

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

NOVEMBER, 1920.

The Harvest Services.

During the month our annual services of Harvest Thanksgiving took place, both in the Parish Church, and in the outlying district centres. The Services in the Parish Church were attended by large congregations, especially on Sunday evening, when many were unable to get into the Church. The Rev. J. Taylor was a very welcome visitor to his old Parish. The musical portion of the Services was well rendered by a full choir, and the Anthem was very nice. The solo was sung by Mr David Murray with fine expression, and a Quartette followed, in which Messrs. D. Murray, D. Livingstone, and Misses C. Kirby and N. Montgomery took part.

The offerings were larger than usual. The Church was prettily decorated with a profusion of beautiful flowers.

The Country Services were as largely attended as ever. Much care was displayed in the decoration of the buildings. At Hacknahay, the Rev. Orr, Rector of Gilford, preached at the Sunday Afternoon Service.

Edenderry Harvest Festival.

The Harvest Services will be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Sunday, November 7th, at 3-30, and on Monday, November 8th, at 8 p.m. The Hall will be decorated. This will be the last of the Harvest Services to be held in the Parish this year.

Harvest Service Collections.

Parish Church—	£6	6	6			
October 10th—	£9	11	8	10	3	9
Hacknahay—	3	0	6	1	10	1
Carne	1	6	0	0	15	0
Levaghery	1	10	1	0	16	0
Drumgor	2	7	1	1	9	5

The Sustentation Fund.

The collection for this important fund is about to be made throughout the Parish. A special meeting of the General Synod is to be held in Dublin next week, and Bills are likely to be passed for increasing Clerical Incomes to a minimum of £400 and a free Rectory for Rectors, and £200 increasing by annual increment of £5 up to £250, for Curates. If these Bills are adopted by the Synod a much larger sum will have to be raised in each parish, otherwise it will be amalgamated with a neighbouring parish. The time has therefore come when contributions to the Sustentation Fund must be made on a much more liberal scale than formerly, if the separate existence of the parish is to be maintained. It would be a pity if a Parish with so long a record as Seagoe were to become merely a part of some neighbouring Parish. Much will depend on the way in which our people respond in the collection for the Sustentation Fund this year.

Mr. David Murray.

Mr. Murray's many friends in the Parish have felt great sympathy for him in the recent outrageous charge which was brought against him. He has passed through a time of much worry, and has been put to considerable expense in defending himself against what every one felt was an absolutely unfounded accusation. Judge Green tried the case at the Quarter Sessions, and completely exonerated Mr. Murray. The Judge spoke in very severe terms of the unscrupulous conduct of those who brought the charge against him. We all congratulate Mr. Murray and assure him that he stands higher and deeper in the esteem and affection of the people of Seagoe than ever before. Few Parishes are blessed with a more faithful Christian worker than Mr. Murray, and we are proud to number him among our helpers. In fighting his case, as he did, he deserves the heartfelt thanks of every member of the community.

Concert in Edenderry.

The Concert held in the Parochial Hall, on Thursday, October 28th, was a notable success, both in the excellence of the Programme, and in the numbers who were present. The Rector presided. Every item was good, and the whole performance was much above the average. A novel feature in the programme were the Readings from Shakespeare, by the Rev. R. Blackwell Smyth, Curate of St. Mark's. The proceeds were on behalf of the Parochial Hall and Seagoe Day School. Much credit is due to Mr. J. H. Stevenson, and Mr. S. Rennix who made all the arrangements.

ITEMS.

Colonel and Mrs. Blacker and family have gone to reside at Marlfield, Winchester.

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A special meeting of the General Synod will be held in Dublin on November 9th, and following days.

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The work of widening Portadown Bridge is proceeding rapidly, under the supervision of Mr. Cooper, clerk of the works.

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The Lurgan Road, where it passes through Edenderry, is at present very much in need of repair, Small but deep holes cover its surface, and are very unpleasant, if not dangerous, to cyclists. In the Rural District the road has been carefully patched with tar macadam.

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The Rector has received from Colonel Blacker a large number of interesting papers relating to the Seagoe Infantry in the early part of the 19th Century also the Roll Book of the Regiment.

**PARISH REGISTER for OCT.
Baptisms.**

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on October 2nd, 1920.

Donaldson—Samuel David, son of David and Margaret Agnes Donaldson, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Sarah Maria Telford, Margaret Agnes Donaldson.

Webb—Thomas Henry, son of William John and Jane Webb, of Kilmoriarty.

Sponsors—Lizzie Tinman, Helen Griffiths.

