and Work in the Parish of Seagoe.

New Curate of Seagoe.

Mr. William Alexander Henry, of St. Aidan's Theological College, Birkenhead, was ordained on Tuesday, December 21st (St. Thomas' Day), for the curacy of Seagoe. He begins his work in the Parish in the New Year, and the Parishioners will join with us in welcoming him to the Parish. The work of a clergyman in this large and populous Parish carries with it a great weight of responsibility, and we may claim for the Rev. W. A. Henry the prayerful sympathy of the people in the great but arduous task upon which he now enters. Mr. Henry is a son of Dr. Henry, of Clones, and a nephew of the Rev. R. Crawford, M.A., Rector of Magherally, in this Diocese.

Seagoe in the States.

We publish herewith a kind and interesting letter which we have received from Mrs. David Johnston, of Thompsonville, Springfield, Conn., U.S.A., who left Edenderry a year ago for the States:—

Dear Canon Archer—Just a few lines. I hope this finds you enjoying good health, as this leaves all well here only myself. I have not been too well, but thank God, I am getting a little stronger now. Well, Dear Canon, it's coming near Christmas once again. I am enclosing you a money order for £1 10s. I want you to give £1 to the Sustentation Fund, and 10s to the Mother's Union fund for me. I hope dear old Seagoe is going on well; it's very dear to me, and the Mother's Union I will never forget. We are having winter here now. We have had our first fall of snow. You would not see as much the whole winter through at home as what we have got here now. It's lovely to watch the children on their snow sled; it's lovely; they enjoy it. My little David wants Santa Claus to bring him one for Christmas, so I think he will. He was up in Springfield in a store where they have Santa Claus, and all the children go up to him and tell him what they all want; so he told David if he would be a good boy he would get something nice. He shook hands with all the children; and for toys I never saw anything like it. The children have a good time here.

At Christmas they put a wreath on the door; some put a green laurel wreath and others have a red one. I did not know what it was for last year. I asked what did they put the wreath on the door for,

so it's to wish you a merry Christmas; so I wish dear old Seagoe a merry Christmas, and some day I hope to hear the dear old bell ring again. My husband is still working every day, and all the rest. John is still going to High School; he is 16 years old at Christmas. He has got tall. Annie works up in Springfield at her own work. It's one of the largest stores in the city, and she likes it well. Now, remember me to all in the Mother's Union, and I pray that God will bless the Mother's Union. I will never forget those meetings and the Mother's Union Prayer. My sister and daughter send me all the news about it. And now, once more, in the dear homeland I wish all a merry Christmas. I will not take up any more of your time as I want to catch the mail for Christmas; and now I close with best Christmas wishes to you.—From your old Parishioner
A. JOHNSTON.

Mothers' Union Parcels.

A very pleasing feature of Christmastide in Seagoe this year was a generous distribution of Christmas parcels by the members of the Seagoe Mother's Union. For several days Mrs. Rennix, the President, and her committee were busy in Seagoe School tying up big parcels of tea, sugar, biscuits, sweets, cakes, fruit loaves, etc., etc., which were sent to people in all parts of the Parish. Owing to the slackness of trade, there are many of our parishioners in difficult circumstances, and these parcels proved a very welcome gift. We congratulate the Mothers' Union on their thoughtfulness and practical Christian sympathy in this matter. The monthly meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Tuesday, January 11th (please note the date), in Seagoe School, at 7-30 p.m. A full attendance of the members is requested, and those who intend to become members are also asked to attend.

Seagoe Parish Almanac.

A few copies of the Parish Almanac can still be had at Mr. Vance's, 23 Bridge St., price twopence each. An almanac is a necessity in every house. The Almanac this year is exceptionally bright and attractive.

The Parish of Drumcree.

