

# ROUND THE CHURCHES 62: Dundonald Methodist Church

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'Connexions' encourages us to dream dreams and work courageously in order that current needs might be met and the gospel proclaimed. We are encouraged, as we walk this road in faith, by the witness of those who have gone before us.

In 1937 the Rev R H Gallagher, then minister in Knock, was inspired by the vision

of an outreach into the fast growing area of Dundonald. It was thus that, under his guidance and with the support of the Knock society, a new dual-purpose hall was erected on the Comber Road in Dundonald. That building was opened on 12 June 1937 by Mrs W L Northridge and dedicated by the then President, the Rev C Ensor

Walters. The first minister of this Comber Road society was Rev W H Fullerton.

That building served the needs of the church for the next 32 years. These were years of great blessing; many missions were held and souls won for the Saviour, and under inspired leadership the youth and other organisations of the church thrived.

Around 1964 the building of the Ballybeen housing estate was commenced. Immediately the church extension fund decided to build a church, and the site which Dundonald Methodist now occupies on Rank Road was chosen. After much thought and prayer the Comber Road congregation felt led to identify with this new outreach and that congregation made the courageous decision to move to Rank Road when the new church building was completed.

So it was that on 27 September 1969 the present Dundonald Methodist Church was opened, and dedicated by the President, the Rev G E Good.

A concern that the gospel of Jesus might be proclaimed and a concern for the wholeness of that gospel to be seen in social witness, continues to be at the heart of the work of God in Dundonald. Alongside a full programme of weeknight activities for young people and adults, and the Sunday schools, God has used Alpha courses and other outreach wonderfully, and many have come to saving faith in Jesus. The church now also runs a Parents and Kids Together programme and a busy Kids Club. We rejoice that we have the privilege of seeing God at work in the past, and in our age and generation.