

SEAGOE

MAGAZINE

Winter 2023

Welcoming | Growing | Encouraging | Serving

Rector's Letter

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"

"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

These words from Mark Chapter 1 form part of the Gospel reading for the second Sunday of Advent, 10th December. Mark quotes the prophet Isaiah who in Chapter 39 had just warned King Hezekiah of Israel that his possessions and people would be carried off to Babylon by that country's army. About 100yrs later the prophecy came true and the Israelites were taken captive to Babylon in modern-day Iraq.

We are painfully aware that recently we have heard horrifying reports of the invasion of southern Israel by Hamas fighters that resulted in murder and the taking



of Israeli hostages to Gaza. That invasion has resulted in further horrific reports of the resulting war between Israel and Gaza.

Following the warning of what lay ahead for Israel the Lord speaks

words of comfort and hope through Isaiah as recorded in Chapter 40 where a voice calls the people to prepare for the coming triumphant King. Every obstacle must be removed, and every path made straight for his arrival. He will come to bring comfort and restoration for the people. Eventually, the prophecy was fulfilled, and the people returned to Israel.

We continue to pray for the people in Israel and Gaza that those held hostage will be returned to their homeland and that a way forward will be found for the people to live together in acceptance of one another's differences. In the meantime, this year's Christmas appeal in Seagoe (page 3) will be for the people of that region, channelled through the Bishops' Appeal working with its partners in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

When Mark quoted from Isaiah, he highlighted the role of John the Baptist in preparing the way for the coming of the Messianic King in the person of Jesus. John called people to repent, that is to change the focus of their lives onto God as he was about to reveal himself in Jesus. The coming of Jesus would bring the offer of peace with God and a

new way of living in relationship to Him.

During Advent, as we look back to Christ's first coming as revealed to us in these and other passages of scripture, we are encouraged afresh to reflect upon His coming into the darkness of a fallen and broken world to bring light, hope and the joy of salvation to all people. The more we contemplate that amazing blessing the more we are drawn to respond, as in the words of the carol 'In the bleak mid-winter', to say 'What can I give him? Poor as I am. If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man I would do my part. But what I can I give him, give my heart'.

When we know the wonder of the Christmas story, and the Gospel message, and respond by offering our lives back to God in Christ, we also become aware that the message is not just for us but for all people and that we have a responsibility to share the Good News with others. Like John the Baptist, we also have the responsibility to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and to call people to repentance. Many of us find that task difficult, but during Advent and Christmas Seagoe provides many opportunities for us to invite and bring others with us to a variety of events and services where they can learn more of the Good News of God's love reaching out to save us. I encourage you all to make the most of the season to reach out to those around you and invite them so that they may also encounter God's love.

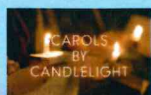
May the saving message of Christmas bless you all as you open yourselves to Christ.

Terence



Christmas and New Year's Eve Services

Sunday 10th	6.00pm	St. Patrick's Carol Service
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Nativity
	7.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	10.30am	Family Carol Service
	11.00pm	Holy Communion by Candlelight
Christmas Day	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Christmas Family Service
		No Evening Services
New Year's Eve	6.00pm	St. Patrick's Watchnight Service



The staff at the Parish wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year



Christmas

PARTY

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

6.30PM-8PM

SEAGOE PARISH CENTRE

FESTIVE FUN FOR ALL

THE FAMILY



Come along and enjoy our fun filled evening with activities for all the family. There will be lots of challenges crafts and quizzes. There will be light refreshments and sweet treats and of course we'll be reflecting on the reason for the season!

All young families!
Ready for some festive fun?
Look forward to seeing you there.

Parish Finances

As the end of year approaches, we thank most sincerely everyone who has contributed towards Parish funds over the past year. Without the generous giving of Parishioners the life and work of the Parish could not be sustained. We are delighted that many people have contributed regularly by Standing Orders or by Freewill Envelopes. At this time of year we have the opportunity to check our giving and consider making up any contributions that we may have missed throughout the year before the financial year closes on 31st December. A number of options are available for contributing to Church funds:



Standing Orders are set up through your bank to credit the Parish account as follows: Seagoe Parish, Sort Code 98-12-90 Account Number 33191057. Monthly orders are preferable to weekly orders, however to contribute the same amount per year it is necessary to give more for 12 monthly contributions than 4 times a weekly figure. Eg £25 X52 weeks=annual contribution of £1300 whereas £100X12=annual contribution of £1200

Freewill Offering Envelopes Available through the office or treasurer.

