

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1933.

CLERGY :

Rev. Chancellor Archer, B.D., The Rectory, Seagoe.

Rev. W. F. Hayes, B.A., Edendale, Carrick-Blacker Road, Edenderry, Portadown.

CHURCHWARDENS :

Rector's—Mr. Robert Scott.

People's—Mr. Isaac Dickson.

LENT, 1933

The season of Lent brings with it a special reminder of the need of Repentance. The sin which doth so easily beset us is an offence against the God who created us, redeemed us and sanctifies us. Repentance is not merely sorrow for sin but the determination not to be overcome by it. During Lent there will be special services in the Parish Church. On Sunday, March 5th, the subject of "Temperance" will be brought before our people.

The Parish Social.

Our annual Parish Social was held in Seagoe Hall on Thursday, Feb. 9th. The rooms had been prettily decorated and when the tables were set they presented a very pretty sight. A committee of ladies related to the members of the Vestry had charge of the arrangements. There were 12 tables, each accommodating 30 guests. We have seldom seen such a splendid collection of cakes at any social gathering. One of the guests said that she thought Seagoe must be the "Land of Cakes." Grace was sung and all settled down to a very hearty repast. The townlands of the Parish were represented. The tea was specially drawn in separate teapots and was very good. Each of the presiding ladies supplied tea-sets for her own table, and there was a splendid display of fine china. After tea, the Rector presided and a hymn was sung. A very attractive programme of music and recitation was then given. The Eden Quartet were greatly appreciated for their songs. Mr. T. H. Dickson had charge of the programme. Short speeches were made by the Rev. W. F. Hayes, Messrs. M. Gilpin, J. Twinem and Lieut. Schell, of the C.L.B. Everybody seemed to enjoy the family spirit of the social. A very friendly and homely atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening. A hearty vote of thanks was given to all who had helped was proposed by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Jas. Twinem, and passed with acclamation. The meeting was closed with a Benediction. The proceeds of the social, which may realise £12, will be given towards the building of the wall at the new Church plot.

Bocombra Church Hall.

On Thursday, Feb. 9th, the Foundation Stone of the new Church Hall at Bocombra was laid. The day was fine, and as the hour of the ceremony approached large numbers came on foot, some by 'bus and some by motor-car. Lord Justice Best very kindly presided, and brought with him from Belfast Mrs. Thompson (wife of the Recorder of Belfast), who had kindly agreed to lay the Foundation Stone. A platform had been erected at the rear of the site of the Hall. The Lord Justice having taken the chair, the Rector said prayer. Lord Justice Best, in an interesting speech, described how the idea of the Hall originated and dwelt on the importance of having such Halls to enable the Church to keep in touch with the young people of the Parish. He then called on Mr. James Twinem to speak. Mr. Twinem told how he had set before his mind the erection of a Church Hall in Bocombra. He spoke of the generous way in which people had responded to his appeal, resulting in the raising of £169 towards the Building Fund. He described the good work which was being done in the newly-formed Sunday School held in the Orange Hall and thanked the members of Bocombra L.O.L. for their kindness in lending the Hall without any charge. He said that he felt the parishioners would help him and that being so he went forward, believing that he would succeed. Like Napoleon, who when he had to cross the Alps said, "For me there are no Alps," so he went on and succeeded.

The next stage in the ceremony was the laying of the stone. All present went to the front of the Hall. The Rector and the Rev. W. F. Hayes, with Lord Justice Best, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Twinem were near the stone. Mr. Twinem then presented an inscribed trowel to Mrs. Thompson. Alex. Guy then placed the stone in position, and Mrs. Thompson declared it well and truly laid "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." The Rector then offered prayer and the Hymn "the Church's One foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord" was heartily sung by the large crowd present. The service closed with the Benediction.

All the guests then adjourned to the Orange Hall, where tea was very kindly provided by the ladies. Votes of thanks were heartily passed to Lord Justice Best and to Mrs. Thompson and to

all who had helped in the ceremony. In the preparations for the laying of the stone splendid help was given by members of the Vestry and others. Many lent horses and carts and worked strenuously to have everything ready and in good order.

Further List of Subscriptions to Bocombra Church Hall.

