

Religious census 1851

In addition to the usual census, a religious census was taken on Sun 30 March 1851. The forms requested the name, denomination and place of the chapel, number of seats and whether or not these were 'free' or subject to restrictions, numbers attending each service that day and an average attendance over the past year. If the building was erected after 1800 then further details of the group building it and at what cost were recorded. Finally it was noted whether or not the building was used for another purpose.

Returns for Cloughfold are included under 'Haslingden' in the National Archives (HO 129 Haslingden). Returns from the Haslingden district comprised:

- 14 Wesleyan Methodists,
- 11 C of E churches,
- 9 Particular/Calvanistic Baptist
- 7 Primitive Methodist,
- 6 Wesleyan Methodist Association,
- 4 Baptist/General Baptist,
- 3 Independent
- 2 Unitarian,
- 2 New Jerusalem Chapel
- 1 Israelites,
- 1 Roman Catholic,
- 1 Quaker.

I have transcribed the records for:

- Newchurch St Nicholas
- Zion Baptist, Cloughfold
- Bethlehem Unitarian, Newchurch
- Wesleyan Methodists, Newchurch
- Israelite Meeting Room, Newchurch

It doesn't help that there were different forms for Nonconformists and the Established Church.

St Nicholas Parochial Church Newchurch in Rossendale

Situated:

Parish or place	Whalley
Township	Newchurch in Rossendale
Superintendent registrar's district	Newchurch
County & Diocese	Lancashire, Manchester

When consecrated or licensed	12 Sept 1826
Under what circumstances	Rebuilt

In the case of a church of chapel consecrated or licensed since 1 January 1800 state:

How or by whom erected	[crossed out]
Cost, how defrayed	[blank]

How endowed	I decline answering this question
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Space available for public worship	free sittings, 227 other sittings 1273 total sittings 1500
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Estimated number of persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30, 1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	500	1020	-
Sunday Scholars	180	180	-
Total	680	1200	-

Average number of attendants - Months next preceding March 30 1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	[blank]		
Sunday Scholars			
Total			

Remarks The information sought-like obtained in question five [how endowed], coming as it does without the standing of legally constituted authority, is inquisitive and impertinent.

Signature	JB Phillips
Official Character	Incumbent
Address by Post	Newchurch in Rossendale

Zion Chapel

Name or title of place of worship Zion Chapel

Where situated

Parish or place

Cloughfold

District

Haslingden

County

Lancashire

Religious Denomination

Baptist

When erected

Erected in 1838 & 9 in lieu of one existing
before 1800

Whether a separate and
entire building

Yes

Whether used exclusively
as a place of worship
(excepting Sunday School)

Yes

Space available for public worship

Number of sittings already provided

free sittings

180, chiefly occupied by Sun Scholars

other sittings

320

free space or standing room for

-

Estimated number of persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30,
1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	188	247	gen cong 110
Sunday Scholars	165	180	
Total	353	427	

Average number of attendants - Months next preceding March 30 1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	200	270	
Sunday Scholars	190	190	
Total	-	-	

Remarks The lower column [average attendance] is filled up to the best of
out judgement but we cannot answer for exact accuracy. We have not had an
average attendance today.

Signature

William Ebenezer Jackson

Official Character

Minister

Address by post

Newchurch near Manchester

Bethlehem Chapel

Name or title of place of worship Bethlehem Chapel

Where situated

Parish or place Newchurch

District Rossendale

County Lancashire

Religious Denomination Unitarian

When erected 1808

Whether a separate and
entire building Yes

Whether used exclusively
as a place of worship
(excepting Sunday School) Yes

Space available for public worship

Number of sittings already provided

free sittings 100

other sittings 190

free space or standing room for 60

Estimated number of persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30,
1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	100	180	no service
Sunday Scholars	160	172	
Total	260	252	

Average number of attendants - Months next preceding March 30 1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	100	180	
Sunday Scholars	160	172	
Total	260	252	

Remarks A Sunday School is taught in the Chapel Bottom . Gallery will seat
about 190, free sitting and standing if filled 160.

Signature John Ashworth

Official Character Minister

Address by post Boothfold, Rossendale nr Bury, Lancashire

Newchurch Wesleyan Chapel

Name or title of place of worship Newchurch Wesleyan Chapel

Where situated

Parish or place -

District -

County Lancashire

Religious Denomination Wesleyan Methodists

When erected 1805

Whether a separate and
entire building Yes

Whether used exclusively
as a place of worship
(excepting Sunday School) Yes

Space available for public worship

Number of sittings already provided

free sittings 50

other sittings 266

free space or standing room for none

Estimated number of persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30,
1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	137	251	219
Sunday Scholars	205	205	-
Total	342	456	219

Average number of attendants - Months next preceding March 30 1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	cannot say		
Sunday Scholars	cannot say		
Total	-	-	

Remarks Scholars sittings are not included in the before
mentioned sittings

Signature James Walmsley

Official Character Trustee

Address by post Newchurch near Manchester

Israelites Meeting Room, Newchurch

Name or title of place of worship Meeting room

Where situated

Parish or place Newchurch
District Rossendale
County Lancashire
Religious Denomination Israelites
When erected before 1800
Whether a separate and
entire building Private Chapel
Whether used exclusively Yes
as a place of worship
(excepting Sunday School)

Space available for public worship

Number of sittings already provided,
free sittings all free sittings
other sittings -
free space or standing room for -

Estimated number of persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30,
1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	18	15	
Sunday Scholars	-	-	
Total	-	-	

Average number of attendants - Months next preceding March 30 1851

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
General congregation	-		
Sunday Scholars	-		
Total	-		

Remarks our place being formerly a Dwelling House separated from a
Dwelling House beneath when they were both rebuilt and repaired

Signature John Gill
Official Character Preacher or Minister
Address by post John Gill, grocer, Newchurch