

# Religious Census in Barton : March 31st 1851.

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Evening</u>	<u>Sunday School.</u>
Saint Peter	167	.	.	63
Saint Mary	.	148	.	57
Roman Catholic	.	.	.	.
Primitive Methodist	70	.	160	.
Wesleyan.	312	100	560	60
Congregational.	109	.	122	61
	658	248	842	241

Total C of E attendances:  
435 (of which Sunday Schools 120)

Total Non-Conformist attendances  
1545 (of which Sunday Schools 121)

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— March 31<sup>st</sup> 1851. —

The figures on the opposite page make interesting reading. Certainly as far as the Church of England was concerned, this was a black period before the religious revival of later Victorian days. It would be interesting to compare these figures with those for 1891 if they were available.

It's no wonder that Barton is reputed to have had a strong Free Church tradition, nor is it difficult to see why so many huge town Chapels were built around this time. In comparison with the present, it is in this sector that there has been such a great decline: the Anglican figures are roughly the same as for today.

Of course the Salvation Army and St Chad's were not yet in existence. The Primitive Chapel was in Newport, the Roman Catholic Church in Priestgate. The Wesleyan Chapel was on the present site, though not the same building as today. Presumably the R.C.s had no services on this day. It's notable that the expected average attendances were estimated at 2,360: more than 800 more than actually arrived.