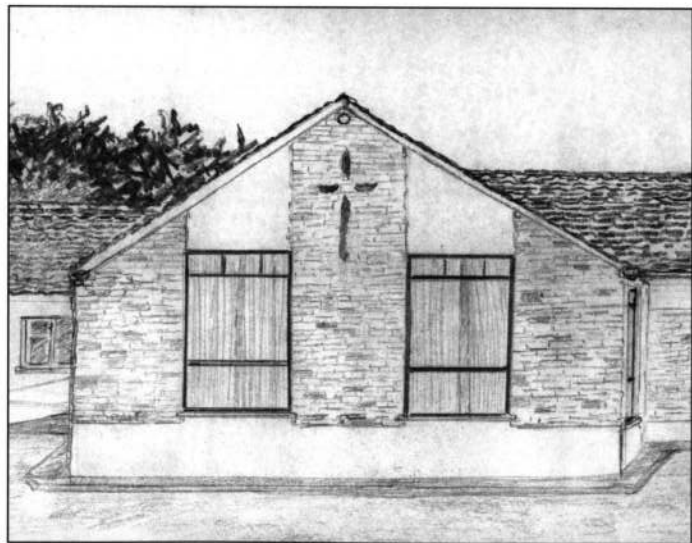


ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Elizabeth Giles



There have been many different places of worship in Skibbereen on the West Cork circuit since John Bredin introduced Methodism to the area in 1779.

For the first few years the services were held in the Courthouse. In 1783 other preaching places were made available in the area, but it was

91: Skibbereen Worship Centre

Text: Geraldine Bateman

1802 before the first Methodist chapel was built. We cannot be sure of the location of this first chapel – it was thought to have been on the quay – but we do know that another building which replaced it in 1821 was built on the same site.

There was a revival in the area soon after this and in 1833 another church was built to hold the increasing congregation of that time. This church was built with its gable end facing the street in the centre of the town. A hall was built at the rear and this was used as a private school for many years. Various repairs and alterations were made to this building all down the years, but in 2003 it was felt that, after 170 years of use and with a very

small congregation, the time was ripe for yet another move.

The church was sold, and a property was purchased on the outskirts of the town. This was converted into a worship centre with a flat at the rear. The new beginning is already showing promise with a circuit evangelist in the flat and new members in the congregation. The cross on the front of the worship centre, and some other items, were donated by the Rev Harold Good's family, and we are grateful for this and for many other expressions of interest and encouragement shown by the wider connexion to the West Cork circuit, and to Skibbereen in particular.