

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JULY, 1927.

CLERGY :

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

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

CHURCHWARDENS :

Rector's—Thos. E. Maginnis, Breagh.

People's—John R. Reid, Portadown.

Service of Commemoration.

On Sunday, July 3rd, at Morning and Evening Prayer, Special Services will be held in Seagoe Church in memory of those from the Parish who fell in the Great War. Eleven years have passed since that fateful July 1st, 1916, when our brave lads crossed the bullet-swept ravine at Hamel in defence of God and King and country. Some survived, some were sorely wounded, but many went forward on their glorious adventure never to return. Their bodies rest where they fell in that now quiet ravine within sound of the flowing Ancre and with their faces towards the German trenches on the further hillside.

July 1st, 1916.

[We print here an extract from "the History of the (36th) Ulster Division" by Captain Cyril Falls.]

Day dawned clear and sunny; "Zero" was at 7.30 a.m. It had been light for four hours. The first movements of our men were concealed by the intensity of our fire and by smoke barrages put down by 4-inch Stokes Mortars in the valley of the Ancre and in front of Thiepval village. The troops formed up in 'No Man's Land.' At 7.15 a.m. the leading companies issued from the gaps cut in our wire, extended to two paces interval, and moved forward to within 150 yards of the German trench. The hubbub of the British bombardment was terrific; over their heads the Stokes mortars, firing at highest rate, were slinging a hundred shells into the air at once. Zero! The hurricane bombardment ceased. The artillery lifted off the first line. The whistles of the officers sounded, and the men sprang up and advanced at steady marching pace on the German trenches. The Commanding Officers of the Battalions were forbidden to accompany their men, but as they watched them moving forward to the assault they received one of the most powerful and lasting impressions of their lives. Colonel Macrory, of the 10th Inniskillings, tells us what he saw—'Lines of men moving forward, with rifles sloped, and the sun glistening upon their fixed bayonets, keeping their alignment and distance as well as if on a ceremonial parade, unfaltering, unwavering. General Ricardo, then commanding the 9th Inniskillings, wrote the following account a few days after—'I stood on the parapet between the two centre exits to wish them luck. They got going without delay; no fuss, no shouting, no running, everything solid and thorough, just like the men themselves. Here and there a boy would wave his hand to me as I shouted good luck to them through my mega-

phone. All had a cheery face. Most were carrying loads. Fancy advancing against heavy fire with a big roll of barbed wire on your shoulder. There was here in 'No Man's Land' a deep ravine which the map contours show but without giving an idea of its abruptness. The first wave of the 9th Irish Fusiliers reached this with little trouble, but those which followed met with very heavy machine-gun fire and suffered terrible loss. Advancing with splendid dash, the survivors of a Battalion which Colonel Blacker's training had made one of the best in the Division, swept through the 'enemy's front line trenches. One small body of the right centre company in particular carried all before it and was last seen advancing upon Beaucourt Station. The "B" line was to be reached at 7.48 a.m., and precisely at that moment the first wave swept upon it. The leading waves pressed on. The "C" line was reached at 8.48 a.m.

[The rest of the story is soon told. Through lack of support the position of those who had reached their objectives became desperate. By 10 p.m. that night the advance which had been made at such a sacrifice was proved to have been made in vain.]

July Anniversary.

On Sunday, July 10th, at 7 p.m., an Anniversary Service will be held (p.v.) in Seagoe Parish Church. Places will be reserved for the brethren attending, and the collection will be given to the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Fund. The preacher will be the Rev. T. G. Moore, M.A., Curate of Shankill Parish, Lurgan.

Parish Register for June.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on June 4th, 1927:—

M'Murray—Doreen, daughter of James Henry and Margaret M'Murray, of Levaghery.

Sponsors—Sarah Ethel M'Murray, Margaret M'Murray.

Jacobs—Frederick Michael, son of William and Florence May Jacobs, of Lylo.

Sponsors—William Jacobs, Florence May Jacobs.

M'Kerr—Thomas Ambrose, son of Thomas John and Jemima M'Kerr, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Sarah Jane Neill, Jemima M'Kerr.

M'Cormick—Ernest, son of Thomas John and Elizabeth M'Cormick, of Upper Seagoe.

Sponsors—Emily Reid, Elizabeth M'Cormick.

Marriage.

Fox and Lutton—June 18th, 1927, Samuel George Fox, of Portadown, to Susanna Lutton, of Edenderry.

Burials.

Sommerville—April 30th, Minnie Sommerville, of Edenderry; aged 34 years.

M'Nally—June 16th, William Joseph M'Nally, of Edenderry; aged 23 years.

