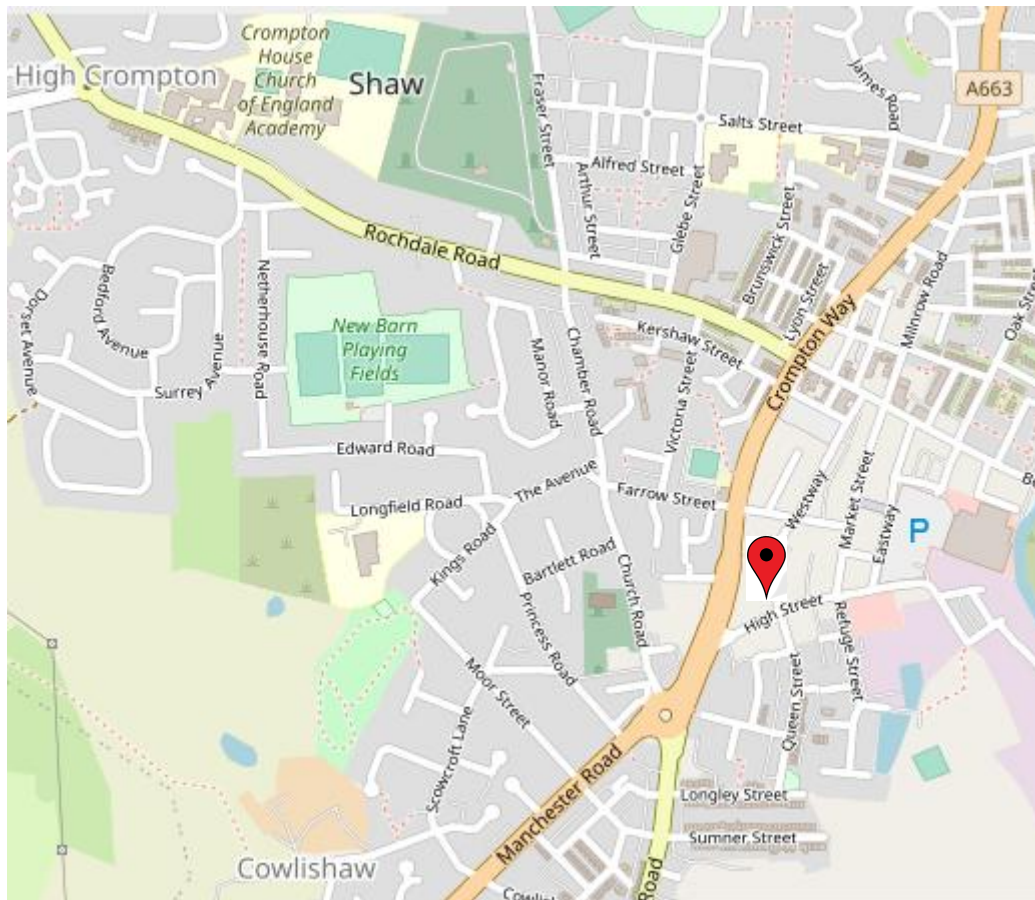


Shaw Refuge Street Primitive Methodist chapels, near Rochdale



Acknowledgement: OpenStreetMap

Shaw lies 3½ miles SE of Rochdale and 2 ½ miles NNE of Oldham. A comprehensive description of Shaw and Crompton can be found on [Wikipedia](#). The manufacture of textiles can be traced back to 1474, firstly based on wool and then, with the Industrial Revolution, on cotton.

In 1870-72, John Manus Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* (in '[A Vision of Britain](#)') described Shaw like this:

‘SHAW, a village and a chapelry in Prestwich parish, Lancashire. The village stands on the river Beal, near the Oldham and Rochdale railway,; is a large place, with well edified and well-paved streets; presents a neat and clean appearance; carries on industry in cotton mills and in other establishments Pop. in 1861, 3,618. Houses, 767. ... A new church [Church of England] ... was founded in 1869.’

1835: According to the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society website: St. Paul's Methodist Church, Shaw, '[1811-1961 Anniversary Booklet, A Brief History](#)': ‘The [Primitive Methodist] building in Refuge Street dates from 1835.’

1844-48: The chapel can be seen on the [1844-48 6" OS map](#) labelled 'Prim. Meth.st Chapel'. Refuge Street did not exist and the roads are unnamed.

1851: This website does not hold a census return for this chapel.

1867: The [1867 Registrar-General's List of Places for Public Religious Worship: Lancashire](#) includes

'No. 107: Shaw, Miln Row Road, Preaching room, Oldham Registration District'.

Travelling north from the chapel, Refuge Street becomes Market Street north of the junction with High Street and Greenfield Lane; further north, Market Street becomes Milnrow Road.

1870: The *Rochdale Observer* of 17 December reported on 'a panoramic entertainment' given in the Primitive Methodist schoolroom, Greenfield, Shaw. The subjects of illustration were Bible incidents.' Where was the schoolroom? 'Greenfield' may just refer to the area around Greenfield Lane, which would include the chapel. Was there a schoolroom below the chapel?

1872: The *Rochdale Observer* of 30 March reported on 'PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL, SHAW. – Last Saturday a tea-party took place in this school, the proceeds of which will be devoted towards the erection of a new school in lieu of the present one.'

1877: The [Preaching Plan for the 4th quarter, Oldham 1st Circuit](#) shows the following Places: Henshaw Street [Oldham], Shore Edge, Chadderton [Middleton Road], Royton [probably [Oldham Road](#) rather than [Fir Lane](#)], [North Moor](#), Middleton Road [Royton], Shaw [Refuge Street] and Ashton Road ['Bethel', Copster Hill Road]. There were two Sunday services at Shaw, at 2.30 and 6, both services led by the same lay preacher apart from one week when one of the two circuit ministers took both, and another two weeks when the other minister took the afternoon service. There were also fortnightly Tuesday evening meetings led by one of the ministers.

1891: The chapel can be seen on the [1891 1-to-500 Town Plan](#) labelled 'Meth. Chapel (Primitive) (Seats for 150)'. It stands in Refuge Street near the junction with High Street, Market Street and Greenfield Lane. The chapel scales at 37' x 30' and occupies a site about 60' x 53'.

About 1900: The [1907 25" OS map](#) shows that, between 1891 and 1907, the first chapel had been replaced by a new one filling the whole of the site and now labelled 'Prim. Meth. Chap.'. It scales at 58' x 51'.

1940: The [Register of Methodist Buildings](#): District 822. Oldham (Middleton Road) lists:

Shaw, Refuge Street: Primitive Methodist; Brick; 380 seats; Pews; 1 hall; 7 rooms.'

1957: According to [Genuki](#), the chapel closed in 1957.

The site is now occupied by an Aldi supermarket at 1 Refuge Street, OL2 8RH.