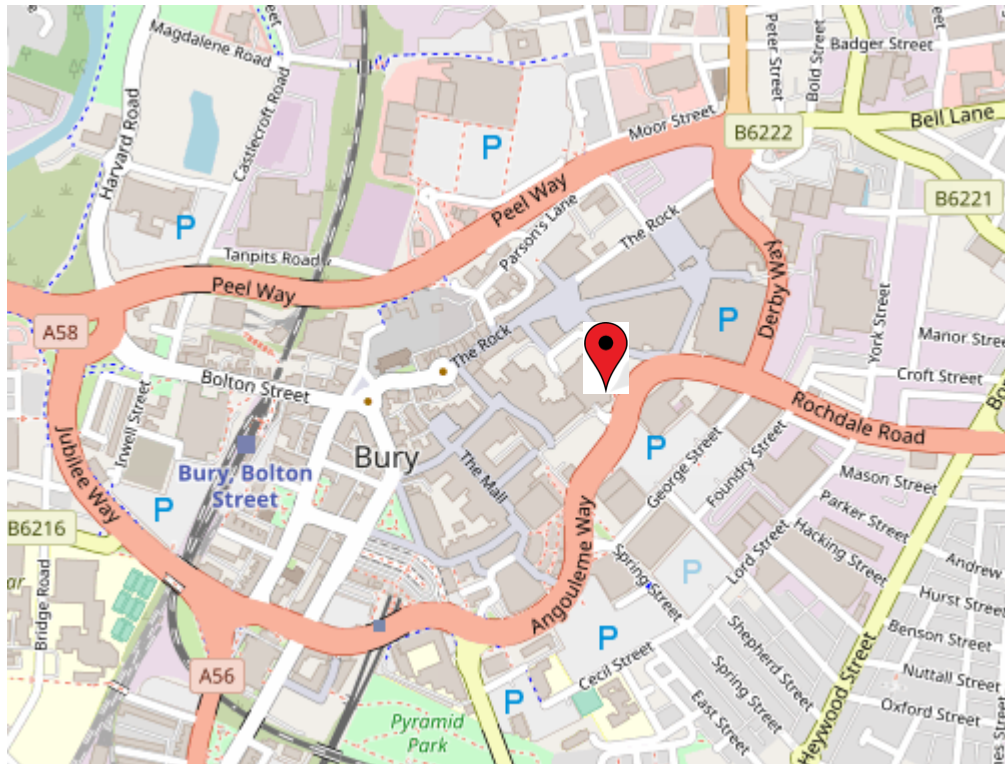


# Bury William Street Primitive Methodist chapel

(suggested revised title)

Supplementary Information ([MPM](#))



Acknowledgement: OpenStreetMap

**1828:** [Barrett's Directory of Bury, Heywood, etc 1883](#) p.16 Bury, states that 'The Primitive Methodists had a place of worship in William street in 1828, but this was abandoned in 1866, when the new chapel was erected in Walmsley road.'

**1829:** The [History and Directory of Mid Lancashire 1854](#), states in the Salford Hundred section, Bury entry on page 696:

‘... and the Primitive Methodist Chapel, William street, erected in 1829, and rebuilt in 1836, containing 500 sittings of which 200 are free, [Rev. Samuel Smith](#) [1854 minister].’

The *Bury Times* of 17 February 1866 reported at length on the opening of the [Walmsley Road chapel](#) built to replace the William Street chapel. The following extract describes the first society and the first chapel:

‘The society commenced its labours in Bury some forty years ago, holding its services in the open air, then in a cottage, and afterwards in a room. The plain, pointed, and earnest labours of the first preachers were rendered very effective, especially amongst the poorer classes, and as a consequence the room soon became too small for the increasing congregation. In 1829, the William-street chapel, now vacated, was built,

the late [Rev. J. Verity](#) being the superintendent of the Bolton circuit, to which circuit Bury then belonged. Neither preacher nor people possessed much architectural skill, and very little pecuniary means, their main idea being to secure a place large enough in which to worship. When built, the chapel was a very poor and inconvenient one, with a crushing debt upon it. The society had however kept together, and is believed to have accomplished a vast amount of good; for while hundreds had been benefited therein, they had found more comfortable houses in other places of worship in the town and elsewhere.'

The chapel can be seen on the [1847 OS Town Plan](#), and scales at about 42 feet x 31 feet, with a back room 20 feet x 14 feet.

**1836:** Chapel was rebuilt (see 1829 entry above).

**1836-7:** The Bury Archives hold baptism registers for 1836-7 (RG4/810)

**1850:** [Heap's 1850 Trade Directory](#) Part 1, page vii: Bury: under 'Places of Worship':

'Primitive Methodist, William Street – [Rev. Stephenson Stobbs](#)'.

And on page ix under 'Clergy': Stobbs, Rev. Stephenson, 68 George street

**1851:** The minister, Thomas King, provided a Census Return for the chapel (see above).

**1858:** From the *Bury Times* of 29 May:

'PRIMITIVE METHODISTS, William-street School. No. of scholars, 210; teachers 25.'

**1860:** From the *Bury Times* of 26 May and 23 June:

'TO BE DISPOSED OF, suitable for a Ragged School without further outlay, the PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, William-street, Bury; and FOUR COTTAGES attached. The cottages alone bring in £26 yearly rent and the ground rent is only£4 5s. for the whole per annum. ... The above chapel would also be suitable for a store for dry goods. Parties wishing to purchase for any benevolent purpose will meet with a favourable response on the part of the trustees.'

**1866:** From the *Bury Times* of 6 January:

'PRIMITIVE METHODIST TEA PARTY. -- On New Year's Day, the annual tea party and entertainment was held in connection with the Primitive Methodist chapel, William-street, Bury. About 270 persons sat down to an excellent tea. After tea, the [Rev. J. Mould](#), minister of the place, occupied the chair, and congratulated the audience on the advanced state of the building of the new chapel, and said that they hoped to occupy the place in about two months. The entertainment consisted of ...'

Presumably therefore the attempt to sell the old chapel in 1860 had been unsuccessful.

The *Bury Times* report of 17 February 1866 (see 1826-29 above) says that the William Street chapel was vacated when the new Walmersley Street chapel opened.

**1867:** Both the William Street chapel and the Walmersley Street chapel were listed in the [1867 List of Places for Public Religious Worship, Lancashire No. 23](#).

By the time of the 1890 25" OS map, the chapel building had been demolished.

The site is now under the east corner of the Millgate Shopping Centre Parkade, BL9 0JX.