One-off contributions by cheque or a direct payment to account name Seagoe Parish, Sort Code 98-12-90 Account Number 33191057

Card reader Our new card reader provides an easy way to contribute when in Church if you do not have cash with you, however the reader provider charges us a small fee of 1.69% on contributions.

Gift Aid. All of the above means of giving provide the opportunity for the Church to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your contributions. Each £1 after gift aid becomes £1.25. A simple Gift Aid form to complete is available from the office or treasurer to cover all your contributions.

Loose plate collection Cash put directly on the collection plate (no record of giving is available for Church membership records or Gift Aid)

Legacies If you would like to leave a legacy in your will in favour of the Parish it is preferable if you leave it for general purposes.

If you require assistance or information please contact our treasurer, Philip Holland, at philip@hi-sustems.co.uk or 07801552520

Christingle Service

Sunday 3rd December @10.30am. Please invite and bring others with you to our Christingle Family Service. It will be a great opportunity to learn about, and make, Christingles together that we can then all bring home to help us in our preparation for Christmas.

It would be great if everyone could bring along their own orange, but we will have some available for anyone who forgets!!!



Tea coffee after worship - Sign Up

Many thanks to all who have provided the welcome cuppa after church each Sunday. We really do appreciate you!

If you feel you could help in this way, please find a few friends and put your name on the new rota (in the glass porch) as it suits you. It is a great way to get to know your parish family.

Special thanks to the ever faithful "early" team, Joan, Heather, Molly and Sylvia who provide refreshment after the 9am each Sunday. You're great!



Contacts

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**KILLICOMAINE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH LEADER**
Rev. Jim
Fleming



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YOUTH WORKER
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Seagoe Youth Group
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Seagoe Youth Group email: office@seagoe youthgroup.co.uk
Tel: Killicomaine Youth Centre 3839 4441

SOCIAL MEDIA

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@SeagoeParish



	Date	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm St. Patrick's Except Seagoe in bold
December				
SUNDAY	3rd	Holy Communion	Christingle Family Service	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	10th	Holy Communion	Advent Service	St. Patrick's Carol Service
SUNDAY	17th	Holy Communion	Nativity	7.00pm Seagoe Carols by Candlelight. No service in St. Patrick's
CHRISTMAS EVE	24th	Holy Communion	Family Carols	11.00pm Seagoe Christmas Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY	25th	Holy Communion	Christmas Family Service	No service
NEW YEAR'S EVE.	31st	Holy Communion	New Year's Eve Morning Worship	6.00pm St. Patrick's Watchnight Service
2024 January				
SUNDAY	7th	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	14th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	21st	Holy Communion	Morning Worship Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening Worship 7.00pm Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY		Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
February				
SUNDAY	4th	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	11th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday	14th	10am Holy Communion		7.30pm Ash Wednesday
SUNDAY	18th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship in Church	Evening worship 7.00pm Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY	25th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening worship

Salvation Army

Present Appeal

Over the years Seagoe Parishioners have so generously donated a vast array of gifts for distribution to those in need through the Salvation Army Family Appeal. This year we will be gathering gifts at our services on Sunday 3rd December. If you are donating a gift please do not wrap it (so that the distributors know what it is), however you may wish to place it in a Christmas gift bag. Please consider gifts for all ages, including teenagers. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Christmas Appeal

Over the Christmas period (Christmas Eve until New Year) we offer parishioners the opportunity to contribute to a Christmas Appeal. Many people avail of this opportunity as they have a desire to share the blessing of Christmas with others. This year we will be using the Bishops' Appeal for people caught up in the war in the Holy Land between Hamas and Israel. As we remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem we are conscious that it is only a short distance from Gaza and the kibbutz where Hamas carried out their deadly attack on 7th October. The Bishop's Appeal will channel contributions through one of its trusted partners on the ground, the Diocese of Jerusalem (with whom the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough has been in relationship for a number of years) in their outreach to those impacted by war, and also to Tearfund partners working in Lebanon and in some of the areas and countries bordering Gaza and Israel where already things are precarious and extremely tense. Where there is the danger of further tension, violence and devastation erupting at any time. You can read further information about the appeal on the Diocesan website: <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2023/11/bishops-appeal-advent-and-christmas-appeal-2023>





