

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

NOVEMBER, 1925.

## CLERGY :

Rev. Canon Archer, B.D., The Rectory, Seagoe, Portadown.

Rev. R. W. Johnston, L.Th., 51 William Street Portadown.

## CHURCHWARDENS :

Mr. Robert Price (Rector's).

Mr. Thomas Martin (People's).

## Harvest Thanksgiving Services.

The annual Services of Thanksgiving for the blessings of harvest were held in the Parish Church on Thursday, October 15th, and on the following Sunday. Unfortunately, the weather on the Thursday was very unfavourable, heavy rain falling, but quite a large congregation was present. The Church was more fully decorated than in any previous year. A numerous band of decorators worked with hearty good-will, and as there was a splendid supply of flowers, fruit and corn available, the interior of the Church soon put on quite a festive appearance. The musical part of the services was heartily and devotionally rendered by a large choir. The solos in the anthem were sung by Mr. David Murray (tenor) and Mr. Frazer (bass). The anthem was by Sir John Goss, one of our great musicians. Miss Wilson presided at the organ. The Rev. George Bloomer preached on St. John iv., 37: "Look on the fields." The offerings were on behalf of Foreign Missions. On Sunday the services were continued. They began, as was fitting, with Holy Communion, the Church's special service of thanksgiving, at 8 a.m. The Rev. W. Hogarth, M.A., Rector of St. Saviour's preached in the morning, and the Rev. A. D. Mitchell, M.A., Rector of Eglantine, Hillsborough, in the evening. The Church was crowded at both services. The offerings were on behalf of the Parochial Expenses Fund.

## District Harvest Services.

**Levaghery**—On Sunday, October 4th, and Monday, Oct. 5th, Harvest Services were held in Levaghery School. The Rector preached on Sunday, and the Rev. B. M'Alister, Curate of St. Mark's, at the Monday evening service. The room was beautifully decorated, and there were large gatherings of worshippers at both services. Miss Selina Bradshaw had charge of the musical part of the Service.

**Drumgor**—On Sunday, Oct. 11th, and Monday, Oct. 12th, Drumgor held its Thanksgiving Services. The newly renovated Church Hall looked its best, decorated with the flowers and fruits of harvest. The Rector preached at the Sunday service, and the Rev. F. J. Halahan, M.A., Rector of Drumcree, at the Monday service. Miss Wilson, of Knockmena, had trained a special choir of 35 members, who led the singing of the hymns and canticles. They also sang an anthem very sweetly.

## District Harvest Services.

The following Services have been arranged:—

**Carne**—Sunday, Nov. 1st, at 3-30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 2nd, at 8 p.m.

**Edenderry**—Friday, Nov. 6th, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 7, at 3-30 p.m.

The collections at the week-night services will be for Foreign Missions, and on the Sundays for the local Sunday School Funds.

## The Men's Recreation Rooms.

The Recreation Room was opened on Monday, Oct. 5th, and has been open every evening except Sundays since then. We are glad to be able to say that it has proved a great success and has been attended by large numbers of men. A great attraction has been the Air Gun competitions between teams from various parts of the Parish. Shooting competitions have been held in the Room each Friday and Saturday, and the following have very kindly given prizes—Mr. C. Montgomery, 1 lb. gold medal tea; Messrs. Wallace, alarm clock; Mr. and Mrs. J. Vance, box of preserved fruit; Mrs. Sherman, box of shortbread; Mr. Davison, chemist, a safety razor. No less than 12 teams have been formed in the Air Gun League, each consisting of eight members and two reserves. The teams are from Edenderry, Carne, Seagoe and Levaghery.

## Opening Ceremony.

The formal opening of the Recreation Room will take place (D.V.) on Tuesday, Nov. 10th, at 4 p.m. Cards of invitation are being issued, and we hope to have a large gathering of friends to help us forward in this important work.

## Men's Bible Class.

Bible Classes for men are held on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock in the Recreation Room, Edenderry, and in the Parish Church.

## Presentation to Mr. & Mrs. Murray.

On October 6th (Tuesday) a very pleasant social meeting was held in Carne School. After tea had been partaken of, games were engaged in, the Sunday School children enjoying them to their hearts' content. The meeting had been arranged by the teachers and children of Carne Sunday School with a view to marking their affection and regard for Mr. and Mrs. Murray on their recent marriage. Mr. Murray has been Superintendent of Carne Sunday Schools for 20 years. At an interval in the proceedings the Rector presented Mr. and Mrs. Murray with a handsome Aladdin Lamp. Mr. and Mrs. Murray each responded, and expressed their thanks for the kind and valuable present they had received. The Rector and the Rev. R. W. Johnston conveyed the good wishes of all present to Mr. and Mrs. Murray, and referred to the good work done by Mr. Murray as Superintendent of Carne.



