

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLACKBURN ROAD CEMETERY

In 1852, following reports that St. Leonard's Parish Church graveyard had become 'most inconveniently filled' Mr. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie of Huntroyde Hall offered 2 acres of land as a public cemetery. Blackburn Road Cemetery was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester in May 1853. £500 was borrowed to enclose the cemetery and this debt proved difficult to repay. A report in the Blackburn Standard of June 1858 records that the walks and Avenues had not been completed but tenant farmers and others completed the work. In 1897 Colonel Starkie's son gave a further two acres of land to extend the cemetery up to the railway. This extension was consecrated in September 1906 by the then Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Knox. A more recent addition has been the creation of a remembrance wall for memorials to those cremated. The Cemetery is managed by St. Leonard's Church although Burnley Council carry out some maintenance on their behalf in the newest section.

**THE WALK** starts at Blackburn Road entrance arch:

1. Originally the arch was much more ornate than it appears to-day and was flanked by a lodge as seen on the front page and another building, probably a mortuary. Note the date stone at the centre of the arch.
2. Alfred Blezard JP the son of William Blezard, a well-known engineer, started work as a weaver, became manager of a shed in Brierfield and in 1877 took up a post in Athens. He went to Serpukaff in 1883 as manager of a weaving shed with over 2000 looms, then to St. Petersburg before returning to Padiham in 1898.
3. The impressive tree lined drive leads to the chapel donated by Mrs. Starkie as a memorial to her husband and opened by her in May 1866 a year after his death. During the restoration of St. Leonard's in 1866-69 the chapel was used for services and marriages. Following recent vandalism and threat of demolition it is now leased to Pendle Heritage Centre who maintain it.
4. This small obelisk style headstone marks the grave of William Ingham, a Padiham Stone Mason - you may see his name or initials at the base of some other headstones. His son Nicholas was also a Stone Mason and you can see his name at the base of the obelisk as the creator of the monument. Tragically Nicholas died in 1870 at the age of 35 when he was killed by a falling headstone he was removing. He is buried in St. John's Road Cemetery although his headstone has not survived.
5. Several members of the Starkie family are buried in this area which would have originally been linked directly with the Chapel before burials took place in the path area.
6. This monument was erected by members of three Masonic Lodges in memory of their late brother Richard William Waterson for his good

deeds. The three carved panels on the base plate illustrate some of the chief degrees through which Richard Waterson passed as a member of the Masonic Lodge.

7. Carrying on along the main path note the small stone markers of the grave rows. In this area you will see a group of large headstones including that of James Hacking, St. Leonard's Church organist for 20 years (his father before him also served 20 years). The carvings are personalised – organ pipes, sheet music and Free Masons insignia.
8. An example of one of sixteen headstones which commemorate war casualties not buried in the cemetery. Edgar Worswick was 'missing' on HMS Royal Edward in August 1915 aged 29.
9. This large angelic monument marks the grave of a young boy aged only one year and three months. His father, a leather manufacturer in Bury came from Accrington but his mother was the daughter of a Padiham Manufacturer, John Whittaker and was married in St. Leonard's Parish Church. (New graves have been made in the pathway)

10. An example of ornate detailed carving of fern leaves. John Haworth was the innkeeper at the Hand and Shuttle.
11. Two of sixteen Commonwealth War Grave Commission WW1 graves for soldiers buried in the cemetery. Closest is that of Private Thomas Lakeland of the East Lancashire Regiment who died of shock following an operation at Graylingswell War Hospital Chichester. Private William Hall of the East Kent Regiment was accidentally killed whilst working on the war effort in a chalk pit in East Harling, Thetford.

*The walk now continues, briefly, into the 1906 extension.*

12. There are seven WW2 Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves in the Cemetery. Flying Officer Kenneth Wade of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve was killed on active service in April 1943 and was buried in the Cemetery.
13. Returning to the Blackburn Road end of the cemetery, the Wall of Remembrance contains plaques commemorating those cremated. It was created about 1969, the first date on the plaques.

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The Friends ([www.fbc.btck.co.uk](http://www.fbc.btck.co.uk)) were formed in 2013 to help promote the historic, social, architectural and ecological aspects of the cemeteries in the Burnley District. We hold meetings every couple of months and amongst other events organise guided walks. We aim to publish other walks leaflets and hope that you enjoy this walk which gives a brief introduction to the history of the cemetery. THE FRIENDS OF PADIHAM CEMETERY were formed in 2015 to protect and enhance Blackburn Road Cemetery for the public benefit as a place of remembrance, spirituality, history and nature. Website address: [www.friendsofpadihamcemetery.org](http://www.friendsofpadihamcemetery.org)



FRIENDS OF  
BURNLEY  
CEMETERIES

AND

FRIENDS OF PADIHAM  
CEMETERY



A HISTORY WALK

IN

ST. LEONARD'S  
CEMETERY  
BLACKBURN ROAD  
PADIHAM

Please take care when walking around the cemetery. Although the trail is mainly on footpaths the paths and grassed areas can be uneven and slippery. You are advised to wear suitable footwear.

### MEMORIAL PARK



Blackburn Road

GRENWAY