We acknowledge with many thanks the following subscriptions received by Mr. James Twinem, which brings the amount collected by him up to almost the £200, and we congratulate him on his energy in the good work he has undertaken. Further subscriptions are invited. They should be sent to Mr. James Twinem, Lylo Villa, Portadown, or to the Rector (Rev. Chancellor Archer) at Seagoe Rectory.

Already acknowledged	£168	5	6
Collected at gate when laying Foundation Stone	...	6	15
Lord Justice Best	...	3	3
Mrs. Thompson, Belfast	...	3	3
Miss Minnie Preston, Lylo—collecting card	...	2	12
Mrs. Watson Walker, Seagoe Farm	...	2	0
Mrs. C. Rennix, Seagoe Farm	...	2	0
A Friend	...	1	10
Mr. W. J. M'Kinney, Rosedale Cottage, Ballinacor	...	1	1
Mr. Alphonso Kirk, Ballinacor	...	1	0
Mr. John Dermott, 52 Bridge St.	...	1	0
Miss Agnes Webb, Lylo (collecting card)	...	1	0
Mr. David Carrick (Drumcree Parish)	...	0	10
Mrs. Sarah Robb, Parkmount, Portadown	...	0	10
Mr. James Shepherd, Levaghery	...	0	10
A Well-wisher	...	0	10
Mr. Victor Hawthorn, Knockmena	...	0	10
Mr. Wm. Wilson, Woodhouse St.	...	0	10
Sophie M'Murray, Lylo (collecting card)	...	0	10
Mr. Russell Hewitt, Tullygalley, Lurgan	...	0	5
Mrs. Lewie, Levaghery	...	0	5
Miss Mary Gracey, Toronto, (Canadian Dollar)	...	0	4
Mr. John Flannigan, Bridge St.	...	0	5
Thos. M'Murray, Lylo (collecting card)	...	0	3
Samuel Preston, Lylo (collecting card)	...	0	1
	£198	4	6

Seagoe Mothers' Union.

The Mothers' Union will meet (D.V.) in Seagoe School on Tuesday, March 14th, at 7.30 p.m. A punctual attendance of the members is requested.

Concert in Drumgor.

A splendid programme is being arranged the concert to be held in Drumgor Church H on Thursday, March 16th, at 8 p.m. Tickets, 1/- each, are now on sale. The proceeds of the concert go towards providing fun for the support of Drumgor Sunday School. The Sunday School is largely attended and the teachers take great interest in their work. A service is held once a month on the 2nd Sunday of the month, in the Hall.

Seagoe G.F.S.

A very jolly evening was spent by the Seagoe G.F.S. on Monday, 20th February. The occasion was the annual social of the Branch, including the members and guests, about six sat down to tea. The schoolroom was prettily decorated and the tables looked tempting and dainty, laden as they were with good things. The merriment during tea-time was much enhanced by the pulling of crackers, and many hearty laugh was caused by the amusing tales and mottoes which tumbled out. After tea, familiar games were thoroughly enjoyed, and many farmers found wives and families with amazing ease. A pleasant interlude, which brightened by songs and recitations then came and the surprise of the evening in the guise of a treasure hunt was then entered into with zest. A pretty silk tea cosy was found by Miss C. M'Elroy, and a safety razor in case was found by Mr. Isaac Dickson. The Rev. W. F. Hay B.A., presided in the unavoidable absence of the Rector.

Inspection and Drill Display.

On Thursday evening, March 23rd, an inspection, drill display and attractive entertainment will be held by the members of Seagoe C.L.B. in Edenderry Parochial Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets 6d each, are now being sold. Captain Mitchell and Lieut. Mitchell are preparing a fine Brigade display. The Brigade has been very active lately. On Sunday, Feb. 19th, the Seagoe Company took part in the Diocesan Parade Service in Belfast Cathedral. The preacher was the new Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev. W. S. Kirk B.D. There was a fine turn-out of the Brigade. Lieut. Mitchell had arranged to bring the Seagoe Training Corps to Belfast on Saturday, March 25th, but owing to the severity of the weather their visit could not take place. A C.L.B. service was open for a week in Howard St., Belfast. We hear it was very interesting and successful. Each night of the week ending Saturday, March 25th, there were route marches by various companies in Belfast, accompanied by bands. The forthcoming display on March 23rd by the Seagoe Lads will show how efficient our Company is.

