

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Dennis Orme Shaw

54: Glastry Methodist Church

Text: Paraphrased from Adrian Thompson



On 10 July 1848 land for the building of a chapel was formally handed over by William Shaw of Red Bay Farm to the Trustees

of the local Methodist Society. Within a few months, 101 years after John Wesley came to Ireland, a 'Wesleyan Church' was

opened at Glastry for 'the people called Methodists' living around Kircubbin, Ballyeaseborough, Ballyhalbert and Portavogie. The foundation stone is still clearly visible in the porch of the church, above the inside door. In 1877 the two churches at Glastry and Portaferry were formally recognised as a circuit under the Rev William Smiley, BA, LL D.

Through several refurbishments and rebuilding schemes that have added a porch, a 'church parlour', a manse, and the McMaster and McCormack Halls, Glastry Church has lost none of its simple charm and unique warmth. Well maintained by a faithful corps of members, the church is both welcoming and

restful, a fact testified to by the number of much loved 'summer members' who have made Glastry their spiritual home from home during the holidays. The worship banners that adorn the walls, illustrating the seasons of the Church year, further enhance the interior of the building.

The *Irish Christian Advocate* of 10 July 1931 describes how, then as now, '... many visitors from busy centres worshipped in the little churches at Portaferry and Glastry, especially during the summer season...' Many a jaded city worker benefited mentally and spiritually while on holiday by attending the services at the churches. We are grateful to God that this is still the case today.