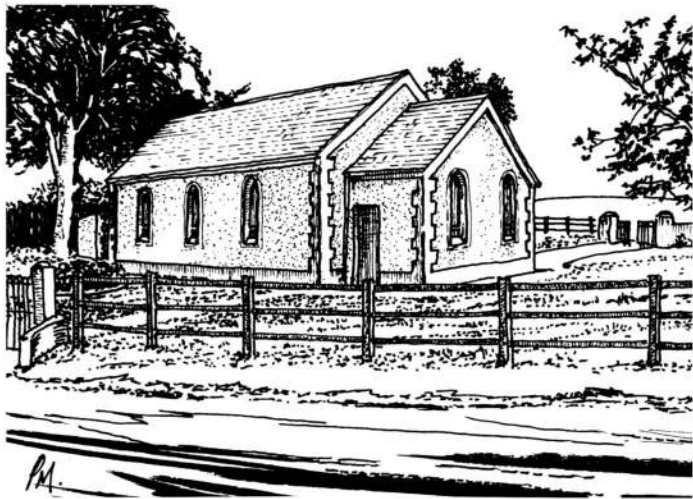


ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray



Creagh Methodist Church is one of five on the Fivemiletown circuit. It was originally Primitive Wesleyan Methodist, growing out of a class meeting led by Mr Robert Wilson in his

farmhouse. He then started a Sunday School, also in his house, in 1876 – with 9 teachers and 99 children!

That same year land was bought at Creagh Crossroads to

56: Creagh Methodist Church

Text: Daphne Twinem

build a church at a cost of less than £200! It was opened in 1877 as part of the Maguiresbridge circuit, under the ministry of the Rev George Robinson. With the union of the Primitive Wesleyan and Wesleyan branches of Methodism in 1878, Fivemiletown became a circuit in its own right, with Creagh one of its societies.

Robert Wilson's family are still members of Creagh society. His grandson Stanley has been the Society Steward for over 40 years; his great-grandson Paul is a Local Preacher; and great-great-granddaughter Sarah is the latest addition to the congregation: in church every week since she was a month old!

The church was modernised in 1995, when electricity and

water were laid on, and a new roof and kitchen built. The, small regular congregations keep the building and grounds in excellent condition. There is a weekly Sunday School and service, with a monthly family service planned and led mainly by members of the congregation. The highlight of the church year for the mainly farming community is the harvest weekend. Other annual events include a Tea-meeting, and a barbecue in aid of Tear Fund. There is also a weekly Bible Study in one of the homes with a regular attendance of 18-20.

Other neighbours are given a warm welcome at both the Sunday services and the Bible Study. The society maintains a strong and enthusiastic witness in the area.