

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1928.

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.

Confirmation.

The Lord Bishop of Down (the Right Rev. C. T. P. Grierson, D.D.) has arranged to hold a Confirmation in Seagoe Parish Church on Friday, June 8th, 1928, at 8 p.m. Candidates must have reached the age of 14 at the date of the Confirmation.

Classes of preparation for the Confirmation will be formed after Easter. Further particulars as to the classes will be given in our next issue.

Lent, 1928.

During the season of Lent the following special subjects will be brought under the notice of our people :—

Sunday, March 11th—"Betting and gambling."

Sunday, March 18th—"Evil speaking, lying and slandering."

Sunday, March 25th—"Non-Churchgoing."

Special Services will also be held in the Parish Church on the Wednesdays in Lent, at 8 p.m., and the following subjects will be considered :—

Wednesday, March 7th—"The Creed."

Wednesday, March 14th—"The Lord's Prayer."

Wednesday, March, 21st—"The Ten Commandments."

Wednesday, March 28th—"The Church Catechism."

During Holy Week, which begins on Sunday, April 1st, a Service will be held (p.v.) on each evening of the week, at 8 p.m., except Saturday. On Good Friday, April 6th, Services will be held in the Parish Church at 11-30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Armagh Educational Committee

An important correspondence, in which the Rector has taken part, has been carried on in the public Press during the past month. It arose out of a strongly worded resolution passed by the School Managers' Association for this United Diocese of Down and Connor and Dromore calling attention to the policy pursued by the Armagh Educational Committee with regard to Bible instruction in transferred Schools. It is well that the parishioners should understand clearly what has been the attitude of the Armagh School Committee towards Seagoe School. In October, 1925, the Rector entered into negotiations with the Armagh Committee for the transfer to them of Seagoe School. Conditions of transfer were drawn up in consultation with the Select Vestry. One of the conditions was that Bible instruction be given as heretofore during the period set apart each day for Religious Instruction. A

reply was received from the Committee declining to insert the clause relating to Bible instruction in the Deed of Transfer. It was felt that nothing further could be done until the Committee agreed to insert in the Deed of Transfer the rule as to Bible instruction. The only way in which the giving of Bible instruction could be made permanent was by the insertion of the clause in the Deed of Transfer, for then, if at any time the giving of Bible instruction ceased, the school building would automatically revert to the Church.

All the other Educational Committees in Northern Ireland have readily agreed to insert the clause in the Deeds of Transfer, and the Ministry of Education has sanctioned the transfers. The only Committee which persistently holds out against it is the Armagh Committee.

Seagoe Parochial School was built with Church money and has been closely associated with the Church since 1859. Religious Instruction has been regularly given in it and in the old school which preceded it ever since the schools came into being. The Rector feels that under such circumstances he should not hand over the School to the Government unless with a clear understanding that under no circumstances in the future will the Bible be excluded from the School. In taking up this position he feels that he can claim the sympathy and support of the Parishioners. We are glad to know that our two Portadown representatives on the Armagh Committee—Mr. David Rock, M.B.E., J.P., and Mr. S. S. Corbett—have on every occasion strenuously opposed the action of the Committee in refusing to insert the Bible instruction clause in the Deed of Transfer. The Rector has received several kind expressions of approval of his action both from inside and outside the Parish, for which he is very grateful. It is somewhat remarkable that in our Bible-loving Province we should have to make a fight for so reasonable a request as to insure the permanence of Bible-teaching in our Schools. It behoves our Christian people to oppose by every means and on every occasion this subtle attempt to deprive us of our rightful heritage. If any of the parishioners require further information with regard to this matter the Rector will be glad to answer their enquiries.

Our Sunday Schools.

