

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JUNE, 1919.

Confirmation Classes, 1919.

In each week (beginning Monday, May 19th), the following Classes will be held at 8 p.m.

Monday—Edenderry (Boys).

Tuesday—Hacknahay.

Wednesday—Drumgor.

Thursday—Edenderry (Girls.)

Thursday—Seagoe.

Friday—Carne.

N B.—The Confirmation will take place (D.V.) in Seagoe Parish Church, on Sunday, July 6th, at 7 p.m. No person under the age of 14 will be Confirmed.

New Parochial Appointments.

At a Meeting of the Select Vestry held on Thursday, May 8th, in Seagoe School, the following appointments were unanimously made to fill the posts of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer recently vacated by Mr W. R. Atkinson. **Hon. Secretary**—Mr J. H. Stevenson. **Hon. Treasurer**—Mr J. Sands.

The following resolution was unanimously passed—
“That we, the Members of the Select Vestry of Seagoe Parish, desire to place on record our high appreciation of the services rendered to the Parish of Seagoe by Mr Wolsey R. Atkinson as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer during the long period of nineteen years, and we cannot allow his resignation of these offices to take effect without expressing on behalf of the Parishioners our gratitude to him for his unwearrying diligence in furthering all the best interests of the Parish. We regret that he has found it necessary to resign these offices, but we are glad to know that he will still remain a Member of the Select Vestry, and that we shall still have the benefit of his counsel and advice in all matters connected with the Parish.”

Whitsuntide.

Special Services will be held in Seagoe Parish on Whitsunday, June 8th. There will be celebrations of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and after Morning Prayer. The Offertories will be on behalf of the Board of Religious Education.

Dedication of Memorials.

On Saturday, May 10th, a Dedication of Memorials took place in the Parish Church. They have been erected by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Atkinson, of Eden Villa, to the memory of three members of their family. The Memorials consist of an Oak Screen and Marble Steps at the entrance to the Chancel and a Sanctuary Mat. They are very handsome, and add greatly to the enrichment of the Church. A Brass Tablet placed on the wall near at hand bears the following inscription:—

“The Chancel Rail and Steps are given to the Glory of God, and in Memory of the beloved Children

of Wolsey Richard Atkinson, and Alice his wife. Wolsey Arthur, 20 Dec., 1876—22 July, 1899, the result of an accident. Charlotte Elizabeth Buckby, 11 May, 1880—15 April, 1906. Thomas Joyce, 30 Jan., 1878, Temporary Major 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers, 36th (Ulster) Division, killed in action at the Battle of the Somme, 1 July, 1916.”

The Service of Dedication began at 4 o'clock. There was a large gathering of friends and parishioners. The Rector and the Rev. H. G. de L. Singleton took part in the service. The Hymn 165, Rock of Ages, was sung at the opening, then followed Easter Collects, and Collects from the Burial Office. Ps. xxiii. was sung by the Choir, and the Lesson 1 Thess. iv., 13, was then read. The Rector dedicated the gifts and said a Collect of Dedication. The Hymn “Abide with me” (a favourite Hymn of the late Major Atkinson) was sung, and then after the Closing Prayers and the grace, the “Nunc Dimittis” was sung by all kneeling. The Service was very solemn and touching. These appropriate and beautiful gifts will keep in the remembrance of the worshippers in Seagoe Parish Church the memory of some who once worshipped with us, but who now worship in “the Temple not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.”

“Welcome Home” Reception.

On Thursday, June 12th, a “Welcome Home” Reception will be given in Seagoe School to the men of Seagoe Parish who have recently returned home from the great War. All men connected with Seagoe Church who served during the War will receive a Card of Invitation, and they are invited to bring with them a lady friend. A large committee under the direction of Miss Atkinson, of Eden Villa, has been making preparations for the Reception, which will, we believe, be a great success. A large number of Invitations are being issued. It is hoped that the great Parish Roll of Honour will be on view that evening for the first time. Every care is being taken to see that every one who served in the War will receive an Invitation, but if by any chance some one is by accident omitted will such an one please apply to Miss Atkinson and he will receive a Card of Invitation. It may be difficult owing to the number of names to make the list quite complete.

