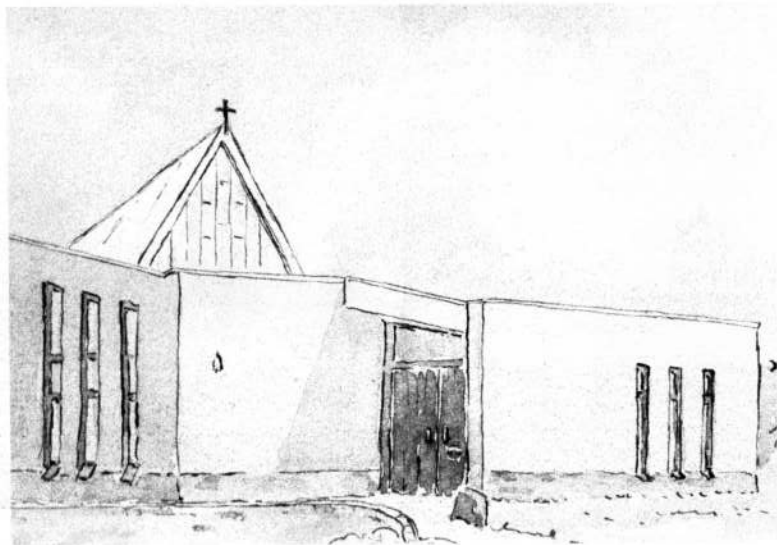


ROUND THE CHURCHES

83: Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown

Drawing: Sam Irvine

Text: Joan Trew



It is exactly 40 years ago since the first Methodist congregation in Monkstown met together for worship, on Sunday, 3 October 1965.

Worship was held in what the congregation came to call the 'Upper

Room'. This consisted of two rooms above shops on the Jordanstown Road.

From the beginning it has been a joint scheme, sharing premises with the Church of Ireland.

When the new buildings were opened

in 1969/70 the Church of Ireland was responsible for building the church and the Methodists the church halls. The halls were opened and dedicated by the Rev R D E Gallagher on 1 November 1969, and the church on 25 April 1970 by Bishop Arthur Butler.

Over the years relationships between the two Churches at times were good, but sadly on occasions they were difficult and strained.

The signing of the Covenant between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland provided an opportunity for us to become a single united congregation.

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Monkstown is no longer just a Joint Scheme, but a Local Covenant Partnership church, united in every aspect of our work.

It is the church's vision, as we look to the future, to be one flock under one shepherd, united in mission in Monkstown as the Holy Spirit leads us.