During the past month we have had a succession of Sunday School fetes. All have been crowded, and the programmes of music and recitations were very interesting and successful. On Thursday, Feb. 16th, Hacknahay held its annual distribution of Sunday School prizes. A splendid tea was provided, to which the children did full justice. After tea, the grown-up people were admitted, and the room filled up until it was almost overcrowded. A very varied programme of music, dialogues, songs and recitations was provided. The performers were all local

and connected with the Sunday School, and their performances were extremely creditable. At the close of the evening the prizes were distributed to the successful children by Mrs. Bunbury Atkinson, of Gleneyre. Mrs. Atkinson kindly gave some special prizes for good attendance. The Rector, in a few words, thanked all who had made such good arrangements for the children's pleasure and expressed the hope that the Sunday School would have a very successful year in 1928.

On Friday, February 17th, **Drumgor** Sunday School held its annual fete. There was a large attendance of teachers and children. After a hearty tea the young people played round games, even the very "wee" ones joining in. The distribution of prizes then took place, the Rector handing them to the successful pupils.

On Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21st, a crowded gathering assembled in **Carne** Church Hall. Mr. David Murray had arranged an attractive programme of songs and recitations by the children, who did their part very well. Mr. and Mrs. Murray also sang a pretty duet, which was loudly applauded. After the music and songs were over the Rector asked Mrs. Murray to present the prizes to the children.

This year our Sunday School prizes in each centre were limited to story books. It was felt that owing to so many Bibles having been awarded in recent years everyone had been provided with one. The printing of the new Prayer Book has not yet been completed, and so it was not possible to get the usual Prayer books and Hymnals. It is expected that the new Hymn and Prayer book will be on sale about Easter time. The printing of so much small type is a very slow and difficult process.

Mission in Edenderry.

A very successful Mission is being conducted by Mr. Robert Gracey, of Donaghcloney, in Edenderry Parochial Hall. It began with a service at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 12th. The large Hall is almost filled at each service, and Mr. Gracey's earnest and stirring addresses have been listened to with deep attention. Miss Twinem, of Lylo, has greatly helped the Mission by playing at all the services. Services for the children have been held each week on the Tuesday and Thursday. They have been very largely attended and the children enjoy them greatly, and we believe much good has been done. The Mission was to have closed on Sunday, Feb. 26th, but so many expressed a wish that it should continue another week that this has been done. The Mission will conclude on Sunday, March 4th, with the service at 4 p.m. A service of Holy Communion will be held in the Parish Church on Sunday, March 4th, after Morning Prayer, when all who have received blessing through the Mission will join in the service. Mr. Gracey is also forming a list of those who hope to come forward for Confirmation in June.

Mission in Carne.

The Rector has asked Mr. Gracey to conduct a fortnight's Mission in Carne Church Hall. The opening service of the Mission will be held (D.V.) on Sunday, March 11th, at 4 p.m. Will our workers in the Carne district please make this known.

The Magazine.

Many expressions of appreciation have been heard of the Magazine in its new cover. The pretty picture of Carrick Blacker and the blue printing on the amber ground form an attractive and interesting cover. New headings have been printed over our advertising pages, and new matter has been inserted in many of our advertisements. We invite our readers to study the advertisements. We know many of them do, and profit thereby. We have already noticed one of our new advertisement headings in a shop window in Portadown; it is "The best is the cheapest." Our advertisers have advertised this year with exceptional readiness because they feel that Seagoe Parish Magazine circulates freely, is widely read, and is never torn up but is kept for future reference.

Parish Register for February. Baptisms

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on February 4th, 1928:—

M'Neill—Aileen Beatrice, daughter of Samuel George and Anna M'Neill, of Ballymacrandle.

Sponsors—Sarah Jane Irwin, Anna M'Neill.

Reid—Elizabeth St. Clair, daughter of John Robert and Vera St. Clair Reid, of Portadown.

Sponsors—John Robert Reid, Margaret Jane Reid, Vera St. Clair Reid.

Nicholson—Herbert, son of Robert and Mary Nicholson, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Sarah Ellen Woods, Mary Nicholson.

Marriage.

Fawcett and Hewitt—Feb. 15th, 1928, James Fawcett, of Millquarter, Parish of Ballyscullion, to Elizabeth Jane Hewitt, of Edenderry.

Burial.

Reid—Feb. 17th, Thomas Reid, of Belfast, formerly of Kilvergan; aged 58.

The Church Army Gazette.

