

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Anne Spence

79: Laghey Methodist Church

Text: Karon Wilson



Laghey Methodist Church on the Dungannon circuit is situated in the village of Killyman. This year it celebrated its centenary with special services and events on the weekend of 14 and 15 May.

In 1775 John Wesley made the first of his three visits to Killyman, staying at the Church

of Ireland rectory, where a plaque still commemorates his preaching at the door at 7.00am on 15 June 1789.

Building work on the present church in the centre of the village was started in 1904, to replace the existing Wesleyan chapel in the townland of

Dungorman about a mile from the village. The church building and stables were completed in 1905 at a cost of £1,100. The original heating system, used for over 50 years, was a coke-fired stove in the middle of the centre aisle. The original stables were enlarged and converted into a church hall in 1955, by which time horses as a mode of transport had been overtaken by the car. This hall was demolished to make more car parking space following the building of a large hall in 1988.

At present Sunday services take place at 10.15am, with a lively Sunday School meeting during the service. The circuit evening service comes monthly to Laghey.

Many of the families associated with Laghey can claim some connection to those

who attended the church in years gone by, but recent years have seen significant housing developments in the area, and we have been pleased to welcome new faces to our congregation. We trust that they will find in Laghey a place of fellowship and blessing. Recent outreach in the village, including distribution of the Jesus Video, was done in partnership with our Church of Ireland neighbours. Junior CE meets in the hall each week and, with bowls and badminton clubs, the church premises are often busy. MWI meets once a month.

Laghey is a church with a small number of families, but which has provided a faithful witness in the past 100 years. It is our prayer that witness will continue in the coming years, and with thankfulness we celebrated our anniversary services.