Confirmation



On Sunday 26th November we held our Confirmation Service for 9 young people and 1 adult. The Young People completed a 9 week course as part of their preparation for Confirmation where they looked at topical subjects such as Prayer, Worship, The Bible, The Church and The Sacraments. Bishop David's theme this year for Confirmation was How much more, and explored how if we ask for more of the Holy Spirit in our lives God will honour that request. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to grow in faith, to understand the bible and to share the gospel with others. Please continue to pray for these young people and adult as they seek to grow in their faith and encourage them to remain part of the life of our parish and the church family Isaac Bell, Eva Carroll, Holly Donaghy, Evie Hughes, Charlie McClatchey, Presley McClatchey, Adam Milligan, Isaac Milligan, Jamie Moore and Grace Rogers.



Shogwye Link Diocese Rwanda

A big thank you to everyone who has been filling their CMS boxes and putting money into the big bottle in the Rotunda. Yes we've emptied it..... and counted it and you have raised £550 for the children project in our partner diocese in Rwanda. That's almost a £1000 raised in the last year or so. Bishop Jered is keen to buy instruments for a youth / brigade outreach band to encourage and support young people in the parishes.

So well done and thanks from all at Sunday Light.

Killicomaine Kids and Parents...



Killicomaine Kids and Parents..... have enjoyed their Friday mornings in St Patrick's Hall in 2023

We will "party" on the 15th December and then hope to restart on FRIDAY 5th JANUARY!

So if you are a young / new / older parent or carer with a baby or toddler please do come and join us from 10.30am each Friday. We'd love to meet you. (See notice on back cover of magazine)

Wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and God's blessing to you all.

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship has had a busy autumn programme, with some of our members also preparing for confirmation. Since starting back in September, we've also seen a number of new members join us. This autumn we've been using a resource produced by Scripture Union Ireland, called Nua Origins, which has been an encouraging look at topics such as the nature of God and our identity, the meaning of Jesus' death, prayer and the scriptures. We are currently half way through this course and look forward to picking it up again after the Christmas break.

YF meets every second and fourth Sunday evening at 7pm in the Parish Centre. We would encourage any young people who are secondary school age to join with us; they'll find a warm welcome and plenty of encouragement. Please continue to pray for the young people, and that as they learn about God and themselves, their faith will deepen. For more information about YF, please get in touch with Stuart (07739181466) or email stuart@seagoe.co.uk.

Some of the young people making their own 'pizzas' for supper





Party of Light

At the end of October, we had a great Party of Light. Lots of children and their families enjoyed making a range of light themed crafts, hearing an inspiring talk about light from Stuart, and had the challenge of a great quiz. Of course, as always, there were lots of tasty treats to enjoy!



The Captain, Officers and everyone at Seagoe CLB would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Church Lads' Brigade



Seagoe Church Lads Brigade was cordially invited by RBL Northern Ireland to attend and take part in the Northern Ireland Festival of Remembrance on Saturday 4th November at The Waterfront Hall, Belfast. Attending the event representing the Company is some of the Officers and Lads. An absolute honour for Seagoe CLB to be part of this remembrance event.
LEST WE FORGET



Church Girls' Brigade

The Martin and Y Team sections (Seagoe & Killicomaine) of CGB came together for a joint Christmas party in the parish centre. We had lots of fun playing games, doing crafts, listening to the nativity story and then had a special visitor! Thank you to all our girls and parents for all their support during the year and to our leaders for giving up their Monday nights. Please keep CLCGB in your prayers as we head into 2024 and continue to teach the boys and girls about Jesus.



'Duke of Edinburgh Award with Seagoe Youth Group'

Looking for something different? Why not consider doing your DoE Award with SYG

The DofE Award Scheme is a great opportunity for young people to take on new challenges and skills, make new friends and have fun. Open to all young people in Year 10 and above. As the new season begins we're happy to welcome any new participants. If you'd like to find out more contact Keith, Edwina or Boyd Tel. 38335279.