Rev. Robert Gracey.

We are glad to announce that the Rev. R. Gracey, Curate of St. Donard's, Belfast, will preach at the Lent Service in Seagoe Church on Wednesday, March 8th, at 8 p.m. Special Lent Services are held in the Parish Church on each Wednesday in Lent at 8 p.m.

Missionary Boxes.

All Missionary Boxes should be sent in to the Secretaries not later than the middle of this month. See that your boxes are well filled.

Prize Distributions.

February was a very busy month with Sunday School Prize distributions. After an experience of many years, we think the prize distributions this year were more enjoyable than ever before. The programmes were very interesting and attractive. **Drumgor** had its innings on Tuesday, February 7th. The Hall was crowded with young people and their teachers. After a splendid tea, games were indulged in for a time, and then an interesting programme of songs and recitations was given. The prizes were then distributed by Mrs. Scott. Short addresses were given by the Rector, the Rev. W. F. Hayes and Mr. R. Scott. At the close the Doxology was heartily sung. A novelty during the evening was a giant Christmas Tree whose branches were laden with beautiful gifts for the children. Each child got a gift from Father Christmas, whose presence caused great excitement. On Friday, Feb. 10th **Hacknahay** held its evening. There was a large attendance. After tea a most interesting programme of music, singing and reciting was performed, ending up with a sketch which was greatly enjoyed. The title of it was "Lame Dogs." Mrs. Atkinson, of Gleneyre, kindly distributed the prizes and gave several prizes herself to children who had not missed a Sunday during the year. Miss Calvert kindly gave a gift of an orange to each child. The pleasant evening concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. T. E. Maginnis and all who had helped. **Edenderry** enjoyed a splendid social on Thursday, Feb. 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. The Parochial Hall was crowded with young people and their teachers. The best of tea, with a bag of luscious pastry, was given to each child. A delightful programme of recitations and a violin solo by Harry M'Court followed. Every item was first-rate. The distribution of 160 prizes followed. The books were handed to the successful children by the Rector, the Rev. W. F. Hayes, Mr. M'Clements and Mr. H. Hynes. The senior girls' class, taught by Miss Halliday agreed not to take prizes so that the School Prize Fund might be spared. This was very good of them. Short speeches were made at the close of the meeting. **Seagoe** enjoyed itself splendidly on

Monday, Feb. 27th. The fine schoolrooms looked very bright and gay. Children in pretty dresses were everywhere. The tea tables were nicely arranged, and there was a great supply of good things. A programme of songs and recitations followed and a very amusing sketch in which "Mrs. Stiggins" was trying in vain to sell her jackets. Florrie Porter and Doris Hall did a very pretty "Fairy Dialogue." Mrs. Watson Walker, who had very kindly given a gift of oranges for the children, distributed the prizes. The meeting was most enjoyable. **Carne** held high festival on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 28th. The Rev. W. F. Hayes presided and after a hearty tea games were played with great zest. Then a short programme of music and recitations was given by the children. Miss Lavery, of Kilvergan kindly distributed the prizes. Mr. David Murray had made all the arrangements with great care and the evening was very enjoyable.

The New Church Plot.

The plot of ground beside the Church is being rapidly transformed. A substantial boundary wall is being built on the west side and when it is finished the ground will be properly levelled, drained and laid out. Already it is possible to see what a great improvement the new plot will be. Plans for ornamental gates and pillars are being considered by the Select Vestry. Of course all this implies a considerable outlay and it will be necessary to call on the Parishioners for further help before long. If it had not been for the money raised at the last Bazaar it would have been quite impossible to carry out these improvements. The recent outside pointing of the Chancel end of the Church has caused the ugly damp spots to disappear.

Seagoe P.E. School.

The School was closed for a fortnight, from February 13th to Feb. 27th. The schools in Portadown were closed owing to the influenza epidemic, and as many of the Seagoe children come from the urban area the Manager thought it better that the School should be closed. The heavy fall of snow which occurred on Friday evening, Feb. 24th, buried everything under a deep white blanket. Some of our motoring parishioners were caught in deep drifts and could not get backwards or forwards. Fortunately no serious accident occurred. The weight of snow pulled down some of the ivy from the Church walls. The children in Seagoe School are much enjoying the splendid soup which our kind friends forward every day from the town. Gifts of vegetables of all kinds should be sent to the Soup Depot at Carleton House so that the supply of soup may be available for the schools, including Seagoe.

