

JANUARY

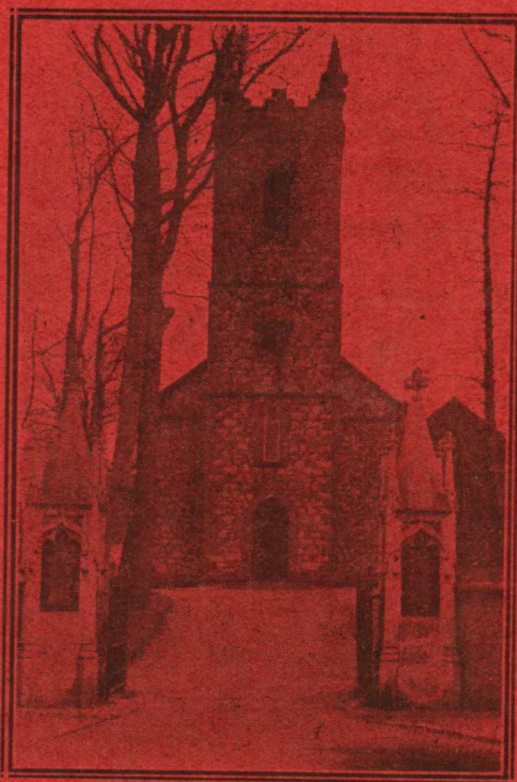
THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR.

TWOPENCE

1940

Seagoe Parish Magazine

(EDITOR: THE RECTOR)



"I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord."

PSALM 122: v. 1.

"Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is"

HEBREWS 10: 25.

For Services, Classes, etc., see end of Local Matter.

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Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JANUARY, 1940.

CLERGY:

REV. J. W. APPELBE, M.A., B.D., Seagoe Rectory.
REV. W. F. HAYES, B.A., L.Th., The Bungalow,
Lower Seagoe.

CHURCHWARDENS.

Rector's—S. McCORMICK.
People's—J. G. GRACEY, J.P.

THE CLERGY WILL ESTEEM IT A FAVOUR IF
IN CASES OF SICKNESS THEY ARE INFORMED
IMMEDIATELY.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY.

January 1st—The Circumcision of Christ.
January 6th—Epiphany.
January 7th—1st Sunday after Epiphany.
January 14th—2nd Sunday After Epiphany.
Service in Drumgor at 3 p.m.
January 21st—Septuagesima.
January 23rd—Service in Bocombra at 8 p.m.
January 25th—Conversion of St. Paul.
January 28th—Sexagesima.
Service in Hacknahay at 3.30 pm.

RECTOR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

I take this opportunity to wish you all God's blessing in the year that lies ahead; may it indeed be a happy one in the real sense. To talk of happiness at this time when we are involved in a grim war seems at first sight out of place and to savour of unreality, but it is not out of place or unreal to think of happiness even in times of uncertainty and trouble, because, for the Christian, who loves and serves our Lord Jesus Christ, outward circumstances are irrelevant. War and all that it means cannot rob us of His peace, His power, His presence. This has been the experience of Christians all down the ages; you have only to think of St. Paul, a man who from the worldling's point of view should have been the unhappiest of men. His friends deserted him, his fellow-countrymen, the Jews, persecuted him, the mighty power of Imperial Rome was arrayed against him, he was imprisoned many times, the Christian communities he brought into being many a time grieved his heart by their petty selfishness, and yet in spite of all these crushing outward circumstances, Paul was supremely happy. Read his letters and you will find how often he speaks of joy. This reminds us of words of our Lord to His disciples on one of the

