

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

OCTOBER, 1915.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services.

THE Annual Thanksgiving Services for the Blessings of Harvest will (D.V.) be held in the Parish Church on Thursday, October 28th, and on Sunday, October 31st.

The Preacher at the Thursday evening Service will be the Rev. R. Walker, LL.D., Rector of St. Barnabas' Church, Belfast. The Preacher at the Sunday Services will be the Rev. F. Riddall, M.A., of Lisburn. The Offerings on Thursday will be in aid of Foreign Missions, and on Sunday at both services for Parochial Funds.

Special music will be sung by the Choir, and the Church will be decorated.

District Harvest Services.

Harvest Services will (D.V.) be held at the following centres on the dates named—

Carne—Sunday, October, 10th, at 3-30 p.m.

Monday, „ 11th, at 8 p.m.

Drumgor—Sunday, October 17th, at 3-30 p.m.

Monday, „ 18th, at 8 p.m.

Tamnificarbet—Sunday, October 24th, at 7 p.m.

Monday, „ 25th, at 8 p.m.

Levagherey—Sunday, October 24th, at 3-30 p.m.

Monday „ 25th, at 8 p.m.

Edenderry—Sunday, November 7th, at 3-30 p.m.

Monday, „ 8th, at 8 p.m.

The Offerings at the Sunday Services in each District will be on behalf of the Local School Expenses, and at the Monday Services for Foreign Missions.

Hacknahay Harvest Services.

The Annual Harvest Services were held in Hacknahay School on Sunday, September 26th, and the Monday following. The School had been most tastefully decorated by willing hands. Some splendid fruit and flowers were placed upon a table at the end of the room. The Rev. G. Bloomer gave the address at the Sunday Service, and on Monday the Rev. G. Millington, B.A., Curate of Donaghcloney, spoke on "Nature and Grace." At both Services the School was filled. The music was excellently rendered by a large Choir kindly trained by Mr. S. R. Chambers. The Harvest Anthem was very bright, and Miss Charlotte M'Murray sang with much taste the treble solo. The offerings were liberal, amounting on Sunday to £2 2s 3d for the School Fund, and on Monday to £1 3s for Foreign Missions.

Rev. John Taylor, M.A.

The Rev. J. Taylor, formerly Curate of Seagoe, has recently been appointed Rector of Eglantine (All Saints', Hillsborough). It is a country Parish with a small but beautiful Church, which was erected by the Mulholland Family within the precincts of their demesne. The people of Seagoe will wish Mr. Taylor much blessing and happiness in his new and responsible sphere of labour.

S.P.C.K.

The above letters stand for a very useful Society—the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. A Lecture was delivered on its behalf in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Monday, September 13th, by the Rev. D. H. Abbott, M.A., Deputation Secretary for the North of England and Ireland. The Rector presided, and there was a large audience, who listened with interest to the details given by the Lecturer of the Society's work in the Colonies and Canada. The Lecture was fully illustrated by Lantern Slides, which added greatly to its interest. The proceeds of the Sale of Tickets amounted to £1 0s 3d, expenses 4s 0d, net proceeds of Lecture, 16s 3d.

Private David G. Dunlop.

Another of our brave soldiers has fallen in action, **Private David George Dunlop**, of James Street. He fell on August 16th, at Gallipoli. Two of his comrades from Portadown, Jeffers and Proctor, were near him at the time and saw him fall, shot through the heart. His death is very pathetic for by it two little children are left without father or mother. Mrs. Dunlop, his wife, died under very sad circumstances on March 31st of this year, her younger child being an infant of only a few days old at the time. A letter from Private Dunlop to Mrs. Campbell, his wife's mother, was written by him on August 15th, the day before he was killed. It was as follows:—

15/3/15.

Dear Mother.—Just a line to let you know I am getting on well. I got the cigarettes you sent me alright, also your letter. I am glad to hear of you and the children being well. Remember me to my father and mother and all the rest. I have nearly all my chums as yet. We have not lost very many of them. Jeffers is alright and Archie Proctor. We are all together as yet, and having a good time sniping the Turks down. I only got your letter on Saturday, 14th August, so I answer it as soon as I can. I think this is all for this time only.—D.G.D. Write soon.

