

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1931.

CLERGY :

Rev. Canon Archer, B.D., The Rectory, Seagoe,
Rev. W. F. Hayes, B.A., Edendate, CarrickBlacker
Road, Edenderry, Portadown.

CHURCHWARDENS :

Rector's—Wm. H. England.
People's—Gilbert Price.

Special Services.

During Holy Week, which begins this year on Sunday, March 29th, special Services will be held in the Parish Church each evening at 8 p.m. Addresses will be given on subjects connected with the Passion of our Lord. We invite the Parishioners to be present at these Services, which will be a helpful preparation for the solemn Services on Good Friday and for the joyous celebrations of Easter Day.

Good Friday.

On Good Friday (April 3rd) the following Services will be held in the Parish Church:—

11.30 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Litany.

8 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.

The offerings at these Services will be given to the Jews' Society.

Easter Day.

On Easter Day (April 5th) Services will be held in the Parish Church as follows:—

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.30 a.m.—Morning Prayer, Sermon and Holy Communion.

7 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.

On Easter Day the offerings at all Services will be in aid of the Parish Sunday Schools. A great work is done each Sunday by a devoted band of Sunday School Superintendents and Teachers in our two Morning Sunday Schools and in our seven Afternoon Sunday Schools. Please help on this good work.

Confirmation.

The Lord Bishop has slightly altered the date of the Confirmation. It will be held in the Parish Church on Wednesday, June 24th, at 8 p.m., instead of Thursday, June 25th, as previously arranged. In our next issue we will announce the arrangements for the Preparation Classes in connection with the Confirmation. Candidates must have reached the age of 14 years before Confirmation.

A Confirmation Prayer.

The following Prayer for Candidates for Confirmation is in the newly-revised Book of Common

Prayer. Readers will find it in the Prayers which are inserted after the Litany. It is a beautiful Prayer and we ask sponsors and candidates to use it in their private prayers each day.]

O God who through the teaching of thy Son Jesus Christ didst prepare thy disciples for the coming of the Comforter; Make ready, we beseech thee, the hearts and minds of thy servants who at this time are seeking the gifts of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands, that, drawing near with penitent and faithful hearts, they may be filled with the power of His Divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Easter General Vestry.

The Easter General Vestry will (p.v.) meet in Seagoe School on Thursday April 9th, at 7.30 p.m., for the election of a People's Churchwarden and a Select Vestry. A statement of accounts will be presented by the Hon. Treasurer. A full attendance of all the members of the General Vestry is requested.

A Sad Accident.

We record with deep regret the death of Mr. Terence FitzRoy Blacker, youngest son of Lt.-Colonel Blacker. Mr. Blacker was cutting down a tree at Chidcock Manor, Bridport, Dorset, where the family have been residing for the past year, when the tree fell suddenly and caught him before he could get away, fatally injuring him. The accident occurred on Friday, February 6th. Heartfelt sorrow has been expressed by everyone in Seagoe at this terrible blow which has befallen Colonel and Mrs. Blacker and their family. He was "a dear companion, so sunny-tempered and full of interest." He had been living with his parents for the past year since leaving school and had accompanied his father on a visit to CarrickBlacker last year. His death is the first break in a most united and affectionate family circle. It is some consolation to learn that there was no suffering and no disfigurement and that death was instantaneous. Our readers will understand what a burden of grief must rest upon those nearest and dearest to him, and we feel that we are expressing the thoughts of the people of Seagoe and the neighbourhood when we convey to Colonel and Mrs. Blacker our deep and sincere sympathy with them in their sad loss and our prayers that our Heavenly Father may sustain them in this dark hour. Mr. Blacker was just 20 years at the time of his death. The funeral took place on Tuesday, February 10th.

At a meeting of Seagoe Select Vestry held in Seagoe School on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, a resolution of sympathy was passed with Colonel and Mrs. Blacker. The members stood for a few moments in silence to mark their sorrow and deep sympathy.

Prize Distribution.