Seagoe at Archangel.

Seagoe men are usually to be found wherever there is tough work to be done. The Bolshevists are trying to push England out of Russia, through the back door at Archangel, and along the Murmansk coastline. But there is at least one Seagoe man there who is determined to hold on, and that is James Pentland, late of Century Street, now of Ballymacrandle. He has joined the Royal Air Force, and is now with the British Force in North Russia. We wish him all success and Godspeed.

Sunday School Excursion.

The War is over and Peace is in the air, so it has been decided to have once again an Excursion for our Sunday Schools. Colonel Blacker has, with his usual kindness, given us the privilege of gathering at Carrick Blacker. The Excursion will take place on Thursday, June 26th. A short service will be held in the Church at 10 a.m., after which the procession will start for Carrick Blacker. There will be swings and races and buns and tea and all sorts of good things, also a stall, under a spreading chestnut tree, well stocked with all kinds of attractive goods for young and old. Tickets for Children under 8—3d, over 8—6d. If any child has not attended, without good excuse, at least 10 Sundays at any one Sunday School since January 1st, 1919, that child will have to pay 6d or 1s, according to age. The Tickets will entitle to two Refreshments, and will be on sale at all Schools on the Wednesday and Saturday preceding the Excursion from 7 to 8 o'clock.

A Letter from Canada.

We print an interesting letter from Jack Stoops who was some years ago well-known in Seagoe. We are glad to know he is getting on well, and doing good work in his home beyond the seas.

TORONTO, MARCH 10th, 1919.

My Dear Aunt,

I suppose you will think I have altogether forgotten you, but to tell you the truth I have not, although I do not often write to you. I hope when you receive these few lines that you will be a little better with regard to your eyes, as A. tells me that they have been troubling you quite a bit.

We are quite well, and working every day, at least I am supposed to be, but as they are not too busy where I am working there is not much for me to do.

The weather out here is exceptionally good. They say that there has never been a winter like this one, so mild, since 1878, for we have not had one real cold day yet, and I do not suppose we will now, as it will soon be April, when we begin to have the nice sloppy days which we all enjoy so much in Portadown.

Tell Mr. Archer that the Church I belong to out here is not, by a long shot, as big as Seagoe, but conducts the same service, the name of which is St. Monica. We have a Boys' Auxiliary here for which I am Secretary, and we also have a Boys' Bible Class and I am President of that, and they are starting a Men's Club next Thursday night, and I was elected Secretary-Treasurer, so you see I can find lots of time outside my working hours to attend to these things.

Give my best regards to Miss Armstrong, and tell her that although I do not write to her as often as I should, that I certainly appreciated her kindness, shown to us when we lived in Portadown. I also have the Bible which she gave me when coming away, and I value it a great deal. Perhaps she would

like my address to drop me a few lines, as I should very much like to hear from her. Of course all these people could be dead and buried for all I know, for I never hear anything about them, and I would like very much to.

If Charlie Montgomery is still in Portadown tell him that I was asking about him, and do not forget the Sunday School to which I once belonged, and where I was taught by him. You might also tell him that I am teaching a class in Sunday School myself.

I am sure that you are very lonely since grandmother died. I am sure you miss her a great deal, but of course all these things must happen, and we just have to make the best of them, although it is really sad sometimes. But I want you to cheer up, and although your eyes are troubling you to look at the brightest side of things, until such times as you will be feeling better than you are to-day, and I only hope that they may get better as soon as possible.

Give my best regards to all my old school chums, if you happen to see any of them.

I cannot think of anything more at present to tell you, so hoping that you will soon find your way clear to cheer up, and with best regards to everyone.

FROM JACK.

