

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Sally McGlennon



Bloomfield Methodist Church on the Mountpottinger Circuit – one of the first of the new post-war Methodist Churches – will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in September 1998. In 1938, the Church Extension Committee purchased a site at the junction of Grand Parade and Orangefield Lane. The outbreak of World War II interfered with the plans as it was impossible to obtain a building permit. Two large ex-army nissen huts were purchased and

equipped with a seating capacity in all of approximately 250 people.

On Saturday 4th September 1948 the new cause at Bloomfield was opened. Before long, all the elements of a vigorous church were fully in operation: its services of worship, its Sunday School, its organisations and a bank balance. The minister was the Rev Samuel Blair. By 1953, five years after its inauguration, the congregation had progressed so far in its active

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membership and the acquisition of funds that it became obvious that thought should be given to the erection of new church premises.

On the 4th June 1955 the Church was opened and dedicated to God for divine worship. The builder agreed to erect the Church Halls on the same cost basis as the Church. The Halls were opened on the 29th October 1955. The entire cost was in the region of £32,000, of which Bloomfield had accumulated about £12,000 of the building fund. In 1987, one of the rooms was completely re-designed to give a Minor Hall with a seating capacity for 50-80 people. The cost was £34,000.

Today Bloomfield has a membership of 261 families under the ministry of the Rev John R J Moore. At the beginning of October 1997 an Alpha course began with an average attendance of 21 people. The group has now embarked on their second Alpha course.

Raymond Crabbe