

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

SEPTEMBER, 1924.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Services.**

At the end of this month we begin our Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Services, and although the Harvest is late this year, and the weather has been unpropitious, yet the Lord of the Harvest is once again fulfilling His ancient promise that while the earth remaineth Harvest shall not fail. Our Services of Thanksgiving ought not to be merely formal, but the outpouring of hearts touched by the love of God. He daily poureth out His benefits upon us. He sendeth His rain on the just and on the unjust. He giveth to us without measure the fruits of the earth in their season. Especially is this duty of Harvest Thanksgiving incumbent upon those in the Parish who are engaged in agricultural pursuits. They see the miracle of the Harvest produced before their eyes. In the spring time they have scattered the seed with their own hands, they have watched the growth of the crops through the summer months and now in the autumn they are thrusting in the sickle into the ripening grain. We appeal to our people to join heartily and in the spirit of true Thanksgiving to the Lord of the Harvest for His gracious gifts.

The Services in the Parish Church will be held (D.V.) on Thursday, October 9th, at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, October 12th, at 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. The preacher at the Thursday evening Service will be the Rev. Alfred Sills, M.A., who is on furlough from the C.M.S. Mission in Fuhkien, China. Mr. Sills is returning next year to his work in China, but during his stay in Ulster is acting as Deputation Secretary for C.M.S. He has had a long experience of work in the Foreign Mission Field. The offerings at this Service will be on behalf of Foreign Missions. The preacher at the Sunday Services will be announced in our next issue. The offering at the Sunday Services will be on behalf of our Local Church expenses. We ask for liberal offerings for the two objects. We put the Foreign Mission field first and our Home Mission second. The appeal of the Heathen world calls aloud for our help, and nearer home in this Parish we require generous help. Abroad and at home the needs are great, and we must respond to the call for help.

## **District Harvest Services.**

On Sunday, September 28th, Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held in two centres in the Parish—Hacknahay and Carne. A great deal of interest is taken locally in the various Districts of the Parish in these Harvest Services. They are looked forward to by those who reside near the Schools. As usual the offerings at the Service on Sunday will be for the Local Sunday School Fund, and on the Monday evening for Foreign Missions. The hours of the Services will on Sunday be 3.30 p.m., and on Monday 8 p.m.

## **The Weekly Envelopes.**

In response to the notes which appeared in recent issues of the Magazine on this subject we are glad to record that many of those who had not sent in their Envelopes have done so, with the result that our Financial position is better than it was. But a further effort is required if we are to meet our liabilities. We require each year to cover our actual outgoings a sum of £392 for salaries and a further sum of at least £50 to meet Church expenses, the upkeep of the Church and her Services. There is still a sum of £70 to be raised to bring the Parish up to the legal Minimum Stipend. The Parish is now classed as a Curacy-in-charge. This is not a satisfactory position for so great a Parish as Seagoe to occupy. Perhaps those who understand fully the financial position and its requirements will increase the amount they place in the Envelopes. The present receipts do not cover the present expenditure.

## **Our Sunday Schools.**

With the end of the holiday season we look forward to an improvement in the efficiency of our Sunday Schools. This year more than ever before the Sunday Schools have been affected by the absence of teachers and children on holidays. Another new feature this year is that the holidays have been extended more than other years. Quite a considerable number of our people have wandered even as far as Wembley to see the Exhibition. We ask our Sunday School teachers to attend as punctually as they can, or if they find it impossible to be present on any Sunday that they will let the Superintendent of the school know, or else obtain a substitute to take their place. All our Sunday Schools suffer from the absence of teachers, and sometimes when several teachers happen by chance to be absent from their classes on the same Sunday the task of the Superintendent becomes very difficult. The Parish owes a deep debt of gratitude to our splendid band of Superintendents and Teachers who so willingly give their time and attention to the instruction of the children in the Sunday Schools each Sunday. We have six large afternoon Sunday Schools in the Parish attended by some 500 children, and two efficient morning schools. The Calendar taught in these Schools is that authorised by the Diocesan Board of Religious Education. It is very carefully drawn up and the Book of Notes supplied to the Teachers enables them to give instruction to the children in the most effective way. Do the parents of the children realise how much is being done for their children? The importance of the work is so great. The lessons learned in childhood are never forgotten, and the character of our children for Time and for Eternity are being moulded each Sunday in our Schools. Here the children



search the Scriptures, learn what the Christian life means, and receive encouragement in all that is good and holy and true. Sometimes the children are unpunctual and irregular in attendance, and also careless during the class hour. Parents can in such cases give great help to the teachers by encouraging them to be punctual and regular and attentive when in class.

