

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: B Syms

94: Dunkineely Methodist Church

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Dunkineely Methodist Church, built in 1854, recently celebrated its 150th Anniversary of worship and witness in south-west

Donegal. Since that time there have been many improvements made to our property. These include:

1910: the lovely ceiling that we have now was installed. It is a replica of a ceiling in the Centenary Church in New York. At the same time the entrance of the church was moved from the side to the front, and the gallery was built.

1954: an extensive renovation was completed, which included the replastering of the interior.

1964: the opening of the hall.

The current building replaced a previous church further down the main street of the village, dating from 1830. Also in the area, a meeting place had been established on St John's Point in 1844, and a school was built in Corker in 1845. People interested in

Methodism are known to have been in the area in John Wesley's time, rowing from St John's Point to Ballyshannon on one occasion to hear him preach. They arrived too late, but were met by a Methodist preacher, and when they returned they commenced a Methodist class meeting.

Wesley came through Ballyshannon in 1765 and 1771, so it would seem that Methodists have been in the parish for well over 200 years.

The work in Dunkineely continues in co-operation with the Church of Ireland congregation in Killaghtee, with various youth and children's ministries, a primary school, and typical comings and goings in the life of a rural congregation.