PARISH REGISTER for MAY, 1919.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized on May, 3rd, 1919—
Preston—Samuel, son of James (late of 17th R.I.R., B.E.F.) and Sarah Jane Preston, of Lylo.

Sponsors—Hannah Malcomson, Sarah Preston.

Ruddock—Robert George, son of George and Sarah Ruddock, of Drumnacanvey.

Sponsors—George Ruddock, Sarah Ruddock.

Marriages.

Ruddell and Stevenson—15th April, 1919, at St. Paul's Church, Fortwilliam, Ontario, Canada, by the Rev. W. H. Trickett, Rector, William James Ruddell, formerly of Tamnifiglasson, to Elizabeth Stevenson of Drumgor.

Preston and Atkinson—7th May, 1919, Joseph Henry Pierson, of Portadown, late L.-Corp. R.E., B.E.F., 1914-1919, to Mary Anne Atkinson, of Edenderry.

Hunniford and Webb—16th May, 1919, Charles Hunniford, of Portadown, to Elizabeth Webb, of Lylo.

Burials.

McKee—May 11th, James Henry M'Kee, of Kernan, aged 40.

Morton—May 16th, John Morton, of Florence Court, aged 22. Interred at Ahorey Graveyard.

Metcalfe—May 25th, Richard Metcalfe, of Belfast, aged 64.

Johnston—May 26th, William John Johnston, of Carne, aged 75. Interred in Drumcree Churchyard.

ITEMS.

The two conspicuous stars in the western sky each evening are Venus and Jupiter. Venus is the brighter of the two, and is at present a beautiful object. Her shape, like a crescent moon, can almost be seen just now by the naked eye.

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Several of the graves in Seagoe graveyard, around the Church, have during the past month been made tidy and cleared of weeds. We hope all who have grave plots will attend to them.

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Unprecedented scenes are witnessed in the Parish at present. Our people are "on the Exchange," and in receipt of unemployment pay, so that the country roads are full of pedestrians enjoying the glorious weather and the splendid country sights, and although doing no work are in receipt of substantial pay.

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Special Services were held in the Parish Church, on Sunday, May 25th (Rogationtide Sunday), and prayers were offered for the Divine Blessing on the growing crops.

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Large numbers are joining the Confirmation Classes.

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The Rest Room at the Station is about to be closed after doing a splendid work for our fighting men for four years.

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A new Club, called St. Goban's Football Club is being formed in the Parish. We congratulate the members on ranging themselves under our local Patron Saint. We do not know for certain that Goban played football, but we have sufficient evidence from ancient tradition that he was of a decidedly athletic disposition. He could hurl logs of wood a considerable distance, and on occasion could so bend his supple joints as to conceal himself inside a wooden box of narrow compass. He was in every sense a manly Christian, and was never ashamed of his religion, or afraid to confess it, and in this respect is a fine example for our young men to follow.

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It is proposed so to control the rise and fall of the waters of Lough Neagh as that they may supply power for electric lighting in this and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

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Twelve Choirs are taking part in the Choral Festival at Seagoe, on Saturday, May 31st. The Service is at 4-30. The combined Choirs will number 345. The preacher will be the Rev. Canon Moeran, and the Rev. J. Bentley, Rector of Jonesboro', and formerly a member of Armagh Cathedral Choir, will conduct.

Aeroplanes coming from Aldersgrove Aerodrome use Seagoe as their point of direction in flying west or south.

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Some weeds, especially Dandelions and Nettles, have this year attained abnormal growth. A Nettle 6-ft. high, and a Dandelion blossom 4-ft. high have been noticed in Seagoe.

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It is proposed to plant red and white roses in memory of our fallen Seagoe men at each side of the porch of Seagoe Church.

