

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: JH Flack

24: Cloughjordan Methodist Church



The village of Cloughjordan in North Tipperary is located in the middle of a triangle formed by the roads linking Nenagh, Roscrea and Birr. It owes its origin to the Cromwellians. In 1654 the land was granted to one Col James Harrison, who built the village, and peopled it with former soldiers of the Cromwellian army. As Cloughjordan

had their Church at Garrane, about two miles away in another direction, until the last years of the 19th century. The leader of the Methodists in Cloughjordan was Christopher Tidd, JP, friend of Adam Averell.

The first preaching-house stood on an awkward site in the middle of the village, jutting into the main street where it broadened

grew, the old village of Modreeny about two miles away declined.

The first Methodist preaching-house here was built at some date between 1790 and 1794, and was the first place of worship ever built in the village. Until 1830 the Church of Ireland parish church remained at Modreeny, and the Roman Catholics

into the marketplace. In 1873 it was demolished, and the acquisition of some extra ground behind the site enabled the present church to be built so as not to break the line of the street. The design was by AB Milne CE of Birr, and the interesting feature of a batter to the walls gives it a comfortable as well as handsome appearance. The building was opened for worship on 13 August 1875 and on the following Sunday when the preachers were the Revs William Guard Price, and Wesley Guard. A hall was built adjoining the back of the church at the same time, and this has subsequently been enlarged. The total cost of the original scheme was £700. Electricity was installed in 1911, using a local source of supply, and it was not until the 1950s that the village was connected to the national grid.

The church was among the first to adopt Christian Endeavour as a significant feature of its youth work, which made it as well known outside Methodism as inside. The original circuit comprising the Cloughjordan and Borrisokane societies is now a very active part of the North Tipperary circuit.