We hope in some way before long to introduce into our Sunday Schools Examinations at fixed periods. Prizes have hitherto been awarded for attendance only, but we require a further test of progress in actual knowledge of the Scriptures and Church Formularies, and this alone can be ascertained by an Examination in the work done.

### **Seagoe Day School.**

Seagoe Public Elementary School (to give it its new name) opened after the summer holidays on Monday, August 11th. Work is now in full swing in every department. The School Garden is in good order, and by its means useful information on practical subjects is being imparted to the pupils. Mr. Alcorn, our new assistant teacher, entered upon his duties after the holidays. The playgrounds at Seagoe School present a very happy sight at play-time. The open space all round the School provides the pupils with abundant room for all kinds of games, which are thoroughly enjoyed.

### **The Mothers' Union.**

We look forward to a busy winter session in connection with the Mothers' Union. It has already done excellent work and its influence for good has been felt in many ways. We want all our members to attend regularly the Monthly Meetings. A difficulty exists in the fact that some are working during the day and so cannot attend a meeting in the afternoon, but provision will be made to reach all who take an interest in the work of the branch.

### **Edenderry.**

Our special Winter work in Edenderry will (D.V.) begin in October. Beginning on Thursday, October 2nd, a Service will be held on each Thursday evening in the Parochial Hall, except on Thursday, October 9th, which is the night of the Harvest Service in the Parish Church. We give a hearty invitation to the residents in Edenderry to attend this Service and thus to help on the good work in Edenderry.

### **Drumgor Church Hall**

The renovations which are being carried out in Drumgor Church Hall will make that building a very important and effective centre for work in that District. The Hall is very centrally situated, being half way between the populous District of Drumgor Lane

and the important townland of Balteagh. It reaches a district of the Parish which is somewhat isolated from the Parish Church, and the improvements now being effected will very greatly strengthen the work which for the past 35 years has been carried on there.

### **The Wednesday Evening Service.**

We would remind the Parishioners of the Service held in the Parish Church every Wednesday evening at eight o'clock. It is an opportunity offered to our people of meeting for Public Worship on an evening during the week. The attendance is small, but many have found in the Service a Spiritual help. There are many living in the neighbourhood of the Parish Church who might avail themselves of the Service. We invite all who have the desire to join with their fellow-parishioners in Prayer and Praise to come to the Service. Those who do attend the Service regularly could help by bringing others with them. The Service consists of Evening Prayer and Sermon. The Psalmist could say "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."

### **Off to Canada.**

We are very sorry to have lost from our work here in Seagoe Mr. Thomas Metcalfe, who sailed on Saturday, August 16th, for Canada. In very many ways Tom Metcalf helped us. He taught the Senior Boys' Class in Seagoe Morning Sunday School, was Superintendent of Levaghery Sunday School, was a member of the Choir, and a very efficient collector of Sustentation. We knew of his intention of emigrating, but had hoped that he might have been able to stay with us for some time longer. It will be a difficult task to fill all the posts he occupied with such efficiency. We have had serious losses through emigration, and the tide shows no sign of slackening. A Social meeting arranged at short notice was held in Levaghery School just before his departure to wish him "Godspeed" ere he left these shores. There was a large attendance, and much regret was expressed at Mr Metcalfe's departure. The Teachers and children of the Sunday School presented him with a Bible. The presentation was made by Miss Selina Bradshaw. Mr. Metcalfe replied in suitable terms, expressing his regret at leaving and his wishes for the future welfare of teachers and pupils. The Rev. W. T. Wilson presided over the meeting, in the absence of the Rector on holiday, and in a few words said how much Mr. Metcalfe would be missed in the Parish, and also on behalf of all present wished Mr. Metcalfe a prosperous voyage and much blessing and prosperity in his future life.



