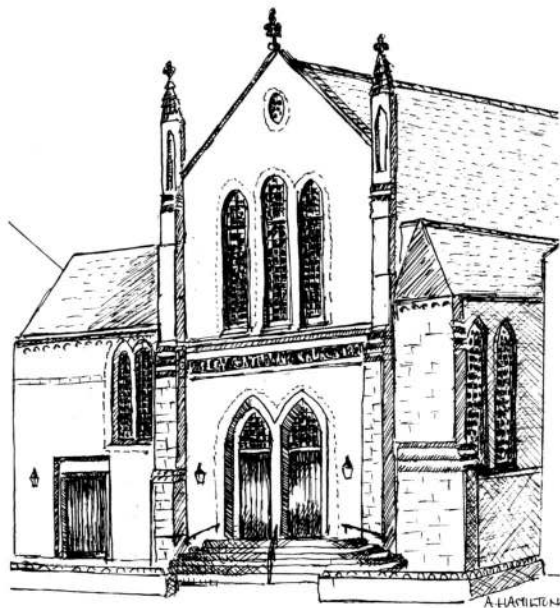


Drawing: Alan Hamilton

Text: Alan Hamilton



John Wesley never came to Bangor but Methodism did, in that in 1773 the Rev Edward Smyth, a curate in the Church of Ireland, was appointed to Ballyculter Parish in County Down. This was at the time when Methodism was an evangelical movement within the Established Church.

In 1797 New Connexion Methodism established a presence in Bangor, based on a site almost opposite the present Centenary Church.

With the opening of the railway line from Belfast in 1865 Bangor

became a popular holiday resort. The need for a Wesleyan Church was recognised and, in 1891, the centenary of John Wesley's death, the Church in Hamilton Road was opened, seating about 500. By this time Bangor had a population of 3,834 and was on the verge of rapid increase. The church had then 70 full members and five on trial.

Over the years, namely in 1917, 1924, 1964 and 1991, major building schemes were carried out, adding extensively to the existing fine building. These have provided a large hall, Minor Chapel, Minor

Hall, classrooms, kitchen, coffee bar, games room, a larger vestry and a choir room.

Faithful and committed members over the years have left us a goodly heritage. In an attempt to further the Work of God on this circuit the stewards in 1999 sought the views of the congregation by way of an extensive, detailed survey. Based on the findings we are continuing to plan for the future, and hope that the generation to follow will not find that we have been wanting in striving to extend God's Kingdom in Bangor.