occasions when He was speaking to them of His own approaching death, "in the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." It is only the Christian, who in the midst of tribulation can be of good cheer. The time honoured greeting for 1940, "A Happy New Year," is not out of place for true happiness can always be the possession of the true disciple of Christ. When we speak of happiness we must not make the mistake of thinking that the best way of attaining it is to seek it; this is not so. The surest way to be miserably unhappy is to set our hearts on finding it. Live for happiness and it will always elude you. This is true because it is a bye-product of living—you know what a bye-product is—something which you produce or get when you are making something else, e.g., when gas is being made from coal, tar and coke are bye-products. You and I have been placed in the world by God, not with the idea of His making us happy but rather that He may discipline and train us and make us good, but like the tar and the coke, happiness is a bye-product of goodness. What is goodness? It is Christ likeness. The motto of Christ's life was summed up by Himself, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me"; and again, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Let us make this our motto for 1940. If we do this, and strive more fully to know God's will for us, and when we know it, and by His grace put it into practice in our lives, a happy year will be ours. A modern writer has said that "Jesus promised His disciples three things, that they would be (1) entirely fearless, (2) absurdly happy (3) they would get into trouble; all three were amply fulfilled."

Only by knowing and doing God's will can we be happy. The present curse of war is the direct result of nations refusing either to learn or do it, so too in the lives of individuals unhappiness, disillusionment, futility, lack of purpose and many other similar results ensue when God is ignored. If we have failed Him in the past, and who of us is there who is satisfied that we have not?; yet in His mercy He is offering us a New Year in which we can do better, in which we can do His will, not our own. And this is not all. He offers us something more, His help in four distinct ways, which are within the reach of us all. Look at these briefly.

(1) PRAYER.

The privilege of communing with Him each day; linking ourselves to Him that He may make us strong. Prayer is not trying to persuade an unwilling God

to do what we wish, but rather that He may strengthen and bend our wills to conform to His Will.

(2) THE BIBLE.

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40, v. 8). Such was the bracing message which the great Prophet of the Exile gave to his countrymen in the day of their testing. May this same truth abide in our hearts as we set out on another year and face the testing it may bring.

What does the future hold for us? We are all asking this. But an equally important question is:—How are we facing the future? We should do so with composure. Composure is not indifference; it is a quality of mind and spirit which enables us to look steadily on life and leads to positive action. This can only be if our minds are stayed on God. Such composure is, of course, the reverse of seeking some means of "escape"; rather it is a fearless facing of the future. It springs from an unshaken conviction that, whatever may betide, "the best is yet to be." "The word of our God shall stand for ever"; this is our faith. The Bible is supremely God's word for us, it has a message for every situation, for every need. It assures us of His unchanging reality, His deathless purpose of love, His supreme revelation in Christ the Eternal Lord, who is the same yesterday and to-day and for ever.

Have we made the best use of the Bible in the year that has closed? If not, then here is a new year, a fresh chance to prove it to be "a lantern unto feet and light unto our path" for 1940.

(3) PUBLIC WORSHIP.

In this country we have still preserved for us the right to worship God freely in our churches Sunday by Sunday. In parts of the world men have lost this privilege, churches are closed or they are being used as secular buildings. Yet, how many there are, even in Seagoe, who do not value this God-given means of grace. Perhaps they would say, if asked, "I can live without going to church." This may be true, but even the cow or the cat could answer thus if they had the power of speech. Is any individual "made in God's image" content to live a life at the animal level? A live Christian must be a worshipping Christian. God demands and expects it of us. In this parish there are 2,500 souls, one would not get that impression from the attendance at our morning or evening service on Sundays. Even allowing for old people and very young children our Church attendance is unworthy of a Christian community. True for the past few months the weather was singularly inclement on Sundays, and the black-out has not

made it any easier, but if our religious enthusiasm can be damped by a shower, if the "black-out" is going to "black-out" our Church-going, what kind of a religion is it? We can be sure of one thing in answer to this, it is not the Christian religion. After all the "black-out" is a very lame excuse for country people, and there are 1,000 of them in Seagoe; for them the lighting restrictions have made no appreciable difference in the matter of getting to Church; while for townspeople the absence of street lighting could be compensated for by the "convoy system," i.e., if you do not like the idea of walking out alone, call for a friend or friends and go together. There is no danger for there is a good footpath from every house in Edenderry to the Church gate. Let us make a fresh effort for 1940 to enter into the psalmist's experience, when he said, "I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord."

(4) THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION.