### **A Visit to Wembley.**

Two of our Seagoe Schoolboys—Jack Hill and Willie Livingston—had a good time at the Wembley Exhibition. They had successfully passed the Examination held by the Education Department of Northern Ireland in subjects connected with the British Empire, its extent and productions. This secured for them a free pass to London and the Exhibition. They left Belfast on Monday, August 11th, with a party of children from various parts of Ulster. After a quick journey to London they arrived at Euston Station and after a brief interval visited the great Exhibition. The Exhibition is situated about eight miles from the centre of London in quite a country district. It is reached by train or motor bus. Every part of the Empire is represented. The two chief pavilions are Canada and Australia. Each of these would take quite a day to see properly. The Palace of Engineering is an immense building full of machinery of all kinds—guns, engines, electrical appliances, wireless systems, etc., etc., are all exhibited in bewildering variety. This building is so large and contains so many exhibits that it would take days to see it properly. Close to the Palace of Engineering is the Palace of Industry. This is perhaps one of the most interesting buildings owing to the varied nature of its contents. In it the Ulster Pavilion is situated. The working model of Belfast Harbour has always a crowd round it. The mysterious way in which the Cross-channel boats leave and arrive in the Harbour has puzzled a great many sightseers. Every part of this great Palace of Industry is worth seeing, and it is of great extent. The Queen's Doll's House in the Palace of Art has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors. All the furnishing of it is quite perfect, although on the very smallest scale. It contains a motor cycle and sidecar which exactly covers the palm of your hand. The Stadium or Sport Arena is very impressive, and the great Pageant of Empire which was being performed during August was attended by thousands of spectators. The Amusements Park was crowded with young and old. All possible kinds of Fun and entertainment were provided. Sometimes the crowds were so great as to make it almost impossible to get near the various entertainments. The Exhibition is a wonderful proof of the vitality, energy and capability of the British race, and of the resources of the British Empire. It was a happy thought to give the children of the Schools an opportunity of visiting it and seeing with their own eyes the greatness of the Empire of which they are members.

### **Parish Register for August. Baptisms.**

**Graham**—1st September—John Shoolbred, son of John Shoolbred and Helen Graham, of Edinburgh.

*Sponsors*—Ernest Jones Graham, Alice Maud Coulton.

**Morton**—3rd September—Thomas Joseph, son of Joseph and Kathleen Sarah Morton, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Kathleen Sarah Morton, Mary Elizabeth Morton.

### **Marriage.**

**Sands and Gracey**—August 12th, 1924, at 4 Carrickblacker Road (by special License) Valentine Hampton Sands, of Edenderry, to Mary Gracey, of Edenderry.

### **Burials.**

**Cotman**—August 3rd—Benjamin William Cotman, Belfast, aged 58 years.

**Pearson**—August 6th—Dinah Pearson, of Lisnikey, aged 57 years.

**Lavery**—August 7th—Caroline Lavery, of Kilvergan, aged 42 years.

**Collins**—August 15th—Thomas Henry Collins, of Upper Seagoe, aged 56 years.

**Russell**—August 24th—Hannah Bella Russell, of Tarsan, aged 28 years.

**Barnwell**—August 28th—Alice Barnwell, of Edenderry, aged 45 years.

### **Obituary.**

Our record of Burials in this issue reminds us of the losses we have sustained through Death in the last month. Mrs. Lavery, of Kilvergan, after a long illness has been called home, leaving a family of young people to mourn her loss. The death of Mrs. Russell, of Tarsan, after a brief illness was very sad. Before her marriage Mrs. Russell had been a teacher in Carne Sunday School, and was always much interested in the welfare of the School. She leaves a sorrowing husband and two little children. Thomas Henry Collins has also passed away. He was in weak health for some time, but it was hoped that with rest he might have regained strength. He was a devoted member of the Church, and loved to worship within the walls of his Parish Church. Although for many years resident in Belfast he always returned to Seagoe for Saturday and Sunday. He was a member of a family long and honourably connected with Seagoe Parish. He was highly respected by all who knew him, and when ill-health came upon him and he had to resign his post in Belfast the firm with which he worked parted with him with much regret. His funeral was attended by the Masonic Lodge of Portadown of which he was a member, and the large number present testified to the esteem in which he was held.



