

Seagoe Parish Magazine.
JULY, 1924.

ORGANIST OF SEAGOE 1874-1924.



PHOTO]

[MOFFETT

MR. THOMAS HENRY WILSON.

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The Wilson Jubilee.

Seagoe Parish duly celebrated the 50th anniversary of Mr. T. H. Wilson's appointment as Organist of Seagoe on Monday, June 16th. A large gathering of the Parishioners assembled in the Parochial Schools where tea was provided. The tables filled two of the rooms, and each table was filled with guests. We have seldom seen the old Schoolrooms look so nice as they did with the snow white table cloths and the pretty china and rich tea cakes. The grace was sung, and during tea everyone seemed to be in a reminiscent mood. Old Seagoe loomed largely in the conversation. We were very glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Sloan present. They are really a bit of Seagoe. Miss Christine Stewart, granddaughter of Archdeacon Saurin, was also present, and brought back the thoughts of many to the long rectorship of Archdeacon Saurin. After tea the Rector took the chair, and in an introductory speech said that was a very unique anniversary in the history of the Parish. It was remarkable the number of people who had been connected with Seagoe Parish for 50 years, and some of them for a longer period. Archdeacon Saurin was Rector of Seagoe for 53 years. He came to the Parish in 1826 and remained until 1879. His secretary and treasurer, Mr. James Atkinson, who was there for 50 years, passed to his reward some ten years ago. They had with them that night Mr. Dynes Atkinson, who had been sexton of the Church for over 50 years, and although retired from the active duties of the Parish, was still in a way connected with it. After 50 years' service their young friend, Mr. Thomas Henry Wilson, whom they had met to honour that evening, was just as fresh as ever. It spoke well for Seagoe that so many of those connected with it had been able to continue in office for 50 years. They were glad to have with them that night a representative of the old regime—Miss Christine Stewart, a granddaughter of Archdeacon Saurin. (Applause.) That supplied a link with the past that he thought was extremely interesting. The feeling of the Parishioners was that the completion of 50 years' service as Organist by Mr. Thomas H. Wilson should not be allowed to pass without marking it in some special way. Mr. Wilson was Rector's Churchwarden this year, and that was another honour that had been conferred upon him. (Applause.) He (Canon Archer) had had experience of organists in many parishes, but he did not think he ever met an organist who got on so well with his choir and clergy and with the parishioners in general as Mr. Wilson had done. During his 50 years' service there had been no friction between them. That was a splendid record. It showed that Mr. Wilson must have no corners about him, that he had an agreeable disposition, and that he wielded the baton in a very genial way. He (Canon Archer) had heard people say that when they attended Seagoe Church they noticed how bright and hearty the music was, and he noticed that the first service he attended. One

of the pleasant things about that gathering was that they were not parting with their old friend; he heard someone express the hope that night that he might be playing for another 50 years. (Laughter.) The fifty years that had passed had left few traces on him, and it was a pleasant thing to feel that he was with them still. The Parishioners had risen to the occasion, and he (Canon Archer) was glad to see that they had attended that evening in such large numbers to mark their appreciation of Mr. Wilson's services. (Applause.)

Mr. Moses Gilpin, secretary to the Select Vestry, having read the address,

Mr. T. J. Montgomery spoke as follows when presenting the Clock to Mr. Wilson:—

I must thank the Committee very much indeed for inviting me to take part in this social meeting to do honour to whom honour is due. Well, I suppose some may think me out of date, but I have always thought, and still think, if we have anything to give or any commendation to confer to give it to one who has worthily earned it, and will still be amongst us. I can say for Mr. Wilson that he has worthily filled his office of Organist of our dear Church with grace and ability in performing the praise service which I consider is conducted second to none under his talented performance at the organ. He has always been able to gather round him some of the best voices you would hear in any place of worship, which adds so much to the services we attend every Sunday.

When this Presentation was first moved it was welcomed enthusiastically by the Parish, and so many pleasant faces here to-night sees the happy consummation of their effort.

I remember Mr. Wilson when he was sitting in the Choir on the Gallery enclosed with the red screen, and Mrs. Saurin at the harmonium. Since that time he has consistently joined in the praise of our Church. We are proud to know that his family is travelling in his footsteps, and is a credit to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and to our Parish.

I now on behalf of the Parish ask you to accept this Clock, and we hope and pray that she may tell you many happy hours and years to be with us in the praise and worship of our loved Church.

Mr. Geo. Wilson read his father's reply, which appears with the address in another column.

Rev. W. T. Wilson said Mr. T. H. Wilson had a remarkable record of faithful service. To spend 50 years in leading a choir in the worship of God was a splendid thing. In his long and faithful service Mr. Wilson had set them all a very good example.

