

including the 3 founding sisters, buried in 4 separate plots. In about 1988 the Sisters became part of the Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph based at Ightenhill.

5. Eliza Alice Walsh was bludgeoned to death by her husband Michael Walsh on 2nd December 1904, in front of their 12-year-old daughter Annie. On that fateful day the couple argued and two of their children were sent out of the house, Annie remaining. Walsh struck Eliza on the head with an axe and then cut her throat with a razor blade. He then cut his own throat. Bizarrely, perhaps, the couple were buried in the same grave, Michael without religious rites and Eliza with a Roman Catholic burial.

6. Caroline Smith, a dedicated temperance advocate was born in Ely, Cambridgeshire, coming to Lancashire in 1876 and Burnley in 1886. She was vice-president of the British Women's Temperance Association for 50 years, Burnley representative at the British Temperance League and probation officer for women in Burnley Borough Police Courts. She was said to be one of the most forceful and convincing temperance lecturers, particularly in Lancashire and Yorkshire. She was connected with Wesley Chapel, Hargreaves Street.

7. Octogenarian Mrs. Ellen Tattersall was married during the cotton famine and she and her husband worked in the mill. The most trying time of her life came in 1887 when her family was involved in a quarry accident. The quarry was off Park Lane, behind the Tim Bobbin Inn. 2 boys playing on the ice over the quarry-hole got into trouble. Ellen's son (19) went to the rescue, got into trouble too and his brother (18) went to help, also getting into trouble. The outcome was that Ellen's two sons, two brothers, and a nephew, also helping, drowned whilst the two boys were rescued by others. Despite this tragedy she lived until the age of 87, dying in 1929.

8. Margaret Alexander was matron of the Victoria Hospital in Burnley from 1921 until her death in May 1933, aged 51. She was born in Johnstone, near Glasgow, trained in Birmingham and worked in Falkirk and Birmingham before

being sent to France with the Civil Hospital Reserve in 1914. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1916 and 1919 and later awarded a bar to the cross. The French Government awarded her a Medaille des Epidemies (Medal of Honour for Epidemics). She had come, highly recommended, to the Victoria Hospital at a time of great change and her experience and personal qualities held everyone's respect. Her funeral service at Sion Baptist Church was attended by invited guests from a host of organisations, town's people and former patients.

9. Elizabeth Stroyan (nee Tatlow) was born in County Cavan, Ireland where her husband-to-be Rev. John Stroyan took charge of a Congregational Church in Dublin. He took up duties in Bethesda Church Burnley in 1853, a year after their marriage. She played a considerable part in local religious, philanthropic and social movements and held many offices. She was a prolific writer and contributor to magazines. After her death a Memorial Fund was set up in her memory to provide education for a child in a foreign mission school (a cause dear to her heart), and two annual prizes for girls in examinations at Burnley Grammar School - this prize was still being awarded in 1954.

10. Mary Lizzie Hedges, daughter of Lowerhouse shopkeepers William and Elizabeth Leeming, wife of a music teacher, was elected as a Liberal to the Burnley Board of Poor Law Guardians in 1904, one of only a few women Guardians ever. 20 years later she became the first and only female Chairman of the Board. She supported countless Methodist, Liberal and charitable causes and was a Magistrate for nearly 20 years. She was first knocked down by a car in 1928 suffering injuries which reduced her public life, and then again in 1942 leading to her death aged 81. She lived according to her staunch Methodist and Liberal beliefs. A pioneering woman in public life, she worked for the benefit of the ordinary people of Burnley, and especially "she always made sure the woman's view was voiced with vigour".



FRIENDS OF BURNLEY CEMETERIES



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021

WOMEN IN BURNLEY CEMETERY

This trail leaflet has been produced to celebrate International Women's Day, 8th March 2021. History is often told only from the male perspective and many of the inscriptions on gravestones give scant information about the females interred. The walk starts at the Main Cemetery Gates on Rossendale Road and gives an insight into the lives of some of the women interred in the cemetery. ***Read more at [Guided Walks - Friends of Burnley Cemeteries \(e-voice.org.uk\)](https://www.friends-of-burnley-cemeteries.org.uk)***

1. Of 93 WW2 Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Please take care as paths and grass are uneven and can be slippery when wet. Appropriate footwear is recommended.

Headstones in the cemetery only two commemorate women who lost their lives in service:
1a Barbara Mary Hitchon served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force as Aircraftwoman 2nd Class ('478331'). She had worked at Bank Top Manufacturing Co. and was connected with St. John's Gannow Parish Church where she was a Sunday school teacher. She was a member of the St. John's Ambulance Nursing Division. She is commemorated on a plaque now in All Saints Church. She joined the W.A.A.F. at the outbreak of war and died during active service on 19th March 1944, aged 22, at Station Hospital, R.A.F. Hereford, Credenhill.
(For 1b, in order of walk, see below)

2. Gladys Ray and her husband Frederick Ray were appointed Matron and Master of Primrose Bank Poor Law Institution (Workhouse) on the 24th April 1929. She was from Stonehaven, Scotland and was a State-registered nurse. She died on 23rd September 1931 aged 33 after a serious operation a year earlier from which she never recovered. It was reported in the Burnley newspaper that her devotion, enthusiasm, pleasant and cheerful disposition made her a popular figure within the institution. She had been instrumental in the development of a church at the institution and in September 1932, after its completion, a plaque was unveiled at the church in her memory.

3. Looking upwards, beyond Gladys Ray's Grave, is the unmarked burial place of Harriet Paisley. Harriet, aged 62 set off on 12th October 1932 to walk from Burnley to London with 40 women who were the first to take part in one of the Hunger Marches of the Great Depression. Protesting about the Means Test and the 1931 Anomalies Bill which restricted the right of married women to claim unemployment benefit they marched separately from the men and attracted considerable press interest. Harriet became a story, making speeches en route, sometimes in dialect. They marched 12-14 miles a day in all weathers and 14 days later they reached London, joining up with the men and numbering many thousands from all over Britain. At a mass rally in Hyde Park there was considerable violence with Police baton charging the protesters. Harriet spoke to the Burnley News and said she was proud of herself. Harriet died on 12th March 1951, aged 80.

1b Continuing down the main drive, on the right is the second WW2 Headstone. Edith Gee, served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force as Leading Aircraftwoman in the 950 Balloon Squadron ('2083015'). Before joining up in 1941 she worked as a tailoress and was connected with the Rosegrove Methodist Church and Sunday School. She was discharged owing to ill-health just before her death on 6th November 1944, aged 23, and had been serving for a year in the Orkneys Barrage Balloon Squadron.

4. The Sisters of Mercy were invited to St. Mary's Catholic Church Burnley in August 1872 when 3 Sisters from the London Convent arrived to teach local Catholic children. A convent was built and at the Golden Jubilee in 1922 it was reported that "the Sisters of Mercy displayed a zeal and devotion in the spiritual and secular education of the Catholics in Burnley which entitled them to deep affection and reverence". There are 114 Sisters,