**Old Seagoe Notes.**

**A History of the Diocese of Dromore.**—The Ven. E. D. Atkinson, LL.B., Rector of Kilbroney (Rostrevor), is about to publish a History of the Diocese of Dromore. Archdeacon Atkinson is already well known as the author of a valuable work, the History of the Parish of Donagheloney. The title of the book is "An Ulster Parish." It is now, we believe, out of print. In his new work on the Diocese of Dromore he has brought together an immense amount of material concerning the past history of this ancient Diocese. Each Parish in the Diocese receives separate treatment, and a list of the Rectors and Curates of each Parish is given. The book will be illustrated by special photographic blocks illustrating the history of the Diocese. No one is better qualified than Archdeacon Atkinson to write the history of the Diocese. He has spent all his ministerial life within its boundaries, and has during all these years been a keen student of the history and Antiquities of Dromore. The book will be published by the well-known firm of Tempest, Dundalk, who have done some splendid work in publishing the Rev. J. B. Leslie's Histories of the Diocese of Armagh. The price of the book to those who order it before publication will be 15s, after publication the price will be raised. We would recommend all who are interested in the past history of this neighbourhood to secure a copy of Archdeacon Atkinson's book. Seagoe folk will be interested to know that the book will contain a complete record of the History of Seagoe and a fine photograph of the Clogh Beann, the old Bell of Seagoe, sometimes called the Cracked Bell of St. Patrick, which is now in the Royal Irish Academy collection in the Museum in Kildare Street, Dublin. The Bell was obtained by Archdeacon Saurin from a man named Paul Hennon and presented by him to the Dublin collection. Those who wish to obtain a copy of Archdeacon Atkinson's History should send a Postcard without delay to Messrs. Tempest, Publishers, Dundalk, or to the Ven. Archdeacon Atkinson, LL.B., The Vicarage, Rostrevor, Co. Down.

**The Townlands of Seagoe.**—A glance at the Map of Seagoe, or indeed of any Parish, will reveal some interesting facts regarding the formation of the Townlands. They seem to have been formed in a quite haphazard way, but a closer study of their shape reveals a guiding principle on the part of those who formed them. The Townlands are, as it were, strung along the main roads and bye-roads like beads on a string. The object clearly was that each Townland should have a road running through its centre. As most roads run north and south or east and west the Townlands are broad or long according to the direction of the roads. The typical Townland is a section of the Parish through the centre of which runs a road bordered on each side by houses and enclosing a strip of land behind the houses on each side of the road.

**ITEMS.**

Seagoe Orange Hall has been greatly improved during the past month by the removal of the front wall along the road and its replacement by ornamental railings.

The continuance of wet weather has made the hay harvest a matter of great difficulty, but the few fine days of this week have helped to clear up matters.

The Lurgan Road has been re-surfaced up to the Urban District Boundary. It has now for most of its length a fine surface which reminds one of pre-war days before the heavy motor lorry traffic cut it up.

The new heating apparatus is being erected this week by Messrs Musgrave's men in Edenderry Parochial Hall. It is quite a big undertaking, necessitating many minor changes in the flooring and foundations. Messrs. Musgrave's system of small bore pipes under pressure is by far the best of the many systems of heating at present in use. It is the system installed in Seagoe Church some 15 years ago, and has given great satisfaction. We anticipate a like success in the Parochial Hall. The old stove near the door was never sufficient to heat the hall.

The Parochial Hall is proving of great use in Edenderry. And when the work in that district develops, as we believe it will with God's blessing, during the coming winter the Hall will prove, more than ever before, its usefulness. It is very well lighted, but when the wind was northerly, or easterly, it was very cold. With the new heating system this deficiency will be made good, and it will be well-heated as well as well-lighted.

We reprint here the addresses of the Curates of Seagoe, which owing to the fact that they reside in Portadown, may not be so well-known to the Parishioners. The Rev. W. T. Wilson, 21 Edward St., the Rev. R. W. Johnston, The Cottage, M'Gredy's Nursery, Portadown.

We express our sincere sympathy with all those who have been bereaved by death during the past month in the Parish. Many homes are saddened and lives are overclouded, but the message of our Christian Gospel is that this life is but an imperfect prelude to a greater and better life beyond, where sadness and sighing are done away.

We are fortunate in having obtained as preacher at our Harvest Festival so distinguished a Missionary as the Rev. Alfred Sills, who has spent many years in the Mission-field in China.

We congratulate our sister Parish of St. Mark's, Portadown, on attaining their 100th year.