ITEMS

Mr. S. Rennis, as President of the Ulster Teachers' Union, attended the reception given by Lord Eustace Percy to the members of the International Conference of Teachers in London on June 25th.

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Mr. McDowell, whose villa "Seagoe" appears on our cover, hopes to arrive in the Parish from the States on Monday, July 4th.

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The Rector was the special preacher in Donegal Parish Church on Wednesday, June 29th, at the South Raphoe Choral Festival.

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Mr. T. H. Hall, of Upper Seagoe, has passed the preliminary examination of the Incorporated Board of Chartered Accountants, London.

Seagoe Mothers' Union.

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by the members of the Mothers' Union on Tuesday, June 7th, at Mr. James Twinem's house at Lylo. It was a fine afternoon, and the members drove from Edenderry Parochial Hall to Lylo in an omnibus. Mrs. Twinem, the Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Twinem met the members on their arrival and entertained them most hospitably. After a splendid tea in the open-air the members engaged in games and races till quite late in the evening. The fine views and bracing air of Lylo were much enjoyed. At the close of the evening a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Twinem was passed by all present. No meeting of the Mothers' Union has been arranged for July and August.

The Excursion.

Seagoe was fortunate in having a fine day for the excursion. Although the weather was broken and rain fell as the procession left Seagoe Church it cleared up almost immediately and continued fine all through the day until we were in the train for the return journey, when the rain came on again. The excursionists had a most enjoyable day. The procession from the Church was headed by the Ballyhannon Flute Band, who played marching tunes and hymn tunes from the Church to the Station. The procession was a long one, and crowds of people stood along the route to see it pass. The train left at 9-40 p.m. and reached Warrenpoint at 10-40. Refreshments were provided in the new hall at the station. It is a most commodious building, well ventilated and well lighted. Even though Drumcree and the Dobbin Sunday Schools were there as well as Seagoe, there was no crowding. The excursionists were loud in their praise of the arrangements. Everything worked smoothly and we did not hear a single complaint. The day was spent in various ways; some sailed in the boats, some lingered along the shore, and many climbed to the Big Stone. At

5 o'clock the second refreshment was given in the Station hall, and at 8-30 the return train started for home. On arrival in Portadown the band marched with the excursionists to the Church, where the Rector thanked the band for their help. The band then played the National Anthem, and all separated with a hearty cheer.

Seagoe P.E. School.

The School broke up for the summer holidays on Thursday, June 30th. The Manager (Rev. Canon Archer) was present. The hymn "God is always near me" was sung by the children, and prayer was said. Hearty cheers were given for the teachers. The School will re-open (d.v.) on Monday, August 8th, at 9-30 a.m. The School has had a successful session, and there has been no sickness among the children. The playgrounds are looking very pretty now in their rustic surroundings.

Choir Festival at Seagoe.

On Saturday, June 11th, the Lurgan Choral Union held their annual Festival in the Parish Church. Fourteen choirs, numbering 430 voices, attended. The Rev. John Bentley conducted the service, and the sermon was preached by the Very Rev. the Dean of Armagh. After the Service the choirs assembled for tea in the Parochial Schools. In the course of his address the Rev. Mr. Bentley spoke on each of the choirs. When he referred to Seagoe he said, "I give the prize to Seagoe, the largest and best of the choirs." This is great praise coming from an expert such as Mr. Bentley is. We congratulate Mr. and Miss Wilson and the choir on this notable word of praise from the conductor.

The Late Miss Reid's Bequests

We regret that the statement regarding the late Miss Reid's Bequests published in our last issue was not quite accurate. The following is an extract from the will:—

- "(a) Twenty pounds to Seagoe Select Vestry to be invested and the interest thereon paid yearly into the Poor Fund of Seagoe Parish Church.
- (b) Ten pounds to Seagoe Sunday Schools to be invested and the interest thereon to be paid yearly to the Seagoe Sunday School Fund.
- (c) Ten pounds to be invested and the interest to be paid annually to the Seagoe Parish Church contributions to the Armagh Protestant Orphan Society.

The contributions to be known as the interest on the Elizabeth Reid Bequests in (a), (b), (c)."

Miss Reid also left Bequests to the Chota Nagpur Mission and to the South American Missionary Society. The sum of £40 left to Seagoe Parish has been invested in 4 per cent. War Loan in the names of the Rev. Canon Archer, Mr. Moses Gilpin, Hon. Sec., and Mr. Hugh Stoops, Hon. Treas.

The Saurin Centenary.

(Continued.)

