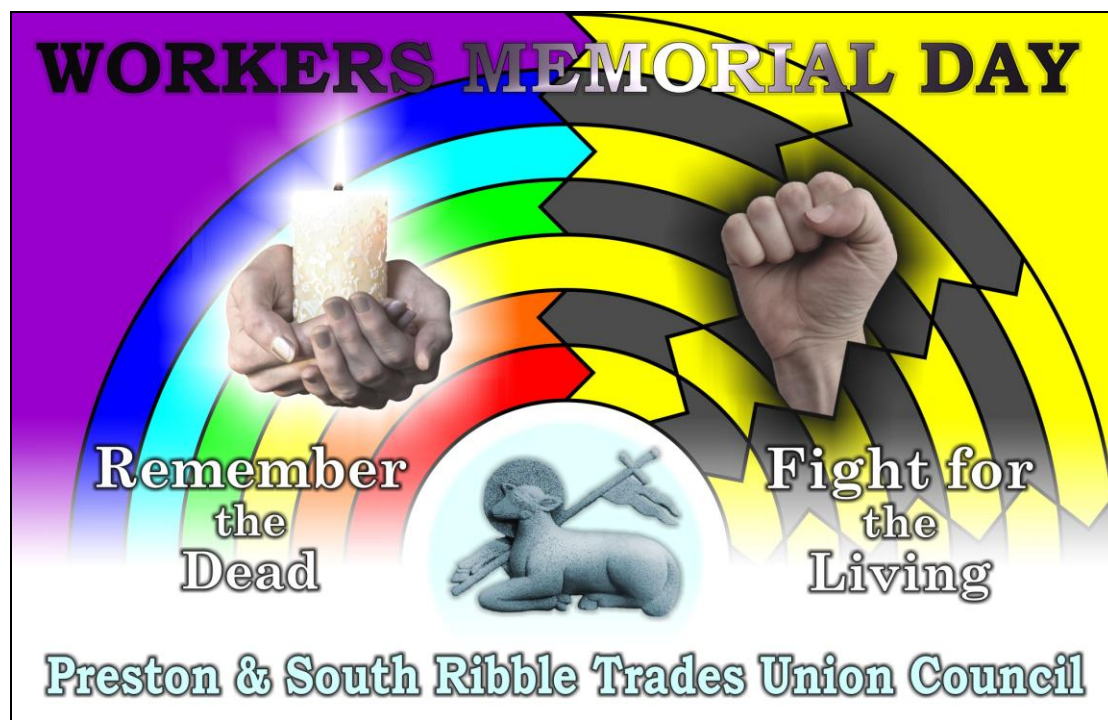


Remember the dead, fight for the living!

## Preston and District Workers Memorial Day Event



**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011**  
**11.45p.m. - 1.00p.m.**  
**at Preston Flag Market**

*Afterwards join us in the New Meadow Street Labour Club for lunch, refreshments and live music!*

*For further information please contact Janet Newsham on 07709287217*

*Or look on the website: [www.lancashiretradeunions.org.uk](http://www.lancashiretradeunions.org.uk)*

**Remember the dead, fight for the living!**

*Welcome*

## **WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY**

Welcome to the 2011 Workers Memorial Day event here in Preston. Today is about remembering all those who have died, been injured or made ill by their work. It is also a day for campaigning for better health, safety and welfare for workers worldwide.

The new Coalition Government has wasted no time in attacking the safety of workers in the UK. It commissioned and accepted the Report into Health & Safety by Lord Young who linked health & safety to a so called compensation culture. Amongst his recommendations are less risk assessments for small employers because they are seen as a burden on business, less reporting of injuries, less legislation leading to de-regulation, making it more difficult for workers and their families to be adequately compensated, none of these will improve the safety of workers in the UK.