**Death of Private David Gracey,
H.L.I**

Official intimation has been received by his father of the death in action, of Private David Gracey, of the Highland Light Infantry. He was killed in France, on Sunday, September 12th. Private Gracey was a young fellow of high character and deep religious feeling. When he was about to go to the Front early in the year, and knew the possible risk of life involved, he faced the issue with fine Christian courage. He had not in infancy been admitted to the Church by Baptism, and during a short furlough last December feeling that he should not face death without receiving that Sacrament, he made application to the Rector and after a brief preparation, and with the ready consent of the Bishop, he was baptized in Seagoe Church. His reverence and devout bearing made a deep impression on those who witnessed the solemn service. He promised at the font to be a faithful soldier and servant of Jesus Christ even to his life's end. After a brief period of very faithful service, he has sealed that promise with his life's blood. We offer our sincere sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Gracey on their sad loss while at the same time we express our thanksgiving to God for the nobility of that life and death.

Death of Private F. Curry.

Private Francis Curry, of the 6th Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers, has died at Alexandria from wounds received at Gallipoli. He resided with his mother in Ballymacrandle for many years, and in his boyhood was a member of Seagoe C.L.B. His only brother died some ten years ago. Much sympathy has been expressed with his mother in the loss of her only surviving son.

Notes from Bordon Camp.

The following letter from Bordon Camp contains interesting facts regarding the Camp experiences of our Seagoe men :—

"Before I say anything about our new Camp I must thank you for the papers and the magazine; the latter was lent all round the Company and everyone enjoyed the bright reading it contained. Regarding our New Camp, I must say it is just the opposite of Seaford. In Seaford the sea was just beside you, and you were convenient to Brighton and Eastbourne. Here there is no sea anywhere near, and the nearest place approaching a town is Aldershot some ten miles away. If you wish to go to London, of course it costs 3/9 for a week-end, and the weekly wages of a private soldier couldn't afford that.

"And yet though we are away so far from any big towns or cities, most of the boys would rather be stationed here than any place we have been yet. At night when the day's work is finished one can walk to nice little villages a few miles from the Camp, such as Hedley, Deadwater, Liss Selbourne, etc., and the roads, oh! how different from those of Seaford. One could walk miles here without being

tired. The roads you see are tar-macadam. Our barracks are in up-to-date style; one room contains about 30 men with a nice little bunk for the Sergeant, and each man has a good iron bed to lie down and rest.

Since we came here our time has been occupied with firing. So in the morning we usually have our breakfast at 6 a.m., and proceed to the range some two miles away. The Field Kitchen comes with us, and we are supplied with our dinner and tea out at Range. So you will see how convenient the Field Kitchens are. Well, we usually arrive back in Barracks about 7 p.m., all feeling tired, and ready for a good wash to clean the sand of Cranmere Range off our person.

Leave was granted last week, and everyone was glad. So at 12 o'clock B Coy left for the station, where they entrained and ran right through to Heysham. Got on the steamer, arriving in Belfast next morning about 7 a.m., caught the 7-30 train for Portadown, where the people were glad to see the relatives.

In closing I might say we are to be inspected by the King on Thursday next, when once more the men from Ulster hope to please the King as they did Lord Kitchener.

Seagoe Roll of Honour.

We record with pleasure the following names of lads from Seagoe Parish who have enlisted since our last issue—

- David M'Cabe, Seagoe.
- George White, Tarson.
- David Flannigan, Edenderry.
- Dynes Gilpin, Edenderry.
- Norman Holmes, Killycomain.

A Faithful Friend.

Many Seagoe people will miss from the roads the familiar form of Joseph Brown, Ballinacor, who so often drove his Donkey and Cart along the Carne Road into Portadown. Death has claimed him at a good old age, and before his call came he gave a sure testimony of his faith in his Crucified and Risen Lord.

It is not out of place to say something here of his faithful dumb friend "Diamond," the donkey which drew him to town for well nigh 30 years, for "Diamond" will be 30 years of age if he lives till next May. That is a great age for a Donkey, and we hope that "Diamond" will yet enjoy some more years of quiet retirement after his useful life.

Offertories for September.

Sundays—Mornings,	£4	9	7
Evenings,	...	1	12 2
Week Days	...	0	10 8
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		£6	12 5

G.F.S. Excursion.