We are delighted to welcome our new members, and we know they will enjoy the friendship and fellowship of our meetings. We have had a very varied range of speakers this term and I suspect the highlight has been the visit from the Rev Mark Reid of the Mission to Seafarers, Belfast. Some of the statistics he gave us were amazing. We often think of ships in Belfast docks but don't realise that there are over 1.5 million seafarers across the world, transporting 90% of the world's goods. The seafarers can spend up to 9 months at a time away from the family and loved ones and this can lead to loneliness and mental health issues. They are often poorly paid but at the same time supporting up to 15 extended family members. The outreach support given by the Mission Chaplain and its volunteers help in both spiritual and practical ways. I know many parishioners, as well as our own members, have been busy knitting warm hats and gloves to pass on to Rev Reid along with some items to bring a little Christmas cheer to those at sea at this special time of year. Our retiring collection of over £240 was also much appreciated by the Mission.



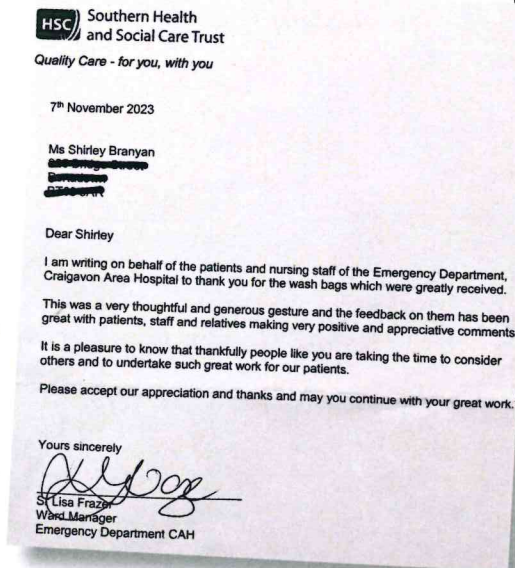
Apart from the seafarers hats, the ladies have knit/crochet baby hats and little cardigans for the hospital neonatal and maternity units. The staff were delighted and overwhelmed by our generosity when I delivered 122 baby garments at the start of November. I also delivered more Toilet Bags to the Emergency Department bringing our total this year to just over 150 bags. We received two lovely letters of appreciation from both departments but can I add my sincere thanks to everyone in our church family who has donated items for both these most worthy causes. We have been greatly encouraged to continue our practical outreach next year.

We have a varied programme ahead for 2023 from a MU overseas night, an insight into 'Nurses Voices' during times of conflict and a ladies day out. There's a warm welcome waiting for anyone who would like to drop-in to any of our meetings, with or without deciding to join the branch.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in 2022. Please remember in your prayers, those for whom the festive season will be very different this year and for those who are struggling with personal issues.

Best Wishes

Shirley Branyan, branch leader.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SEAFARERS

Once again, thank you for your wonderful response to our Christmas Gifts for Seafarers Appeal.

Philip and I packed the car with bags containing your donations of hats, scarves, gloves, socks, various other items of clothing, toiletries and confectionery and set off for Belfast.

We were warmly received in The Flying Angel Centre by Trevor, Esther and Ann who belong to a team of faithful volunteers. They were most appreciative of your thoughtfulness and generosity.

We had the pleasure of meeting five seafarers from Poland and Latvia who had visited the Centre on previous occasions. Although they had not been home for a few months they were in good spirits, clearly enjoying fellowship and relaxation on shore.

The Flying Angel Centre is indeed a caring haven for seafarers from around the world.

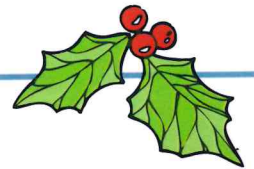
Eileen Holland

106th Birthday Celebration!



Nan Ferguson 106 on 9th October 2023

On 9th October Terence was privileged again to visit our eldest parishioner, Nan Ferguson, to celebrate her 106th Birthday!!! Nan was, as always, in great form, and was delighted to have received her 106th Birthday card from the King and Queen. The card follows having received her 105th card from their Majesties last year, and her 100th birthday card from her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 2nd.



Rubies

Rubies is a women's ministry group at Seagoe, which aims to reach the women of our church and the surrounding area with the love of Jesus Christ, seeking to introduce them to the one who can change their lives and encourage those who already have trusted in Him.

The meaning behind our name is taken from this encouraging verse from Proverbs 3 v 15:

She is more precious than rubies.

We meet once a month on the third Monday of the month for a variety of different events.

We held our first ever Christmas market on Saturday 25th November to raise funds for our chosen charity, Flourish NI. Flourish is a charity which provides aid and support for women who have been victims of human trafficking.

