

Smallbridge Primitive Methodist Church

The movement started in a cottage off the main road in the 1820s.

In 1866 it moved into the old Congregationalists building in Chapel Yard; the Congregationalists having moved to a much larger building on Halifax Road.

Extracts from an article in Rochdale Observer dated 30th September 1922:

It was a mistake buying a second hand building as it was constantly needing repair. In 1918 the state of the roof was critical and was almost falling in and had to be demolished.

Ordinary activities had to be held in the schoolroom and special services were held in the Conservative Club (Egerton) at the bottom of Wardle Road.

Recently the Congregationalists celebrated their centenary and 200 people walked down to the old building, and sang a hymn and said prayers.

In a lecture in April 1916 the Reverend Herod said that the Primitive Methodists had come to Smallbridge from Manchester in 1832. For a number of years they must have worshipped alongside the other denominations in the small cottages in the village.

In 1865 they paid £500 for the old chapel which had been vacated by the Congregationalists at the end of Chapel Yard.

They stayed here until the 1920s when it became unsafe and had to be demolished.

They were quite an active group of people as can be seen from the various advertisements for Sales of Work, Tea Parties etc. in the local papers

From Genuki.....

The Primitive Methodist church was an early 19th century (1807) secession from the Wesleyan Methodist church and was particularly successful in evangelising agricultural and industrial communities at open meetings. In 1932 the Primitive Methodists joined with the Wesleyan Methodists and the United Methodists to form the Methodist Church of Great Britain.