

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JUNE 1911.

SEAGOE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.


EXCURSION to WARRENPOINT

TUESDAY, JUNE 13th, 1911.

Train Leaves Portadown - - 9-30 a.m.

Return Train Leaves Warrenpoint 7-30 p.m.

The Coronation.

N Thursday, June 22nd, 1911, King George V. and Queen Mary will be crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Westminster Abbey. The ancient ceremony

of the Coronation is a very solemn, religious service, and amidst all the rejoicing which naturally accompanies the Coronation, we should not lose sight of the fact that the crowning of the Sovereign is a religious act. A Special Service will be held in Seagoe Parish Church on Coronation Day at 11-30 a.m., and a form of service, very similar to that which will be used in Westminster Abbey, will be provided for the worshippers. Loyal Seagoe wishes their Majesties a long and happy reign, and will join in the prayers of the Empire that the Divine Blessing may rest upon them and theirs and sustain them in their solemn responsibilities.

The Excursion.

On Tuesday, June 13th the children and teachers from the Sunday Schools of the Parish will assemble at Seagoe Church at 8 o'clock. After a short service the procession will be formed, and headed by the Ballyhannon band all will march with banners flying to the station. The train will leave at 9-30 sharp for Warrenpoint, and the return train will leave Warrenpoint for home at 7-30. Every Sunday School child, except very small children, must walk in the procession.

The price of tickets is as follows :—

Children under 9	...	...	0s	6d
" " 12	...	...	0	9
" " 16	...	...	1	0
Bible Classes and Teachers	...	...	1	3
Outsiders	...	...	1	6

Whitsunday.

The festival of Whitsunday, on which is commemorated the gift of the Divine Spirit to the church, falls this year on Sunday, June 4th. There will be special services in the Parish Church—

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11-30 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Holy Communion.

7 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.

On Whitsunday every year the annual collections are made on behalf of our Day Schools in the Parish. Seagoe School and Hacknabay School are very efficient, and are attended by a total of 230 children. It is most important that these schools should be kept in first-rate order, so that parents will feel that in them their children will receive the best and most complete education possible. We appeal to former pupils and to the parents of present pupils, and to all who are interested in education, to contribute liberally to this object. Subscriptions from those who cannot attend the services will be thankfully received by the Rector or Churchwardens.

Improvements at Seagoe.

New gates have been erected at Seagoe School during the past month, and greatly improve the appearance of the place. New palings, painted green and tipped with white, have been placed round the playground. The out-offices at the schools have been entirely re-arranged on the most approved sanitary principles. We hope that those who take an interest in the schools will inspect the improvements for themselves. Observant parishioners may now frequently notice smart little boys wearing neat caps, with the letters S.N.S. on the front in red, white, and blue. These are boys from Seagoe Day Schools. The girls are getting

brooches with a similar monogram. A meeting of ladies was held recently in the schools to arrange further assistance towards the improvement of the schools.

A Canvass of the Parish.

On a day last week Messrs. W. R. Atkinson and G. Calvert took a car early in the morning and did not return home until quite late at night. All that time they were calling at various houses in the Parish inviting subscriptions for the new heating apparatus. The Select Vestry had arranged that they should visit the parishioners for this purpose. Their canvass was very successful, and they were well received in every townland. They were not able to call on everyone, but they hope shortly to finish their round of the Parish. Everywhere they report a hearty, generous spirit among the parishioners, and an eager desire to help on the work of the Church.

A letter from Illinois, U.S.A.

The Rector has received the following interesting letter from a former parishioner :—

Illinois, U.S.A.

Rev. Sir,

Just a line hoping it will find you well as it leaves me well at present. You will notice I have left Chicago, I have got a much better position managing a drapery store for a man, his name is Worthen and he comes from Belfast. He has seven stores. He opened one on March first and went to manage it himself, so he gave me this one to manage for him. It pays me five dollars a week more than my last job did. There are eleven girls and nine fellows in it, so it is pretty large. I like to be in this town very well; I will tell you a strange thing about it—there are twelve thousand people living in it and there is not a public house in the whole town; there are two policemen and six firemen. It is a very nice place and is just thirteen miles from Chicago. There are some fine churches, two Episcopal, one Presbyterian, two Methodist, a Congregational, and a Christian Scientist; there is no Roman Catholic Chapel at all. I am sending you a postal card with a few views on it, I am enjoying very good health since I came out. I attend my church every Sunday. I spent a very quiet Easter, we had very fine preachers and the sermons were some of the best I ever heard. The services here are a little different from what they are in Seagoe. There is a Bible Class every Sunday Morning before Church and there is an average attendance of one hundred and thirty. Church begins at 10-45 and lets out at 12-15, and then again at 7-30 in the evening. I have no more to say at present, so I will close by saying good bye.

Items.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Mrs. Montgomery (Miss M. Neill) on her marriage. Mrs. Montgomery was a splendid worker, and gave us valuable assistance as a member of the choir, and as a teacher in Hacknabay Sunday School. We hope often to see her in Seagoe parish.