As we face the New Year let us make up our minds to use this service more often for "The strengthening and refreshing of our souls." It is our Lord's own appointed way of helping us to keep in mind His Cross and of the benefits we enjoy through His atoning death for us. We have missed recently some of the regular attenders from the 8 a.m. Service on the third Sunday of each month. I hope the attendance will improve.

It is only by making use of all these ways of strengthening our spiritual life that we can hope to tread victoriously the unknown path, which lies before each one of us in 1940. Let us go forward in the sure confidence that if we do our part God will do His, and let us remember that if we are slack and careless about the things that matter, God cannot and will not help us.

I will close this letter with the words of our King in his broadcast on Christmas Day. They are worth repeating and pondering over:—

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown,' and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

Your sincere Friend,

J. W. APPELBE.

SIDESMEN FOR JANUARY.

Morning Prayer—The Churchwardens, Messrs. J. Ward, F. Shanks, J. Stevens, W. G. Best.

Evening Prayer—J. Walker, W. Hewitt, S. D. Walker, A. Kirke, W. H. Best, J. McLoughlin.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th, at 7 p.m., the annual Carol Service took place, at which the choir rendered a special Christmas Anthem and as well some of the popular Carols. The Service formed a fitting prelude to Christmas Day.

The weather this year was fine on Christmas Day, but this did not help the attendance at the Services on this day as it should have done. It is to be hoped that the attendance at Morning Prayer on Christ's birthday is not an indication of the place He holds in our lives. It is sad to think that out of a Church population of 2,500 only 72 were able to be present at Morning Prayer. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not" was the tragedy of the first Christmas. Is it not true of us to-day? I hope in future years we will remove this blot from our Church life and see to it, that we honour Him by worshipping Him in His house on His birthday.

The special Christmas music was tastefully rendered by the choir, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Casey at the organ. The solo part of the anthem "Sing O ye Heavens," was taken by Miss N. Montgomery.

THE COST OF THE BLACK-OUT.

The material for making the Parish Church conform with the lighting restrictions cost between £7 and £8. The fitting up, etc., of this was generously done free of cost by a member of the Select Vestry. As a result of the retiring collections on Sunday, December 31st, the sum of £3 13s 5d was received to meet the cost. This is barely half the sum required. There were a great many absent, who we feel would like to help in clearing this; they can still do so by putting their contribution on the plate in an envelope any Sunday in January.

"WHAT AM I TO DO?"

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

(From Everyday Religion, by the Bishop of Lichfield.)

"To the question, 'What am I to do?' the Christian answer is plain. It may be stated in three words, 'Share your life.' The attaining of life and the sharing of it are two integral parts of one and the same process. It is the great paradox of Christianity again and again insisted upon by Jesus Christ, and verified by all true experience, that you only realize life in sharing it. 'Life' and 'Love' are almost interchangeable terms.

"Now it must be conceded that to care more for giving than getting involves for most of us

a very drastic change in our point of view.

But such a change is precisely what takes place when anyone has the humility and wisdom—I had almost said the commonsense—to get his ideas from Jesus Christ.

"No one can have any contact with Jesus Christ without making two discoveries—discoveries which rapidly affect the whole of his thinking and living. One is that the eternal God does really care about every single individual being; that they all matter to Him as individual personalities.

"If each of severally are

objects of God's concern

then clearly we stand in a very wonderful relationship to one another, as being all of us within the magic circle of the love of God.

"The other discovery—perhaps it would be truer to call it experience—which follows hard upon the heels of the first is that such a knowledge of the love of God, and such an attitude towards men, must and does involve a shifting of life's centre of gravity.

"It entails a drastic alteration of one's sense of values.

"It means, not a contracting, or limiting or mutilating of life but a

radiant, passionate certainty

that the fulness of life is only to be found in sharing and service and sacrifice.

"How indeed could it be otherwise with a religion which has the Cross as its very centre, which tells of a God 'Who spared not His own Son but gave Him up for us all'?

"Shall the disciple be above his master? Are we to attempt to work out our vocation and destiny on easier and safer lines than those which were good enough for Jesus?"

