

Dr. Mussen and the Parish Church, Glenavy

Dr. Mussen and his wife were active members of Glenavy Parish Church. Early records at the parish church show that Dr. Mussen was on the list of registered vestrymen. Dr. Mussen and his family took an active part in parish activities. He was a member of the select vestry for many years. He also held other positions - churchwarden, parochial nominator, synodsmen and honorary treasurer to assessment fund. (1914)

The parish church purchased property from Dr. Mussen in 1886 for a curate's residence - "During the incumbency of the present vicar (Rev. Charles Watson), in 1886, a cottage with a garden attached, for the curate's residence, was bought from Dr. Mussen, J.P., and fitted up at a total cost of £410." (Glenavy: Past and Present by Charles Watson)

The following extracts from local newspapers provide us with a valuable insight the relationship between the Mussen family and Glenavy Parish Church.

1885. Church of Ireland, Parish of Glenavy. "On Wednesday last, a treat was given to the children of the parish attending the Glenavy, Feumore, and Crumlin Sunday-schools. The children of Glenavy and Crumlin assembled at the Parochial School, where they were met by the Feumore contingent, who arrived on breaks and cars, and to the number of 240 marched in procession to the Parish Church at half-past twelve."

After a short service the children filed out of the church and were met at the end of the avenue by the Glenavy Brass Band, and with flags and banners flying marched to the Glebe lawn. Milk had been supplied by some members of the congregation and games were played and prizes competed for by the children. "During the afternoon many drove up the avenue to watch the sports, Captain Dowglass J.P., and Mrs. Dowglass; Mrs. Mussen, Mrs. Lorimer, Miss Donaldson, the Misses Rhodes, the Misses English, Mrs. Bullick, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Corken, Mr. Oakman and others expressing their pleasure at the animated scene. The routine of the day's sport was admirably carried out under the energetic superintendence of Dr. Mussen, Messrs. English, Oakman and Dowglass; the younger children being kept in good spirits by the energy of Miss Finlay, Miss Watson, Miss Dowglass and others expressing their pleasure at the animated scene." (Lisburn Standard, Saturday 1st August 1885)

A congregational gathering was held in the Protestant Hall on the 20th December 1888. The refreshment table was presided over by Mrs. Mussen, Mrs. Lorimer and Mrs. White. The hall was handsomely decorated for the occasion by the ladies, under the direction of Dr. Mussen. (Lisburn Standard, January 1889)

1889. Annual fete of Glenavy Sunday-schools on Wednesday last "...Swings, kite-flying, running races and jumping for prizes, football, and sending up balloons made the time pass very happily. Dr. Mussen, Mr. A. Mussen, Mr. Lorimer, and the teachers, with the Rev. J.R. Sides, curate keeping the merriment in full swing." (Lisburn Standard, Saturday 27th July 1889)

December 1892. Parish of Glenavy - Sale of Work. On Thursday afternoon a sale of work was commenced in the Protestant Hall, Glenavy, in connection with the Parish Church, and for the purpose of raising funds to erect a chancel in the Feumore Chapel of Ease. The opening ceremony was performed at half-past one o'clock by the Rev. Arthur Pakenham, J.P., of Langford Lodge. On the motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Dr. Mussen, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Pakenham, after which the sale was proceeded with. (Lisburn Standard, Saturday 17th December 1892)



An early 20th century postcard depicting Glenavy Parish Church

1900- The annual parochial soiree was held in the Protestant Hall, Glenavy, on the 18th inst., the vicar, Rev. J.M. Boyle-Glover presiding. Mrs. Mussen was one of a number of ladies who presided at the different tables. (Lisburn Standard, Saturday 27th January 1900)

1900- At a meeting of the members of Glenavy Select vestry of Glenavy Parish, held in the schoolroom on Tuesday last - the vicar (Rev. J.M. Boyle Glover, M.A.) presiding - the following resolution was proposed by Dr. A. Mussen, J.P. , seconded by Mr. John Corken, and passed unanimously :- 'That the select vestry of Glenavy parish desire to offer their sincere and hearty congratulations to their former vicar, the Rev. Charles Watson, B.D., on his well-merit of promotion in the church as Archdeacon of Dromore, and trust that he may be long spared to the Church for which he has so earnestly laboured.' (Lisburn Standard, Saturday 27th October 1900)

Church of Ireland. The Auxiliary Fund in Glenavy 1905

A meeting in support of this fund was held in the Protestant Hall, Glenavy on the 20th inst. - Dr. Mussen, J.P., in the chair. The meeting was very representative of the parish. Dr. Mussen, in an appropriate speech, stated the object of the meeting, and declared his belief that the old parish of Glenavy would not be found wanting but would be ready and willing to so its share towards raising the sum for which the diocese was assessed for the Auxiliary Fund. (Lisburn Herald, Saturday 28th January 1905)

Annual Parish Soiree 1913

The annual parish soiree and concert was held in the Protestant Hall, Glenavy on the evening of the 5th inst. On the motion of Dr. Mussen (who said the concert was one of the best, if not the best, they had ever enjoyed in Glenavy), a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. G.R. Olden and all the other kind friends who had assisted in making the evening so very enjoyable. (Lisburn Herald, Saturday 13th December 1913)

1918 Glenavy Rector Honoured. "A large and representative meeting of the parishioners of Glenavy was held in the Protestant Hall, Glenavy, on the evening of the 28th ult., to do honour to their vicar, Rev. R.R. Muir, R.A., on the occasion of his marriage, and to welcome Mrs. Muir to the parish." "The Chairman (Mr. T.J. English) called on the secretary to read the address, and on behalf of the subscribers Dr. Mussen J.P., presented a handsome roll-top desk to the vicar, and Miss Downer a beautiful pendant to Mrs. Muir." (Lisburn Herald, Saturday 6th July 1918)