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The Lurgan Choral Union held its annual festival in Seagoe Church on Saturday, May 27th. Over 300 choristers took part in the service. The Dean of Armagh was the preacher. The festival was a great success. The visitors had tea in Seagoe School after the service.

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We regret to hear that Mrs. Blacker has been seriously ill in England, but the latest accounts report that she is rapidly recovering. We hope she will soon be quite strong and well again.

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Mrs. Beatty of Northampton, a grand-niece of Archdeacon Saurin, visited Seagoe last week and was much interested in seeing the place where her grand-uncle spent so many years.

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A special Sunday School lesson on the Coronation will be given in the Sunday Schools on Sunday, June 18th. It deals with the flag of England, the Union Jack, and the lessons to be learned from it.

Hymns For June.

June 4th. Morn—	57,	215,	614,	605,	460.
„ Evg.—	219,	238,	335,	631,	376.
Trinity Sun Morn—	9,	225,	226,	217.	
„ Evg.—	56,	472,	535,	225,	25.
1st aft Trin. Morn—	3,	90,	252,	544.	
„ Evg.—	48,	121,	99,	98,	12.
2nd aft Trin Morn—	52,	273,	249,	377,	
					National Anthem.
„ Evg.—	577,	333,	113,	423,	
					National Anthem.

Progressive Portadown.

In the new Census returns Portadown occupies a proud position. It heads the list among the towns of Ireland in the increase of its population. It has increased by over 16 per cent. in the 10 years since 1901. This is very satisfactory. It looks as if Portadown might some day become a second Belfast. It would be strange to think of Seagoe as a city church, as it would be then, with possibly electric trams running past the gate.

Offertories for May.

(Parishioners are reminded that upon the offertory depends the proper upkeep of the services in the Parish Church, and that almsgiving in proportion to one's means is a duty incumbent upon every member of the Church.)

Morning, £5 6s 4d; Evening, £2 7s 8d;

Week-days, 12s 8d.

Baptisms.

"A little child shall lead them."

- May 6th—Matilda, daughter of William John and Margaret Hara.
 „ „ Mary Winifred Eliza, daughter of John George and Sarah Jane Gracey.
 „ „ Maurice Frederick, son of David Alexander and Letitia Rock.
 „ „ David, son of Robert and Mary Jane Livingstone.

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Marriages.

"And now abideth Faith, Hope, Love" (R.V.)

- May 2nd—George Montgomery, Portadown, to Margaret Neill, Drumlisnagrilly.
 „ 7th—William Robert Hughes, Tarson, to Anne Graham, Edenderry.
 „ 11th—James Thompson, of Portadown, to Anne Freeburn, Edenderry.

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Burials.

"In me is thy salvation."

- May 18th—Mary Anne Webb, Lylo, aged 25.
 „ 26th—Ella Macaulay, Edenderry, aged 2½.
 „ 29th—Thomas Lynass, Clanrole, aged 77.

Nature Notes for June.

The flowers of early spring have now disappeared in the long grass and straggling hedgerow growths, but the white star of the stitchwort and the small, bright blue flower of germander speedwell still survives. This is specially the month for climbing plants such as the purple vetches, the woodbine, and ragged robin. The tall flowers of the cranesbill will soon be seen, like a diminutive geranium blossom, brightening the roadsides. Meadow-sweet (*spiraea ulmaria*) is already unfolding its graceful, fragrant clusters of bloom. All these plants are common in Seagoe Parish. Birds nests have been a source of great interest during the past month, but now the young birds are the objects of chief interest. Have any of our readers heard the night-song of the sedge warbler or the grasshopper warbler, or the night jar. The song-thrush and the robin also often sing at night.

Visit of the Diocesan Inspector.

The Rev. J. H. Mervyn, M.A., Diocesan Inspector of Religious Education in Day Schools, inspected and examined Seagoe and Hacknahay Schools on Tuesday, May 23rd. The result was very satisfactory and the pupils acquitted themselves well. The Church of Ireland children were examined in the Bible and Prayer Book, and those who are not members of the Church of Ireland were examined in the Bible only. In Seagoe School the following obtained special certificates—Margaret Irwin, John Atkinson, Mabel Reid, Christina Livingston.

The Inspector in his report on the proficiency of the Junior and Infant Department expressed himself very much pleased with the answering of the children.

Hacknahay School greatly distinguished itself in the examination. The following is the Inspector's report—"The children in this School are most carefully taught. The answering except in a few cases was excellent and intelligently given. Both seniors and juniors showed great interest in their work. This school deserves commendation. The work done here is much above the average." We congratulate Miss Stevenson and Miss Dickson on this good record. The following Hacknahay children were awarded special certificates—First class, Elizabeth England and Florence Stevenson; second certificate Mary Flavell; passed, Eileen M'Kane. In all 46 children were examined and 36 passed.

Old Seagoe Notes.

