

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray

35: Larne Methodist Church



A Methodist society was formed in Larne in 1747. In 1809 a small Chapel was constructed in Mission Lane.

In 1827 a new Church was built in Pound Street and the congregation flourished.

The congregation moved to its present Church in 1885 but the present members still remember

their association with the old Pound Street Church every Christmas morning. At 6.15am around 50 or so faithfully meet at the site of the old Church, as their predecessors have for the last 135 years to sing carols around the town before going to the Church for an early morning service. Since the date of its

opening the present Church, being of sound construction, required little work to be carried out apart from routine maintenance but the members were becoming increasingly worried about the condition of the roof and windows. This was a matter of great concern as the Church had just concluded a programme of renovation and extension of the halls and the provision of a car park at a cost in the region of £150,000, the debt on which had just been cleared.

They therefore took a step in faith and commenced a full restoration of the entire Church building at a cost, in the region of £200,000. God honoured their faith and by the time the work was completed the entire cost had been met. The Church is now in superb structural and decorative order and fully restored to what many consider as the most beautiful Church in Irish

Methodism still in regular use for worship.

The Church leaders, however, under the leadership of the Rev T Jamieson, have decided, now that the years of concentrating on building work have been completed it is time to get back to the real spiritual work of the Christian Church and actively seek God's guidance for the way ahead. A well-supported prayer meeting has recommenced together with a planned half night of prayer and a week of special services. In addition, the Harvest Services are to take the form of a weekend of Mission.

We remain of the firm conviction that, as God in his goodness provided all the finance necessary to pay our debts without having to approach the bank, he has a definite work for us to do and we must follow wheresoever he leads.