Drumcree, or the Hilltop of the Wavy Branch, has an interesting history. The Parish came into being in A.D. 1414, a date comparatively late when compared with that of Seagoe, A.D. 590, but still of respectable antiquity. The Rev. H. Rennison, M.A., a former Curate of Drumcree, has written a brief and yet full sketch of its history, illustrated by portraits of successive Rectors. The brochure will shortly be published. The price is 2s 6d. Mr. Rennison has done his work well, and we recommend our readers to secure a copy. Parish records such as this are History in its most attractive and digestible form.

Church Army Mission.

Captain Stocks and Cadet Crawford have worked

faithfully and successfully in Edenderry for the past three weeks. The services have been well attended and a real, quiet, but, we trust, deep and lasting work has been done in the hearts and homes of the people. The Captain and his Cadet have visited every house in Edenderry, and everywhere they have been welcomed. The van in which they live is drawn up in the yard belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Craig near Eden Villa gate, and the Missioners have received great kindness and hospitality from Mr. and Mrs. Craig. The van is the same van which was in the Parish many years ago before the War, when Captain Gaskell and Lieut. Simmons (now the Rev. Albert Simmons, M.A., Hon. C.F. Curate of St. Luke Kilburn), conducted a Church Army van Mission to many parts of the Parish.

Mission in Drumgor.

The Church Army van will move (D.V.) to Drumgor Church Hall on Saturday, January 8th, and a Church Army Mission will begin there on Sunday evening, January 9th, at 7 o'clock. The Mission will be continued on each evening of the week (except Saturday) at 8 p.m. Captain Stocks and Cadet Crawford will conduct the Mission. After the Mission at Drumgor the van will go to Carne Church Hall, where the Church Army Missioners will conduct another Mission.

Christmas at Seagoe.

Our Christmas Services were bright and hearty. An Anthem, "Sing O Heavens," was sung by the choir, the solo being taken by Miss Clara Kirby. It was very nicely rendered, and helped us to understand still more fully the spiritual joy of Christmas. Carols were sung on the Sunday evening after Christmas.

Seagoe School.

The School broke up for the Christmas holidays on Friday, Dec. 18th. The Manager (Rev. Canon Archer) was present. Prizes, kindly given by Mrs. Rennix, the Principal, were awarded, and after the singing of a Christmas Hymn and Prayer the children separated after giving hearty cheers to their teachers. The School will (D.V.) reopen Monday, January 3rd, at 9-30 a.m. Seagoe School offers many advantages. Here, children receive thorough education in English, mathematics and drawing. There is a school garden attached to the School, where both senior boys and girls receive useful instruction in gardening and plant life. The girls are also instructed in cookery. The School possesses an extensive playground under most healthy surroundings. The Schoolrooms are spacious and well lighted and well ventilated. A large central stove in each room provides comfortable heating. The clergy of the Parish give Religious Instruction in the School each week. During the winter months a supply of soup for the children is provided from the soup kitchen in the Carleton Home.

Christmas Cards.

The Rector has received Christmas greetings from Mr. Tom Webb, who writes from Jacksonville, Florida—"I am again in Florida, the land of sunshine. There have been terrible storms here." Also greetings from Mrs. David Johnston, Thompsonville, Conn., U.S.A., and from Mr. and Mrs. Tom England, New York, U.S.A.

South Manchester, U.S.A.

Miss Sarah M'Dowell, of Killicomaine, has handed us an interesting cutting from a South Manchester, U.S.A., newspaper, giving an account of a lecture delivered there by the Rev. J. S. Neill, Rector of South Manchester, on his return home from his visit to Seagoe and Portadown:—

Large Crowd Hears Rev. Neill Lecture.

Girls Friendly Society Sponsors Unique Entertainment in Cheney Hall.

St. Mary's church family and other townspeople enjoyed a rare entertainment in Cheney hall last evening, the principal feature of which was the lecture on Ireland by the rector, Rev. J. S. Neill, who spent some time there the past summer.

The programme was in charge of the Girls' Friendly Society of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and opened with selections by the Manchester Pipe band in kiltie costume. The stirring music was loudly applauded and the players were recalled. They appeared again during the entertainment.

Samuel Gaylord told a number of witty stories, chiefly in Irish dialect, with one or two Jewish and Negro impersonations, all of which caused much merriment.