### **Rev. Canon Moeran.**

We are very sorry to hear of the approaching departure of Canon Moeran from Portadown. He has been Rector of St. Mark's for the past ten years—years, the most stirring in the history of our land. He is much beloved in this neighbourhood, and his visits to the Parish of Seagoe were always greatly appreciated. He has been appointed Rector of St. Peter's, Drogheda. We wish him and Mrs. Moeran much happiness and blessing in their new home.

### **Wednesday Evening Services.**

The opportunity of Public Worship in the Parish Church during the week is afforded to the parishioners on each Wednesday during the year at 8 p.m. A faithful few avail themselves of this opportunity, but we feel that the time has come when the serious attention of those who value united Public Worship in the House of Prayer should be directed towards this service, so that it may become a more valued agency for good in the Parish. Two meetings of those who attend the service regularly have recently been held, with good results, and it is hoped in the near future to make a further effort to enlist the interest of the Parishioners in the service. The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."

### **Weekly Free-Will Offerings.**

If any who read this have not been bringing in their envelopes regularly will they kindly begin to do so without delay, as the year is rapidly drawing to a close. Perhaps some reader would like to get a set of envelopes for their Sunday offering, and if they ask the Hon. Treas., Mr. Hugh Stoops, of Killicomaine Road, or the Rector they will receive it without delay. Special envelopes will be issued in November for those who have not yet joined the Weekly Free-will Offering Scheme. We are not receiving a sum sufficient to finance the Parish, and if a second curate is appointed the difficulty will be increased unless the Parishioners contribute more liberally than they have done.

### **Death of Mr. Charles Wilson.**

We regret to record the death of Mr. Charles M. Wilson, brother of Mr. T. H. Wilson, organist of Seagoe, who died on August 10th at 3 Lloyd Square, London, and was interred at Enfield Cemetery. Mr. Wilson was for 17 years organist of Down Cathedral, and held other similar posts. He was a skilful musician and had composed a considerable number of chants and settings of canticles. The settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis which were sung at the recent Harvest Festival in the Parish Church were composed by him. Mr. Wilson was organist of Seagoe for a few months in 1874, before his brother was appointed to the post. Mr. Wilson had in recent years resided in London.

### **Seagoe Mothers' Union:**

The monthly meeting of the Mothers' Union will (p.v) be held in Seagoe School on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, at 7-30 p.m. Tea will be provided, and after tea there will be a musical programme arranged.

### **Eighty Years Ago.**

[The following cutting from the "Northern Whig" for June 13th, 1842 (?) was found among the papers of Primate Beresford recently. The Rev. H. de L. Willis was curate in charge of St. Mark's, Portadown, from 1840 to 1845.]

**Rev. Mr. Willis and the Declaration against Repeal.**  
The following protest is in course of signature through the Parish of Seagoe, neighbourhood of Portadown:—

"In consequence of a letter, bearing the signature of the Rev. H. De L. Willis, Curate of Portadown, which appeared in the public journals, being a reply to the declaration against unconditional Repeal, the inhabitants of the Parish of Seagoe feel themselves called upon to publish their protestation against it.

"The following is the passage alluded to, in Mr. Willis's letter:—"I am now bold to say, that, should the English Government continue to pursue the same line of conduct towards Ireland, I, for one, see nothing in my obligation, as a Minister of the Church, to prevent me considering the question of Repeal an open question; and, under the circumstances, so far am I from thinking that a Repeal of the Legislative Union would entail incalculable misery upon Ireland and her Church, that I am rather inclined to look with hope and confidence for the reverse of this. And I rejoice to know, that such also is the feeling of some thousands in my parish and neighbourhood."

"Granting to Mr. Willis the right of private opinion, to its fullest extent, we earnestly deprecate the liberty he has taken in calumniating and endeavouring to fasten on the neighbourhood of Portadown, opinions which we individually and collectively deny and repudiate, both for ourselves and the thousands with whom we are connected, and with whose opinions we are fully acquainted. In defence of our characters, we unequivocally declare our abhorrence of the Repeal movement, so fatal to the prosperity, peace, and well-being of our common country, and shall ever be ready to aid and assist her gracious Majesty to suppress any illegal or unconstitutional attempt to separate the United Kingdom.

"Whilst maintaining our right to express our wrongs and grievances in a loyal and constitutional manner, we most positively declare our abhorrence of the sentiments ascribed to us by Mr. Willis, who, we hope, in future, will continue his judgment to those of whose opinion he is sure. If he is inoculated with that most mischievous, disloyal, and unconstitutional epidemic, the Repeal mania, we deplore the fatuity which possesses him."