PRIVATE BAPTISM.

Lappin—October 7th, 1920, Samuel James, son of Samuel and Mary Lappin, of Edenderry.

Marriage.

Hall and Best—October 6th, 1920, William Henry Hall, of Portadown, to Mary Jane Best of Edenderry.

Burials.

Chambers—September 6th, James Chambers, of Killcomaine, aged 80 years.

McKerr—October 6th, Ellen McKerr, of Drumgor, aged 86 years.

Coburn—October 12th, Isabella Coburn, of Seagoe, aged 82 years. Interred in the City Cemetery, Belfast.

Hughes—October 12th, David Hughes, of Lurgan, aged 58 years.

Ewing—October 20th, Samuel Joseph Ewing, of Newry, aged 35 years.

Martin—October 27th, Anne Martin, of Ballyhannon, aged 72 years.

Lavery—October 31st, John Lavery, of Balteagh, aged 82 years.

Lavery—November 1st, Mary Lavery, of Balteagh, aged 84 years.

We record this month the deaths of many aged Parishioners. Especially touching were the deaths of an aged brother and sister, John and Mary Lavery, of Balteagh, who passed away within a few hours of each other. Samuel Joseph Ewing, of Newry, son

of Sergeant Ewing, R.I.C., formerly of Edenderry Barracks, died from illness contracted during four years of active service in the late war. He was greatly beloved by all who knew him.

Seagoe Scouts.

The Scouts meet in Seagoe School (Seagoe School Troop) on Tuesdays at 6, and in Edenderry Parochial Hall on the same Evening at 8. Boys 11 to 18 eligible for membership. Join up now.

A Seagoe Calendar.

A Seagoe Calendar for 1921, in two colours, will be on sale on December 1st—price 6d. It will contain special photos, and interesting local notes. Secure a copy early.

Mr. T. H. England.

Mr. T. H. England, Rector's Churchwarden, and Mrs. England are leaving this month for Canada. Mr. and Mrs. England will be much missed by their many friends in Seagoe and Portadown. Mr. England has been a most useful helper in the Parish. He has acted as Superintendent of Seagoe Morning Sunday School for several years, and also as Sustentation Fund Collector, and has been for many years a most useful and regular member of the Choir. To his other duties he has added this year those of Rector's Churchwarden. A Farewell Social will be given to Mr. and Mrs. England in Seagoe School on Thursday evening, November 11th, at 7-30. Mr. and Mrs. England will carry with them to Canada the best wishes of all the Parishioners of Seagoe, and we believe that the good work they have done in the Church of Ireland will be continued by them in the Church across the Atlantic.

Congratulations.

Mr. Charles Montgomery has won the Gold Medal in the Open Competition for Tea Blending at the Grocers' Exhibition in London last month. This is a great distinction, and proves that the old Firm keeps up its reputation for the Finest Teas in Ulster. We heartily congratulate Mr. Montgomery.

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE,

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

[Continued from October Magazine.]

Monday, Dec. 20th.

Don't believe yarn of our leaving France, but, of course, everything is possible. I hear H.P. has got Res. Bde. 12th tell me their tinned milk Fund has been converted into getting vegetables for the men. They are most needed. Am keeping and feeling very fit, and sleeping splendidly. Five messages came in last night from 9 p.m. to 2-30 a.m., saying Zep. had been sighted near Ypres. then Armentieres. Annoying, as we could do nothing here anyway. Had to meet Brigadier at 12 this morning. New scheme of

building a hut to hold 1,500 men for the cinema, and a Central Recreation Rooms for the 12th and ourselves. Old Craig, R.E., has to build it and we have to supply the men. Tommy rot! The Maire has struck as to letting us have any more barns, and reported to G.H.Q., who sent down a French Officer. I shall do nothing except with a written order. They are capable of making you get them, and then turning on you for improperly taking barns! I'm delighted the Maire has struck. More long rigmaroles in about at once preparing a mobilisation scheme in case of a sudden move being ordered. I don't think any move

is in contemplation, but of course it may come any day. At present, notwithstanding worries from above, we are very comfortable here. The beds here have all Sommer mattresses, great luxury! and then the men are more comfortable than they have been yet.

Tuesday, Dec. 21st

The 'Xmas preparations, viz.—trying to get places for the men to dine together, tables and forms, carvers and dishes and the arrangements generally, in addition to usual strafe, is burdensome, tho' I must say Fergie is doing most of it.

