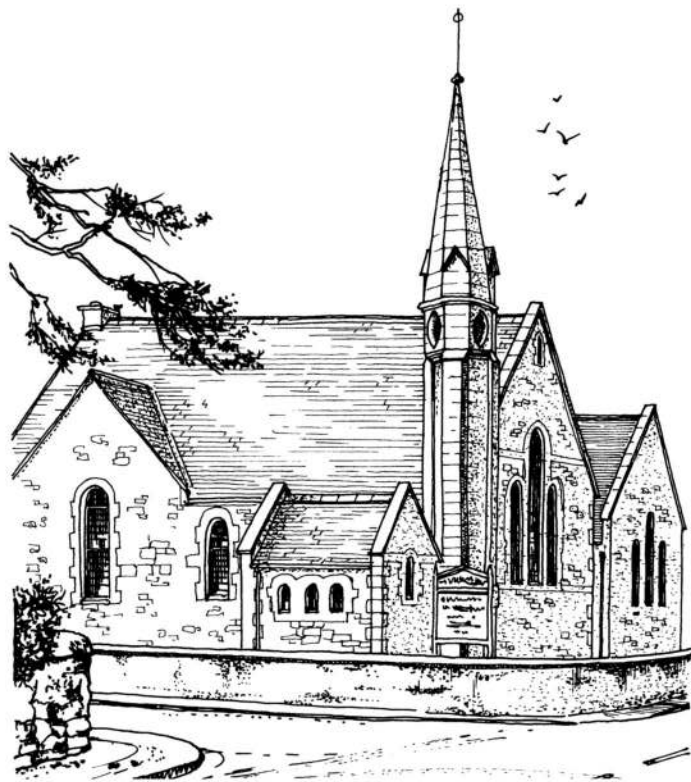


ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray

40: Sutton Methodist Church

Text: Dudley Levistone Cooney



In the middle of the 19th century a considerable number of fishermen from Scotland, the Isle of Man, Cornwall and other parts of England were in the habit of coming to Howth each year for the herring fishing. The Scots were Presbyterian, and the majority of the Manx and Cornish men were Methodist. Samuel McComas of the Abbey Street circuit in Dublin and a number of others came together in 1863 to build the Mariners' Hall on the West Pier at Howth, and here for some years services were held for the fishermen of all denominations and any others who cared to attend. It was not very long before the Trustees gave the responsibility for these services to the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Dublin, the Church of Ireland already having a church in Howth.

In 1901 the Presbyterians built a church at Howth, and

towards the end of that year the Methodists secured a site for another at Sutton. George Beckett prepared a design for a chapel, hall and manse, but only the chapel was built. Opened in 1904, in the early years it was known as Howth Methodist Church. The Methodists then ceased to use the Mariners' Hall, which still stands, but in other use. In 1929 a hall was built, but to a different design from that of Beckett.

Originally supplied by a retired minister, in 1934 it was agreed with the Special Evangelistic Agency that the Superintendent of Open Air Work should take part-time care of Sutton, and a manse was built for him, again not to the original design. The link continued until 1968. A year later ancillary rooms were added to link the church and hall, and these were further extended in 1987.