A large number of copies of the Gazette circulate in Seagoe Parish each week. It is a most interesting and helpful paper and is wonderful value for ½d. The front picture is always most striking and impressive, illustrating in a forceful way some important lesson of Faith and Practice. Those who would wish to get a copy of the Gazette each week should ask the local distributor to supply them. The Gazette makes splendid Sunday reading and is written in such a bright racy style that the interest of the reader never lags. The Church Army does a wonderful work and deserves the earnest support of all Church people.

Sewage Tanks.

The last day for sending in objections to the monumental nuisance which the Urban Council of Portadown proposes to set up in Seagoe is March 9th. Petitions against the tanks have been widely signed by the residents in Seagoe and by the citizens of Portadown. A Government Inquiry will, we presume, be held in the near future, when the true nature of the proposed nuisance tanks will be laid before the public. All the members of Seagoe Select Vestry with two exceptions, have signed the petition against the tanks. A considerable portion of the land on which it is proposed to place the tanks has been under water for the past few weeks. This liability to flooding is another serious reason why the proposed site is unsuitable.

Our Book of Common Prayer.

So much interest is now being taken amongst all classes in the Book of Common Prayer that we would advise our readers to begin to study its history and contents. Besides being the devotional handbook of the Church it is also our standard of Church Doctrine. There is a great deal of ignorance amongst our Church people on the great Doctrines of the Christian Faith and on the history of the Church. During Lent, on Wednesday evenings in Seagoe Church, the addresses will deal with great Church subjects, The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and the Church Catechism. Those who would wish to obtain books on the History and Teaching of the Prayer Book should write to the "S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, London, for a price list of books on the subject. Christian Doctrine demands study. A Bible Class for men is held in Seagoe School every Sunday morning at ten o'clock, and a class for girls is held by Mr. Rennix at the same hour and place.

New Buildings in Seagoe.

On all sides there are signs that Seagoe Parish is going to be one of the most populous in our United Diocese. New buildings are being erected not only in Edenderry but in all other parts of the Parish. We hear of a new street shortly to be made off Carrickblacker Road, running parallel to Carrickblacker Avenue. An important new street is being made in Levaghery, running from the Gilford Road to the River Bann, and already houses have been built on it and some four families have come into residence. In Carrickblacker Road there have recently been so many houses built that all possible sites have been taken up. We hear of many new houses to be built in Levaghery. New houses have also been erected or are in course of erection in Breagh, Drumnacanvey, Lisniskey, Knockmena, Bocombra and Upper and Lower Seagoe. An important question arises as to the spiritual oversight of so many new families coming to reside within the Parish and most of whom are members of the Church of Ireland. A few years ago there were 672 separate Church of Ireland households in the Parish,

but now the number exceeds 700. The average number of individuals in a household is five, so that the total number of individual members of the Church in the Parish based on this calculation is 3,500, and this number is constantly increasing. The whole question becomes extremely difficult. Church extension in Belfast monopolises the attention of the Church of Ireland, but the need for Church extension in our growing provincial towns and parishes is no less, but possibly even, more urgent. Unless some provision is made to deal with the increasing Church population in our Parishes we are almost certain to lose some of our best people, who will by degrees be absorbed by other smaller denominations. This is a state of things which should not occur. A heavy responsibility is thrown on our Church people of showing their loyalty to the Church of their Baptism by availing themselves of every opportunity of united Public Worship in their Parish Church and of safeguarding the interests of their Church in every possible way. The clergy of the Parish should be informed without delay of the advent of new comers. The Parish Magazine is a useful bond of union between the Parishioners. Its circulation has recently been considerably increased but its usefulness can be much wider if those who already obtain copies will bring it under the notice of new-comers to the Parish.

Important

The Rector will be much obliged if Magazine distributors will kindly let him have without delay their remittances for the sale of Magazine Almanacs and Kalendars for the past year. We would ask subscribers to the Magazine who have not yet paid their subscription to the distributor for the past year to kindly do so at once. We regret to say that every year there are a few—a very few—who having received their Magazine regularly from the distributor each month fail to pay their 2s at the end of the year. We hope there will be none such this year.

