



Pendle & Burnley
Branch

The Gazette

Issue 67 July 2017

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

Outvisit to St. Mary's Newchurch in Pendle Wednesday 17th May, 2017

In the afternoon of Wednesday 17th May, 2017, 19 of our members (and a dog) met in the churchyard for a guided tour of this historic 16th century church, (a Grade II Listed Building). Our guide, John Parsons, ushered us into the church where he explained that in 2015 dry rot was discovered between the back of the organ and the tower wall, partly caused by a split in the tower roof. A major project was begun to restore the building and the organ, partly funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant.

The church was consecrated in 1544, though there was thought to be a "Chapel of Ease" on the site before this to serve Pendle Forest, though no evidence has been found to prove this before 1529. John Parsons told us of the enlargements and renovations of the building as the local population increased, particularly in the 18th Century, so that the tower is the only remaining part of the 1544 building. Parishioners could pay a "Church Rate" to sit in a particular seat and the seating plan from 1742 shows who sat in which seats. Interestingly many of those surnames are still common nowadays in the area: Hargreaves, Nutter, Robinson, Hartley, and Dixon for example. The Gallery was added in 1816, and more renovations to the building were made after rotten roof timbers were found in about 1900.

John told us about two curates who oversaw great changes at St. Mary's. William Nabbs was curate from 1735 to 1767. He performed marriages at his house, an illegal thing to do.

He was also cited in the Consistory Court for "smiting Edward Starkie" – but he managed to remain in his post.

Another person who made a significant difference to St. Mary's was John Rushton, curate from 1825 to 1843, who supervised the collection of subscriptions for the new Day and Sunday School, and also reviewed charges for the performing of services of baptism, marriage and interment. He later moved on to become the first Archdeacon of the new Diocese of Manchester and later Vicar of Blackburn.

The showery weather just about held off for our tour around the graveyard with its fine views across Pendle Hill. Many people come to St. Mary's Church searching for Alice Nutter's grave, but John Parsons was emphatic that she was not buried in the churchyard. The Nutter Family Grave dates from the 1660's, much later than 1612 when Alice Nutter was hanged at Lancaster.

Nevertheless there were some interesting graves to see. Noel Harry Leaver, a renowned watercolour artist, was buried there in 1951. He was until then the youngest person to go to the Royal college of Art, and a collection of his paintings is held in Towneley Hall. There is also the Aitken Memorial which remembers James Aitken of Dundee who claims he fought in 1745 with Charles Stuart but came to settle in Newchurch and died in 1794. In the "Vicar's Corner" there was a plaque dedicated to Rev. Wallis, vicar from 1944-1951, who installed the church clock in the tower in 1946 and was nephew to Barnes Wallis of bouncing bomb fame. He wrote a booklet on the History of the Parish of Newchurch in Pendle, 1544 to 1945, which was an important reference point for The Pendle Forest History Group when researching for their own booklet produced in 2016.

Back inside the church for refreshments we were able to have a last look round and thank John Parsons by making a donation to the church. Thanks also to Mary Jackson for organising the visit and ensuring everything went smoothly.

Sylvia Marshall

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GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the October 2017 Gazette
by the end of September please.

Please send articles to Editor at lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk
or by post to the Editor,
c/o 6 Sussex Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 5DS

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PRACTICAL EVENINGS

So far this year we have had talks on Newspapers online, how to
use Mario maps and a short introduction to the 1939 records.

We would welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings.

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On 4th November
we are having an
Open Morning
9.30am to 12.30pm
at
Colne Library

please note the date as volunteers will be
needed to help with any queries

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Branch Contacts:

Family History Queries

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Secretary

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Branch Website

www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk

2017 Programme

- 16th Aug "The History of Lancaster Castle"
Graham Kemp
- 30th Aug Practical Evening
topic to be announced
- 20th Sept "The Liverpool Cowkeepers"
Dave Joy
- 18th Oct "And in Flew Enza"
Tony Foster
- 15th Nov "WWI talk" (topic to be chosen)
Richard Wimpenny
- 29th Nov Practical Evening
topic to be announced
- 6th Dec Christmas Party (By Ticket Only)
"The Way Things Used To Be"
Harold Hoggarth

Sylvia is busy working on the Programme for 2018. If you have any suggestions for speakers for our meetings please let Sylvia know.

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The Story behind the Stone

Memorial Inscriptions in Burnley Cemetery Old Ground

Summaries of the newspaper articles about some accidental deaths

Compiled by Christine Haworth

MI: 362 {Grave 15538} Charles Frederick SIMPSON

"In Loving Memory of Charles Frederick, aged 26 years, the dearly beloved son of John Charles & Sarah Ellen SIMPSON, of 48 Queensberry Road, Burnley, who was accidentally shot by the American soldiers at Manilia (sic - Manila), Feb 23rd 1899 & was interred at the English Cemetery, "San Pedro", Manilia (sic - Manila), Phillipine Islands."