Mr. A. G. Sloan congratulated Mr. Wilson on having completed 50 years' service as Organist. In his early years he (Mr. Sloan) attended the services in the Old Parish Church. The impressions he formed then had never been forgotten, nor had his attachment to Seagoe in any way diminished. One of the greatest frights he ever got in his life was given to him by the sexton, Mr. Dynes Atkinson, who during one of the services placed a plate in his pew and

told him he was to take up the collection. (Laughter.) He was so frightened that he wished the ground had opened and swallowed him. (Laughter.) However, he got through it, and was afterwards told that he had done it all right. His attachment to Seagoe was so strong that when he left this mortal sphere he intended to come over to Seagoe. Mrs. Sloan was a descendant of a former Rector, and that had given him a still greater interest in Seagoe. He mentioned some of the principal office-bearers connected with the Church at the time to which he referred, and said he was glad to find that their children and grandchildren were carrying on the work that they did.

Captain Corrin, Organist of Portadown Parish Church, and Mr. James Twinem also spoke in appreciative terms of Mr. Wilson's services.

During the evening an interesting musical programme was contributed by Mr. Pallett's Orchestra, Miss Montgomery, Miss Kirby, Mr. H. E. Wood, Mr. S. Wright and Mr. D. W. Murray.

The Address and Reply.

The following are the Address and Reply :—

Address and Presentation

TO

Mr. Thomas Henry Wilson,

On the occasion of the completion of Fifty Years of Service as Organist of Seagoe Parish Church.

DEAR MR. WILSON,—The Parishioners of Seagoe desire to mark in a special way the completion by you of fifty years of service as Organist of Seagoe Parish Church.

You were appointed to this responsible post in your early years when the late Archdeacon Saurin was Rector of Seagoe, and with unflinching regularity and conspicuous faithfulness you still carry out the responsible duties then entrusted to you.

During all these years you have been on terms of friendship with each successive generation of choir-members, and we recognise that much of the brightness of our Services has been due to the good feeling which has always existed between you and the choir.

We ask your acceptance of the accompanying Time-piece as a token of our gratitude and esteem for your long and faithful service, and we trust that in the days to come the Divine Blessing may rest abundantly on you and Mrs Wilson and the members of your family, and that you may be long spared to assist us in the Worship of the Sanctuary.

Signed on behalf of the Parishioners,

JAMES E. ARCHER, Rector.

JOHN E. LAVERY, Churchwarden.

MOSES GILPIN, Sec. to Vestry.

REPLY.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—I find it difficult to express my feelings of gratitude to all of you for the very kind words you have spoken about me, and for the

beautiful gift you have presented to me and Mrs Wilson.

During my fifty years as Organist of Seagoe I have met with nothing but kindness. When I was appointed to that post I was only fourteen years of age, but even then, and all the time since then, I have been treated with the utmost consideration and kindness by the Clergy, the Select Vestry, the Choir and the Parishioners

I understand the responsibility of my work in leading the praises of God's people in the House of Prayer, and I thank God that He has spared me so long to do His work.

My relations with the choir have always been of the happiest kind, and they have made my work a pleasure rather than a toil. On behalf of Mrs. Wilson and the members of my family I thank you all from my very heart. The chimes of this beautiful gift will always remind me of the happy years I have spent in the Parish of Seagoe.

I remain,

Your very faithful friend,

THOMAS HENRY WILSON.

A Request.

Will all those Parishioners who took the Free Will Weekly Offering Envelopes at the beginning of this year, and who have not yet given in their Envelopes, please do so without delay up to the end of June. A complete record of the amount subscribed through the Envelopes up to June 30th is being made out and the number of each subscriber, with the amount contributed during the six months, will be placed in the Church Porch. We would be obliged also if each subscriber would write his or her name on one of the Envelopes. If there is any error in the list please communicate without delay to Mr James Twinem, Lylo.

At Warrenpoint.

The Sunday Schools had their annual outing at Warrenpoint on Thursday, June 9th. We met at the Parish Church at 8 a.m. for a short service. The Hymn "God is always near me" was nicely sung. A start was soon made for the Station, and as the long line of brightly arrayed children wended their way down the hill the sun shone out and everything looked beautiful. As we neared the Station Mr. Joseph Twinem, U.S.A., snapped the crowd with his large Kodak, and has got a good print of it. The train left at 9.30. All the carriages were crowded. Robert Calleson was our Guard, and got us quickly and safely down to the Point. Cakes and tea in plenty awaited us at the Town Hall, and the Excursionists were quickly scattered all over the neighbourhood. The tide was in and there was a splendid breeze. A few had a dip in the sea. Some went by boat to Rostrevor. Many climbed to the Big Stone. A few showers fell but did no harm. The mountains looked lovely. The shopkeepers did a roaring trade. Penny walking sticks were much in evidence, as

well as buckets and spades. Tea was ready at 4.30, and after tea a pleasant time was spent along the front. The return train left at 7.30, and before long were back again in Old Seagoe.

