



THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY CEMETERIES

Newsletter 3, Spring/ Summer 2015

www.fbc.btck.co.uk

ST. PETER'S CHURCH MEMORIALS



Chest Tombs



Chaffer Family Tomb



Pathway of old Headstones created in 1970

WW1 COMMEMORATIONS

As part of the commemorations the Friends are photographing and recording the Commonwealth War Graves and the graves which have family commemorations to those killed in action and buried elsewhere. When complete the information will be available at Burnley Cemetery Offices and information not already on the Burnley in the Great War Website will be added to the site.

The Friends will also work with the Western Front Association to organise guided walks at cemeteries to feature War Graves and tell the story of the war and some of the soldiers who lost their lives.

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2015 OPEN DAY

Saturday JUNE 6TH 11am to 4pm

DISPLAYS: Freshfields Enterprises, Royal British Legion Riders, Burnley Civic Trust, Trees for Burnley, Parks and Open Spaces grave stone installation crane, local Funeral Services. Plant & Heritage book sales.

Light refreshments – Cake stall – Raffle

GUIDED HERITAGE WALKS from the archway gate at the bottom of Cemetery Lane:

11.15 Molly Haines –History of Cemetery and notable headstones

12.45 - Wildlife

14.15 Roger Frost - Notable headstones and people

BURNLEY CEMETERY LANDSCAPING: At the October 1855 Cemetery Committee Messrs. A. Stansfield and Son's tender for £130, for supplying plants and shrubs and planting same was recommended to be accepted. This is an extract of Mr. Stansfield's submission taken from the Burnley Advertiser of Saturday 10th November 1855 –

A public Cemetery ought, not only to be a place for disposing of the remains of the dead so that decomposition shall not interfere with the health of the living; but a place of public instruction and recreative meditation; a place to improve the public taste, and strengthen the tone of the moral feelings; where vice and profligacy may receive checks and salutary warnings, and desponding virtue may be taught to rejoice in hope. In laying out the grounds there should be nothing like bad taste, no attempts at gaudiness, fashionable prettiness or fantastical display, but the whole should combine simplicity with beauty, and gracefulness with solemnity, alike remote from fanatical gloom and conceited affectation.

A Stansfield would so dispose the road and paths that the major part should take a direction at right angles to the fall of the ground, not only because they would be rendered more easy, convenient and graceful, but because it would enable him to throw the ground into terrace forms, thereby greatly increasing the diversity, beauty, and variety of the surface – it would also enable him to obtain sufficient material to form the terraces around the chapels, which will be indispensable in the position in which they are placed; moreover, the higher sides of the roads would be disposed in beautiful, soft, green banks into which at intervals, might be introduced the common primrose, Snowdrop, Drooping Scilla, Forget-me-not, and other sentimental, emblematical and interesting plants.

A Stansfield would place the road circumscribing the whole, at such a distance from the marginal planting to allow not less than two graves between it and the road, as it is the custom to sell graves nearest the roads, at from 4 to 6 times the price of those furthest from them; it becomes a matter of importance that both sides of the roads should be adapted for graves.

As interments cannot be made near the boundary fences, A. S. would dispose the marginal border in graceful flowing lines; planting it with as great a variety of trees and shrubs, as the situation and nature of the ground will admit, giving a preponderance to those of an evergreen character. He would not mix up different kinds of plants indiscriminately, as is commonly done, by which variety is lost, but would arrange the species in groups and masses so as to give variety and interest to all parts of the ground. He would also plant groups of trees and shrubs at the angles, junctions and intersections of the walks so as to throw the ground into pleasant open glades for the grave spaces.

In addition he would plant single and interesting trees of appropriate character along the lines of roads, to give a particular expression and character to the whole, different from the garden, park, or common landscape, and also a sufficient number of flowers, as would render it cheerful without approximating to the gay, and beautiful without verging upon the gaudy.

Without plants and flowers a cemetery would be comparatively uninteresting, some plants have been placed in cemeteries by the most civilised nations from time immemorial, and have as it were, a classical interest. Many have associations connected with them that render them peculiar adapted for being placed near the dead: - they are all emblematical of life and death, and all have a soothing and mollifying influence to the human mind, that makes them imminently fitted for a public cemetery.

THE HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD: St. Peter's Church was in existence in 1122 but it is not known when it was founded. The lower part of the tower dates from the 15th century but most of the church was rebuilt in 1533. Further additions and changes to the structure were carried out in 1789 and 1802-3. In 1854 the nave roof was raised, the chancel extended in 1872, a porch added in 1889 and a new clergy vestry in 1903. In 1989 extensive repairs were carried out. Inside the Church are seventy-eight memorials including three war memorials. Visit <http://stpetersburnley.com> for more information.