Fairy Stones in Seagoe.—Few people are aware that Fairy Stones are to be found in the townland of Seagoe. The layer of clay which is exposed in the Brickworks at Seagoe contains a number of curiously shaped small stones, which bear an extraordinary resemblance to animals, insects, and other things in fact they might best be described as a collection of animals out of Noah's Ark, they present such a variety of shapes. In a random selection of these stones one is exactly like a small tortoise with head and legs, another is a perfect representation of a snail, another resembles a bird, another is like a withered pear, another is like an old woman gathering her cloak around her.

Amongst Belfast geologists these stones are known as "Culleybackeyites," for hitherto they have only been found at Culleybackey, in the Co. Antrim. Henceforth they will be known also as "Seagoites," since they occur so plentifully in Seagoe.

Their origin is obscure. They are found in the Jurassic clays, and are formed of a friable or crumbling sandstone, which has been formed in layers by a gradual process. In the centre of each stone there are traces of a foreign substance, as e.g., a piece of the bark of a tree, or a fragment of ironstone, and the "Seagoite" has been formed around this substance.

Similar stones are found in many countries, and are known under various names. In Finland they are called Imatra Stones, in Germany "Lossman-chew," and along the Rhine "Lossuppen." The finest specimens are found along the banks of the Troy River, near New York, U.S.A., and in the Champlain clays of the Connecticut Valley. A small volume was written on these stones by Mr. J. M. A. Sheldon, and published in Boston, U.S.A., 1900. The title of the book is "Clay Concretions from the Champlain Clays of the Connecticut Valley." The stones are usually termed Calcareous Concretions, or Clay Concretions of Aluminium. Those who would wish to learn further particulars regarding these curious geological freaks should consult Geikie's Geology, 2 vols, p. 646. There are some interesting specimens in one of the geological cases in the Grainger collection in the Free Library, Belfast.

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Making the Railway in Seagoe, 1838.—Here is the warning notice issued to a landholder in Seagoe in February, 1838, prior to the making of the railway:—

THE ULSTER RAILWAY.

Whereas in and by an Act passed in the 6th year of the Reign of his present Majesty King William the IV. entitled an Act for making a Railway from the town of Belfast to the city of Armagh, in the province of Ulster, in Ireland, certain persons were united into a Company by the name and style of the Ulster Railway Company, and the said Company were authorised to enter into and upon certain lands, now I do hereby give notice that it is the intention of the said Company to take and use that piece or parcel of ground situate in the townland of Seagoe Upper, now or lately in the possession of Robert M'Culley, containing 3 roods, 29 perches, the said ground being required for their works, and described as Nos. 4 and 6 in the large scale map of said Railway at the office of the Company, in the Commercial Buildings, Belfast.

HUGH WALLACE,

Solicitor for the Company.

Dated this 10th day of February, 1838.

To Lord Mandeville and Robert M'Culley.

Extract from the Act of William IV.—If any person shall obstruct or prevent any person employed by the said Company or shall pull up or remove any stakes that may have been driven into the ground for the purpose of setting out the line of the said Railway he shall forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding Five Pounds for every such offence.

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Interesting Old Seagoe Documents.—The Rector acknowledges, with thanks, the gift of several interesting old Seagoe documents from Miss Kinnear. These include the above notice regarding the making of the railway; also a Bill of the Court Leet of the manor of Kernan, with the names of the Leet Jury, dated May 13th, 1842, and signed Charles Hunt, Seneschal; also a sketch of the old church, made before the west gable had fallen; also a printed abstract of the accounts for the building of Seagoe School, dated July 10th, 1860.

Mrs. William Hart, of Ballygargan, has kindly sent the Rector the remaining verses of the spirited ballad of "Tommy Downshire." All these will be printed in the next and succeeding issues of the Magazine.

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Churchwardens of Seagoe.—(Continued).

- 1745—Wm. Thompson, of Ballydonaghy; Leonard Calvert, of Monraverty.
 1746—William Dixon, of Ballygargin; Benjamin Woolsey, of Edenderry.
 1747—John Beans, John Eccles.
 1748—Meredith Atkinson, of Low Seagoe; Arthur M'Can, of Ballydonaghy.
 1749—William Buck, of Levaghery; John Best, of Balteer.

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The Windy Bridge at Portadown.—Portadown Bridge is without doubt the windiest bridge in Ireland. Even when the air is very calm there is a breeze blowing there, but when a moderate wind blows the air currents become so strong that pedestrians have to hold on their hats, and if one is riding a bicycle it is necessary to dismount for safety. The cause of the phenomenon is quite simple. The prevailing winds in this district are from the West, and the street which crosses the Bridge runs almost, but not quite, West and East. The screen of high houses along one side of Bridge Street and High Street diverts the westerly wind and forces the current towards the Bridge. Here it is blocked below by the heavy stone arches and coping walls of the bridge, and so it escapes with a fierce rush over the parapet and catches the passers by. When the wind veers to the South an almost similar event occurs in an opposite direction.