

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1913.

WE present each purchaser of this month's issue of the Magazine with a packet of Flower Seed. We are enable to do this through the kind co-operation of Messrs. M'Gredy, Royal Florists, Portadown. Our object is to encourage the planting of flowers in Seagoe Parish. Flowers teach us many beautiful lessons by their brightness, fragrance, grace, growth, and humility. Full directions as to the proper time and place for sowing the seeds are printed on each packet. Follow the directions carefully, and, when summer comes, you will have a pretty display of bright blossoms. We would like to insert later in the year in the Magazine a photograph of the best plot or box of flowers grown from the seeds presented with this copy of Seagoe Parish Magazine. If any purchaser of

in the Parish Church can fully enter into all that these Sacred Seasons mean. It is when God's people assemble together for worship that the greatness of these annual seasons becomes a real thing. This year we are holding special services on Wednesdays in the Parish Church at 8 o'clock, chiefly for Parish workers. During Holy Week, beginning with the Evening Service on Sunday, March 16th, the Rev. O. W. Scott will give a series of addressess on "The Seven Words from the Cross." The addressess will be given each evening during that week (except Saturday). The services will commence at 8 o'clock. On **Good Friday** there will be Services at 11-30 a.m. and 8 p.m. On **Easter Day** there will be celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m., and also after Morning Prayer. We hope that very many of the Parishioners will attend the Services each night during the week before Easter, and that on Easter Day many will kneel in Solemn Worship in the

the Magazine does not possess a garden, a window box or flower pots will provide a suitable place for sowing the seed. Please be careful to see that you get a Packet of Seed with this copy of the Magazine. Those who are sending the Magazine abroad should send the Packet of Seed with it, so that Seagoe people in distant lands may have the pleasure of growing flowers from the old land.

Lent and Easter.

Before the next number of this Magazine appears we will have passed through the season of Lent with its reminder of sin, and through Holy week with its solemn memories of our Lord's suffering as the Divine Sin-Bearer, and through Easter with its glad message of Resurrection and Life. Only those among us who frequent the Services

House of Prayer, and there partake of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord.

The collection at the Offertory on Good Friday will be in aid of the Jews' Society, and on Easter Day at all Services on behalf of the Sunday Schools of the Parish. A collection will also be made throughout the Parish during the week before Easter on behalf of the Sunday School Funds.

Our Lay-Reader.

Mr. J. J. Dobson has taken up his residence in Edenderry, and has already made the acquaintance of many of the Parishioners. We welcome him and his mother, Mrs. Dobson, to Seagoe Parish. Mr. Dobson was for several years a member of the Belfast Theological Society, and also took an active part in the work at Willowfield Parish, Belfast, under its Rector, the Rev. Canon Harding.

Our Sunday School.

We recommend our teachers to read carefully the articles in the current number of the Sunday School Magazine. They contain valuable lessons in Doctrine and Practice. Our Sunday Schools are just now in a very flourishing condition. The attendance of children is larger than for some time past, the staff of Teachers is more efficient, and what is better still more regular in attendance than ever before. Regularity in attendance on the part of the Teachers helps more than anything else to the efficient working of the Sunday Schools.

Nature Notes.

March is a very important month for Nature Observations. All nature now springs into life. The Primroses will soon be seen in every hedgerow and in the open meadows the Cowslips will lift up their little cluster of fragrant golden bells. Primrose is derived from the Latin *Prima Rosa* meaning the Early Rose. It is curious that Cattle will not eat the Primrose, the only animals that like it are, strange to say, the Swine. The first wild flower to blossom freely after winter is the Daisy or Day's Eye.

The Swallow, Cuckoo and Corncrake usually appear in this Parish on April 4th, 13th, and 24th, respectively, but quick observers may possibly note them in March. The beautiful Star seen so brightly in the West those nights is Venus. She will attain her greatest brilliance on March 19th. On March 21st Day and Night are exactly equal in length.

Our New Stationmaster.

We welcome to Seagoe Parish and Portadown Station our new Stationmaster, Mr Gillespie, who comes to us with a good reputation from the important Station of Lisburn. It is a responsible and onerous post, but Portadown is fortunate in getting one who is possessed of so much tact and experience.

Presentation to Mrs. T. Martin.

A handsome Presentation was made to Mrs. Thomas Martin on the occasion of her marriage by the Superintendent, Teachers and Children of Drumgor Sunday School. The gifts consisted of a handsome Clock and Lamp, and were handed to Mrs. Martin on Sunday, February 16th, at the Afternoon Sunday School. The Rector presided, and in a few words expressed his pleasure at being present and his appreciation of the interest which Mrs. Martin had always displayed in Drumgor Sunday School. There was a very large attendance of children who quite filled the room, and showed great interest and pleasure in the proceedings.

Seagoe Select Vestry.

At a meeting of the Select Vestry held on Monday February 10th, a Resolution of sincere Regret at the lamented death of the late Canon Blacker, and of sympathy with the members of his family was passed in silence all standing.