When Archdeacon Saurin returned from Spain in the year 1858 he seems to have approached his work in the Parish with renewed energy. The first big project which engaged his attention was the provision of a new school at Seagoe. The old school in what was known as the School Park (the triangle plot of ground beside the old graveyard) was becoming seriously dilapidated through age. Its thatched roof and crumbling walls formed but a poor protection for the children of the Parish against the weather. The playground was roomy and many generations of young Seagoe had sported about in it, but it was felt that a new school was necessary, and so a public subscription list was opened to provide funds for the erection of a new building. The site chosen was that occupied by the present school, opposite the Church. The old School was beside the old Church, and so it was decided the new school should be as near as possible to the new Church. The present handsome building was therefore erected and was opened to receive pupils in 1859. The School was, as most schools then were, under the control of and supported by the Church Education Society. The school, although a great improvement on the old building, was not very well furnished. The clay floor had not yet been replaced by a wooden floor. It was not until 1874 that the latter improvement was made. When the new school had been provided the Archdeacon resolved to repair the Church. Up to this time the Church was furnished with the old square pews. It was decided to remove them and to put in their place the modern pews which are at present in use. This improvement was effected in the year 1862. Seagoe Church was one of the first in Ireland to have the modern pews installed. During the time when the Church was being re-pewed the Services were held in the new school. When the work of re-pewing the Church was completed the Archdeacon took in hand the renovation of the Rectory. This was in the year 1863. For 37 years the Archdeacon and his family had resided there, but it must be remembered that in 1819 the house had been condemned as unfit for further habitation. The Archdeacon on his appointment to Seagoe in 1826 was given a sum of money by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to build a new Rectory, but considering the sum insufficient he decided to spend the money in putting the existing Rectory into repair. In 1863 it was found necessary to re-roof the Rectory. This was a big undertaking, and during the building operations the Archdeacon and his family lodged at Seagoe Villa with Mr. and Mrs. Walker. The late Mrs. Jack Walker, of Seagoe Villa had pleasant recollections of this time and often referred to it. Besides the re-roofing of the Rectory many other improvements were carried out. The influence of their Spanish experiences seems to have controlled most of the alterations. The Spanish window was built at the west side of the Archdeacon's study. A verandah was also added at the

library or east gable. In both of these additions the form of window familiar to the Archdeacon and Mrs. Saurin when residing at Malaga, in Southern Spain, was adopted, the frame being glazed down to the floor level. A great subterranean cistern holding 10,000 gallons was also built in the inner garden. It supplied the basement of the house and the stables, byres and gardens with water. A fish-pond such as is common in Spain, was made in the shrubbery outside the inner garden. The two Quince trees at present growing in the inner garden are said to have been brought from Spain by Mrs. Saurin. The shadow of approaching Disestablishment was now deepening over the Church and causing much uncertainty and disquietude. The Archdeacon, now nearly 50 years in Holy Orders and the son of an Irish Bishop took an active part in the many discussions and conferences which were held during the campaign against Disestablishment. The returns which he made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners concerning the parochial organisations and services are still in existence and form a most interesting record of Seagoe Parish life in the sixties of the last century.

(To be continued.)

The Protestant Orphan Society.

The Protestant Orphan Society collections will be made at Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday, July 3rd, on behalf of the Co. Armagh Protestant Orphan Society. This Society, founded largely by Major Blacker in 1869, has for almost sixty years given generous help to the widows and orphans of Seagoe Parish. It deserves the best that Seagoe can give. Many in our midst have through its agency been helped in their early days, and it is their duty as well as ours to give the Society all the financial assistance we can afford.

Jumble Sale.

On Friday, June 17th, a Jumble Sale was held in Edenderry Parochial Hall. Mr. James Forde kindly acted as secretary. All the goods were sold in a brief space, and the gross profits amounted to £2 19s 7d. The proceeds go towards the support of the Men's Recreation Room. We are very much obliged to all who helped by sending goods and contributing.

Old Seagoe Notes.

Extracts from "a Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," Volume 2, by Samuel Lewis.

(Published in 1837.)

Seagoe, or Segoe, a parish in the barony of O'Neill East, Co. Armagh, and province of Ulster, 1 mile (N.N.E.) from Portadown, extending along the R. Bann and intersected by the Great Roads leading from Armagh to Belfast, and from Portadown to Banbridge; containing 9,736 inhabitants. This place, which is said to have derived its name from Seagh-Gabha, "the smith's seat," was allotted to Nial Gabha, one of the sons of the great O'Nial.

It is traditionally said that in 336 a battle was fought here in which Blacar, a Danish chief, ancestor of the family of Blacker, defeated Ail or O'Neil and his sept, and the place adjoining Carrick demesne is pointed out, called "Lisna-grilly," signifying "the fort of the dagger," where there are still faint traces of a circular entrenchment.

