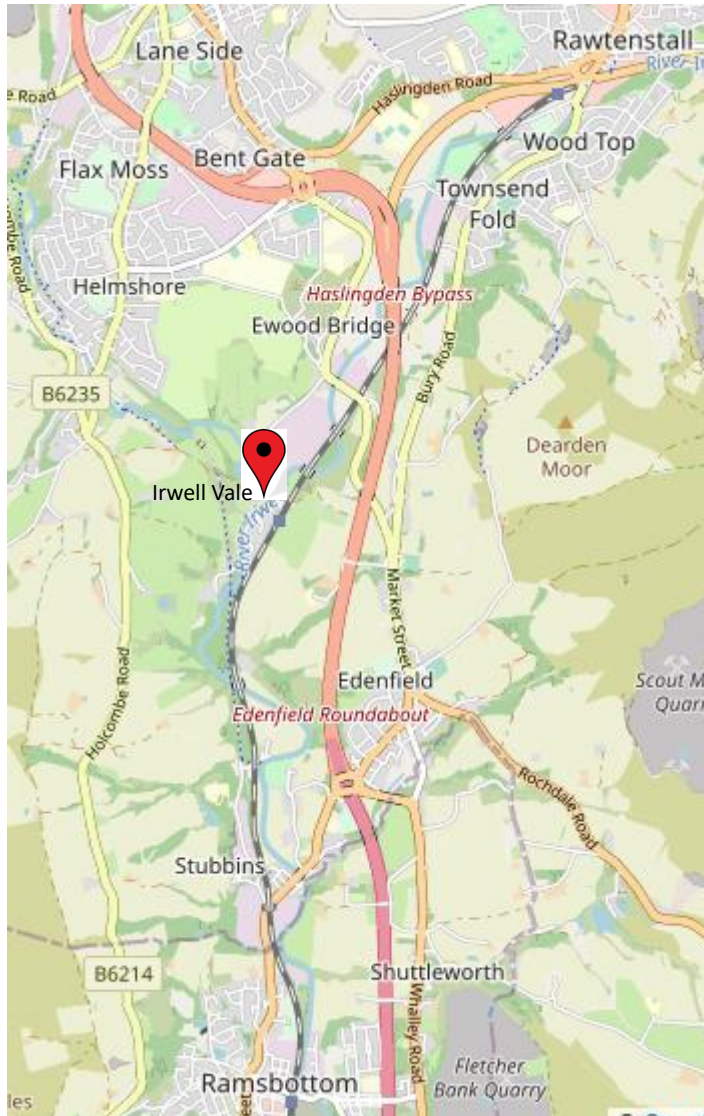


Irwell Vale Primitive Methodist Chapels

Supplementary Information to [MPM](#)



Acknowledgement: OpenStreetMap

Irwell Vale lies alongside the river Irwell about a mile north west of Edenfield and about six miles north of Bury.

First chapel

1835: William Butterfield, Class Leader, provided an 1851 Census Return (above) for a 'Place of Public Religious Worship' in Irwell Vale that he says was erected in 1835 with seating for 140 (on the census date, attendance in the afternoon was 40 adults and 112 scholars). Was this the 'old wooden mill' mentioned above?

No Primitive Methodist building is labelled on the [1844-7 6" OS map](#).

1848: Bury Archives hold 'Plan and correspondence only' for Irwell Vale Primitive Methodist Church for the period 1848 to 1954 (CIV).

1851: A Census Return was provided for the chapel (see above).

Second chapel

1853: The Primitive Methodists then built a chapel on the south-east side of the river close to the Irwell Vale Bridge. It can be seen on the [1891 25" OS map](#) and scales at about 43 feet x 36 feet. This building still exists; I cannot read the date-stone from Google Street View but presumably it was built in 1853 as mentioned above.

1861: The *Bury Times* reported on 8 June:

Camp Meeting at Irwell Vale. – On Sunday last, very interesting out-door services were conducted by the Primitive Methodist Societies of Irwell Vale, Ramsbottom, Edenfield, and Summerseat, in a field near Alderbottom [just over ½ mile west of Edenfield]. The attendance was good considering the state of the weather, and no doubt the attendance would have been very large had the day been fine.'

1867: The chapel is not listed in the 1867 List of Places for Public Religious Worship.

1893/4: The [1908 25" OS map](#) shows the chapel divided into three sections – presumably this division into the three 'cottages' mentioned above took place after the opening of the 1893/4 chapel.

Third chapel

1893: The foundation stones of this chapel were laid in 1893. The chapel can be seen on the [1908 25" OS map](#) off Bowker Street and Milne Street; it scales at about 51 feet x 31 feet.

1940: The chapel was listed in the [1940 Methodist Church Buildings Report](#) Districts 'B', Circuit 228 Bury and Ramsbottom. The following information was provided:

Irwell Vale: made of stone; seating 250; pews; no hall and one other room.

The chapel building still exists; its postal address is Bowker Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, BL0 0QQ.