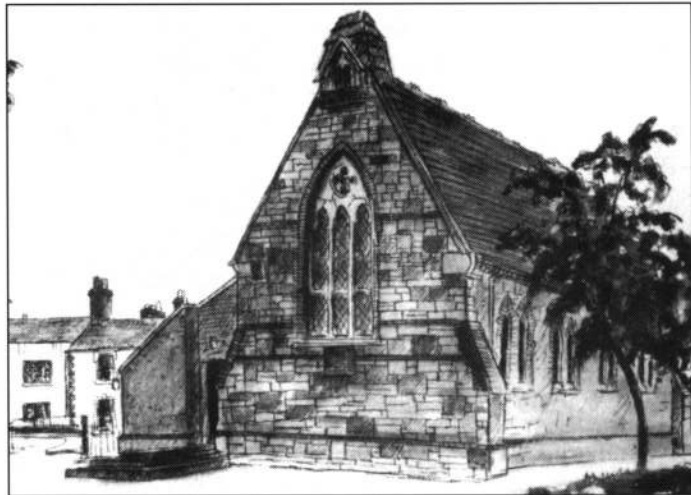


ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: B Syms

50: Lucan Methodist Church

Text: Hilary Poole



The presence of Methodists in Lucan is first mentioned in 1832. In 1849 Griffith's Valuation lists a Methodist Meeting House leased from James Gandon, son of the architect, who lived in Lucan. This building remains as a private residence today.

The minister of that time was named as the Rev John Feely. Subsequently other ministers included the Rev Edward Bennett and the Rev Robert Knowles.

Very little is known about the building of our present church and manse. It was situated in an

extensive site running down to the Griffeen River, a tributary of the River Liffey. A new road from Lucan to Newcastle had previously divided the site. The part beside the river was leased to the County Council in 1945 as a public park for the village. We know that a certain John Farrell, a journeyman mason, who had a business in Main Street, Leixlip, County Kildare, carried out the exterior brickwork.

In the 1980s our church was threatened with closure, but after much pressure from the few remaining members, the church remained open. The Rev Kenneth Lindsay was appointed to Lucan and a major renovation programme was undertaken. This included the addition of a church hall, known as the Farrar Room, a kitchen and toilets. At that time the manse was leased to

the Eastern Health Board as a residential home. We are grateful to the Abbey Street congregation, our partners in the Dublin Central Mission circuit, for their encouragement and support.

Lucan is now a thriving church with many new faces from all over the world. Locally our members come from Lucan, Leixlip, Celbridge, Maynooth, Naas, Clondalkin, and Blanchardstown. We join with the other local churches on many occasions and the community constantly uses our premises.

Our church was built in 1877. In May our minister, the Rev Rosemary Lindsay, and our congregation celebrated the 125th anniversary with a service, which was attended by President Mary McAleese and representatives from the local community.