The parish is bounded on the West by the R. Bann, along which it extends for about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles; it contains three manorial districts, subdivided into 47 townlands, comprising, according to the Ordnance Survey, 10,982 $\frac{1}{4}$ statute acres. 1,236 $\frac{1}{2}$ are in L. Neagh, and 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the R. Bann; the rest is chiefly arable, though along the banks of the river, there is an extensive tract of low meadow and pasture ground which is inundated about Xmas, and the water does not disappear till March. Onions are cultivated to a great extent. On the townland of Balteagh and Kilfergan there is a quarry, the stone of which has been discovered to be highly valuable as marble and for lithography, for which it is said to equal the best German stone.

The highest point is the hill of Drumclogher. The river, here navigable for vessels of 60 tons, cannot be surpassed for its majestic appearance as it winds beautifully along the Western boundary. It was crossed at Portadown by a bridge of seven arches built in 1764 but which, having given way in several places, a new bridge is now in progress of erection at an expense to the county of £8,900; it will be a very fine building of three arches, each more than 50 feet span. The principal gentlemen's seats

are Seagoe House, the residence of the Venerable Archdeacon Saurin, and Carrick, of Lieut.-Colonel Blacker, a large edifice built in 1692. In the sheep walk of the demesne on the summit of a low ridge or knoll is a curious excavation of an elliptical form about 80 yards in circumference, sloping gradually inwards on all sides with great regularity. Whether intended as a place of worship, or justice, there is no tradition.

The Living is a rectory and vicarage in the Diocese of Dromore, forming the corps of Archdeaconry and in the patronage of the bishop; the tithes (chiefly of corn and hay) amount to £330, and the glebe comprises 500 acres, valued at £652 7s 7d per annum, making the gross income of the Archdeacon £982 7s 7d. The glebe house is a commodious residence, contiguous to the Church; the latter is a large handsome edifice in the early English style, with a square tower, built at an entire cost of £2,200 of which £1,000 was a loan from the late Board of First Fruits. The interior is fitted up in a very superior manner. Near the spot where the battle was fought in which O'Neil was defeated, several brazen swords and spear-heads of superior workmanship have been dug up. Two, nearly perfect, are in the possession of the Earl of Charleville, to whom they were presented by Colonel Blacker, who has in his possession a curious little battle hammer-head of stone found in the same place; the handle is composed of osier with much resembling a smith's punch of the present day; from its elasticity it must have been a deadly weapon in close combat.

**SERVICES
THE PARISH CHURCH.**

HOLY COMMUNION—1st Sunday after Morning Prayer; 3rd Sunday at 8 a.m., and on the Chief Festivals.

HOLY BAPTISM—1st Saturday of Month at 3 p.m., and during any Service in the Parish Church. If notice be given; Two Sponsors at least are required, and they must be Confirmed members of the Church. Churchings are held at each Baptism. Mothers are expected to bring a thank-offering. (See Book of Common Prayer.)

MORNING PRAYER—Sundays and Chief Festivals 11.30 a.m.

EVENING PRAYER—Sundays 7 p.m., Wednesdays 8 p.m.

DISTRICT SERVICES.

Hacknahay—Last Sunday of Month at 3.30 p.m.

Drumgor—Second Sunday of Month at 4 p.m.

CLASSES, &c.

ADULT CLASSES—Sundays at 10 a.m.

For Men—Edenderry. For Women—Seagoe School.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—10 a.m. Edenderry Parochial Hall and Seagoe School. 3 p.m. Seagoe, Edenderry Parochial Hall, Levaghery, Hacknahay, Carne, Drumgor.

Men's Recreation Room, Bridge St., open every night from 7 p.m.

Seagoe C.L. Brigade in Edenderry Parochial Hall, on Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Mothers' Union, Edenderry 1st Tuesday, at 4 p.m.

DAY SCHOOL—Seagoe, 9.30 a.m. Principal—Mr. S. Rennix.

MARRIAGES must be performed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Licenses are issued by Rev Canon Hannon, Rectory, Lurgan. Due notice (48 hours) must be given to the Rector of intended weddings. **FEES**—By License—Labourers 5/-, Tradesmen 10/-, Merchants and Farmers 15/-, Professional £1. By Banns 5/- **FUNERALS** will be attended by the Clergy if proper notice be given. **SICK CASES** should be notified to the Clergy without delay. **FEES FOR CERTIFICATES BAPTISM**, 3/7; Children (Factory), 1/- and 2/- (non-residents); **MARRIAGE**, 3/7. An extra search fee is chargeable in certain cases. It will be a help to the Clergy if they are notified of the arrival of new Church families in the Parish.

A copy of the Magazine will be sent post free to any subscriber for 3s per annum.