The Mothers' Union

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held on Tuesday, March 13th, in Seagoe School. The committee have asked the Rev. W. A. Henry, Curate of Seagoe, to give an address to the members.

The Alan Bell Fund.

The annual distribution of the Alan Bell Fund is made during the week before Easter each year. The sum to be distributed is £25, and according to Mrs. Bell's wishes preference is to be given to those parishioners who attend regularly the services in the Parish Church, are parents of young families, or are elderly and not yet eligible for an Old-Age Pension. Those who qualify under those headings should apply to the Churchwardens, Mr. Thos. Ed. Maginnis, of Breagh, Gilford Road, or Mr. John R. Reid, Tavanagh Terrace, Portadown, who will make out the list of applicants.

Old Seagoe Notes

The Derryvore Sun-Dial.—Since our last issue

some more facts relating to the Derryvore sun-dial have come to light. As we stated last month, it was marked in a special way on the Ordnance Survey map. The sun-dial was made by Mr. Forsythe, grandfather of Mr. R. Forsythe, of Seagoe Villa. Mr. Forsythe was an expert in constructing dials and measuring instruments, and this sun-dial, which he set up in his garden so much attracted the attention of the Lieutenant of Engineers engaged on the 1855 Survey that he recorded it specially on the Government map.

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Archdeacon Saurin and the Eiderdown Quilt, 1859.—Mr. Thomas J. Montgomery recalls an amusing incident which occurred on the day on which the present Seagoe Parochial School was opened. It was in the year 1859, and there was a large gathering in the school for the opening ceremony. There had been a sale of work or a raffle held on behalf of the building fund of the school. One of the objects for which tickets had been sold was an eiderdown quilt, and the winner of the quilt was to be announced at the opening ceremony. Mr. Tom Carleton, formerly a leading citizen of Portadown, had bought a number of tickets in his wish to help the school, and he was announced as the fortunate winner of the quilt. It fell to Archdeacon Saurin as Rector of the Parish to present the quilt to Mr. Carleton, but just before the moment of presentation and when Mr. Carleton's attention was directed to something else, the Archdeacon caught hold of a small boy who was near him and rolled him up in the quilt. He then formally handed the quilt with the boy inside it to Mr. Carleton, who taking it in both hands was startled to see the small boy slipping out of it and running back to his place. The small boy who so lightly slipped out of the quilt was none other than our good friend, Mr. T. J. Montgomery, who very much enjoyed the Archdeacon's prank.

ITEMS.

The Rev. W. R. Crichton is on his way home from Madras on a year's furlough.

Miss Cherry Dawson is still engaged in Mission Work in Chili, South America, and has made a good recovery from her recent severe attack of rheumatism.

The Rev. Albert Simmons, M.A., who many years ago conducted a Church Army Mission along with Captain Gaskin, in this Parish, is now Rector of an important Parish in Jersey.

We congratulate the Rev. J. T. Armstrong, B.D., M.Sc., Curate of St. Mark's, on his appointment to a Curacy-in-charge in the Diocese of Armagh.

At a recent wedding in Seagoe two little girls out of James St. attended the bride and added much to the interest of the wedding.

Seagoe Choir has now a full complement of voices, tenors, basses, altos and sopranos being well represented.

The Gas works in Edenderry are being greatly extended and a very lofty structure is being erected which will enable the gas to be produced with the most effective modern appliances.

A great lake extends from Seagoe to Drumree. It is about half a mile wide and three-quarters of a mile long. A turf barge lost its way last week and went aground at Seagoe.

The cause of the Bann flooding is that some eight rivers flow into Lough Neagh, and only one, the Lower Bann, flows out of it. At the point where the Lower Bann leaves the lake the exit is blocked by the Toomebridge eel-weirs. The waters of Lough Neagh sometimes rise as much as seven feet in the course of a few hours.

A Jumble Sale will be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Friday, March 23rd, at 7 p.m.

**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 8 p.m. during Advent and Lent.

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.

Mothers' Union, Edenderry, 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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