We had over 20 local vendors at our market, such as Rose and Thorn, Wick and Fern candles, Rare Grazing NI, Bobbins and spools and many more. This was a wonderful opportunity to support local businesses, as well as getting some



Christmas gifts for loved ones.

Sarecca school of music and performance kindly put together a festive musical medley. The children and young people sang beautifully and helped to spread Christmas cheer!

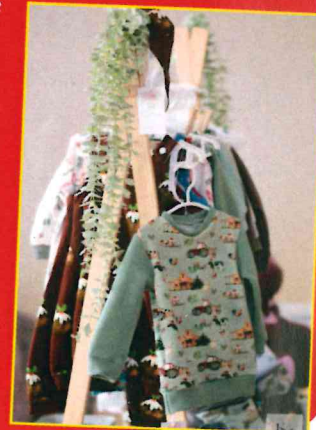
There was a visit from Santa too. Each child received a Christmas tract as part of their gift from Santa, telling them about the good news of Jesus, our saviour, coming to earth at Christmas to save us.

Thank you so much for all your prayers, support, kindness and generosity. The success of the event would not have been possible without you.

We hope to see you in the New Year - all ladies are so welcome at our monthly events. Our January meeting is on Monday 15th January at 7:45pm in the Rotunda. We will be having a praise and pastries event which will be a great opportunity to have fellowship and to worship together. Please do continue to spread the word about Rubies and to keep us in your prayers.

May God richly bless you and your families this Christmas.

Love,
Rubies



Church Renovations

Over the Summer months, some members of the Select Vestry were involved in a range of meetings concerning the renovations to the Church interior in the light of comments received from some parishioners. Since reconvening as a Vestry in September, the full vestry has visited a specialist Church furniture manufacturer in Carrickfergus to view samples of its work. Vestry has also arranged for conversations between our architect, his appointed heating engineer,

and a heating specialist proposed by some parishioners. Vestry will now consider all the findings of these meetings and work towards bringing a revision to its plans for the restoration before the parish. Please continue to pray for the Vestry members as they seek to enhance the building to the glory of God and for the benefit of this and future generations following the courageous decisions made by vestries in the past.

Mens Breakfast

The Men's group organised a great men's breakfast on A good number of men attended and enjoyed a hearty breakfast alongside good crack and chatter. Rev. Rodney Blair, curate of Shankill Parish, gave a very interesting talk about his life and faith. We were delighted that Gerry Topping was able to attend and had a really enjoyable time with his many friends in Seagoe. We were all shocked to learn of Gerry's death the next morning, but were encouraged that he had had such an enjoyable last day with us.



Parish Register

Marriage Blessing
20th October 2023

Harry Proctor & Chloé Margaret Wilson
Bocombra Park, Portadown

Christian Baptism
8th October 2023

Mila Lindsey Henry, daughter of Daryl and Lindsey, Bachelor's Park, Portadown

Christian Burial
2nd October 2023

Gerald (Gerry) Topping, Seagoe Park, Portadown

10th October 2023

Joseph (Joe) Hynes, Ulsterville Park, Portadown

31st October 2023

Susanne (Sue) Baker, Ulsterville Park, Portadown

9th November 2023

Marjorie Mitchell, Willow Grove PNH, Dungannon

5th December 2023

Elizabeth Ward, Levaghery Gardens, Portadown



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CAR PARKING

It would be much appreciated if people parking cars could please use the parking bays and not park on the church roadways or at the kitchen area to avoid any difficulty if ambulances etc needed access to the buildings.

On Sundays the car parks at the School can also be used. Disabled spaces are provided in the back carpark to allow for easy access to the buildings.

MILNE
FUNERAL SERVICES |
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Independent Family Funeral Directors

59 Seagoe Road, Portadown, BT63 5HS 02838338888.

SEAGOE YOUTH GROUP 2024
Welcoming | Growing | Encouraging | Serving

CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday 8am - 12noon	
24th February	30th March
27th April	25th May
29th June	27th July

Seagoe Church Car Park
Cars £5 / Vans £10
All welcome to sell, browse or buy
Thank you for your support

Any queries contact Edwina on 028 3833 5279

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Welcome all babies, toddlers and parents/carers

Fridays
10:30 am – 12:30

St. Patrick's Hall, Princess Way (beside the school gates)
Lots of toys, fun, friends and a cuppa!