The previous February, Charles had gone to Tondo, Manila in the Philippines to work for a period of five years as an overlooker in a mill owned by a Manchester company. There was some trouble in the street that American troops were trying to quell and Charles and two other men were watching from an upstairs window. Their white suits attracted the attention of the troops, who shot at them in the belief they were natives (Filipinos) firing from the window. Charles was mortally wounded, one of the other men who was the mill manager, was killed on the spot and the third person was slightly wounded. A telegram received by the mill owners said that "the shooting was generally regretted, but declared to have been unavoidable....."

Source: Burnley Express 1 March 1899 page 3 and 4 March 1899 page 8

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MI: 827 {Grave 4739} Alice HARTLEY

"In Memory of Alice HARTLEY, of Burnley, who was killed at Helmsore by a collision of two trains, on the 4th of September 1860, aged 24 years."

About 3000 people had gone from East Lancashire on three excursion trains to visit the attractions at Belle View Gardens. On the return journey, the first train back left Salford at 10.55pm and arrived safely. The second train, with about 1,000 passengers and 31 carriages, left Salford at 11.10pm and the third train left at 11.31pm.

The second train got to Helmsore and stopped to let out some passengers, but when the guard released the brakes there was a jerk and 16 carriages broke away from the train and started sliding down the line from Helmsore towards Ramsbottom. The superintendent saw what had happened and unhooked the engine in order to go down the other line and warn the third train. However he was too late. The carriages had already run 400 yards down the line and collided with the oncoming train. There were 10 people killed and 19 injured.

Source: Burnley Advertiser 8 Sep 1860 page 3 & 15 Sep 1860 page 3

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MI: 2861 {Grave 3441} Walter GREENHALGH

"In Loving Memory of 2nd Air Mechanic Walter GREENHALGH R.F.C., beloved son of John & Priscilla GREENHALGH & grandson of the above, who was killed as result of aeroplane accident at Salisbury on Feb 8th and was interred at Burnley Cemetery Feb 14th 1918, aged 26 years. "

Three aeroplanes returning from a scout practice were flying in close formation when one of them struck the aeroplane occupied by Walter and his pilot. The plane was broken into two and fell about 6,000 feet back to earth. Walter fell from the plane during the descent.

Source: Burnley News 16 February 1918 page 6

MI: 3106 {Grave 7017} Alfred Christopher (Chris) PEARSON

"Sacred to the Memory of his youngest son Alfred Christopher PEARSON, Capt. 9th Royal Warwick Regt, Governor of Zakho, born 22nd May 1893, killed on the frontier of Kurdistan 4th April 1919."

Chris, as he was known, was son of Alfred PEARSON D.D., Bishop of Burnley 1905-1909. He was educated at Giggleswick School & Lincoln College, Oxford where he obtained a BA 2nd class honours degree in Theology. In 1914 he joined the army as a volunteer and served in Gallipoli, where he was wounded in August 1915 and returned to England. While recovering from his wounds he learnt to speak Arabic. On rejoining his Battalion in May 1916, he served in Mesopotamia. In May 1918 he became the deputy military governor of Amara, Iraq.

The Goyan tribe had asked him to pay them a visit to enrol them as being under British military occupation. Accompanied by a Kurdish orderly and a few men of the Goyan, he also took supplies of seed and grain in the hope it was stop them plundering their neighbours. On the way there he was ambushed and killed. A report in the Giggleswick School magazine said he was killed because he was a Christian. Elsewhere it is suggested it was because Britain did not keep the promise made by Lawrence of Arabia, of a United Arab State, once the Turks had been kicked out.

He is buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery Grave XIX. F. 12.

Sources: Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
www.cwgc.org
and www.bbc.co.uk/remembrance/wall/record/12557

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COLNE 100 YEARS AGO -

From the "Colne and Nelson Times" of September 1909

10 September 1909

FOULRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - Question of Lamplighter.

The Clerk reported that there were 6 applications to the advertisement for a Lamplighter. The Chairman and Clerk had instructed the applicants to appear at the Council meeting and they were admitted into the room and the duties explained to them, after which they were asked to retire. The Council struck 3 of the applications out of the list, and after a prolonged discussion, they decided to hold a special meeting on Thursday to make the appointment, and in the meantime the Clerk was to make enquiries as to the suitability of the candidates. The 3 selected were Messrs. J. Hogarth, E.J. Kingdom and A. Proctor, and the wages are 12s. 6d per week.

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Obituary - Doris Metcalfe

Sadly, I have to announce that Doris Metcalfe, one of our branch members, died recently. Doris, who was one of our long-term members, really enjoyed the Branch meetings and researching her family history, which was just one of her many interests. A quiet friendly lady, she was always cheerful and had a smile for everyone. She will be greatly missed by all her friends and we send our sincere sympathy and condolences to her family.

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