

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

OCTOBER, 1928.

## CLERGY :

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

Rev. W. A. Henry, 21 Edward St., Portadown.

## LAY READER (Bishop's Licence) :

Mr. Robt. Gracey, Edengarth, Bridge St., Edenderry.

## CHURCHWARDENS :

Rector's—Robert M'Clements.

People's—William Dermott.

## The Rev. George Bloomer.

With deep regret we announce the death of Rev. George Bloomer, so well known and so much beloved by the people of Seagoe. The sad event occurred at a Nursing Home in Belfast on Wednesday, September 26th. Mr. Bloomer had been ill for two or three weeks and was being treated for an abscess behind the ear. His illness rapidly assumed a serious aspect and a few days ago it was reported that he was in a very critical condition. By his death the Church Militant loses a most faithful and diligent worker, and the Church Triumphant gains a saintly spirit. All who knew him cherished his acquaintance and benefited by his affectionate friendship. As Curate of Seagoe from the day of his Ordination on December 21st, 1911, until he left the Parish in 1915 he moved in and out among us and we learned to know his sterling worth. The deep sympathy of the people of Seagoe will go out to the bereaved widow and the little children whose home circle is thus so sadly broken. Many among us will thank God that we knew George Bloomer and will cherish his memory as a sacred possession. The interment took place at his former Church—Woods Chapel, Magherafelt—on Friday, September 28th. Mr. Bloomer loved Seagoe, and nothing pleased him so much as a visit to the Parish where he had begun his ministry. It will be long before his memory fades from our midst.

## Harvest Thanksgiving.

October sounds the note of hearty thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessing of Harvest. Not only in the Parish Church but in the various outlying centres of the Parish we hold Services of Thanksgiving. It is very nice and fitting that in all parts of this large Parish the voice of thanksgiving should be raised before the Eternal Throne. The ripened harvest fields and the orchards bending beneath the weight of rich and abundant fruit are fresh proofs

to us of God's faithfulness to His people. The following Services have been arranged:—

**Hacknahay**—Sept. 30th, 3-30. Rev. T. G. R. Magill, M.A., Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown.

Oct. 1st, 8 p.m. Offerings for Foreign Missions.

**Carne**—October 7th, 3-30 p.m.

Oct. 8th, 8 p.m.

**Drumgor**—Oct. 14th, 3-30 p.m.

Oct. 15th, 8 p.m.

**Edenderry**—Oct. 28th, 3-30 p.m.

Oct. 29th, 8 p.m.

**Levaghery**—Nov. 4th, 3-30 p.m.

Nov. 5th, 8 p.m.

## The Parish Church.

The Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Services in the Parish Church will be held (D.V.) on the following dates:—

Thursday, Oct. 18th, at 8 p.m. Preacher, Rev. J. R. M'Donald, M.A., Rector of Donacloyne.

Sunday, Oct. 21st, 8 a.m. Holy Communion.

11-30 a.m. Morning Prayer. Preacher, Rev. J.

T. M'Clure, M.A., Rector of Tartaraghan.

7 p.m. Evening Prayer.

The offerings at the District Services will, on the Sunday be given to local expenses and on the week nights to Foreign Missions.

## A Distinguished Visitor.

On Friday, September 21st, a distinguished visitor came to Seagoe in the person of the Hon. George S. Henry, from Toronto, Canada. Mr. Henry has reached a high and responsible post in the Provincial Government of Ontario. He is Minister of Public Works and Highways for the Province. Mr. Henry's object in visiting Seagoe was to see the home of his ancestors and to find out as many particulars as he could regarding his family from the Registers of Seagoe Parish. Mr. Henry is grandson of Mr. George Henry, who married Miss Ann Holmes, of Bocombra. Mr. Henry resided in the house now occupied by Mr. Woolsey White, at Bocombra. In the year 1847, the year of the fatal Irish Famine, he emigrated to Canada, bringing with him his son, then a lad of tender years, afterwards the father of the Hon. George S. Henry. Mr. Henry is a man of fine presence and most genial in manner. He was accompanied by Mrs. Henry, who much enjoyed her visit to the Rectory and the Rectory gardens. Mr. and Mrs. Henry were accompanied on their visit by the representative of the Ontario Government in Ireland and his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Henry are making an extended tour in Europe and the East. They intend to visit Paris, Vienna, Athens, Constantinople and Jerusalem. Mr. Henry was greatly interested in Seagoe and its history and took away with him some copies of Seagoe Parish Magazine.



