

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JUNE, 1923.

## Death of Mr. Charles Johnston.

Portadown has sustained a serious loss in the death of Mr. Charles Johnston, D.L., of Beechcote. For very many years he took a leading part in every movement for the welfare of the community. He gave unstintedly of his time and energy and talents to further every good cause. Much of the prosperity of Portadown and the neighbourhood is attributable to his unceasing interest and effort. His sound common sense, his dislike of self-advertisement, and his delightful kindness of manner won for him a great place in the affection of the people. He has left a fine example to Portadown of disinterested public service.

## The Choir Festival.

This annual event took place at Knocknamuckley Parish Church on Saturday, May 26th, at 4.30. Seagoe Choir was present in full strength. The Lord Primate was the preacher. After the service the 14 Choirs had tea together in the Parochial Hall—about 380 persons in all. The Rev. John Bentley, Rector of Jonesboro', conducted and trained the choirs. Mr. Bentley visited Seagoe Church for a Choir Practice before the Festival. As a Choir trainer he seems almost perfect. He knows everything, and although he criticises severely he is not slow to congratulate when it is deserved. His advice to the Choir on Time, Tune, the need of Practice, and the Joy of Singing will not, we believe, be soon forgotten by those who heard it.

## Sunday School Excursion.

It has been decided to have the Sunday School Excursion to Warrenpoint this year. We will all be glad to get away to the sea-shore once again. The day fixed is Thursday, June 21st. This is Mid-Summer day, and also the longest day in the year, so that the children will have a glorious time paddling and digging and building sand castles, and eating lovely buns and drinking the best of Gold Medal Tea.

## Sympathy.

We regret to record this month the death of Joseph Allen, a member of a family well known and much respected in the Parish. After a long and trying illness he has been called to his Rest. His last words were "Home, Home." Our sincere sympathy goes out to his devoted Parents and the members of the family in their affliction. The Funeral, which was very large, took place to Seagoe Graveyard on Sunday, May 20th.

## Congratulations.

We offer our hearty congratulations to the Rev. G. W. Millington, M.A., Curate of St. Mark's, on his appointment as Curate-in-charge of the Parish of Annaghmore. Mr. Millington was well liked not only in St. Mark's Parish but also in this Parish. He has helped us in many ways, and was always ready to assist by giving addresses at our Temperance gatherings and also by occasionally ministering to our sick ones in Lurgan Infirmary. We sympathise with Mr. Millington in the recent death of his brother. In the days to come we hope often to see Mr. Millington in this neighbourhood, where he will always find a welcome.

## The Rev. W. T. Wilson, M.A.

The Rev. W. T. Wilson, M.A., our new Curate, will be with us from June 1st. Mr. Wilson has not been able to find lodgings in Seagoe Parish, and his address will be 13 Harford St., Portadown.

## Parish Register for May.

### Baptisms.

**Heyburn**—May 5th, 1923, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of William James and Mary Jane Heyburn, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Sarah Fleming, Mary Jane Heyburn.

**Redpath**—May 23rd, 1923, Reuben, son of William and Elizabeth Redpath, of Killicomain.

*Sponsors*—William Redpath, Elizabeth Redpath.

### Marriage.

**Walker and Pilsworth**—April, 1923, at St. Mary's Church, Liverpool, by the Rev. Canon Jones, Vicar of Banbury, William B. Walker, M.D., of Catford, London, formerly of Upper Seagoe, to Gates Mary L. Pilsworth, of Liverpool.

### Burials.

**Allen**—May 20th, Joseph Allen, of Edenderry, aged 27 years.

**Porter**—May 23rd, Anne Porter, of Lower Seagoe, formerly of Bleary, aged 15 years.

**Forde**—May 24th, Frank Forde, of Edenderry, aged 72 years.

**Pollock**—May 30th, Anne Pollock, of Lower Seagoe, aged 14 years.



**Seagoe in New Zealand.**

The Rector has received the following very interesting letter from Mr. Samuel W. Coulter, who left Seagoe for New Zealand fifty years ago. He writes from Te Awamutu :—

Dear Sir,—I received your letter with Baptism Certificate in it. I also received a Seagoe Parish Magazine, which I was very pleased to get, with many thanks for your prompt reply. I did not think that there was such a paper printed me being about 50 years away. There have been many changes in that time. Now, this is a hurried scribble; it is now close on 7 o'clock p.m., and the mail closes for this mail at 8 o'clock at Te Awamutu P.O. I would have sent you a Money Order for the Magazine, but after 4 p.m. it could not be got. I received your letter on the 21st of this month. I will send you the money next mail. Don't send me the paper until you receive the money. I think this is about the third letter that I have written home all this time. I don't know, but you seem a nice sort of a man. You know we are all supposed to be men. I have got a lot to ask you about, and a little to do for me yet when I have got in touch with you. Send me a Portadown paper or a Belfast paper; I have not seen one for years. Can you send me a paper called "The Craftsman"? I am sending you some papers. Are there any Orange Lodges about Seagoe now? No. 26 Seagoe Orange Lodge sat in my father's house for 49 years. My grandfather had the largest Orange funeral ever the Rev. Archdeacon Saurin attended.