"The fundamental thing in Christian experience cannot be too emphatically set forth; for it is so easily obscured on the one side by the idea that sees 'salvation' as a kind of private security from the dangers of this world and the next. Or on the other side by an exaggerated asceticism which views sacrifice as an end in itself.

"The essential thing in 'salvation' is that the man is saved from a life of selfishness to one of love.

"Whatever spiritual experiences a man may have gone through, if he is not delivered from his self-regarding impulses he is not converted to the Christian position.

"I sometimes think," says another Christian of to-day, 'that Christ barely recognizes any sin except selfishness; for selfishness is about the one sin we don't recognize.'

"It is not so much a question, in 'salvation,' of mortifying selfish instinct. It is rather that, in the company of Christ, you come to care for something not yourself in the absorbing interests of His plans and His cause. The question He always asks of those who follow Him is what they are doing to share their life! and His sternest condemnation falls on those who fail to share it; those who, confronted by opportunities to help, thoughtlessly and uselessly "pass by on the other side."

"A great Italian writer is said to have remarked to a friend on the subject of a religious reputation: 'When I hear a man called 'good,' I ask, 'Who, then, has he saved?'

"The genuine article in Christian unselfishness is not to be confused with

a feeble, flabby sentiment of goodwill

which never gets itself effectively expressed in action; a 'love' which is directed towards everybody in particular but does nothing for anybody in particular.

"A story is told of an artist busy in his studio and thinking hard while he painted. The subject of his picture was a poor, thinly-clad woman hugging a child to her breast and sorely battered by storm and tempest.

"Suddenly he flung down his brush, exclaiming to himself, 'Why don't I go myself to help such folk, instead of just painting pictures of them?'

"He was as good as his word, and Alfred Tucker spent the rest of his life in the mission field; the last twenty-five years of it as Bishop of Uganda."

(From "The Church Army Gazette.")

DISTRICT SERVICES FOR JANUARY.

Drumgor—Sunday, Jan. 14th, at 3 p.m.

Bocombra—Tuesday, Jan. 23rd, at 8 p.m.

Hacknahay—Sunday, Jan. 28th, at 3.30 p.m.

OBITUARY.

The passing from our midst of Mrs. Russell, Drumgor, came as a great shock. In the prime of life, she has been called to higher service. She was greatly loved by all who knew her, and she will be sadly

SEAGOE PARISH MAGAZINE.

missed in the home, where she leaves a husband and four children to mourn her loss. To the bereaved family we extend our deepest sympathy.

His many friends in Seagoe were deeply grieved to hear that the Rev. W. F. Hayes suffered bereavement recently by the death of his mother. We pray, that to all who mourn at this time God may "grant the spirit of faith and courage that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience, not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of His great goodness in past years, and in the sure expectation of a joyful reunion in the heavenly places, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God."

Dec. 3rd—William James, son of Robert Henry and Isabel Wilson, 4, Garland Avenue, Lurgan.

MARRIAGES.

"Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

Dec. 26th—Thomas Richard Quinn, 39, Alexandra Gardens, Portadown, and Myrtle Liggett, 261, Bridge Street, Portadown.

Dec. 26th—William Cunningham, 91, West Street, Portadown, and Bertha McLoughlin, Killcomaine.

BURIALS.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours."

Dec. 4th—Margaret Russell, Drumgor, aged 40 years.

THE NEW RECTORY BUILDING FUND.

The Hon. Treas. for the above gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following subscriptions:—

Robert Scott, Seagoe ..	£2 0 0
Miss Hall, Windsor Terrace ..	0 5 0
George Leake, Seafield ..	0 10 0
T. H. Hall, Seafield ..	2 0 0
S. Hall, Seafield ..	2 0 0
J. Ward, Seafield ..	1 0 0
R. McClements, Bridge St. ..	5 0 0
Mrs. A. Hoy, Windsor Terrace ..	0 10 0
Mr. & Mrs. Stephens, Levaghery ..	1 0 0

Miss D. Stephens, Levaghery ..	0 10 0
Mrs. Marks, Levaghery ..	0 10 0
Mrs. Kyle, Clanrole ..	0 10 0
Mrs. John Richardson, Breagh ..	0 2 6
Wm. Gregson, Drumgor ..	0 4 0
John McKerr, Drumgor ..	0 2 6
Joseph Stevenson, Drumgor ..	2 0 0
Miss Gibson, Clanrole ..	0 2 6

Already acknowledged .. £18 6 6

Total ..