### Seagoe School.

Much indignation has been aroused in the Parish by the attempt which is being made by the Armagh Regional Committee to close up Seagoe School. The School is endeared to the hearts of the Seagoe people. They remember it as the place where they received their early education, and in many cases their children are now attending the School. The School is classed as a "Large" School by the Ministry of Education. It has at present 133 pupils on the roll. The School building provides accommodation for a total of 250 pupils. There is a staff of three teachers, a principal and two assistants. The premises are most healthily situated on high ground, surrounded by open fields. The playgrounds are extensive, and there is a covered shelter where the children can play in inclement weather. The schoolrooms are large, well ventilated and well lighted. Each room is thoroughly heated by a large central stove. The standard of education associated with the School has always been of a high character and the pupils have in many cases, in after life, reached high and responsible positions. The Rector of the Parish has always filled the post of Manager of the School, and Religious Instruction has been given weekly to the children by the Clergy of the Parish and daily by the Teaching Staff. The School has always had a high moral tone and has been marked in every stage of its existence by a true spirit of Loyalty and Service. It has been closely associated with the Parish Church, situated as it is opposite the gate of the Church. No complaint has ever been made against the buildings nor has any criticism been made of the instruction given by any of the Government Inspectors who have visited and reported on it from time to time. Bearing all these facts in mind, we may well ask why is the Armagh Regional Committee trying to close the School. The reason they give is because there is sufficient accommodation in the neighbouring schools without Seagoe School. Their conduct in this matter is on a par with their other actions which have become notorious and have led the Minister of Education for Northern Ireland to characterise their attitude with regard to Bible Instruction as "incomprehensible." They declined to allow the rule as to Bible Instruction to be inserted in the Deed of Transfer in any school in the County Armagh. In acting thus they have publicly insulted the Protestant conscience of the people of the County Armagh, and they have set at nought the openly expressed opinion of the Orange Lodges. They have spent thousands of the ratepayers' money in enlarging neighbouring schools and then find fault with Seagoe School, the oldest School in the district, on the ground that there is sufficient School accommodation elsewhere. We feel sure that the people of Seagoe and Portadown will not tolerate this bit of petty persecution which savours more of Bolshevik Russia than of liberty-loving Ulster. We call upon the Parishioners of Seagoe to stand together and to resist this impertinent attack on their

old School. Our opponents are trying to do their worst but we are thankful that we possess in Messrs. Rock and Locke, two men on the Regional Committee who will see to it that this injustice is not perpetrated, and we feel that we have also the practical sympathy of the people of Portadown in our defence of the School.

### Seagoe P.E. School

On March 28th an examination was held in Seagoe School under the auspices of the Temperance Education Board of Ireland. The following very creditable results were obtained by the pupils attending the School. We congratulate Eileen Dunlop on winning a bronze medal with 88 per cent. in the Fifth Standard.

Third Standard.—First class Certificate, Victor Proctor, 80 per cent. Pass Certificates, Gertrude Magowan, 63 per cent.; Irene Montgomery, 62 per cent.; Richard Wesley Porter, 61 per cent.; Ernest Gibson, 60 per cent.; Margaret Jane Heyburn, 60 per cent.

Fourth Standard.—Second class Certificates, Lily Magowan, 77 per cent.; Florence Hynes, 71 per cent. Pass Certificates—Bertha M'Loughlin, 66 per cent.; Wm. A. Rehill, 63 per cent.; David W. Guy, 60 per cent.

Fifth Standard.—Bronze Medal, Eileen Dunlop, 88 per cent. First class Certificates—Maggie Ruddell, 85 per cent.; Myrtle Brown, 83 per cent. Second class Certificates—John Fiddes, 77 per cent.; Annie Whiteside, 77 per cent.; Dinah M'Cabe, 76 per cent.; Lizzie Major, 73 per cent.; Martha Girvan, 72 per cent. Pass Certificates—Sailie Harra, 68 per cent.; Doris Livingston, 67 per cent.; Emma Walker, 61 per cent.; Jas. A. Heyburn, 61 per cent.

Sixth Standard.—Pass Certificates—Harry Hynes, 67 per cent.; Lily Ruddell, 60 per cent.

Oral Examination.—Certificates—Peggy Caddell, 100 per cent.; Carrie Guy, 100 per cent.; Geo. Fiddes, 100 per cent.; Annie Magee, 100 per cent.; William N. M'Loughlin, 100 per cent.; George Montgomery, 100 per cent.; Margaret Porter, 100 per cent.; Walter Caddell, 95 per cent.; Sam Freeburn, 90 per cent.; Peggy Brownlee, 90 per cent.; Minnie Magee, 90 per cent.; William Magee, 90 per cent.; Fred M'Knight, 90 per cent.; Norah Porter, 90 per cent.

