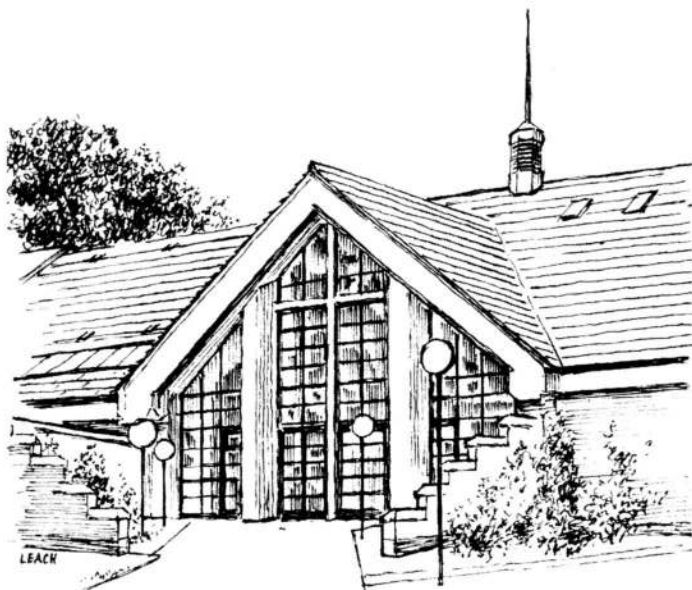


ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Gladys Leach

100: Cork Methodist Church

Text: Laurence Graham & Charles Payne



The first Methodist preachers arrived in Cork in 1748 and by 1752 the first preaching-house was built. By 1805 the well-known Wesley Chapel was built on Patrick Street and worship continued there until 1986.

During the first half of the 20th century there was a Methodist church at Military

Hill on the North side of the city, being complemented by the Central Hall on Academy Street in the city centre.

In 1949 the Military Hill church was sold to the Roman Catholic diocese and became the present Holy Family Church.

A very warm relationship has developed between the

Methodist community and the Holy Family community and there is an annual celebration to mark the anniversary of the opening of the building.

In the 1970s the congregation at Wesley Chapel began to debate the wisdom of moving away from the immediate city centre. It was becoming increasingly difficult to access the church and hall and virtually none of the congregation lived in that area.

After prayerful deliberation the church on Patrick Street was sold in 1986 and Ardfallen House, along with over three acres of gardens, was purchased on Douglas Road about 1½ miles from the city centre. Quickly the Georgian house at Ardfallen was adapted for community and church use while a new church, large hall and various other rooms were built behind it.

By 1990 Ardfallen Grove was opened. This comprises 28 units of housing accommodation which provides independent

living with the security of an on-site warden.

Part of the Ardfallen vision was that the buildings would be well used and this vision has come to pass with a large range of church activities whilst community activities include a nanoira (Irish language pre-school), ballet classes, parent and toddlers group, Al-Anon, a local choir, etc.

It has also been very encouraging to see approximately 50% growth in the Sunday morning congregation at the church and we rejoice in the fact that there are now 16 nations represented in our worshipping community.

In the last year we have had two weeks of 24/7 Prayer and a permanent prayer room is established on the premises which people use every day. A prayer/Scripture garden is being established in the grounds.

Our desire continues to be to use all of our resources to offer Christ.