£574 3 1

ARMAGH PROTESTANT ORPHAN SOCIETY.

At the recent annual meeting of the above held in Armagh two orphans from this parish were elected to benefit.

We print below the return of the recent collections made in the parish for this worthy object, and we are glad to note that, compared with last year, there has been no falling off in support.

Card Collectors:—

Miss M. Bradshaw ..	£3 2 6
Miss Sophie McMurray ..	0 19 1
Miss E. Gibson ..	1 1 0
Miss T. Anderson ..	1 10 0
Mrs. W. Neill ..	1 3 0
Miss Margaret Russell ..	1 11 0
Miss E. Walker ..	0 11 6
Mrs. Cathcart ..	1 17 0
Miss E. Magee ..	0 14 6
Miss Sparrow ..	2 1 6
Miss G. Magee ..	1 10 0

£16 1 1

Interest on the late Miss Elizabeth Reid's

Bequest .. 0 7 0

£16 8 1

A cheque for the above amount has been forwarded to Hon. Treas. of the Society.

Our best thanks are due to the ladies mentioned above, who so kindly undertook to make the collections, and we congratulate them on the result of their efforts.

SERVICES—THE PARISH CHURCH.

HOLY COMMUNION—1st Sunday after Morning Prayer; 3rd Sunday at 8 a.m., and on the Chief Festivals.

HOLY BAPTISM—1st Sunday of each Month at 4 p.m., and during any Service in the Parish Church, notice to be given; Two Sponsors at least are required. The father and mother must be present. Churchings are held at each Baptism. Mothers are expected to bring a thankoffering. (See Book of Common Prayer.)

MORNING PRAYER—Sundays and Chief Festivals, 11.30 a.m.

EVENING PRAYER—Sundays, 7 p.m.

DISTRICT SERVICES.

Hacknahay—Last Sunday of Month at 3.30 p.m.

Drumgor—Second Sunday of Month at 3 p.m.

Edenderry—Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Oct—Easter.

MARRIAGES must be performed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Licences are issued by Ven. Archdeacon Hannon, the Rectory, Lurgan. Due notice (48 hours) must be given to the Rector of intended weddings. **FEES**—By License—Labourers 5/-, Tradesmen 10/-, Merchants and Farmers £1, Professional £1. By Banns 5/-. **FUNERALS** will be attended by the Clergy if proper notice be given. **SICK CASES** should be notified to the Clergy without delay. **FEES FOR CERTIFICATES**—BAPTISM 3/7, Children (Factory) 1/- and 2/- (non residents); MARRIAGE 3/7. An extra Search Fee is chargeable in certain cases. It will be a help to the Clergy if they are notified of the arrival of new Church families in the Parish.

A copy of the Magazine will be sent by post to any subscriber for 3/- per annum.

CLASSES, &c.

BIBLE CLASS FOR MEN in Edenderry on Sundays at 10.15 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—10.15 a.m. Edenderry Parochial Hall and Seagoe School. 3 p.m. Seagoe, Edenderry Parochial Hall, Levaghery, Hacknahay, Carne, Drumgor, Bocombra.

MOTHERS' UNION—2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE in the Parochial Hall on Tuesdays.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY in Seagoe School on Mondays at 8 p.m. as announced.

G.F.S. CANDIDATES—Oct.—Easter, Edenderry Parochial Hall, Saturdays at 3 p.m.

SEAGOE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY—Mondays, Orange Hall, at 8 p.m.

SEAGOE P.E. SCHOOL—9.15 a.m. Principal—Mr. R. Scott.