

Seafin information kindly supplied by Leslie McKeague

SEAFIN was a mission station of the Secession charge of Trinity, Bailieborough opened in 1827. It was typical of the evangelistic zeal of the Seceders. It was poor and services ceased when the Home Mission Fund was exhausted. In 1828, the people collected £40 to build a meeting-house, then asked that Mr. George Foy, licentiate, be sent to supply them. This was done and Mr. Foy reported progress.

The meeting place was five miles from any other Presbyterian church, in a generally Protestant area, and services were held in the home of a Mr. Ed. Wauchope. By 1831 the congregation was self-supporting and called Mr. James Clarke (lic. Monaghan) who was ordained on 29 Nov. 1831. In 1832 they met in a farmer's barn but Lord Farnham offered a free site and trees to plant it. Mr. Clarke got a very small salary and the Home Mission Fund had to relieve him of debts. He maintained his ground successfully, retired in 1869 and was followed by Mr. William Clarke (lic. Bailieborough) on 26 July 1869. His short ministry ended with his death on 16 Nov. 1869.

The third minister was Mr. James Miskelly (lic. Ards), a Ballygrainey man, and he was ordained on 20 Oct. 1871. The Rev. James Clarke, the first minister, died on 8 Aug. 1884, aged 83, but Mr. Miskelly had already gone to Armabrague on 19 Mar. 1879 before the fourth minister, Rev. Patrick Hay, previously of Fannet, was installed as assistant and successor on 31 Dec. 1879. He had been a minister without charge of the Omagh Presbytery since 1857. Mr. Hay retired on 6 June 1893 and died on 10 Apr. 1897, aged 84 years.

Mr. George Limerick (lic. Limavady) was the congregation's next choice. He was ordained on 1 May 1894 and was called to Drumkeeran on 10 Sept. 1913. **SEAFIN** was then united to Bellasis (1 June 1916) under Rev. Dr. Richard James McFarland of Bellasis. They were separated later on 1 July 1925 and **SEAFIN** was united with Trinity, Bailieborough, under its minister, Rev. Thomas Sinclair Killen. This union continued till 1 July 1973 when **SEAFIN** lost its identity being amalgamated with Trinity, Bailieborough under that name.