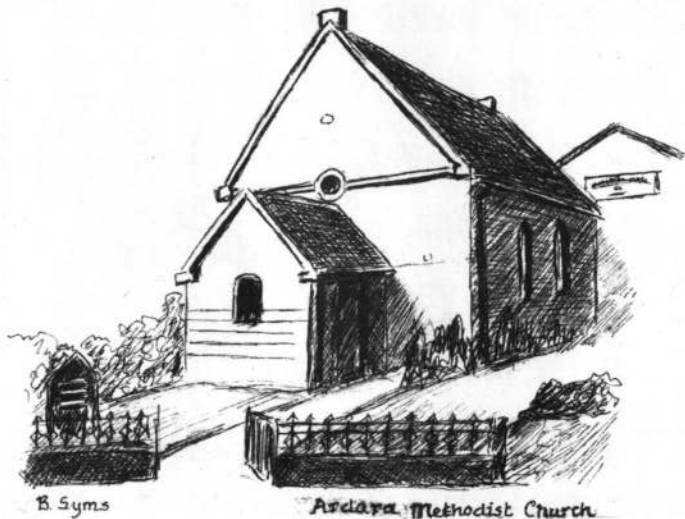


# ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: B Syms

## 96: Ardara Methodist Church

Text: Dennis Lawton



The Ardara Methodist Church was erected in 1832, though the work in the area certainly

predates this. The current structure stands near the top of the village, next door to the

Church of Ireland National School and church. Plans are getting under way for redecoration of the sanctuary in the lead up to the 175th anniversary.

Some work was begun when a travelling preacher was given £5, sent off into the area by John Wesley and told to make contact with him when his funds were in need of replenishment.

Another story is told of a travelling preacher who came to the Diamond in Ardara, dismounted and began to preach. He gathered about him a crowd, some of whom showed signs of turning against the preacher. At this, he had two men come to his protection, one of his right and the other on his

left, and from this was born the Methodist society in Ardara.

A further story, in the nearby area of Loughrospoint, tells of a travelling preacher who went to the trouble of helping local farmers with their harvesting. He then asked them to come to hear him preach, and from this beginning further work of the ministry was accomplished.

The Methodists in Ardara have a strong presence in the community, far in excess of their size with only 19 families. A great part of this involves the use of their hall for various social and community functions, including children's activities, drama theatre, youth clubs and social gatherings.