

Heywood Salem Primitive Methodist Chapel

Supplementary Information ([MPM](#))

1825: Earliest missionaries came to Heywood 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: 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.

1835: "A large and commodious chapel and school" called '[Mount Pleasant](#)' were opened in Bank Street as part of the Bolton Circuit.

1871: The Bank Street premises became inadequate so a site 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:

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, at an estimated cost of about £1,600, towards which they had in hand about £400. A suitable site was purchased at Wrigley Brook, Bury-street, and the corner-stone of the new edifice was laid on Saturday last. ... All connected with the event assembled on the spot [the Bank-street chapel], and from thence walked in procession through the principal streets, headed by the Hopwood Brass Band. ... Several very handsome silk banners were displayed ... [after a short service], the Rev. J. Hill mounted the stone, and displayed a glass bottle, which he explained contained a copy of the *Heywood Advertiser*, a Primitive Methodist Journal, a list of the stations in the Manchester District, a plan of the Bury Circuit, a circular appealing for help to build the chapel, a list of the trustees and the officials of the Sunday School, and the number of teachers and scholars.

The Chairman [spoke] ... The new building would be two stories high. On the ground floor there would be seven classrooms and four vestries – one for the minister, one for the singers, and two others. Over these would be a large assembly room, the largest in the circuit. ... The chapel was estimated to seat about 500 persons. It would be built in the old fashioned style, with a gallery running round three sides, thus making the most of their space.'

The *Bury Times* of 27 May 1871:

‘In the proposed building the promoters do not seek architectural beauty, but the building will give increased room, more light, and a purer atmosphere than can be obtained in the present building.’

1872: The new Salem chapel in Bridge Street was opened on 22 February 1872, an event reported at length by the *Heywood Advertiser* of 23 February. Here are some extracts:

‘an elegant and spacious edifice. ... 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 [the new chapel], grew rapidly bigger, until about 1835, it could squeeze in no longer, and so set about building another house, the one just vacated in Bank-street. [The speaker then described the financial problems given above, and the raising of necessary funds]. [The site of the new chapel] has a frontage of 22 yards, and runs back 57 ... The building stands 30 feet back from the parapet. Its architecture is simple, but the dressed stone facings, heavy cornice, and variegated windows dispel the charge of plainness. The interior is light, airy and comfortable, the walls being white, and the woodwork of varnished pine, the open pews or benches massive and slightly ornamented. It will seat 500 people, besides 22 in the choir. The pulpit is rather unique, combining with its ordinary purpose the accommodation of a platform, sufficiently large to seat the several ministers who may be expected to take part in any special occasion. The evening light is supplied by a pair of very brilliant sunlight chandeliers, and the entire building is fitted, at a cost of £83, with Harlow’s patent hot water apparatus. The Sunday school is behind the chapel, under the same roof, and contains unusual conveniences. First, and opening out of the chapel, are two vestries, one for the minister and the other for the singers, with two above. Then there are, on the ground floor, seven class rooms, six being about twelve feet square, and the remaining one large enough for use for weeknight service, for which purpose it is intended. Above these is the assembly room, about fifty feet by thirty feet, containing platform and other needful accommodation. It is said to be the largest in the circuit, and is very light and cheerful. The cost of the whole building, including enclosure walls, palisading, and general finish, is expected to be about £2,000. The money in hand, promised, and expected from the sale of the old building, and the opening services, is hoped to amount to about £1,300.’

The [1890 OS 1-to-500 Town Plan](#) shows the church and Sunday School; they scale at 39’ x 58’ and 32’ x 50’ respectively.

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, in the large school-room, which is capable of containing some 400 persons. ... 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, ...'

1883: Heywood was constituted a separate circuit. According to [Barrett's Directory of Bury, Heywood, etc 1883](#) p.248 Heywood, states that 'The Primitive Methodist Chapel, Bridge Street, was built in 1871; another chapel belonging to this body is situated in [Miller Street](#).' On p.278 the minister is given as Rev. John Whittle, 41 Bury New road.

1909: The Bridge Street School was demolished to make way for a larger building.

1910: A new Bridge Street School with seventeen classrooms was opened. It is shown on the [1927/8 25" OS map](#) as an irregular shaped building scaling at about 67' x 78'.

1940: The chapel was listed in the [1940 Methodist Church Buildings Report](#) Districts 'B', Circuit 224 Heywood (Central). The following information was provided:

Bridge Street: made of brick; seating 400; pews; one hall and fifteen other

The site of the chapel is now occupied by Bridgewood Lodge, Margaret Street, OL10 3HE, and its gardens, and next to No. 91 Bridge Street, OL10 1JG.