### The Sewage Tanks.

Mr. Jackson Greeves, of Fairacre, has kindly contributed £10 towards the expenses connected with the opposition to the placing of the sewage tanks at Seagoe. The legal expenses connected with the opposition to the scheme were heavy, and as the Rector has had to bear half of the total amount of the expenses he would be glad to receive financial assistance towards this object from the Parishioners. The expenses were incurred by him in protecting the property of the Church and Parish and in safeguarding the health of the people of Seagoe.



**Parish Register for September.  
Baptisms.**

The following were Baptized in the Parish Church on September 1st, 1928:—

**Ellis**—Cecil, son of Isaac James and Agnes Ellis, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Isaac James Ellis, Agnes Ellis.

**Kilpatrick**—Ivy Winifred, daughter of William Jas. and Edith Kilpatrick, of Levaghery.

*Sponsors*—Emma Fleming, Edith Kilpatrick.

**Murray**—Robert Edwin, son of David William and Sarah Ann Murray, of Ballynery.

*Sponsors*—David William Murray, Sarah Ann Murray.

**M'Cabe**—David and William, twin sons of Thomas and Mary M'Cabe, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Elizabeth Watson, Mary M'Cabe.

**Gracey**—Thomas Alexander, son of Thomas and Mary Gracey, of Ballyhannon.

*Sponsors*—Thomas Gracey, Mary Gracey.

**Marriage.**

**Lyons and Fryer**—August 29th, 1928, at Sandford Parish Church, Dublin, Henry N., of Clontarf, Co. Dublin, to Anna J., youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fryer, of Bushfield Terrace, late of Seagoe, Portadown.

**Burials.**

**Creery**—September 2nd, David M'Creery, of Kernalan; aged 47 years.

**Bloomer**—September 26th, at Belfast, the Rev. George Bloomer, M.A., Rector of Killyleagh, Co. Armagh, and formerly Curate of Seagoe from 1911 to 1915.

**Presentation.**

A very largely attended meeting of the Mothers' Union was held in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Tuesday, September 11th. Proceedings began at 7-30 with tea, partaken of at small tables placed through the Hall. After tea, the members enjoyed some attractive music, songs and recitations. At a break in the programme the Rector took the chair and in a short speech expressed his pleasure at being present. The chief event of the evening was the presentation about to be made to Mrs. Rennix, the president of the Branch, on her approaching departure from the Parish. Mrs. Rennix had given most useful help in furthering the work of the Mothers' Union in the Parish. Much of the success of the Branch depended on her efforts and sympathy. The members had decided that they must give her some token of their regard and esteem before she left the Parish. The Rector then asked Mrs. Rennix to come forward. Mrs. Twinem, treasurer, then handed Mrs. Rennix a gift of Damask Table Linen. Immediately after the presentation to Mrs. Rennix, Mrs. Twinem handed a similar gift to Mrs. David Johnston, who was about to return to the States. Mrs. Rennix and Mrs. Johnston replied, cordially thanking the members for their kind and thoughtful

gifts. The remainder of the evening was spent in round games and some more music was kindly contributed by friends. Mr. R. Gracey and Mr. Dermott, in brief speeches, expressed their regret at Mrs. Rennix's departure.

**Drumgor Church Hall.**

A curious state of affairs exists at present in Drumgor Church Hall. The Armagh Regional Committee have transferred their Balteagh P. E. School to the Hall but decline to pay for the use of it. The Rector has paid rent for it to Mr. J. G. Gracey for the past 24 years, and the late Dean Dawson paid the rent of it for many years before that. The Hall has never been used during all these years for any but Church purposes. When the "B" men drilled there for a time the permission of the Rector was asked and readily granted. We have no objection to the teachers and pupils of Balteagh School being housed in the Hall. We welcome them there, but considering that a sum of £150 has recently been spent by the Parishioners in renovating the building it seems an amazing thing that the Armagh Regional Committee decline to pay for its use. They lavish thousands of pounds of the ratepayers' money on enlarging and building schools and decline to pay a few pounds to the Parish of Seagoe for the Hall. It is a miserable spectacle to see a County Committee such as the Armagh Regional Committee squatting in a Church Hall and declining to pay for the use of it. They are economising at the expense of the charitable offerings of the people of Seagoe. They have displayed an intolerable discourtesy to the Rector and people of Seagoe which we imagine will be remembered by the public when the time for the election of their successors arrives.

**Seagoe Mothers' Union.**

The monthly meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held (n.v.) in Seagoe Parochial School on Tuesday, October 9th, at 4-15 p.m. Members are asked to note the hour. Tea will be provided, and an address given by Mrs. M'Donald, J.P. Mrs. M'Donald has on a previous occasion addressed the Seagoe Branch and her kind and helpful words were much appreciated. Mrs. M'Donald takes a leading part in the public life of Portadown and the neighbourhood and is a magistrate for the County Armagh. She has faithfully served the Unionist cause and is also much in request at Church gatherings. The Rev. J. R. M'Donald, M.A., Rector of Donaconey, who is to preach in Seagoe at this year's Harvest Thanksgiving is a son of Mrs. M'Donald. We expect a large gathering of the members.

