

Heywood Mount Pleasant Primitive Methodist chapel, Bank Street

Supplementary Information ([MPM](#))

1825: Earliest missionaries came from Bolton, nine miles away. Open air services were replaced by meetings in two cellars under a cottage in Spinner's Row, Bury Street.

1828: According to the *Heywood Advertiser* of 26 May 1871, the first Heywood Society and Sunday school were started.

1829: Mr John Kershaw, a mill-owner, built them a small Sunday schoolroom known as Brook's School in Bury Street.

The *Heywood Advertiser* of 23 February 1872 reported on the opening of the new [Salem chapel in Bridge Street](#); the speaker mentioned '... the little chapel in Bury-street [1829 Brook's School], now used as a branch school of St. James's, which then held about 200 adult people. The little congregation, after this impetus [a new chapel], grew rapidly bigger, until about 1835, it could squeeze in no longer, and so set about building another house ... in Bank-street.'

1835: "A large and commodious chapel and school" called 'Mount Pleasant' were opened in Bank Street as part of the Bolton Circuit, under the superintendence of [Rev. Mr. Tillotson](#) [who was stationed in Bolton 1831-37].

According to the [1851 Census Return](#), the chapel building had three level:

- 'The above room is for Divine Worship
- The middle is for a Sunday-school
- and beneath are two cottages.'

The chapel seated 266 with room for another 60 standing. Average adult attendance was 80 in the afternoon and 100 in the evenings; the Sunday school had 100 scholars in the afternoon and, unusually, 60 in the evening.

The chapel (entitled 'Mount Pleasant Chapel') can be seen on the [1848 ¹/₁₀₅₆ OS Town Plan](#); it scales at about 36' x 49'. The Plan shows the layout of windows and some of the internal details including the gallery.

1850: [Heap's 1850 Trade Directory](#) Part 3, page 66: the entry for Heap, the name given to Heywood and the surrounding area:

Under 'Places of Worship': 'Primitive Methodist Chapel, Bank Street'

According to the *Heywood Advertiser* of 26 May 1871, when [Rev. J. Mould](#) spoke at the foundation stone laying of the Bridge Street Chapel: 'He remembered preaching in their old

chapel in Bank-street, some 21 years ago [1850] when they thought they had made vast improvements and extension by the formation of a gallery.'

1851: A Census Return (as mentioned above) was made on behalf of the then minister, [Rev. Joseph Mosby](#), who lived at 2 Bury Street.

1856: The first newspaper report about the Bank Street school was in the *Heywood Advertiser* on 19 April: 'The annual school sermons on behalf of the Primitive Methodist school, Heywood, were preached on Sunday last ...'

1857: The chapel was first mentioned in the 26 September edition of the same paper.

1858: The name 'Primitive Methodist Chapel, Mount Pleasant, Heywood' was first used in the 25 September edition of same paper.

1859: Financial problems led to the chapel being 'placarded with bills advertising its sale'. £200 was raised in fourteen days and a loan offered so that the mortgage could be paid off.

1860: The *Heywood Advertiser* on 25 February carried the following report:

'PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL. – We are glad to find from a notice on the walls of our town that the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Heywood, which, on account of embarrassment, had been announced for sale by auction, is not to be sold; a sum sufficient to stay the hand of the auctioneer having been raised. Still, we believe there is room for the exercise of benevolence on the part of those so disposed, and having the ability. It is well-known that the Primitive Methodists have, as a body, been eminently useful in the promotion of morality and religion, and are entitled to proportionate consideration and support.'

The *Heywood Advertiser* on 14 April 1860 made the first reference to 'The Primitive Methodists, Bank-street, Wrigley Brook, Heywood' – their annual tea party held on Good Friday. Wrigley Brook is the name given to a stretch of the River Roch less than half a mile north of the chapel.

1864: Continuing Rev. Mould's words from the 1850 entry above: 'He remembered visiting them too seven years ago [ie, 1864], when the place was in bad repair, and they were about spending £60 on it.'

1866: The *Heywood Advertiser* on 14 April reported at length on the Bank Street Chapel bazaar (which ran from Wednesday to Saturday) 'for the purpose of clearing off the debt The debt on the chapel amounts to about £300. ... The stalls (nine in number, including a refreshment stall) were well furnished with a varied and extensive collection of articles of a useful and ornamental character. ... Since the opening, the bazaar has been liberally patronised by the public, the receipts on Wednesday amounting to £95, and on Thursday to £60.'

1867: A chapel (probably this chapel but could have been the recently purchased [Miller Street chapel](#)) appears on the [1867 List of Places for Public Religious Worship, Lancashire No. 61](#).

1871: [Worrall's Directory of Bury, Bolton and district](#): p. 169, Heywood Places of Worship and their Ministers: Methodist (Primitive) Chapels: Bank street and Miller street.

The 1871 Census shows the Bank Street chapel minister, [Rev John Hill](#) (my wife's great grandfather) living at 88 Bury Street; this building is now the Beaconsfield Conservative Club.

In the same year, the Bank Street premises became inadequate so a site for a larger chapel was secured in Bridge Street; the foundation stone for a new church and school was laid on 20 May 1871. Extended reports appeared in two local papers; from the *Heywood Advertiser* of 26 May 1871:

'The growth of Primitive Methodism in Heywood has for the last year or two rendered extended accommodation necessary, especially in the Sunday School department. ... They therefore decided to abandon their old chapel in Bank-street, and to erect a more convenient and spacious one ...'

Activities continued at the Bank-street chapel in 1871, according to the *Heywood Advertiser*:

- 22 September reported on anniversary services
- 13 October reported on the annual tea meeting
- 24 November reported on the annual meeting of the Heywood Branch of the Primitive Methodist Missionary Society.

1872: The *Heywood Advertiser* of 26 April contained the following advertisement:

'TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

At the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, Bank-street, Heywood, ... on WEDNESDAY the 1st day of MAY, 1872, ...

All that plot of land situated in Bank-street ... containing in the whole 726 superficial square yards or thereabouts.

And also all that erection or building ... lately occupied as a Chapel by the Primitive Methodists ... with rooms under the same.

And also all the pews, boiler and pipes for heating the Chapel and School, boiler for heating water, gas meter, pipes, and fittings ... together with about 60 yards of good flag fencing. ...'

1873: The new Bridge Street school was opened on 9 March 1873. The *Rochdale Observer* of 6 March reported:

'These schools, which are situated in Bridge-street, were formally opened with a tea-party on Saturday afternoon ... Rev. J. Hill read a long list of contributions to the new

chapel and school, amounting to over £800 ... Besides this amount they hoped to realise some £400 by the sale of the old chapel, ...'

This suggests that the auction in May 1872 was unsuccessful.

The site of the chapel lies in front of and under 24 Bank Street, OL10 4QH.