The laundry is working well, but takes a lot of fuel to dry the clothes. The baths are excellent. Each man gets a bath once a week, and a clean set of underclothes. Why we shall have to leave things behind, is that only absolutely necessary things are to be taken, and only the weights allowed by Regulations, to prevent waggons being over loaded. Men not to take any blankets, and only their kit as laid down.

Wednesday, Dec. 22nd

The Plum Puddings have come, also 5,000 cigarettes from some one. To-morrow we have a Brig. Route March, about 12 miles. All our animals are being tested for glanders. We are in danger of repletion, with all the food we have got to eat. Fergie has two turkeys, one goose and one ham for each platoon! The housing and seating is progressing. Adjutant found a friendly Sapper in Ab—— who is lending us planks, etc., for forms and tables, and is sending them out in a motor lorry. The Cinema Show is to start on Xmas day at H.Q., and I hear each Battalion is to have a couple of days. Wonder when it will reach us. Fergie and Padre have drawn up a Platoon Football League, which I hope will make playing more general thro' the Batt. Not merely 11 men playing and the rest looking on. They've now ordered no afternoon parade to prevent men getting stale.

Thursday, Dec. 23rd.

Just in from Brigade march. We had only one heavy shower, but otherwise fine, but the roads ankle deep in parts. We had the band out to-day. The Padre has worked wonders with it already. His experience with choirs has stood him in good stead in managing them.

Xmas Eve

Quite a decent morning has turned into fierce squalls of wind and rain. All busy, preparing for to-morrow's feast. Tables, etc. being put up, and decorations of holly for the walls. The 'Xmas Dinners come to about £60; last year £97 I find. The Turkeys are, many of them small, and average 20 francs. Fuel is very scarce, no coal issued yesterday or to-day, and only 36 cwt. altogether this week. Luckily the weather is wonderfully mild.

I am not happy about the treatment of the sick here. Not the wounded, they are all right. When they leave the Unit, they are passed on from Field

Ambulance to casualty clearing stations, and so on till they have gone many miles, and then perhaps to the Base, with little or no treatment, simply rushed about in motor ambulances. They are discharged from hospital before they are well, and one meets many poor creatures wandering about asking the way to their Units, having been dumped down by the roadside, perhaps many miles from their Battalions. They sent out one of my men the other day, only half treated, having cut his arm open. They all implore not to be sent to hospital, but what can Berry do? There is no place here you can possibly keep a sick man. Another trick they have with Officers. If he is sent sick to the Base, they hang on to him and the odds are you don't see him again. Two C.O.'s have told me they lost their Transport Officers in this way.

Xmas Day

A wet morning early has turned into a sunny day. Service at 10-15 a.m., and Communion Service afterwards. Sixteen cases of cakes and cigarettes Xmas. came from I.W.A. last night, just in right time for Am just going to sally forth round dinners—2-30 p.m. Well, the round of dinners completed. Fergie did wonders, and the Company Commanders worked hard, and had the barns looking very bright. They had beef, besides their two turkeys, one goose and one ham, for each platoon. What delights the men is that no other Battalion had anything! Don't send any more comforts yet. Every man is well provided. When we move and have to leave stocks behind, we shall want everything you've got when we settle into a new area.

Boxing Day, Dec. 26th

Xmas dinner last night very good. Turkey and Plum Pudding, and Fergie produced a bottle of Port, and proposed the C.O.'s health. I think a Vegetable Fund would be of great value, if you can start it without too much trouble. The men do not get enough vegetable, and are always clamouring for potatoes, more than the meagre ration. Sir A. Murray will be a loss at home. He will do well where ever he is. I don't think Robertson is so well liked out here, but of course very capable. Madame the Notary arrived for her Sunday Inspection; rather thin-lipped and complaining, but we soothe her and she has gone away smiling. What infernal rot, putting things about me in "News-Letter." I do hate that sort of thing. Another 15 cases of comforts arriving to-day. We're just in to send for them. Owing to a scarcity of fuel we don't have a fire till dinner time, and the weather is so mild, it isn't a bit cold. Fergie thinks of everything. He sent both the Maire and the Curé a Plum Pudding, and Cake from the Officers, with best wishes for Xmas and New Year!

Monday, Dec. 27th.

Yesterday we did not have a fire at all, even in the evening. I hear the going on leave is a fearful

scramble, and the return even worse. They say we shall not get our leave now for a long time, as there are 10,000 in the Trenches ahead of us,

Tuesday, Dec. 28th.

