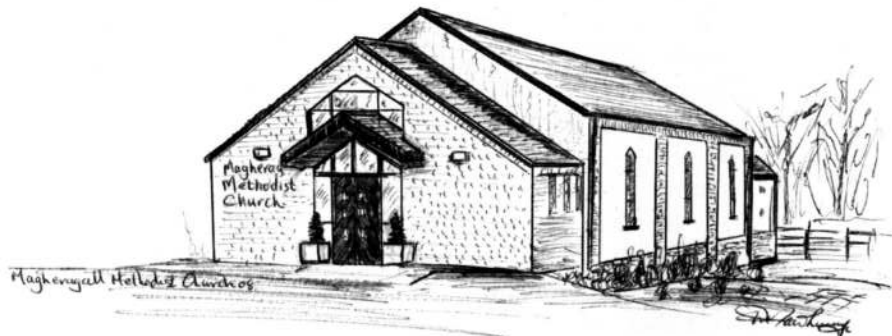


ROUND THE CHURCHES

110: Magheragall Methodist Church

Drawing: Mervyn Mawhinney

Text: Roberta England



We believe that a Wesleyan Methodist preaching house was built initially on the Glenavy Road out of Lisburn in the 1790s. At one time it housed a school, and was later extended. The building, which had no running water, deteriorated over the years; the foundations were such that the journey from the vestry door across to the choir area was very noticeably downhill!

A hall and car park across the road were added in the 1960s and the leaders decided in the late 1990s that we should build a new

church beside the hall, where there was plenty of room.

The congregation backed this decision enthusiastically, the grazing cows were evicted from the field, and the builders moved in. The church was opened and dedicated in June 2001, thanks in no small part to the sterling leadership of the Minister and Society Steward, and the debt was comfortably cleared by 2003, demonstrating the great generosity of the congregation and their friends.

We currently have 70 families on our list, a Sunday School of about 30, a Bible Study group, a Bowling Club, and a retired persons, group meeting socially. The congregation have gladly supported a number of overseas projects which needed financial help and are very fortunate in having one of our retired ministers helping with pastoral visitation. Significant numbers of new houses are rapidly filling the area between the church and the city of Lisburn, and, since 2001, some new families have joined us.

Magheragall is a tight-knit congregation, small in number, but big-hearted in its relationships with one another. Those experiencing illness, bereavement or other difficulties can be assured of loving support from the church family. The material foundations of the old church building were certainly questionable, but the spiritual foundations were rock solid, and, DV, will continue to be so.

'We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.'