Samuel Anderson followed on the violin with some of the old favourite Irish melodies and quicksteps. It was difficult for the audience to refrain from keeping time with their toes and heels to the dance music. In response to an enthusiastic recall, Mr. Anderson reappeared and played one or two tunes he said were popular around Sandy Row, in Belfast, when he was there.

Three of the little girls, Caroline Neill, Edwina Elliott and Alwine Winkler danced the Highland Fling, in costume, and were obliged to respond to an encore.

Rev. David Kelly, the new curate at St. Mary's, recited an Irish poem, "The Grand Match," which so pleased the audience that he was recalled twice and gave another little Irish story and one in Scotch.

James McCaughey, a member of the bagpipe band, then reappeared in his kiltie suit, with a Scotch tam and a crooked thorn and delighted the gathering with his Scotch songs and impersonations, in one of which, "There's Somebody Waiting for Me," the audience joined with a will in the chorus.

Rev. Mr. Neill showed only views of that part of Ireland with which those present were most familiar, Ulster. To many it brought back memories of their old homes, churches and other places they were wont

to visit, and as they recognised them there was much handclapping.

Of particular appeal to most of his hearers, were the views in and about Portadown, the familiar street scenes, and the churches, particularly of Seagoe and of St. Mark's, where Rev. Mr. Neill preached and assured that congregation that their friends and relatives forgot their old home with all its associations and memories. Mr. Neill said he would like to go back again next summer, in fact he would like to spend a whole year in Ireland, and hoped to return in the years to come.

He took occasion to thank the Girls' Friendly Society for their co-operation in arranging the entertainment, the pipe band, and every one of the other entertainers who had given generously of their time and talent, not forgetting Cheney Brothers for the use of their hall.

Following Mr. Neill's lecture a motion picture reel entitled "In Old Ireland," was flashed on the screen. The pictures were taken some years ago, when the women wore skirts that trailed on the sidewalks, and hats perched on top of their heads with many upstanding feathers. The views of street traffic, the women descending from the high jaunting cars and other pictures kept the audience in peals of merriment.

Our Sunday Schools.

Full particulars will be given in our next issue regarding the Prize Distribution in the various Sunday Schools. Our Teachers are using each week the useful notes in "The Irish Churchman." The price of the "Churchman" is one penny weekly. Those who get it enjoy the advantage of obtaining each week an interesting Church paper as well as the notes on the Sunday School lesson. The monthly Teachers' Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13th, in Seagoe School, at 8 p.m.

Jumble Sale.

A Jumble Sale, organised by the members of the Men's Recreation Room, was held on Christmas Eve in the Parochial Hall. The men, assisted by a band of willing lady helpers, had worked very hard and got together a splendid collection of goods. The doors opened at 3-30, and a crowd of buyers at once began business. A complete clearance of all the stalls was effected in lightning time. Within an hour practically everything had been sold, and a sum of over £9 had been raised. We are greatly obliged to the many kind friends, too numerous to mention, who gave generous gifts.

Our Cover for 1927.

We will have our new cover complete in time for the February Magazine.

Acknowledgment.

We acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of £1 from Mr. James Vance, 23 Bridge St., towards the Poor Fund of the Parish.

RECTOR :

Rev. Canon Archer, B.D., The Rectory, Seagoe,
Portadown.

Rev. W. A. Henry, 21 Edward St., Portadown.

CHURCHWARDENS :

Rector's—Mr. James Twinem, Lylo and Edenderry.

People's—Mr. Moses Gilpin, Drumnagoon.

Parish Register for December.**Baptism.**

Irwin—Dec. 4th, 1926, William James, son of William James and Sarah Jane Irwin, of Killicomaine.

Marriages

Gregson and Thompson—Dec. 4th, Abraham Gregson, of Drumgor, to Jane Thompson, of Lurgan.

M'Cullins and Reid—Dec. 25th, Jas. Moore M'Cullins, of Portadown, to Gertrude Reid, of Edenderry.

