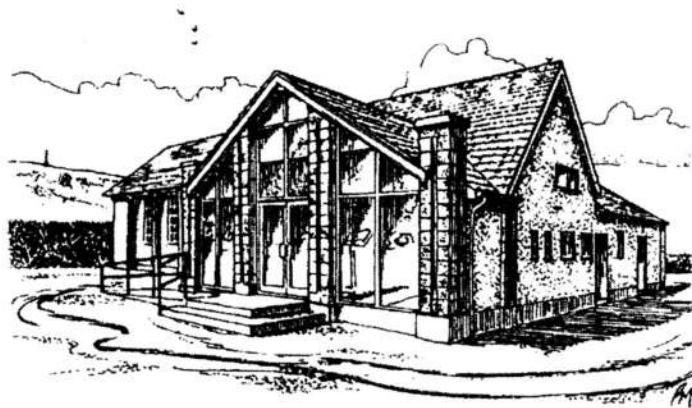


# ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray



In the early 1950s Greenisland was a sleepy dormitory village with no Methodist church. The Northern Ireland Housing Trust began building here, thus bringing an influx of people from Belfast – mainly young people with growing families.

The leaders of the Carrickfergus Methodist Church saw this as an opportunity for outreach and service to the

community. Many staunch Methodist families lived in the area – the names Ardill, Cole, Jones, Hainon, Kerr, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Miller and Montgomery prominent among them. Sunday evening services were started in the Unionist Hall, Station Road, and a Sunday School commenced in the home of Mr and Mrs Morton.

## 98: Greenisland Methodist Church

Text: Bill McFarland

The Rev Frederic A Tomlinson, a retired Methodist minister from England, took pastoral care and became greatly loved by those with whom he came in contact. Under his leadership the new venture flourished and it was decided to search for a suitable site on which to build a church and halls for youth and community work.

Initially the Housing Trust offered a site in the centre of the estate, but the committee wanted a site to serve the whole of Greenisland. Edwin Jones, a committee member, had occasion to talk to Sam Logan, who owned the garage at Whiteabbey. He told Sam that the Methodists were looking for a site for a new church in Greenisland. After a moment Sam Logan replied, 'I'll give you one. I have just

bought Corra Linn, a large house on Station Road. It has two acres and I only want half.' Edwin was astonished. Plans were drawn to build a church hall on the site. Sam Close, a bricklayer from Carrickfergus, Hugh Greer, a carpenter from Ballynure, John Buchanan, an electrician, and Sam McCune, a plumber, all gave their services free. The work was completed within 18 months without one penny being spent on wages. The opening and dedication of the Church Hall took place on 6 December 1958.

Since then we have had 14 ministers. We have an active Sunday School and a Girls' Brigade. There are a bowling club and many other activities during the week. A successful choir works under the gifted leadership of our organist, Dorothy White.