**New Appointment.**

The Rector has appointed Mr. Frederick Lewis M'Kee as a temporary teacher in Seagoe P.E. School. He comes to us with the highest recommendation and has been acting as temporary vice-principal in the Duke's School, Portadown, for some months. Mr. M'Kee is a member of a great teaching family, no less than five members of it are



engaged in teaching. He is a native of Newtown-stewart, Co. Tyrone, and was trained as a teacher in the Stranmillis Training College, Belfast.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffith, who had been appointed as principal and assistant in Seagoe School, were compelled to withdraw their acceptance of the posts owing to the action of the Education Authority in threatening to close the School.

### A Voice from Atlantic City.

Tom Webb, formerly of Railway St., sends us the following lines from far-off Atlantic City. He does not forget Edenderry, where he was born and bred.:

I am strolling to-day by the River Bann,  
Where I played when only a lad;  
Thinking of the happy days gone by,  
Of sisters, brothers, mother and Dad,  
And the boys and the girls I used to know  
Back in those childhood days;  
Wondering what their lot has been  
Scattered on life's highways.  
I left Portadown in September,  
Back in nineteen and nine;  
Since then I have lived many places,  
But none any nearer like Heaven.  
To-day as I write I am wondering  
How many and who they might be  
That remember the name of the writer,  
I'll sign my name and see.

TOM WEBB.

Atlantic City, N.J., U.S.A.,  
Playground of the World.

### Old Seagoe Families.

The Rector received the following letter under date August 11th, 1928 :—

Dear Sir,—Recently I had the pleasure of making a sentimental pilgrimage to Armagh, where my great-grandfather, D'Arcy Paul, lived before emigrating with his brother to Virginia. My only regret was that my visit had to be so short. I realised that you were probably the one person who might have been able to give me the information I sought. The maiden name of my great-grandmother was Martha Wentworth. She married (1) Moses Paul, of Portadown, my ancestor, and (2) John Johnston of Lurgan, where I believe she is buried. Martha Wentworth's father was D'Arcy Wentworth; her mother was Martha Dixon. Both of these last, I understand, are buried in the graveyard of Seagoe Church, but of this I am not sure. Would it be trespassing too much on your time and patience to confirm this? Or, if you cannot do so, could you put me in touch with someone who could? I would be glad to remunerate any such person for the time and trouble he might expend in examining the records. I should also be very glad to have any other facts (date of baptism, death, etc.) of members of the Wentworth or Dixon families, from whom I am descended. My address is—Care Brown, Shipley &

Co., 123, Pall Mall, London, until August 24th, when I sail for America. Please excuse the liberty I am taking in addressing you in this very personal matter.—I am, sir, very truly yours.

GILMAN D'ARCY PAUL.

### ITEMS.

We regret that we omitted to record in our March issue of this year the burial on February 14th of William Stewart, of Railway St., Portadown, at the age of 77 years. William Stewart had resided in Edenderry for many years and was greatly respected by all who knew him. His genial face and stalwart figure were familiar to all who passed through Railway St., and the place seems different without him. His life-work was spent in Messrs. Armstrong's factory, and it was a grief to him when it closed its doors.

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There is a great apple harvest this year but prices are low. The numerous apple orchards in and around Portadown make a pretty picture in red and green.

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The white lines painted at different street corners in Portadown to regulate motor traffic will prove of great advantage.

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The Rev. W. A. Henry has returned after a holiday in the South and West of Ireland. Mr. Robert Gracey, our Lay Reader, is now taking a holiday.

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Many new houses are being built in Seagoe Parish. Levagbery and Lisniskey are just now in the builders' hands. The new houses are of a good and substantial type.

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The Rector has received 31 applications for the vacancies in Seagoe P.E. School. It is evidently regarded as a desirable post.

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At their last meeting the Armagh Regional Committee, on the motion of Mr. David Rock, J.P., seconded by Mr. George Locke, by a majority of 11 votes to 7, decided to refer the question of closing up Seagoe School to the consideration of the Portadown School Committee. This Committee meets on Monday, October 1st.

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We congratulate Messrs. M'Gredy, the Portadown rose-growers on their new rose "Portadown Fragrance," which won a gold medal recently at the Crystal Palace Rose Show in London. We would suggest to Messrs. M'Gredy that any new rose which they may produce of exceptional quality might be named (let us say) "Seagoe Beauty." This would add grace to the rose and would also be a nice compliment to this historic neighbourhood.