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Seagoe Weather during May.—The following is our School Weather Report for May, with the names of the pupils who took the Records:—

Barometer—Highest, 29.5 ins., May 7th, 26th, 27th, Tom Rainey, Hilda Walker, Lizzie Loney; lowest, 28.9 ins., May 2nd, Edna Best,

Thermometer (in sun), noon—Highest, May, 27th, 91 degrees, Hilda Walker; lowest, May 8th, 50 degrees, Willie M'Clements.

OLD SEAGOE NOTES.

Rev. Richard Olpherts, Curate of Seagoe, 1810—1816.—[We extract the following note from the Rev. J. B. Leslie's "Armagh Clergy and Parishes" published in 1911. It is the first complete record we have seen of the Rev. R. Olpherts' career after he left Seagoe, but strange to say his tenure of Seagoe Curacy is omitted from Mr. Leslie's book.] Rev. Richard Olpherts collated to the Parish of Charlestown, Diocese of Armagh, on March 13th, 1823, son of Richard Olpherts, descended from Wybrants Olpherts, a Burgess of Armagh. Born in Co. Armagh, entered T.C.D. October 2nd, 1802, aged 17, educated at Royal School, Armagh. B.A. 1805; M.A. 1827. [Curate of Seagoe 1810—1816]. Licensed to Curacy of Desertlyn September 27th, 1816. He died on 17th December, 1849, aged 64 years, and was buried in Armagh Cathedral Churchyard, where the tombstone records the burial of his 1st wife Anne, who died 11th June, 1828, aged 30; and of his 2nd wife Mary, and 11 of his children. A tablet to his memory in Charlestown Church has the inscription—"Sacred to the memory of Rev. Richard Olpherts, for 27 years Vicar of the Union of Charlestown." This tablet is inscribed as a tribute of affectionate respect and esteem by his grateful parishioners of all denominations, and a few privileged friends—Obit. December, 1848 (?), Aetat 65."

During Mr. Olpherts' tenure of the Parish of Charlestown a new church was built there in 1827, with a tower and spire 108 feet high. The Parish of Seagoe has good reason to remember with gratitude the name of Rev. Richard Olpherts, for when the project of the building of the present Church was on foot, he advanced the sum of £500 toward the building fund.

In the Vestry Records for 16th April, 1816, the following note is added—Whereas it appears that the Rev. Richard Olpherts has advanced the sum of £500

in finishing the new church it is hereby agreed on as the easiest method of paying him, that one Half of the Pews in the New Church be disposed of to the Highest Bidder, together with 4d. per acre, to be levied off the Parish this year, and whatever ballance shall appear due after sd. £500. after the sale of the said Pews, and the produce of the sd. laid on 4d per acre, we do hereby bind ourselves to pay sd. Ballance in such manner as shall appear most beneficial to both Mr. Olpherts and parishioners at the following Eastry Vestry.

Mr. Olpherts' initials "R.O." appear on the lozenge shaped stone, set into the right hand side wall of the Church porch.

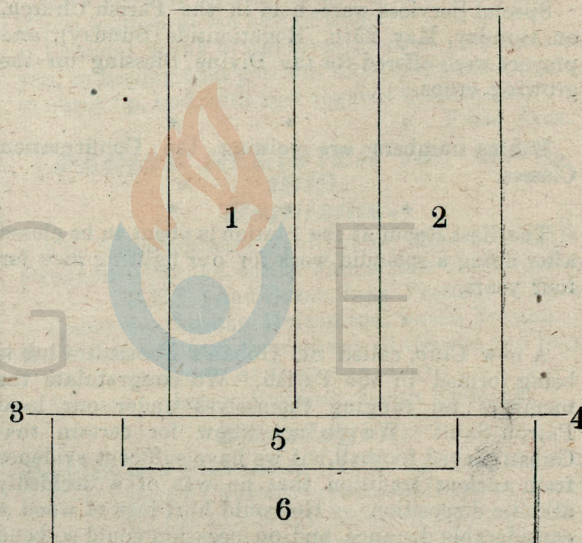
A proof that Mr Olpherts did not always get the money to which he was entitled is forthcoming from this note scribbled on the back page of the Vestry Registers—"£3 5s 2d in John Overend's hands which I never could get from him.—R Olpherts."