Now, Mr. Archer, I will draw this to a close. The next one will be a longer letter. Now you must excuse mistakes—I am not up to the pen business very well. I was so pleased to see some news from old Portadown; I know it very well. I used to go to Seagoe Sunday School; good old times then. And the drums out nearly every night in the week. In conclusion I will say good night.

I remain, yours fraternally,  
April 23rd, 1923. SAMUEL W. COULTER.

**A Message from Toronto.**

The Right Rev. Dr. Sweeny, Bishop of Toronto, has written the following letter to the Rev. Canon Archer:

My dear Canon,—I am in receipt of yours of the 28th of April, and have passed it on to the General

Secretary of our Council for Social Service, who will take it up with the Chairman of the Welfare Department of our Council.

You may rest assured we will do all we possibly can to welcome any who may come seeking to carve out for themselves a future in this new country.

With kindest regards, believe me,  
Faithfully yours,  
May 11th, 1923. JAMES TORONTO.

**Important to Emigrants.**

The Rector has also received the following letter from the Rev. Canon Vernon of The Church House, 604 Jarvis Street, Toronto. Those who are intending to go to Canada should read it with care :—

My dear Canon,—The Bishop of Toronto passed over to me your letter of April 28th. Our Chaplains at the Atlantic ports of Quebec, Halifax and St. John secure the names and Canadian addresses of all Anglican immigrants from the ship's manifest, and then commend them to our parochial clergy throughout Canada. Of course personal letters of introduction from you or other clergy of the Irish Church will always be helpful. It might be well to point out to members of the Church of Ireland that the Church in this country is known as the Church of England in Canada, and sometimes as the Anglican Church. We should be glad to meet any young Irish Church people who may be coming to Toronto at this office if you will give them a letter of introduction to me. My secretary, Mrs. Payne, is herself an Irish woman, and we should be very glad to advise to the best of our ability any young Irish Church people. I am sending a short notice to the "Canadian Churchman" asking our clergy to be on the look-out for such newcomers. In Canada we have the greatest love and sympathy with the Church of Ireland, and are only too anxious to aid Irish Church people to fit into the Church life in this country and their new surroundings generally. I am also sending you a copy of our last annual report, and some other literature dealing with our work for the Welcome and Welfare of newcomers.

Faithfully yours,  
C. W. VERNON,  
May 14th, 1923. General Secretary.

**WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE.**

By Lieut.-Col. S. W. BLACKER, D.S.O.

(Continued from May Magazine.)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd.**

Bosche very active last night from 5 p.m. till 4 a.m. this morning. Trench mortars, 4.2 Hows, Field Guns and M.G. very vicious. They caught a wiring party of ours and wounded 2 Officers and 1 man; 1 such a dear boy, Wingfield, only 18, so keen and capable. They got him badly through the stomach. He was one of those who did the Patrol. I

purposely saved him from the Push, he was so young, though he implored me to let him go, and now he is gone. I fear he can hardly recover—anyway we shan't see him again. He came from 4th Battalion. The flies have suddenly got very bad, they pervade everything, crawl into all food and generally harry one—notwithstanding fly-papers, creosote, spraying and every device we can think of. The Padre will tell you all about this part of the



line and the country. I miss him sadly. We are a very dull party without him. Fine, and pleasantly warm. Whenever the wind in E they order a gas "Alert," when gas helmets have to be worn in a certain way, and other precautions taken. Of course the wind is S.W., but the gas "Alert" is still on.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24th.

Godson joined in March from 4th Battalion. Was in 4th Hussars. He is capital, and so bright and full of views, and always quite unperturbed. Clements came from Armagh. He has got the Military Medal. Corps, Div. and Bde Cdrs congratulate him. The first man in the Battalion to be decorated. The order has gone out from G.H.Q. that men are to be returned to their units. A quiet night and morning, very little M.G. fire, and only occasional shelling. Drizzle during night and this a.m., but all for heat. A pleasant breeze now got up.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 25th.

