

# ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray

## 18: Adare Methodist Church



John Wesley certainly visited Adare in 1756, and may possibly have come earlier. A stone marks the place near the ruin of the Franciscan Abbey where he preached to the local people. It is now in the golf course, and

annually on the first Tuesday in June the Golf Club closes to allow the Methodists to hold a field meeting, which they have been doing since 1819. A few hundred yards away in 1790 the Adare Methodists built their first

chapel. It served them for over 80 years. The site is now in the middle of a fairway.

By the 1870s the centre of the village had moved westwards as the earls of Dunraven built the cottages which have turned Adare into the prettiest village in Ireland. In 1871 a site was found on the Black Abbey Road at the far end of the village for the present Methodist Church. On 25 January 1872 the foundation stone was laid by the Countess of Dunraven, wife of the fourth Earl. It was opened for worship in the following year.

The original porch now serves as the vestry. At different dates a new smaller porch was added, and a hall built to accommodate weekday activities of the Church and community. In recent years a number of dark trees were removed, and the appearance greatly enhanced by the resurfacing of the forecourt, and the planting of a rockery.

The membership is largely made up of descendants of Irish Palatines who moved here in the 1760s, or later, from the parent settlement in Ballingrane.

**DLC**