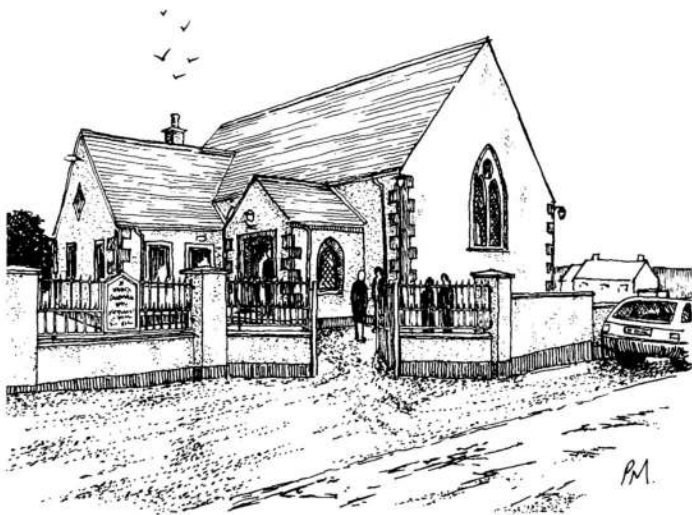


ROUND THE CHURCHES

88: Cavendoragh Methodist Church

Drawing: Peter Murray

Text: Ian Henderson



Methodism came to Cavendoragh in 1768. The area at that time was known as Drumclaph. John Smith was one of three preachers on the Augher circuit. He came and preached at Magheralough, which led to the establishment of a Methodist society there. Later the same year Smith

preached at Drumquin and at the end of the meeting asked if anyone present would consider letting him preach in their locality.

As a result he was invited to preach in the home of Mr and Mrs John Smith of Cavendoragh, who gave their lives to the Lord and became

members of the Methodist society. Their two sons, Robert and James, subsequently both became Methodist preachers.

John Wesley preached in Mr and Mrs Smith's farmyard on Monday 10 June 1771. A large crowd was present and among them was a Mrs Brown, who opened her home at Creevy to the Methodist preachers. Her two sons, George and Hugh Brown, later became itinerant Methodist preachers.

In his book *The History of Methodism in Ireland*, Charles H Crookshank says, 'For a period of 20 years this district of country was indeed "a school of prophets" giving to the Methodist ministry a host of devoted and gifted men.' In addition to the four already mentioned there were nine others: Hugh Moore, John Kerr, Thomas Kerr, Thomas Owens, John Harper, Matthew Stewart, Andrew Hamilton,

Senior, Robert McCoy and Samuel Steele. In more recent times Hugh Moore and William Moore became Methodist preachers from Cavendoragh.

The Cavendoragh Methodist society met originally in an old schoolhouse. The present church was built a short distance away on a site donated by Mr John Smith and opened for worship in 1868. In September 2005 the church underwent major renovation, including the addition of a kitchen, toilets and extra car parking space. The newly-refurbished building was dedicated by the President of the Church, the Rev Desmond C Bain. It is the hope of the present congregation that this will herald a new and challenging chapter for the 'school of prophets' as the present members seek to witness in faith, prayer and worship within their community.