

Other Churches & Religious Organisations

YMCA In addition to the recognised churches and chapels in Bacup there existed various other smaller religious groups. In 1862 the YMCA had rooms in Newchurch Rd, near Bacup station and they were one of the first groups to offer services to the destitute. These services were conducted by the town missionary Mr James Andrews, and commenced in October 1862 with only 5 people. However the numbers increased to the state of overflowing with many people not having attended a religious service for many years. Attendances dwindled when Spring with its lighter nights. Some people getting better clothing went to regular churches whilst others didn't like to be seen in their indifferent clothing. The YMCA had a reading room, library and public lecture room, with bible classes and Sunday schools for children. A ragged school was also opened for destitute children and the average attendance was about 100. The YMCA closed down in the 1890's.

The Hallelujah Band

Another group was called Hallelujah Band they came originally from Sheffield and held services in the Co-op Hall in 1866 they were all working class and in some respects were a forerunner of the Salvation Army. Their meetings were always crowded and they went through the streets singing hymns and they were most certainly unpopular with the other religious bodies in Bacup.

Unitarians

In 1864 the Unitarians began to hold services in Market Street in the rooms vacated by the Catholics. They had previously held some meetings in the public hall and built a church in Waterfoot in 1864. They continued to hold services in Bacup but failed to become established. Mormons The Mormons first came to Bacup in 1873 and in 1894 they were giving lectures in the Mechanics, but were unable to make much headway in Bacup. National Secular Society The leader of this society was a Mrs Besant, in 1880 they gave lectures in the Co-op Hall. They made very little impression.

The Blue Ribbon Mission - Gospel Temperance Mission Two branches of what was at the time a great attempt to curb the prevalence of drunkenness in the town. Many of the chapels were associated with them. There were missions at Greenend, Rockliffe, Lee Mill , in the 1890's. Most of them eventually declined or were absorbed into other religious bodies. Many of the members of these societies came for the company warmth and acceptance alongside the friendship offered.