On the same occasion a vote of hearty Congratulation was unanimously passed to the Rev. W. J. Macaulay on his election to the Moderatorship of the General Assembly. Mr. Macaulay is very highly respected by all classes in the district where he has resided for over 30 years, and the people of Seagoe will join with Mr. Macaulay's congregation in congratulating him on the honour conferred on him.

Church Army Mission.

The Church Army Diocesan Van with Captain Lancaster and his Cadet will arrive in Drumgor on Saturday, March 1st, and begin a 10 days Mission there on Sunday Evening, March 2nd, at 7 o'clock. The Mission will be continued each night during the week (except Saturday) at 8 o'clock. On Tuesday, March 11th, the Captain will begin a Mission in Tanninbarbet at 8 o'clock, which will be continued through that week (except Saturday) and until Monday, March 17th. We hope much blessing will result from the Mission Services in these Districts. We feel assured the residents will give a hearty welcome to Captain Lancaster and his Lieutenant.

Jumble Sale.

The Jumble Sale will be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Saturday, March 8th. It will open at 6 o'clock, Admission 2d. We ask our helpers to kindly gather together all suitable things so that they may be ready for the Collectors when they call on Friday 7th, Old Clothing, Furniture, Broken Toys, Pictures, etc., etc., will be very useful. The proceeds of the Sale will be given to the Seagoe School Enlargement Fund. Circulars and hand bills will be issued before the Sale. The Sale will remain open for two hours only, from six to eight o'clock.

The Bible Classes.

The Course of Study which is being taught in the various Bible Classes this year is of great interest, and should prove very profitable to the Members. It is entitled "Lessons on Genesis," and the notes used by the Conductors of the Classes were put together by the late Primate of Australia, the Right Rev. Saumarez Smith, D.D. The opening Lessons have been very interesting, dealing with the Story of the Creation and the Fall. Next Sunday the Classes will consider the record of Cain and Abel, and the narrative of the Deluge. The numbers attending the Classes continue large, there were 38 men present at the Seagoe Men's Class on a recent Sunday.

ITEMS.

Next months issue will contain Portraits of Mr. T. J. Atkinson and Mr. W. R. Bickett our Church-wardens for 1912-13.

We notice a large number of new apple-orchards in the Parish.

It has been proposed to asphalt the road from Portadown to Lurgan.

There was a very large attendance at Ballinacor for Rev. W. J. Macaulay's Lecture on "Temper." It was delivered on Tuesday, February 18th. The Rector presided.

The Choir is engaged in practising the Easter Anthem.

We are glad to announce a great improvement in Dr. Quirk's health.

The Misses Dawson are now engaged in Missionary work at Temuco, South America.

A good many of our young men in the Parish are beginning to learn to play the Violin. Recently we have noticed violins hanging up in many of the houses. Those who intend to learn should get a few lessons from a competent teacher.

Since our note on Topsy, the old Seagoe pony, in last month's issue, we have heard of several other veterans but none has beaten Topsy's record of 33 years.

The Rector delivered his Lecture on "Denmark" in the Parochial Hall on Tuesday, February 25th.

We referred recently to Ballinacor as our Military Townland, and in an early issue we hope to give particulars regarding the exploits of Lieutenant-Colonel Kirk, who fought under Wellington in the Peninsular War and who was a native of that district.

There were 120 children present at Edenderry Morning Sunday School on February 23rd.

We omitted to note in our last issue that Mary Jane Atkinson, of Seagoe Sunday School, was awarded a Special Prize for having attended every service in the Parish Church during 1912.

We ask our Readers to read carefully the advertisements in this issue and to patronise the advertisers.

The collections for the Sustentation Fund have now been almost completed and the returns so far are satisfactory.

There are 14 different varieties of seed in the packets supplied with this Magazine by Messrs. M'Gredy.

Dr Orr of the Belfast Theological Society has recently taken several of the Sunday Evening Services in the outlying parts of the Parish.

There was a great demand for the February number of the Magazine, and we regret that over twenty persons who wished to get copies, were unable to obtain them.

The recent dry weather has enabled the farmers of Seagoe Parish to get through their ploughing in record time.

The title of the Easter Anthem is "Hallelujah, King of Kings." It is composed by Edwyn A. Clare.

Top spinning is now a source of great pleasure to the children of the Parish, and a very healthful past-time it is.

Hymns for March, 1913.

"Sing ye to the Lord."

MORNING.

2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
127	152	160	187	193
134	245	164	Anthem	533
461	158	166	530	252
591	319	159	590	249
			605	

EVENING.

137	520	161	188	196
284	285	171	Anthem	277
466	518	163	465	199
130	485	148	189	541
25	640 Pt I	637 Pt I	14	26

Offertories.

"The silver and gold are mine."