### **The Diocesan Synod.**

The Synodsmen representing Seagoe Parish—Messrs. Jas. Twinem, J. G. Gracey, T. Martin, R. Price, T. H. Wilson, D. W. Murray, have received their summons to attend the Synod, which will be held in Clarence Place Hall, Belfast, on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in Belfast Cathedral for Synodsmen at 10 a.m. The Synod this year will be of very special importance, and we expect all our elected representatives to attend.

### **The Magazine in Queensland.**

[The following letter of appreciation comes from far-off Queensland. The Magazine is as much at home in the Antipodes as in Portadown.]

"Harrisleigh, King & Overend St.,  
"East Brisbane,

"Queensland, Australia,  
"Aug. 31st, '25.

"Dear Canon Archer,—By this mail I am posting the exhibition number of the 'Queenslander' to you. I thought it would interest you.

"The Parish Magazines arrive monthly. I look forward to their coming. The contents from cover to cover are most interesting. I often see names of people and places about Seagoe and Portadown that bring back pleasant memories. I pass them along to friends (when I have finished reading them) who enjoy their perusal equally as well as I do.

"Kindest regards from—Yours very sincerely,  
" (MRS.) M. NESBITT."

### **Parish Register for October.**

#### **Baptisms.**

**Lyness**—Oct. 3rd, Rachel Frances, daughter of John and Alicia Lyness, of Carne.

*Sponsors*—Martha Gilpin, Alicia Lyness, John Lyness.

**Lyness**—Oct. 3rd, Robert Loughlin, son of Christopher and Mabel Lyness, of Drumgor.

*Sponsors*—Eliza Jane M'Ker, Mabel Lyness.

#### **PRIVATE BAPTISM.**

**Rainey**—Oct. 12th, David, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Rainey, of Edenderry.

#### **Marriage.**

**M'Ilwain and Burns**—Oct. 14th, Samuel M'Ilwain, D.C.M., R.U.S.C., of Belfast, formerly of Seagoe, to Ellen Burns, of Edenderry.

#### **Burials.**

**Rainey**—Oct. 13th, David Rainey, of Edenderry, aged 14 days.

**Robinson**—Oct. 24th, Joseph Robinson, of Tanniff-carbet.

### **The Transfer of Seagoe School.**

Negotiations for the transfer of Seagoe School to the Ministry of Education are in progress. A special meeting of the Select Vestry was held last month to consider the matter, and a sub-committee

was formed to draw up a suggested deed of transfer. Mr. William Dawson, Secretary of the Co. Armagh Regional Committee, has conferred with this Committee. The transfer is an important and difficult subject and will take some time to complete.

### **A Letter from the Rev. W. T. Wilson, M.A.**

[The Rector asked Mr. Wilson to send him notes about his new Parish, and the following interesting letter is the reply.]

Cumberland St., Birr, King's Co.  
15th Oct., 1925.

Dear Canon Archer,—I promised to write you an account of my new sphere of work. I shall try and do so as briefly as possible.

The town of Birr or Parsonstown is on the Camcor River, about eighty miles west-south-west of Dublin. Birr is a name of great antiquity, and is thought to be derived from the Irish word Birra, which means standing water or abounding in wells and fountains. It receives the alternative name Parsonstown, from the descendants of Sir Laurence Parsons.

In the centre of the town there is the old Churchyard, which contains the ruins of the old Church and which is also the burial ground of the Earles of Rosse and other notable families.

There is another graveyard outside the town, now closed, and which bears the marks of great antiquity as well as of great neglect.

There is the old Prison built in 1628, and about a mile outside the town the ruins of Crinkle Military Barracks, one of the finest in the United Kingdom. This, with its beautiful little Garrison Church, was burned down during the recent disturbed times.

Some traces of Druidic worship still linger. A place near the Railway Station bears the name "Seffin," which signifies Sun Deity. A large stone in this part of the Parish was carried away to Clare by Thomas Steele in 1833. It was at this stone the people worshipped until St. Brendan came. Our Parish Church still bears the name of the Patron Saint, and an old well in Lord Rosse's Demesne is known as St. Brendan's well.

There is also associated with Birr a celebrated work known as "the Gospels of MacRegal" the scribe, bishop and abbot of Birr, who died in 820. This is the largest-sized of the old Gospel Books and contains the four Gospels in Latin, with figures of Mark, Luke and John, each occupying a page. It is now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

All round the town are beautiful demesnes, of which a very striking feature is the magnificently kept gardens. Worthy of special note is Lord Rosse's Demesne. Surrounded by a wall of huge dimensions, it contains a majestic old castle, with beautiful lawns and lake and garden. Here is to be seen the great Rosse Telescope. This great "Searcher" of the Heavens was erected by William, the 3rd Earl of Rosse, and completed in 1842. The mirror, composed of tin and copper, measures six feet in diameter and weighs four tons. The Colossal



tube or cylinder is 56 feet long—a man six feet high and wearing a tall hat would have no difficulty in walking up and down in it. So in Birr Observatory may be seen one of the largest if not the largest reflecting telescope in the world.