The Hacknahay Branch of the G.F.S. had their Annual Excursion on Thursday, September 23rd. Belfast was the place chosen, and the members numbering over 30, accompanied by their Associate, Miss Calvert, left Portadown by the 1-53 p.m. train. Arrived at Belfast the members visited the chief streets of the city, and at 4 met at the City Hall and went by tram to the Botanic Gardens where they visited the splendid Conservatories and Fernery.

A Letter from the Front.

A grandson of Dynes Atkinson, Sexton of Seagoe, writes as follows:—

You will think it strange getting a letter from me, but I still think of you all, and thought it nothing but right that you should have a word from me. I expect that you have heard that I enlisted at the outbreak of the war, and have been in it one year. We have been in action at Hill 60, Kemmel, Lanchiet, Dicky bush, Elverdinge, and we are now at the Dead City, where Lord Kitchener visited lately in the first little country that was ruined. This war is too horrible to imagine. Just fancy seeing large Cities with not a building that has one stone on top of one another. It is awful to see. I would like to tell you all, but dare not. We had a big bombardment a week ago, and I believe we took 5 lines of trenches and about 1,500 prisoners, but mind, I think we lost a few good men, for the Germans were using gas and liquid fire. It is awful stuff to stand. Our battery lost 1 killed and 1 wounded. It is very hard to see your comrades killed by shells, and never know but what it is your turn next. It is a hard life, but it is better than living under the German flag. By the way things look I think the war will last a good while yet, but I pray to God to use His power to bring it to an early end, so that we may all live in happiness once again. I could just do with a fortnight's holiday with you all again; never mind, the day will come, for God is good, and He will make the culprits of this war suffer.

Now I hope you are all enjoying the best of health, for my people and I are all in the best of health at present. I am sending you a little card for Aunt Mary Jane (God bless her!), and I hope she will think of curly head. I know I have not done right for not sending you a letter before now, but I hope you will excuse me, for you know what young people are for writing. Forgive me this time, and I will write you a long letter next time. Give my best regards to all my dear friends in Bridge Street. Tell Grandfather I intend to come and ring the Church bell some day. Well, I will close now with love to all. God bless and keep you all. Write soon.

CHARLIE ATKINSON.

Wm. Jas. Allen, of Joseph Street, is now in khaki, having joined the R.A.M.C. He returned recently from the States after a sojourn there of some years.

PARISH REGISTER FOR SEPT.**Baptisms.**

The following were Baptized on Saturday, September 4th, 1915.

Best—Thomas Henry, son of Richard and Margaret Best, of Lurgan.

Sponsors—Emily Best, Margaret Best.

Hickland—David, son of John and Lucinda Hickland, of Breagh.

Sponsors—Agnes Hickland, Lucinda Hickland.

Reay—Joseph, son of James and Jane Reay, of Balteagh.

Sponsors—Rebecca Gregston, Jane Reay.

Mayer—Mary Elizabeth, daughter of James Wm. and Margaret Mayer, of Levaghery.

Sponsors—Sarah Abraham, Margaret Mayer.

Robinson—Grace, daughter of Joseph and Mary Robinson, of Tamnificarbet.

Sponsors—Joseph Robinson, Mary Robinson.

PRIVATE BAPTISM.

Smith—September 26th, 1915, Margaret daughter of Aaron and Sarah Anne Smith, of Edenderry.

Burials.

“They that sleep in the dust of the earth shall arise.”

Elliott—September 14th, Francis Elliott, of Belfast, aged 47 years.

Wilson—September 25th, Sarah Wilson, of Ballymacrandle, aged 67 years.

Major—September 27th, William J. Major, of Edenderry, aged 8 years.

Death of Mr. Wm. McC. Jones.

We announce with very sincere regret the death of Mr. Wm. McC. Jones, head of the compositing department of the “Portadown News,” and a faithful employee of that firm for nearly 40 years. Mr. Jones supervised for over ten years the setting-up of the type for each successive number of this Magazine, and was always interested in its success. He was a very skilful worker, and was always quick at interpreting the wishes of his clients.

ITEMS.