Sundays—Mornings	...	£7 1 8
Evenings	...	2 9 9
Wednesdays	...	0 13 2

Total, ... £10 4 7

The Special Collection for Missions on Sunday February 23rd, amounted to—Morning, £2 15s 9d Evening, £0 16s 1d.

PARISH REGISTER FOR FEB.**Baptisms.**

"Jesus healed the child."

BAPTIZED ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 1913.

Wilson—James Henry, son of William and Rebecca Wilson, Portadown.

M'Dowell—Alfred, son of William James and Anna Maria M'Dowell, Levaghery.

PRIVATE BAPTISM.

BAPTIZED ON FEBRUARY 26TH, 1913.

Best—Maurice Neville Frederick, son of Albert and Susan Best, Edenderry.

Burials.

"I go to prepare a place for you."

Livingstone—February 9th, Mary Livingstone, Edenderry, aged 69 years.

England—February 17th, Ellen England, Park Road, Portadown, aged 72 years.

Wilson—February 20th, Edward Wilson, James Street, Edenderry, aged 10 months.

Best—February 28th, Maurice Neville Frederick, son of Albert and Susan Best, Edenderry.

Old Seagoe Notes.

John Wesley in Seagoe Parish.—In the year 1772 the Rev. John Wesley passed through Seagoe Parish on his way from Portadown to Lurgan. He rode along the old Lurgan Road, through Killycomaine and Bluestone. There is a tradition that he preached in the latter place. When at Lurgan he tells in his Diary that he walked out through Seagoe Parish to the shores of Lough Neagh, and that while walking he read a most interesting book—"Lectures on Lough Neagh"—by the Rev. Richard Barton, B.D., then Curate of Shankill. A copy of this book can be seen in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and is very interesting reading. It tells us that in 1746 many people used to travel all the way from Dublin to bathe in the waters of Lough Neagh at a place called Fisherman's Bay. Another interesting fact recorded is that the Rev. J. Carrol, Curate of Seagoe, and in charge of the Moyntiaghs District, was an ardent naturalist and was much interested in searching for fossils along the Lake Shore. He lived at Ardmore, and we are told that at one time he dug a hole 19 feet long, 9 feet wide and 5 feet deep, and discovered a quantity of fossil wood. One specimen of fossilised wood, the root of a tree, weighed 692 lbs. The place where this hole was dug was called Tradubach Bay, in the Parish of Segoe.

Mr. Barton also tells us that a Bann or Lough Neagh salmon in his day (1746) cost two guineas when sold in the London market.

Famine in Seagoe, 1745.—In 1745 a terrible Famine occurred in Ulster. The lives of 50,000 inhabitants in Seagoe and the surrounding Parishes were in jeopardy. Mr. Barton records that thousands of lives would have been lost but for the Newry Canal, which had been recently constructed. Food for the starving was brought from Newry by the Canal and along the Bann, and then distributed to the districts bordering on the Lough. The years 1728, 1729 and 1730 were also years of great scarcity; and, according to Mr. Barton, were always referred to in his day as the "three dear years."

A Seagoe Proverb of 1745.—In 1745 there was a proverb current in this district that "A dear Peck of Meal makes a cheap Pack of Yarn." At first sight it is not easy to interpret it, but it means that, when food became dear the weavers began to work harder at their looms to raise money, and so the linen market got overstocked and the price of yarn would fall, when food was cheap the weavers did not exert themselves, and so the supply of yarn became scarce and the price rose.

A Sermon Preached in Seagoe in 1709.—A sermon preached by the Rev. John Campbell, Vicar of Seagoe in the year 1709, is to be seen in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. It is an able and spirited defence of the Christian Ministry. It was first published by James Blow, Printer, Belfast, in 1709, and a Second Edition appeared in 1710. The Text is "Endeavouring to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace," Ephes. iv., 3. The Second Edition is dated from "Lilo," June 1710. Apparently the Vicar of Seagoe Parish at that time resided at Lylo. It would be interesting to know in what house he lived in that townland. There is a written correction of the printed text in the margin at one place in the characteristic writing of Mr. Campbell. The Pamphlet is printed somewhat roughly in the style current 200 years ago.

Archdeacon Saurin's Report of Seagoe, 1868.—This Report, from which we made some extracts in former issues, contains some further interesting particulars concerning Seagoe. Archdeacon Saurin says that the name Seagoe is derived from Suidhe Gobhan, meaning the abode of the Blacksmith, and he adds that the Blacksmith was the man who made weapons for the O'Neill Clan who formerly inhabited the District. Archdeacon Saurin does not give his authority for this statement, and it does not agree with that usually accepted, that Seagoe means the abode of Gobhan or Gowan, who is identified with the Gobhan Saer, the builder of the Round Towers of Ireland.

In the same Report the Archdeacon says that the Old Rectory of Seagoe was nearer to the old graveyard than the present building, but this also seems to be based on no certain evidence. When the Railway Gates were in course of erection at Seagoe Crossing traces were discovered of a Causey or Causeway of great antiquity leading up to the present Rectory.