Just outside the town, on its East side is the Rectory. Its situation is simply ideal—on a hill overlooking the town, midst peaceful surroundings of green fields and beautiful trees—the Slieve Bloom mountains looming in the background. Here for many years lived one of the most eminent and learned of our Northern clergy, Rev. Dr. Hemphill, now Archdeacon of Down. Everywhere throughout the Parish one hears testimony borne to his helpful and sympathetic ministry which has won for him a warm and lasting place in the people's hearts.

About a year ago the Parish of Eglisli was joined on to the Parish of Birr; so there are two Churches—the Parish Church in Birr, and Eglisli, about four miles out in the country. The Parish Church is a magnificent building. There are several stained-glass windows, the East window being one of exceptional beauty.

Nothing pleases one more than the delightful way in which the Church is kept spotlessly clean and tidy. The Sexton, an ex-soldier, is responsible for this, and it is really most inspiring the thoroughness and exactness with which he does his work. Every Sunday morning there is an 8 o'clock service in this Church, and most encouraging it is to see how faithfully our people, and especially our young people, turn out to obey their Lord's command, "This do in remembrance of Me." A chalice belonging to the old Church and still in excellent condition, bears the date 1636.

Eglisli Church is an ancient one and is situated in a quaint old graveyard close to Eglisli Castle, the residence of Mr. Frederick Dillon.

I must not forget to mention our "Young People's Club," quite a large building in the centre of the town, with reading and recreation rooms. In connection with this Bible Classes and debates are held during the winter months, and at the annual Missionary Gift Day the young people provide their own stall.

Then there is "Parsonstown Model National School." The School is undenominational, but is attended only by Protestant children and is at present staffed by Church of Ireland teachers. It consists of three departments—boys, girls and infants, each under its own Principal. There are 3 Principal rooms, one for each department, and two class rooms, one for boys, and one for girls. The rooms are large, airy and well lighted and kept in thorough repair by the Board of Public Works. There is a playground for each department. The School is under full control of Commissioners of National Education, and stands in its own grounds.

There is a very nice Masonic Hall in Birr. It bears the date 1747, and is known as "St. Brendan's Lodge."

Those keen on sport can find ample opportunity of suiting their tastes at Birr. There is hunting, shooting, hockey, tennis and golf. The Golf Links are about a mile from the town. It is an 18 hole links, and has been described by those who know as "the best inland links in Ireland."

I like the work here very much indeed, and I often think of the happy time I spent in Seagoe, and not least those Sunday morning hours with the splendid lads of Edenderry reading and studying together God's Word. We got to know each other in learning to know more of the Master. I am glad to know the room is also being used for the purpose of recreation, and I am sure as such it will prove a blessing.—Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM T. WILSON.

### Portadown Roses.

The people of Seagoe and Portadown should have roses growing in all their gardens and climbing over their houses. The rose is called the Queen of Flowers, and the best roses in the world are grown in Portadown. The Rose catalogue recently issued by Messrs. M'Gredy is a wonderful record of success in rose culture and is beautified by very perfect reproductions in colour of some new roses. Here is a description of a new Portadown rose which has recently been awarded the highest prizes at the National Rose Show in England. It is named "Lord Lambourne." The colour is deep, absolutely unfading, buttercup yellow, each and every individual petal being heavily margined all round carmine scarlet, like a huge sunstar. The flowers are of beautiful shape, enormous size, immense depth and great petalage. The scarlet edge gives the flowers a wonderful appearance. The flowers have a strong fruity scent.

### ITEMS.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Hoy and Mrs. M'Mullen have moved into their new house, "Hillview," Lurgan Road. We will very much miss Mrs. M'Mullen from her old residence beside Drumgor Church Hall. She was always so kind and hospitable to all who visited the Hall for services or meetings. We wish her and Mr. and Mrs. Hoy a very happy time in their new house.

\* \* \*  
The Rector, on the invitation of Mr. Warren, Headmaster of Portadown Collegiate School, gave a lecture to the pupils on Tuesday, Oct. 20, on "The Story of Portadown."

\* \* \*  
New houses are springing up everywhere in the Parish. We hear of a new village coming into being on the Lurgan Road, to be known as "Newtown-Twinem."

\* \* \*  
The pedestal of the Portadown War Memorial is now completed. On Wednesday, Oct. 28th, the bronze statue of Colonel Saunderson was lifted off its pedestal so that it may be erected some yards further back.