The Coy Commanders' Conference at 2 p.m., daily, and we have a talk over things, which generally lasts an hour. Then post comes and I write. Tea at 5 p.m., and a walk round various working parties. It always takes me a day to settle into trench routine, and then I am quite happy and hate nothing but the first day. I am feeling unhappy at the amount of work there is to do. Then once we begin to tackle it, one is absorbed in the work. Now I've got the hang of these trenches and got the work organised I don't get up early except for some special reason. The afternoon Hate just begun. We sprayed inside of Mess with creosote and the flies are much better. I hadn't been to 'Wipers' before. A sad spectacle! Not a wall more than 8 feet in height left. The Cloth Hall practically disappeared. A quiet night; they put a whole lot of 'oil cans,' about 50, into Bde on our left yesterday p.m., and were very noisy with guns and Hows for some time, but they let us alone. Holt was down last evening looking round. He now commands a Coy and rather likes it. So hot and muggy to-day, and the flies are very trying. The new lot are doing capitally, 2 of them out on Patrol every night, quite on their own, and full of enterprise. Altogether I am very lucky. Kentish's letter will interest you. Of course, he's always flowery, but it's quite a nice letter to get. Was called away to talk to some gunners, and gave them tea. Humphreys is B.Gen. R.A. of the Corps. I haven't seen him yet. Some one says Horne has got 1st Army and that 'Putty' has gone home, also Keir.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 26th.

A wet night and heavy showers in a.m. Now cleared off. Various Staff visited us, all very affable. There is a certain amount of what is called Trench Fever going; it's a sort of 'Flu' Temp. Muggy weather, I think, has brought it on. Godson returned from Sniping Course last night, very keen, and bright bird. Quiet night, but very hot. The Bosche put in a couple of shrapnel whenever he sees a small party showing themselves, and men are careless. He buzzed in 3 about 30 yards from here a quarter of an hour ago. They are very harmless

unless you are just under them. Holt was down this morning, also the gunner Lt.-Col. and the How. Major, so we were full of visitors. We don't go out till Wednesday owing to a night working show. Somerset Saunderson was rather impressed with the discomfort of our surroundings. It's curious how you get accustomed to anything. I hardly notice it now, and am quite happy here, with an occasional growl. We get our "Times" regularly now the next day. They seem gradually creeping up to Thiépval. I expect next spring or summer we shall have enough big guns and ammunition to make a simultaneous Push from the sea to the Somme.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 27th.

Rain last night has made everything muddy, but it's fine and drying now. Things fairly quiet. We are only 6 days in and out, 7 days in this time owing to a working party arrangement. Work out here is like at home, if you plan out the tocks to be done and organise parties for each, making some one responsible, and the work is done, but if you don't do this, and simply let things slide, nothing is done—they neither wire nor work. We go out to-morrow night. Sergts. Barbour and Vennard are both doing splendid work.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 28th.

We have got some good work done this time. I have only 2 Coys actually in the line, and 2 back in support. By this means each Coy only gets 6 days in 24 in front line.

Heard from R.P.M. in answer to my letter. He'll do all he can to prevent stoppage of Separation Allowances, but wants me to send him a roll of Battalion, with addresses of dependants, and if any allotment has been made. Rather a grind, but we are going to do it. Do go and see young Dickson in Tandragee. He was wounded in May, wiring, still has a bullet in him. He feels being out of it, and not getting any better. Very warm again last night. I hear young Wingfield is doing 'fairly well' only. During our six days 'Rest' we have to find 70 men every night for work here. Every man has to be bathed; baths 3 miles away. Every man has to attend one day for instruction at anti-gas school, 5 miles away, besides finding ordinary guards and posts. It takes a bit of fitting in and is called a rest. It's almost more restful in the line. When at Tandragee you might go and see the Jacksons—Sergt. Jackson's people. He is missing, I fear killed. Was in U.V.F., and in Estate Office at Tandragee; very brave and gallant.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 29th.

Got a cheery letter from Wingfield. I am in hopes he will do all right. He had a bullet right through his body. He was stooping tending a wounded man, and he got it in the back, but it seems to have mined his stomach. I really believe he'll pull through all right. Quick relief was finished at 10 p.m., was up here at 10.45 p.m. To-day heavy rain and thunder, everything in a fearful state as every roof is full of holes, and I'm going over ankles in mud, and now way to dry. Such a noisy p.m. with guns and thun-



der. Shill takes up duties of 2nd in Command command and is being most helpful. I was glad to get out of the line—the extra day told. We only had 3 casualties, 2 Officers and I man wounded. Considering T.M.'s and M.G.'s was fortunate. The Div were wired about our 22 so hope they come soon. Have written in reams on the subject frequently! Feel so relieved about Wingfield, but is such a gallant boy, only 17, but such a splendid spirit.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30th.