Burials

Matthews—Dec. 12th, Eliza Jane Matthews, of Edenderry; aged 72.

Atkinson—Dec. 19th, Dynes Atkinson, of Upper Seagoe; aged 91.

M'Loughlin—Dec. 20th, William James M'Loughlin, of Drumnagoon; aged 58.

Death of Dynes Atkinson.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Dynes Atkinson, of Upper Seagoe, which took place on Saturday, Dec. 18th, at the advanced age of 91 years. "Dynes," as he was known far and wide throughout the Parish and neighbourhood, filled the post of sexton from 1874 to 1918, but his close connection with Seagoe had existed from the time when as a boy he began to work for Archdeacon Saurin about the Glebe lands. He was born in 1835 at Tarsan. He had a wonderful memory for past events, and many of the incidents concerning the history of the Parish which have appeared in this Magazine were due to his vivid recollection. He had a keen sense of humour and never forgot the many humorous occurrences associated with life in Seagoe in the last century. He always took a bright view of life, and up to the end, even in spite of increasing weakness he was happy and contented. The end came after a few days of failing strength. As sexton he was faithful and reverent in the performance of his duties, and when he retired some eight years ago the Vestry gave him a small weekly pension. The funeral took place on Tuesday, Dec. 21st. The Rector officiated and gave a short address. The remains were interred in the Church ground. We express our sympathy with the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of our old friend, and especially with Miss Ellen Atkinson, who tended her father with special care and affection, and who will miss him most of all.

The Saurin Centenary.

We continue this month some notes relative to the centenary of Archdeacon Saurin. We refer again to his French ancestry. The name Saurin first appears on the page of history in the person of Jean Saurin, an eminent lawyer, born at Nismes, France, in 1632. On the Revolution of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, being a Protestant he had to fly from France. He took refuge in Geneva, and was greatly admired for his eloquence. He had four sons, all of whom were remarkably eloquent, so much so that eloquence was said to be hereditary in the family. Two of his sons, Lewis and James, entered the ministry. James, born in 1677, was only eight years old when he had to go into exile at Geneva. Lewis, Archdeacon Saurin's great-grandfather. James, younger brother, entered the army in 1695, and fought against France under the Duke of Savoy. Eventually he was ordained. He spent some time in Holland and England. While in England he married a Miss Catherine Boyton, and in 1703 a son, Philip, was born to him. He afterwards became French Pastor at the Hague, and on one occasion was Chaplain to the Princess of Wales (afterwards Queen Caroline), and so much impressed by his eloquence that she ordered her Chaplain, Dr. Boulter (afterwards Archbishop of Armagh, and at that time preceptor to Prince Frederick) to get Saurin to draw up a treatise "The Education of Princes." Mr. Saurin was a prolific writer. His sermons were published in less than twelve volumes. Some are dedicated to King George II., who was his generous patron. Our readers may like to have an extract from one of his sermons. Here is one: The subject is "The Power of Truth," and the text Proverbs xxiii., 23. "It seemeth to me, my brethren, to 'buy the Truth' in this vast and indeterminate sense, he means to excite us to endeavour to acquire that happy disposition of mind which makes us give to every question, that is proposed to us, the time and attention which it deserves to each proof its evidence, to each difficulty its weight, to every good its real value. He means to inspire us with that accuracy of discernment, that equity of Judgment, which would enable us to consider a demonstration as demonstrative, and a probability as probable only. This, I think, my brethren, is the disposition of mind with which Solomon means to inspire us." Our notes on the Saurin centenary will be continued (n.v.) next month.

ITEMS

Mr. Walter Vaughan, of Upper Seagoe, recently dug up on his land a copper coin in a good state of preservation. The date on it seems to be 1239. On one side is a large crown surmounting a small bell surrounded by the word "Hibernia." On the other side is a head, but the inscription round it is too easy to decipher.

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The Rural Council is proposing to sink a well near Seagoe School, with the object of providing water in connection with the new caretaker's lodges.