We have had a busy time last month with Sunday School Prize Distributions. A very large number of Bibles, Church Service Books, and stories have been given to those children who attended Sunday School regularly during last year. In last month's issue we recorded the distribution at Drumgor. On Feb. 5th **Bocombra** held its first distribution. The Rector presided, and after a splendid tea, a short programme of music and recitations was performed. The Hall, which had been kindly lent by the Orange Lodge, was crowded. Games followed and then speeches by Mr. James Twinem, Superintendent, and Mr. Boyce, of Bocombra. Many references were made to the need of a new Church Hall in the neighbourhood. We hope before long to see the foundation stone laid and the walls going up. Bocombra Hill is a beautiful site for a Hall. It is exactly 214 feet above low water mark, and beats Standard Hill in height by just 12 inches, the latter being 213 feet above low water mark. Bocombra is the highest point in Seagoe Parish. **Hacknahay** held its festival on Friday, Feb. 6th. The large schoolroom was filled with a gathering of children and grown-ups. A very attractive programme had been prepared, which followed a plentiful supply of tea and cake. The Rev. W. F. Hayes presided. Mrs. Atkinson, of Gleneyre, kindly distributed the prizes and also gave some special prizes, a kind gift from herself, to children who had not missed a Sunday during the year. The Rector, in a concluding speech, thanked Mr. T. E. Maginnis, the Superintendent, for his efficient management of the School, and also Miss Calvert for the good work which she had done as a teacher and trainer of the choir. Each child as it passed out received a gift of an orange from Miss Calvert. On Tuesday, Feb. 10th, **Levaghery** Sunday School held its prize-giving. There was a large attendance. After tea, games were enjoyed and then a splendidly decorated Christmas tree laden with gifts appeared and each child got a gift from it. The prizes were distributed by the Rev. W. F. Hayes, who presided. On Monday, Feb. 16th, two distributions were held—**Seagoe** and **Carne**. At Seagoe the Rector presided. Tea was spread on neat tables and cakes (without bags) dispensed to the eager pupils. Mrs. Scott had prepared a splendid programme, which the audience greatly enjoyed. The prizes were handed to the successful pupils by Mrs. Scott. The Rev. W. F. Hayes presided at **Carne**. There was a large gathering. A fine display of tea and cake was handed round. Games followed, and the prizes were then distributed. Mr. David Murray, the Superintendent, had made excellent arrangements for the gathering. **Edenderry** came in on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 17th, at 7.30 p.m. The Hall was filled with children arranged in their classes. Mr. McClements and his helpers had everything well arranged. An interesting programme of songs and recitations followed. The prizes were very numerous and were handed to the children by the

Rev. Canon Archer, the Rev. W. F. Hayes and Mr. R. McClements. A large number of parents were present. The Rector having expressed his thanks to all who had helped, the meeting concluded.

At Birkenhead.

Mr. Gracey is very busy with his studies at St. Aidan's College. "Flu" has invaded the College, but we are glad to say Mr. Gracey has escaped. He is playing full back on the Hockey 2nd XI., and they beat Lewis's big team recently by six goals to three. Lewis's is the biggest firm in Liverpool and usually takes a lot of beating. The College concert was held on a recent Saturday. Mr. Gracey hopes to be back for the Easter holidays towards the end of March.

Seagoe Mothers' Union.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10th, notwithstanding very severe weather, a large gathering of the members assembled in Seagoe School. After tea, the Rector introduced the Rev. T. S. Hall, B.D., who gave a very interesting address on "South America" in connection with the South American Missionary Society. With the aid of a large map he pointed out the various centres of Missionary work. The members expressed their appreciation of the lecture by a hearty round of applause.

The members of the Mothers' Union will not hold a meeting this month but are invited to attend in a body the Lent Service in the Parish Church on Wednesday, March 11th, at 8 p.m.

Old Seagoe in Australia.

A Seagoe correspondent in Queensland sends us the following cutting from a Sydney newspaper:—Woman's 111th Birthday—Mrs. Kathleen McGinley, of East Maitland, has celebrated the 111th anniversary of her birth. She was born in Ardmore (formerly in the Parish of Seagoe, Co. Armagh) on December 24th, 1819. Her father was a small cattleman who travelled through the country with his herd. Mrs. McGinley came to Australia in the sailing ship "Lady Alma Bruce" in 1859. She has three daughters and two sons, the youngest of whom is nearly 70 years of age.

The Climate of Seagoe.

The Meteorological Department of the Air Ministry has supplied the following interesting particulars (based on at least 10 years of continuous observation) as to the average annual rainfall in inches in Northern Ireland—Lurgan is the driest place with 29.70 inches, Donaghadee 30.60, Armagh 31.70, Banbridge 32.10, Waringstown 32.20, Seagoe and Portadown 32.60, Belfast 34.60, Warrenpoint 35.50, Foffany, where the Portadown water comes from, 64.40. It is remarkable that the rainfall at Seagoe exceeds that at Lurgan by 3 inches annually. The general deduction from the above figures is that the neighbourhood of Lurgan and Seagoe and Portadown is the driest part of Northern Ireland.

Parish Register for February.

Baptisms.

The following were baptized in the Parish Church on February 7th, 1931:—

Russell—William John, son of William Alexander and Margaret Russell, of Drumgor.

Sponsors—William Alexander Russell, Margaret Russell.

Bonis—Jane, daughter of Robert John and Elizabeth Bonis, of Kernan.

Sponsors—Elizabeth Webb, Elizabeth Bonis.