Service of Song.

The proceeds of the Service of Song recently held amount to £12 10. This will be a great help towards our Seagoe Sunday School Funds.

Parish Register for March.**Baptisms.**

Magee—Feb. 4th, 1933, Cyrus David Wilfred, son of Alfred David and Judith Magee, of Drumnacanvey.

Sponsors—Emily Ryans, Margaret Anne Magee.

Johnston—Feb. 4th, 1933, Doreen, daughter of Robert and Helen Clow Johnston, of Lower Seagoe.

Sponsors—Margaret Megahey, Helen Clow Johnston.

Marriage.

Carvill—Haire—March 3rd, Hugh Carvill, of Killicomain, to Cora Holroyd Haire, of Laurelvale, Parish of Mullavilly.

Burial.

Millar—Feb. 27th, Henry Millar, of Lower Seagoe, aged nine months.

ITEMS.

We regret that the Railway strike still continues and shows no signs of coming to an end. Special prayer has been offered up in the Parish Church at all the services that all may be guided aright.

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Much sympathy has been expressed with Mr. and Mrs. Millar, of Lower Seagoe, on the death, after a brief illness, of their little son Harry.

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The recent storm from the south-east seemed to have swept with special severity across the townlands of Lylo, Lisniskey and Upper Seagoe. There were deep drifts in these townlands.. Lylo Lane was impassable.

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The Rector lectured on "Old Portadown" before the Portadown Literary and Debating Society on Monday, February 20th.

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The daily verses in Seagoe Parish Almanac are short but carefully chosen. The special Prayer, "A Prayer for the Week," is very helpful.

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There was a Magazine Famine last month. Copies were all sold within a day or two.

Old Seagoe Notes.

Early days of the G.N.R. in Ulster.—On an

iron fender in the Parcel Office in Portadown until recently were the letters U.R. Co.

There may be other fenders of the same type at other stations of the Great Northern Railway Company, and they are the only property still in use belonging to the Ulster Railway Company, which was amalgamated with the Northern Railway in 1876 to form the Great Northern Railway (Ireland).

The Ulster Railway, which was one of the earliest systems in Ireland, was incorporated in 1836 with the object of constructing a line from Belfast to Armagh. The line was partly opened in 1839, the extension to Portadown being completed in 1842. Some years later the line was extended another eleven miles to Armagh, and in 1855 the company was authorised to construct an extension to Monaghan.

In the following year power was obtained to extend the line to Clones, and the Ulster Railway also undertook the operation of the Portadown and Dungannon line.

Subsequently the Banbridge, Lisburn and Belfast line was constructed by a private company and was leased by the Ulster Company from 1862, while the Dublin and Antrim Junction, opened for traffic in 1871, was also worked by the Ulster Company under an agreement.

Running rights over parts of the Belfast Central line were also acquired. The chairman of the company was Mr. Wm. Coates, Belfast; and the deputy chairman, Mr. James Gray. Other directors were—Dr. Wm. Thompson, Lisburn; Messrs. J. G. Winder, Armagh; Samuel Murland, Castlewells; Francis Watson, Lurgan; George Pim, Dublin; J. W. Greer, Lurgan; E. H. Thompson, Belfast; C. A. W. Stewart, Carrickfergus; John Brady, Clones; and A. Mackenzie Lyle, of Donaghmore.

The Dublin and Drogheda and Dublin and Belfast Junction lines had been amalgamated in 1875, and when the Irish North Western, which linked up Dundalk, Enniskillen, and Derry, joined with them on 1st January, 1876, the Northern Railway Company was formed. Three months later the Ulster and Northern companies merged, and the Great Northern Railway of Ireland came into being. At this time there were nearly thirty different railway companies in Ulster and no fewer than 427 in the United Kingdom, so that it was not surprising amalgamations were taking place. Competition was very keen, and though many amalgamations took place from time to time it was not until the war that it was realised that economy of expenditure could best be secured by merging smaller companies into a series of larger undertakings. Bus competition created further problems for the companies, but that is a far cry from the days of the Ulster Railway.