We congratulate Mr. W. B. Walker of Seagoe Farm, on the successful completion of his Medical and Arts course in Dublin University. He received the degree of M.B. last week and has also we believe obtained a Commission in the Army Medical Department. Trinity College has supplied no less than 650 Medical men to the Army since the war began.

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Mr. James Twinem has recently given valuable help in the Parish by taking in succession during July and August, the Men's Bible Classes in Edenderry and Seagoe. His work was much appreciated by the Members.

The swallows took their departure later than usual this year, on September 13th, but on Sunday, Sept. 26th a large number were still to be seen on the shores of Lough Neagh at Ardmore.

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The Rev. G. Bloomer takes up his work as Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown, on November 1st.

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Bertram Holland (1st Canadian Contingent), of Levaghery, was slightly wounded in the severe fighting in Flanders, but has, we are glad to say, quite recovered.

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Corporal Herbert Murray, a member of the Canadian University Contingent, attached to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, spent a few days here last week after an absence in Canada of over two years. He is stationed at Shorncliffe with his Regiment. Princess Patricia's Regiment has covered itself with glory on the battlefields of Flanders, and we anticipate that when Corporal Murray and his comrades get to the front they will sustain the great reputation of their corps.

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The Rev. F. J. Halahan, Rector of Drumcree, has been appointed a Chaplain to the Forces and is now attached to the Ulster Division at Bordon Camp. The Rev. R. E. Rennison, Curate of Drumcree, takes charge of the Parish during the Rector's absence. Our readers who have friends in the Division will be rejoiced to know that Mr. Halahan will be with the Portadown boys in the stirring days ahead.

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The unexpected visit of the men from Borden Camp was a very pleasant surprise. Some wives on their way to work in Edenderry found their husbands, whom they thought were in England, waiting for them in Bridge Street and Railway Street.

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An anonymous writer complains that some of the youths of Seagoe occasionally rob his orchards and thinks that their parents fail to chastise them. He concludes by saying that he supposes "Kitchener's men must stand to their guns, and Seagoe mothers must stand to their sons."

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A useful Pamphlet has been left at every house in Seagoe Parish entitled "*Why We Should Save and How?*" Everyone should read it carefully and act upon the advice given.

Old Seagoe Notes.

A Notable Day in Seagoe.—On April 3rd-1893, no less than four marriages took place in Seagoe Parish Church. We believe this record has not been exceeded or even reached in the Parish before or since. The Annual Rate of Marriages in the Parish is about twenty-four.

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A Famous Seagoe Athlete.—Some 50 years ago there lived in Ballinacor a famous jumper by name Samuel Jordan. Stories of his wonderful feats still circulate through the parish. On one occasion when standing on the platform at Lurgan Railway Station he wished to get to the other platform and he jumped from one platform to the other. At that time there was only a single line of rail, but it was nevertheless a great jump. At another time he challenged another local athlete to jump in and out of twelve barrels placed side by side in a line. He performed this feat without difficulty beating his rival who only succeeded in jumping in and out of eight of the barrels. Samuel Jordan emigrated to New South Wales forty years ago, and on the day before he left he was standing with his father and mother at the Big Stone at Ballinacor. There was an iron gate near the stone, leading into a field of Mr Rudcell's, and Samuel at a standing jump cleared the gate. Samuel Jordan lived for many years abroad and died at a good old age a few years ago. His photograph in the possession of his niece Mrs Joseph McCabe represents him as a handsome well-built man. Perhaps some parishioners can recall other jumping feats performed by him, and if they send them to the Editor he will be glad to publish them in these notes.

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An Interesting Clock.—A resident in the Parish of Knocknamuckley possesses a Grandfather's Clock the case of which was made from the wood of the Pulpit of Old Seagoe Church. This pulpit was a conspicuous feature in the Old Church now a ruin, and it is said to have had inscribed upon it the date 1666, being the year in which the old Church was re-built by Valentine Blacker after its destruction in the Rebellion of 1641. The Clock was made by Geo. J. Black, of Lurgan, to the order of William Dynes of Shane Hill, on the occasion of his marriage to a namesake of his own, named Nancy Dynes. The clock keeps excellent time, and is much prized by its possessor. The case is highly polished. The wood is very sound and is oak of a dark colour. The timber from which it was made is at least 250 years old. William Dynes, for whom the Clock was originally made, died about 40 years ago at an advanced age.