M'Crory—Bertha, daughter of Joseph Alexander and Margaret M'Crory, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Christina Roney, Margaret M'Crory.

Brown—Hannah, daughter of Francis and Sarah Brown, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Ellen Pepper, Sarah Brown.

Millar—Amy, daughter of Robert and Edith Florence Millar, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Caroline Guy, Edith Florence Millar.

Boyd—Winifred Margaret, daughter of David and Minnie Boyd, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Eva Porter, Minnie Boyd.

Thompson—Sarah Jane, daughter of William and Charlotte Thompson, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—William Thompson, Charlotte Thompson.

Marriage

Sloan and Hill—Feb. 27th, 1931, Ernest Sloan, of Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone, to Clara Hill, of Edenderry.

Burials.

Liggett—Feb. 3rd, George Liggett, of Edenderry, aged 17 years. Interred at Drumcree.

Hall—Feb. 6th, Ellen Margaret Hall, of Edenderry, aged 68 years. Interred at Annaghmore.

Craig—Feb. 13th, James Craig, of Drumgor, aged 81 years.

Acknowledgment.

The Rector thanks very heartily those who have sent their good wishes for Seagoe and the Magazine—Mr. and Mrs. England (New York), Mr. and Mrs. David Johnston, of Thompsonville, Conn., Mr. and Mrs. Greenhalgh, Neepawa, Canada, Mrs. Nesbitt, of Brisbane, Queensland (Christmas number of "The Australasian" and "Brisbane Cathedral notes" safely received), Mr. and Miss M'Dowell, Port Jackson, Florida, and Mr. James Porter (photos of Melbourne received). It is very pleasant to hear from so many old friends across the sea. We here at home do not forget you.

Service of Song.

On Thursday, Feb. 12th, the Service of Song "Won by a Song" was given in Seagoe School. There was a large attendance, who greatly enjoyed the music and pictures. The story was read by Mr. Scott, and the accompaniments were played by Miss Isa Best. Messrs. Isaac Clayton and Willie Best were at the lantern. A much appreciated feature of the programme was the singing of several glees and part

songs by the Everest Quartet from Belfast. They sang with perfect precision and time. The proceeds of the entertainment were given to the Seagoe Sunday School Prize Fund.

A Games Evening.

A novel entertainment has been arranged to be held in Seagoe School on Friday, March 20th, from 6 p.m. to 10.30. All kinds of games of skill will be arranged—shooting, dart throwing, midget golf, etc., etc. Valuable prizes will be given to successful competitors. The proceeds will be on behalf of the Parochial School Repair Fund. Mr. John H. Twinem, with a committee, is organising the entertainment. The charge for admission will be threepence.

Old Seagoe Notes.

The Hesilrige Family in Seagoe.—An interesting connection exists between the ancient and distinguished family of Hesilrige and the Parish of Seagoe. The Hesilrige and Buckley grave is in the chancel of Old Seagoe Church. The link which united the Parish of Seagoe to the Hesilrige family was the fact that the Rev. Richard Buckley, Vicar of Seagoe from 1762 to 1796, married on June 5th, 1760, at Kibworth, in Leicestershire, Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Sir Arthur Hesilrige, the 7th Baronet of Noseley Hall, Leicester. They had a large family of 9 children, 5 sons and 4 daughters. The most distinguished member of the Hesilrige family was the 2nd Baronet, Sir Arthur Hesilrige. He was Oliver Cromwell's right hand man, and threw himself with whole-hearted zeal into the work of the Commonwealth. Cromwell made him Governor of Newcastle with a general oversight of the Scotch border, especially around Berwick-on-Tweed. Hesilrige had a fiery temper and before long he fell out with Oliver and for a time became his bitterest enemy. Thomas Carlyle in his "Letters of Cromwell" publishes one of Cromwell's letters to Hesilrige. On one occasion Cromwell refused to allow Hesilrige to enter the House of Commons, of which he was a member. Sir Arthur, after a stormy career, died on January 7th, 1661. The present Baronet, who spells his name Hazlerig, still resides at the family seat of Noseley Hall, Leicestershire.