Archdeacon Saurin and the Labourers, 1865.—The late Mr. Robert Lynass, of Carne, told the present Rector the following characteristic story of Archdeacon Saurin :—Sometime in the Sixties of the last century when the Archdeacon was getting on in years he found the steep incline in the path across the field from the Rectory to the Church, trying to wind and limb. So one day he sent for Mr Lynass, who was an old and tried friend of his, and asked him if he would get his workmen some day to come and cut the hill so as to render the gradient less steep. On the appointed day Mr Lynass came with his men and commenced the work. Soon after, the Archdeacon appeared on the scene, and seemed to be very much interested in the men and their work. He sent one of them to the Rectory for a chair, and when it was brought he sat down and watched them intently. No doubt the patriarchal presence of the Archdeacon caused them to work with greater zeal. After watching them for some time the Archdeacon called Mr Lynass and said to him in a puzzled way — "Robert, do your men always work as hard as that?" Mr. Lynass replied—"Oh, yes, Deacon, they always work very hard." The Archdeacon looked dissatisfied for a moment, and then summoning up all his energy and suppressed indignation he vigorously slapped his knee and said—"Well, I'm robbed!"

The Saurin Vault in Seagoe Church—On Monday, May 5th, during the alterations at the Chancel steps the workmen accidentally made an opening into the Saurin Vault under the floor of the Chancel. As it seemed a suitable opportunity for learning the condition of the Vault, the opening was widened sufficiently for a person to enter. The Rector went into the Vault and found it in good condition. On the left-hand side lay the coffin of Archdeacon Saurin, and laid on it was that of Mrs. Saurin, his second wife. At the other side of the Vault was a cemented receptacle which contains the body of Archdeacon Saurin's first wife, and also the bodies of two of his children who died in infancy. The coffins (lead in a wooden shell) of Archdeacon

and Mrs Saurin were in good preservation and much in the same condition as when they were placed there some forty years ago. The Inscription on Mrs. Saurin's coffin read as follows—"Emma Elizabeth Saurin, Born September, 1805, Died December, 1891." Mrs. Saurin's coffin measured 6ft. 4ins. in length by 1ft. 3ins. deep. The Archdeacon's coffin was 7ft. in length by 1ft. 3ins. deep. Owing to its great size some of the wall of the Church had to be removed so as to let it get into the Vault. The head of the Archdeacon's coffin lies towards the Chancel end of the Church, and Mrs. Saurin's coffin is in the reverse direction. Some massive brass rings which had been attached to the Archdeacon's coffin were found lying on the top of the cement ledge. They had become detached at the time of Mrs Saurin's interment. The measurements of the Vault are—Length, 6ft 6ins., Breadth 5ft. 11ins., Height, to centre of Arched roof, 5ft.

PLAN OF VAULT.



1. Coffins of Archdeacon and Mrs. Saurin. 2. Other coffins in cement ledge. 3 and 4, Base of Chancel Arch. 5 and 6, Chancel steps. The coffins having been cleaned and dusted, the Rector placed some flowers on Mrs. Saurin's coffin, and the Vault was again carefully closed up. The arched roof of the Vault forms the floor of the Chancel. It is made of brick with a concrete covering. The support lining (wood) of the arch has naturally decayed and fallen on to the floor of the Vault.

Recovery of Drumcree Missing Registers.—The Vestry Records of Drumcree Parish for the years 1803-1827 have within the past month been restored to the Parish. They were found in the Library of Mr. J. Obins Woodhouse, of Omeath. They contain many items of interest to Seagoe people, and we hope to insert them in future issues. The present spire of Drumcree Church was built by Dean Blacker, Rector of Seagoe, while Rector of Drumcree. It cost £717. The Balls on the Summit cost £10.