S. A. M. S.

Box Collections—Mrs. M'Dougall, 6s ; Miss Elizabeth Reid, 10s ; Miss Sarah Montgomery, 6s ; Miss Calvert, 9s 8d ; Mrs. Lewie, 7s 3d ; Mrs. Walker, 4s 0½d ; Miss Agnes Guy, 4s 1d ; Miss Sarah Price, 3s 6½d. **Card Collection**—Miss I. Atkinson, £6 17s 6d. Hacknahay Offertory, 7s.—Total, £9 15s 1d.

Anniversary Service.

An Anniversary Service will (D.V.) be held in Seagoe Parish Church on Sunday, July 6th, at 7 p.m. Places will be reserved for the Lodges. The Rev W. D. Ewart, M.A., Rector of Milltown, County Armagh, will preach, and the Offerings will be in aid of the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Fund.

Mothers' Union.

A social meeting of the Mothers' Union was held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Thursday, June 12th, to bid farewell to two of the members, Mrs Johnston and Mrs. Patton, who are leaving shortly for the States. Tea was provided at separate tables. The Rector presided and expressed his sense of the loss the Parish was sustaining in the departure of two families long connected with Seagoe. Brooches were presented to the two members by Miss G. Atkinson on behalf of the Branch. Mrs. Donaldson, of Comber, and formerly of Seagoe Parish, who is now Diocesan Treasurer of the Mothers' Union, gave a helpful and interesting address.

New Assistant Teacher.

The Rector has appointed Mr. Robert G. Alcorn as Assistant Teacher in Seagoe School in succession to Mr. W. E. Dickson. Mr. Alcorn was educated at Ballymena Model School, and has for some time acted as Assistant Teacher in Malone Training School, Belfast. He comes to us with the highest recommendations.

Our New Curate.

Mr. R W. Johnston, L.Th., will (D.V.) be ordained for the second Curacy of Seagoe in Belfast Cathedral on Sunday, July 6th, at Morning Prayer. We ask the prayers of the people on his behalf. Mr. Johnston will enter upon his duties in the Parish immediately after his Ordination. His temporary address will be 21 Edward Street, Portadown. The Rev. W. T. Wilson takes his holiday in July.

ITEMS.

A Wild White Pullet made its nest on the top of the thatched roof of Mr. Harry Collins' house at Seagoe and brought out a brood of ten fine chickens which came toddling down the thatch as soon as they learned how to walk.

William Johnston, of Seagoe School, won a Special Certificate (Green) for obtaining full marks in the Examination in Religious Knowledge held recently in Seagoe N.S.

Presentation.

Mr. W. E. Dickson, Principal of the Maze N.S., was presented with a silver-mounted walking stick by the members of the Choir at a Social held in Seagoe School on Thursday, June 26th, on the occasion of his leaving Seagoe for his new post.

Visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Twinem with his son and daughter have arrived in Seagoe from Brooklyn, U.S.A. Mr. Twinem left Seagoe some 23 years ago and has built up a fine business in the States. We welcome him back again to the old Parish.

Parish Register for June. Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on June 7th, 1924 :—

Watson—Victor, son of William Joseph and Anne Watson, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—William Joseph Watson, Anne Watson.

Hall—Doris, daughter of William John and Letitia Sophia Hall, of Lower Seagoe.

Sponsors—William John Hall and Letitia Sophia Hall.

Neill—Henry Rowland, son of Thomas and Isabella Neill, of Lower Seagoe.

Sponsors—Thomas Neill, Isabella Neill.

Marriage.

Baxter and Parkes—June 25th, 1924, John Baxter, of Turmoyra, old Parish of Seagoe, to Margaret Parkes, of Lurgan, Parish of Shankill.

Burials.

Simpson—June 1st, Myrtle Elizabeth Simpson, of Bocombra, aged 4 months.

Hughes—June 15th, Eliza Hughes, of Tarsan, aged 60

Hickland—June 17th, John Hickland, of Carne, aged 81.

M'Crory—June 19th, Thomas M'Crory, of Edenderry, aged 75.

Whiteside—June 20th, Edith Whiteside, of Lower Seagoe, aged 36.

Rainey—June 21, David Rainey, of Edenderry, aged 19.

Ruddell—June 25th, Irene Gladys Russell, of Lisniskey, aged 7.

Malcolmson—June 26th, Emma Jane Malcolmson, of Edenderry, aged 40.

Gracey—June 26th, Harrison Gracey, of Drumgor, aged 71.

Craig—June 17th, Joseph Craig, of Breagh.

Sympathy.

The long list of Burials noted in this issue means that many in the Parish have been plunged into grief during the past month. Our sympathy goes out to all who mourn the loss of a dear one from the family circle. Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life," and this thought will comfort sorrowing hearts.