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Seagoe in the Olden Days.—40 years ago there were still some surviving who remembered the old church, and who in their youth worshipped within its walls, about the close of the first decade of the last century. It was lighted on the south side, and in the Transept, by small square-headed windows. Those in the east and west gables were narrow and pointed; and all, like the whole edifice, were entirely devoid of ornament in any form. The roof was covered with oak shingles, as was usual in all large buildings in early days. It was only in 1795, that Carrickblacker house discarded shingles for slates. In 1827 the offices of the rectory were still covered with shingles when they were consumed by an accidental fire. To this day, the spire of the quaint old

parish church at Waringstown retains its covering of shingles. The church was entered at the south-west corner by the small porch in which was a seat on either side. There was a descent of two steps into the nave. The sidewalls appear to have been little more than ten feet high, but the ceiling being coved some additional height was gained in the centre. On the left of the entrance, inside the church, rose the steps or stairs leading to the gallery. Here hung down the bell rope from the belfry overhead, and the bell-ringer stood on the stairs when he performed the duties of his office. The first seat on the gallery was occupied by the successors of 'the singing-boys,' to whom it had been appropriated, and they were aided by three or four flutes—'black flutes,' it is specially noted—and a great bass fiddle. In the opposite corner, under the gallery, was the dressing room, with the old font beside it, as has been already described. The pews were made of black oak, and conspicuous on the middle of the south wall, and facing the transept, was the structure, also of oak, which provided for the clerk's seat, the reading desk and the pulpit. The latter had a sounding-board resting at the back on a panelled frame of oak, and supported in front by two turned pillars. On the front ledge of the sounding-board was carved a date which has been variously stated by eye-witnesses to have been '1356,' '1661,' and '1666.' It is hard to decide in such a case, but, on the whole, the earliest date appears correct. In Mason's statistical Survey (vol. II. p. 524), Colonel Blacker is justly indignant at the taste which three years before he wrote (1815) had painted the fine old black-oak pulpit and reading desk 'a muddy yellow.' Beyond the pulpit, in the south-east corner was the Blacker pew. It was a large structure with curtains, and bearing a canopy overhead, supported on pillars, and having pendent draperies, suggesting to an aged informant the bravery of 'a tester bed-stead.' Beside it was the little communion table enclosed with rails; and in the opposite corner was the minister's pew, which reached to the intersection of the transept.

On a Sunday morning, the Vicar, Rev. George Blacker, might have been seen walking from the Glebe-house, by the private way (still in great part existing) to the church, wearing his ministerial gown. On reaching the dressing-room he put on the surplice, which he changed again for the gown before he ascended the pulpit. Mr. Blacker died in 1810, at the early age of 46, after being fourteen years vicar of Seagoe. His memory is still revered as that of a pious and devoted minister. One who has now passed his fourscore years retains yet the solemn impression made upon his boyhood by the bitter wailing of the many poor who followed his corpse to its resting-place in the old church. The only tablet which has kept its place upon the old walls is that sacred to his memory. It has not been moved, it is said, from its position on the wall over the family pew. Under an urn the tablet is thus inscribed:—

'To the Memory of the
Rev. George Blacker, late vicar of
this Parish.

A sincere Christian, a warm friend,
an exemplary clergyman:
who illustrated by his actions
the Gospel which he preached
He lived beloved and
Died deeply lamented
May 1st, 1810, aged 46.

An Israelite without guile.'

Another tablet to his memory was afterwards erected in the new church.

Among Mr. Blacker's labours were efforts to have a new church built for the increasing need of the parish. Six years before his death, there is record of his beginning the provision for the great work, but he had passed away four years ere the foundation stone of the present church was at length laid.

Mr. Blacker was succeeded by his eldest brother Stewart Blacker, Dean of Leighlin. Dean Blacker had been collated Rector of Seagoe and Archdeacon of Dromore in 1777. These offices he now resigned and became vicar of Seagoe. Soon after he appointed his assistant, his cousin, Rev. Richard Olpherts, who 'commenced curate June 1810,' and lived in the Glebe-house. The Dean is remembered coming in stately fashion on Sunday morning from Carrickblacker, arrayed in his surplice, or his gown (probably when about to preach), and always wearing the clerical peruke—familiarily known as 'the cauliflower wig'—reserved for occasions of ceremony or official occupation. His impressive reading of the lessons is recalled; and some of his sermons, incised by repetition, were long remembered. One favourite text has escaped the oblivion of seventy years and is still repeated with traces of the preacher's manner:—'Give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with food convenient for me, lest I be full and deny Thee, and say, who is the Lord; or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of the Lord in vain.' (Prov. xxx., 8, 9).

[The above is an extract from the "Portadown News" of March 3, 1883, written by the late Dean Dawson.]

ITEMS.

The proverbial good health of Seagoe is illustrated by the fact that while the town schools are closed with "Flu" Seagoe P.E. School continues its normal attendance.

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The new villas at Seagoe are of nice design. They are built in groups of two and are finished with fine pebble-dashing. We hope they will be given nice names. We suggest "Spire-view" (Drumcree spire), "Saurin-dale" (a memory of the Saurin family), "Sydney Villas" (in memory of the great Sydney patriot, Mr. Wentworth of Killicomain), "Etragh-ville" (as a survival from the time when Upper Seagoe was known as "Seagoe Etragh"), "River view" or "Bann-vale" might also be suitable.