Well, the General (Div.) came and everything was *couleur de rose*. He praised us for the condition and turn out of the Transport, which was very good, the condition of the billets and sanitary arrangements, and was staggered at Fergie's laundry and bath house. At the end he said to me "Everything is most satisfactory, and very little eye-wash, I think. I was not so formidable, was I?" showing my words at R— had gone home and borne fruit. Of course we are all greatly bucked up, and Fergie and Stronge and the Company Commanders deserve the greatest credit for the show. Luckily it was a lovely day, and everything looked well in consequence. We have a New Recreation Room now, a large empty barn, plenty of tables and forms, 4 acetylene lamps, and warmed with braziers; filled with games and newspapers. The roads even were scraped clean and every place labelled. We have now been ordered to start a canteen. The Lurgan people have sent to each Lurgan man in the Battalion a parcel, labelled with his name, and containing 1 shirt, 2 pairs socks, 1 pair drawers, 1 vest, matches, cigarettes, candles, 15 large cases! The men don't know what to do with the things. Don't send any more things, except handkerchiefs, till I write you. I'm sure it would be wise to get up a fund for any contingency that might arise, viz:—Veg. As time goes on we are bound to find we want something urgently. The men have now ample warm clothing of all sorts. The General is anxious to pool all our funds, and invest them, with the idea of starting a fund for Widows and Orphans. Absolutely wrong; not what the money was given for, and totally inadequate for any such purpose. I shall strenuously oppose it tooth and nail. All it would do would be to provide a salary for the Secretary.

Wednesday, Dec. 29th.

Not a word said about barns for dining halls. Went over to the 12th with Pratt. O— had gone on there from us, and could talk of nothing but our Laundry! They are going to come over and see it by his directions. Leave doesn't sound hopeful. 10,000 in trenches been out over a year had none yet. O— also thought the prospect of a Push very remote; the French against it. Very costly last time, etc. Don't suppose he knows anything really. They've sent out a man, Findlater, Adjutant of 4th Battalion to Command 1st R.I.F. Rode over this a.m. to see Hessey and Ricardo, about 7 miles away. They are going up to the Trench Line for their 2nd go next week. Both very chirpy. Padre delighted about footballs. When you go on leave you can take no luggage whatever.

Thursday, Dec. 30th.

No word about my leave yet. I shall come by Boulogne. All 111 Army, except Cols, and Staff, go

by Havre. Another move on next week. E. to our last area I believe.

[LEAVE January 1st to 9th.]

Monday, Jan. 10th, 1916—"Prouville"

Went all round billets this a.m. Long straggling village. Men's Billets quite good, Officers' poor. Our mess only one room and small right at end of village. My room and Cather's, the only other rooms available, both entered through the kitchen and scullery. but quite nice rooms, and comfy beds. To-day drizzly. Muddy Streets. Douglas Haig was to have come to have seen us to-morrow, but isn't. Got in here last night at 8-15 after a very good run from Boulogne, about 110 kilos good road, but dark. They have cut down the hay ration from 12lbs to 6lbs, which is of course starvation. I suppose it is an iron necessity, but it will mean loss in horse flesh.

Great dearth of coal and wood, don't know what we shall do for fuel for cookers. A wonderful hutment scheme has come in by which existing accommodation is to be doubled by repairing and building, to be done by troops.

January, 9th.

We are now some 15 kil. of our way. Mending a puncture. Far better than train in (Gregg's Car) which would have taken 12 hours. A lovely crossing. Sunny, bright, and not too cold. Folkestone 11-15, left there at 12-40. B— 2-10. Tea at hotel. G. says we join XIV Corps, which is to be formed of ourselves, Guard Division, and a Welsh Territorial. Either Cavan or Harry Wilson to command. Such crowds on the boat. Sat next a nice man in Oxfordshires—Hussars—thinks "Winnie" will get a Regt.

January 10th.

Quite a fair village, and decent billets, they say.

January 11th.

Lunched with Brigadier, and sat talking to him till 4 p.m. G.H.Q. was bombed last night! Haig is away. Hutment scheme is to take precedence of everything. 100 men under Ensor go out about 7 p.m. from here to build huts, and the men here improve and repair existing billets, to accommodate 500 more men, under R.E. supervision. "G" says no push till Russkys are ready at end of year. French won't move, also says in his opinion neither we nor the Huns could possibly get through. The French will begin to decline in numbers about June. Germans have begun (just). We and Russkys will increase for certainly a year. The Downs are close to us, villages almost touching, but I have not seen any of them yet.

Wednesday, Jan. 12th.

Coffee shop apparently doing quite well; takes about 100 francs a day. A good deal less volume of matter is coming out of Division office now.

(To be Continued.)