

ROUND THE CHURCHES

Drawing: Peter Murray

18: Whiteabbey Methodist Church



Whiteabbey Methodist Church is located on the shore of Belfast Lough, just north of Belfast, having a beautiful view across the lough to the County Down coast, but it has not always been on this site.

Evidence of a community of Methodists in Whiteabbey go back to the late 18th and early 19th century, but it was not until 1901 that the Revd William Maguire,

afternoon service, 50 at the midweek service and around 100 at the Sunday School.

For over 30 years Whiteabbey was an outpost of the North Belfast Mission with no permanent church building. In 1935 the Revd J W Stutt, who succeeded the Revd W Maguire, began to plan for a more permanent centre in Whiteabbey. And so in 1936 the present church was built, opened and

Superintendent of the North Belfast Mission, organised the purchase of a piece of land in Jordanstown, on which a wooden hall was built. This served a worshipping community of around 100 at an

dedicated on 6 June by the President of the Conference, the Revd W C Jackson.

In 1968 a new hall was opened, replacing the Nissen Hut which had served well. The President of the Church, the Revd R D E Gallagher, conducted the act of dedication.

Over the years there had been problems with damp at the front wall of the church due to its exposure to the elements coming up Belfast Lough. So in 1992 a new front was added to the church to solve this problem, enhancing its appearance.

The present congregation is looking to see how it can be most effective within the community, building its own fellowship and seeking to enhance its relationship with other local congregations. Part of this is preparing for the forthcoming millennium celebrations, as we look forward to celebrating our Saviour together.