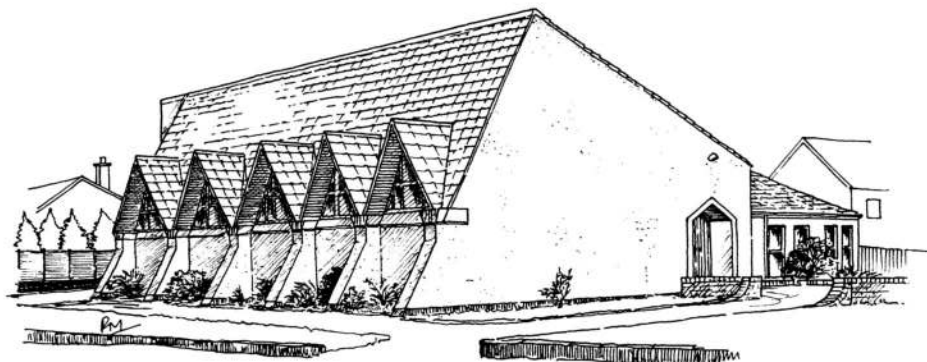


# ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray

## 26: Christ Church Primacy Methodist and Church of Ireland Bangor



Christ Church, Primacy, was formally opened and dedicated on Saturday 12 November 1983 by the Rev Cecil Newell, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Right Rev RHA Eames, Bishop of Down and Dromore. The Church buildings are shared by the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church. The Methodist Service of Worship follows the Morning Prayer of the Church of Ireland and the evening service is shared, both ministers taking part in the conduct of worship.

The first service of the new Methodist

congregation took place in the Manse in Rosinver Gardens, Bangor, on Sunday 11 September 1983. It was conducted by the Rev Ian Truesdale, and including him, some children and the Rev Wilfred Stafford, who attended to lend his support, there were twelve people present. When it was remembered that Christ began his Church with twelve followers it was felt that the number was appropriate. By the time the new church building was opened about 25 people were attending and after November 1983 the numbers grew steadily.

Very soon organisations were set up to meet the needs of the people from this rapidly developing area of Bangor south of the Ring Road. A Sunday School was opened and youth organisations established. There was an obvious need to provide extended accommodation and a new suite of halls was opened on Saturday 21 June 1997 by the Rev Dr Norman Taggart, President of the Methodist Church In Ireland, and the Right Rev Harold Millar, Bishop of Down and Dromore. The halls are in daily use by all the organisations and also provide a resource for the community as a venue for a pre-school play group each morning.

Like most new ventures, in its seventeen years the Church at Primacy has had its ups and downs. It hasn't been easy financially but through the generous giving of the congregation the situation is improving. Many of the congregation have had little background and grounding in Methodism and they are indebted to those ministers who have helped them understand the teaching of our Church. The relationship with our sister Church – the Church of Ireland – is warm and harmonious.

**Elizabeth Todd**