Don't think there will be any Push till the Spring, when, as Repington says, we may push from the sea to the Somme. It hasn't ceased raining since last night. You may imagine the state everything is in. My sandbag residence is streaming; it has no door and the rain drives in. Lutton gone back to his Coy. Soon we shall want socks in large numbers. Will find out about Roll Call on 1st July, but they are busy at present getting out the list for R.P.M.—a big job. Just seen Pratt, he seems very chirpy. Have been trying to mend holes in all the roofs, but it's a big job. We have to find 65 men every night. Luckily they cancelled some of them last night, and to-day, owing to the weather. The only good thing about the rain is it stops the deafening guns! I see Germany is raging at Roumania coming in; it ought to turn the scale well and help Russia. Bulgaria will find she has backed the wrong horse. It's great, 400,000 men, and freedom for Russia to move means a lot, and of course, as Roumania didn't join in Balkan wars 4 years ago, she will have plenty of Reserves. Everything damnably wet. Just found I've been sitting in a pool of water collected in my chair.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st.

5.30 p.m.—Padre returned to-day looking all the better, and so cheery; he is such a dear. We bombarded and generally stirred up the Bosche last night, and he has been stuffy all day, plugging in shell just over this at short intervals from about 3 a.m. up to now. I don't think he's done much damage. Such an uncomfortable day yesterday, but to-day sunny, and drying wind. Everything was wet in huts and dug-outs; they all leaked, and such a wind, and the rain drove in. Looks as if leave might open soon, but I couldn't leave yet. Have to find 66 men every night to wire on our front! It's too bad. Of course it's urgent, but they should knock off the other parties. Be sure and impress on all who come out to insist on coming back to 9th. If they are firm they will get back. I can do nothing here.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st.

Another show of sorts last night, a tumult of guns 1.30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Bosche didn't reply on us here, but gave the front line some, but didn't do much damage. A boy called Lynass was hit by a stray bullet returning from wiring, and is in a critical condition. Keen, always did his job well, and capable. I grieve for his loss. Am going to How Observation Post after tea to have look at Bosche trenches.

Had a slight chill yesterday, but am all right to-day. We are busy trying to repair huts here to-day, and the accommodation here is disgraceful, and I'm strafing all round. They'll talk and plan and do nothing, and then the winter will be upon us. A Graves Committee bloke, ranking as Lieut., came round to-day and was fearfully excited because some R.E. sapper was buried yesterday in the wrong cemetery. I handed him over to the Padre. A consequential Rev. ————, who you might think was running the war, laying down the law about burials, etc. Clouding over, expect more rain.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd.

Poor young Lynass died this a.m. early. I'm very sorry at his loss. Went over to see transport this morning, and lunched with the Bde. The 109th are on the move going from one flank of the Div to the other; so silly, these little moves. They knock the heart out of people. You've just got your little bit improved and lots of plans and projects under way, when you move on and have to begin again. The 13th wanted a working party, but I really would not be good natured at the expense of the men. Usual afternoon gun fire going on.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd.

Service this morning at 10, but our guns were so noisy it was distracting. Second Service afterwards in our Mess Hut. There was a gas alarm last night, about 11.30 p.m. Everyone stood to and put on gas helmets, but no sign of gas, so after a bit we 'stood down.' False alarm, I believe, from people on our left. The higher Command are very nervy about gas here, and one has to be careful as the Bosche frequently looses it off. One never moves without gas helmets, and when the wind is easterly everyone wears it, opened and pinned to the shirt in front, ready to pull on. Wasps a bother here, but no flies. In the line flies and no wasps. Ricardo came over yesterday p.m. and had a long Bukh! He is commanding 109th Bde temporarily. Yes, Padre is one of the best this world produces. We are busy, with help of R.E., making huts, etc., here more rainproof and generally better. Am leaving 2 carpenters out of the line for this purpose. Am going to stroll out with Shill, to have a look at an outpost. Walked back and dined with Ricardo at Bde. H.Q. Very pleasant dinner.

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th.

Pratt should get on very well with his new lot. He has knowledge and keenness and energy. The M.G. Lt.-Col. and Major—Thompson and Carfrae—I never met before. Jos. Johnstone commands 'C,' Given 'D,' and Ensor 'B,' Allen 'A.' Colder to-day, and trying to rain. My harrying did good. Comyn came over to-day and promised us 2 Officers' huts and 1 men's at once. Should be up before we come out again. This will make a difference to our comfort. We go in to-night; relief getting earlier each time owing to light, which is a blessing, as it means earlier settling in.

(To be continued.)