The registers date back to 1562. Burials would have taken place within the church as well as its churchyard. In 1638 parishioners petitioned the Bishop of Chester to have the churchyard wall raised and complained that the burials within the church had caused the floors to become uneven. The Bishop ruled that no further burial should take place within the church. (2p6). The churchyard was extended in 1807/14 when adjacent land was bought from John Towneley. As part of the extension the Churchyard was properly enclosed preventing desecration that had been a problem for several generations (1p 74).

Most of the headstones in the burial ground date from the late 1700's to the mid 1800's. It was closed for burials in 1856, except in existing family graves, when Burnley Cemetery was opened. In 1973 there was a proposal to clear the headstones and the Burnley and District Historical Society started to record the memorial inscriptions. The proposal was not fully carried out but in 1996 the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society completed the recording. They can be seen at Burnley Central Library.

In the 1970's churchyard improvements were carried out and two paths made to the west of the church using about fifty head stones. During restoration work to the church in 1993 several gravestones were discovered under the wooden floor and these are now in the churchyard to the rear of the church.

Unusually, there are many chest and table top tombs in the churchyard. Stone No. 60 (previously inside the church) has an inscription superimposed over an older inscription of 1681. There are two graves of Roman Catholic Priests employed by the Towneley family (Graves 301 and 304) and their graves, unlike all the others face west rather than east. Grave number 246 is of the inventor John Dodgeon who died in 1865 "To whose Genius the Country ought to be grateful for the celebrated invention of the brake as applied to the power looms of this nation". Not everyone recorded on a stone is buried in the churchyard – Grave 298 records the death of John Robinson "who died and was buried at sea on the 20th day of February 1855 on the voyage home from Vera Cruz in 23° 46' N Latitude and 81° W Longitude in the 26th year of his age." (3pp 3-5).

The World War 1 Memorial Cross in the churchyard, was dedicated in November 1920 to 115 men from St. Peter's who lost their lives. A photograph of the cross and the memorial which is in the church together with details of many of those commemorated can be found at <http://burnleyinthegreatwar.info/memorials/stpeters.htm> .

¹ *History of the Parochial Church of Burnley, its endowments, its records, and its incumbents* – T. T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S., 1856 – Burnley Ref Library

² *Burnley Parish Church of St. Peter. A Short History* – Brian Hall 2004. Available from St. Peter's Church

³ *LFH&HS Pendle and Burnley Branch – MI's St. Peter CE Burnley*

Bulb Planting in Cemeteries and Churchyards.

In October 2013 the Friends of Burnley Cemeteries received a Green Partnership Award of £506 to plant native spring bulbs in seven burial grounds – Burnley Cemetery, Padiham St John's and Blackburn Road Cemeteries, All Saints Habergham Eaves Churchyard, St. Peter's Churchyard, St. John's Churchyard at Cliviger and Mereclough Burial Ground.

2,500 bulbs and 150 primroses were planted by 68 volunteers in November.



All Saints



Blackburn Rd Cemetery



St. Peter's

As the years go by the bulbs will increase to create a natural show of colourful, wildlife friendly, blossoms.

2014 Carol Concert in the Chapel.

On Tuesday 19th December the Friends, Freshfields Enterprises, All Saints Church Choir Habergham and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of Christmas carols and cheer



USEFUL INFORMATION

Friends of Burnley Cemeteries:

www.fbc.btck.co.uk

Chair: Roger B. Frost M.B.E 01282 435836

Secretary: Susan Barker 01282 692076

E-mail: burnleybarker@btinternet.com

Next Meeting: 20th May 2015

Bereavement Services: Cemetery Offices

01282 477148 & 477232,

www.burnley.gov.uk, Email:

bereavementservices@burnley.gov.uk

Cemetery and Crematorium Grounds

Opening hours: every day 9 am to 8 pm (or sunset whichever is earlier) ***Please note that at times vehicle access may be restricted***

Family History Burial Records:

Cemetery Office holds Registers for Burnley Cemetery and Crematorium and for Padiham Cemetery. Burnley Central Library hold basic burial records on microfiche. Please Telephone to arrange to view.

2015 EVENTS

JUNE 6TH – OPEN DAY

JULY– Padiham St. John's Cemetery Walk

SUMMER-Great War Walks

AUGUST – Burnley Cemetery Walk

SEPTEMBER 10th to 13th – Heritage Open Days

OCT/NOV – Autumn Walk

DECEMBER – Carols in the Chapel

See our website for more details