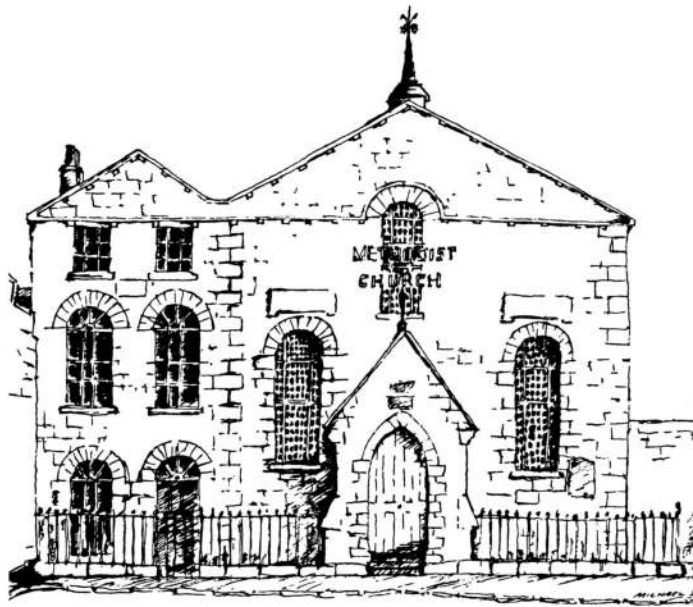


# ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Michael Dillon

## 17: Galway Methodist/ Presbyterian Church



John Wesley, accompanied by Thomas Walsh, first visited Galway in 1756, but a Methodist society was not formed there until 1760.

victims of the Great Irish Famine, whom he was attempting to relieve. He is buried under a Corinthian column behind the church.

There were at least two, and possibly three, Methodist chapels in the city before the present church was built and opened in 1839. The initiative for this fine building on a good site just off Eyre Square was taken by William Nassau Alley, who also raised much of the money necessary. He was an uncle of the Revd James M Alley. William Alley later died of fever which he caught from the

Adjoining the building, but not communicating, was the manse, later let to a tenant when a better residence was purchased on Eyre Square. As years went by the number of Methodists in the city declined, and the last minister to be appointed there was George L Webster (1926-31). Supernumerary (retired) ministers lived in the city for some years. When they left services became infrequent.

The year 1975 saw a sudden growth here as people moved into the city and an international congregation developed. In 1977 a minister was again stationed in Galway. The church was beautifully restored, and a communication opened with the ground floor of the adjoining residence. This became a Sunday School and meeting room. The minister occupied a flat upstairs. In 1980 a Methodist & Presbyterian alternating ministry was established here, and a new manse acquired in the suburbs.