



Methodist work in Clontarf was begun by the Abbey Street Circuit in the first half of the 19th century when Clontarf was just a small village near Dublin. In 1842 a small society began to meet in a house on Philipsburgh Avenue. As the village grew into a flourishing suburb, the society grew, and occupied a number of rented premises. By 1867 the local Methodists felt strong enough to build a small church for themselves at the foot of the St

Lawrence Road on the sea front. The foundation stone was laid by TM Gresham, founder of the Gresham Hotel.

This building seated only 120 people, and within a few years was damaged by arson. It was repaired, and continued in use for only a few more years when the growth of the congregation demanded that it be extended. An adjoining piece of ground was acquired, and the extension transformed the simple

building into one of cruciform shape, with a small spire over the crossing. This served the local society for the remainder of the century. In 1891 a Hall was built beside it on additional land to house the Sunday School and other activities.

Between 1905 and 1907 both of these were demolished to make way for new buildings designed by Mitchell & Son of Dublin, and built by Collen Bros Ltd. These are the handsome church and hall which now grace the site. The church accommodated 500 worshippers. By the 1990s the congregation, largely thanks to emigration, had very considerably shrunk, and in 1995 the sale of the hall was negotiated. The proceeds of this enabled the division of the church into a worship area, a hall, and a small meeting room. These more comfortable premises have since led to an increase in the number of worshippers. The building now not only serves the Methodists of the area, but also welcomes a number of the people from the vicinity who appreciate its ministry.