The Government's attacks on workers safety do not stop there as the Government's austerity measures kick in. They announced a 35% cut to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) budget and a 28% cut to Local Authority Inspectors. This effectively means that most employers will never see a safety enforcement inspector. There will be less proactive inspections of workplaces, less investigations of workplace injuries, fewer inspectors to deal with complaints.

Trade Unions will have to mount a sustained and coordinated campaign against these cuts to the HSE, who are already grossly overstretched and under resourced. They will also have to ensure that any void left is filled by their Safety Reps, as they will be the only ones left to challenge employers on safety issues.

Ian McGill  
Chair, Preston WMD Committee

**Remember the dead, fight for the living!**  
*Event Programme - Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011*

11.45	Torch procession by Lancashire Trades Councils	Led by piper
12.00	Fr. Timothy Lipscomb	1 minute silence
	Piper	
12.05	Ian McGill	Welcome
12.08	Mayor of Preston	Opening Remarks
12.10	Mark Hendrick	MP for Preston
12.15	Jo Marino	BFAWU General Sec
12.20	Sadiq Vohra	MWR Solicitors
12.25	Hilda Palmer	GM Hazards Centre
12.30	Remembering the dead	Preston TU Ed Students
12.32	Peter Billington	LATUC Sec/PCS
12.37	Linzi Herbertson	FAK
12.42	Pat Coyne	UNITE NEC
12.47	Andy Birchall	Secretary PWMD
12.50	Distribution of flowers and wreaths	
	Banner march led by piper	
	Laying the wreaths and flowers with prayers led by Fr. Timothy Lipscomb	Preston Minster
1.00	Ian McGill - chair of Preston Workers Cmt	Thanks and close

*Followed by social with refreshments, food and live music at Meadow Street Labour Club*

# Remember the dead, fight for the living!

## **Fr. Timothy Lipscomb (Vicar of Preston) writes:**

*Against a backcloth of uncertainty over job security and an increasing amount of redundancies, we are here today to promote the importance of health and safety in the workplace. I know that too many people, the paperwork, the courses and the procedures may seem to be lengthy, time consuming and an obstacle to getting the work done. But these issues are there to ensure that the workplace is a safer environment for all employees and that there is a minimum standard across the board for all employers to put into place.*

*As we head towards the Preston Guild next year, apart from the fact that many employers and firms have disappeared in the local area in the last twenty years, the legislation which has been put into place due to campaigning and constant advocacy, is light years ahead of conditions in 1992. This makes for good practice and a safer workplace for all people carrying out their daily tasks and in better conditions.*

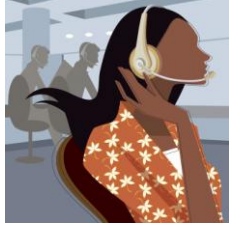
*For the most part, things in Britain are much better, there is still a lot of work to do and in the courts it has been proved that on occasions, companies have ignored safety procedures and have been lax about planning and ensuring good practice in the workplace. This has been noticeable in the construction industry.*

*But in countries abroad, there is still much work to be done and in the emerging nations, there is a great worry about atmospheric pollution and a total lack of care for workers. Notably in the clothing and textile industries, people are having to work in an unsuitable and stressful environment, often working unrealistic hours in cramped conditions for low pay. Humans should not be subjected to such indignity and in oppression and maybe we have to fight for their human rights as they are themselves in a powerless position.*

*A number of people are killed while going to the workplace and coming home or in conjunction with their work all over the country. This can be because of overwork and that perhaps they are too tired to drive or because of conditions on the road due to weather and other eventualities. Human error can be a cause of accidents and sometimes on the roads, blind spots and lack of clear vision within vehicles can cause fatalities. We mourn all who have been killed in such circumstances.*

*Today, in our hearts we remember all who have been injured in the workplace and we cherish the memory of those who have been killed in connection with their work. May God grant us the strength of character and the will to make sure that all who work with us and within our companies do so in safety.*

**Remember the dead, fight for the living!**



## **Health and Safety in Call Centres**

If you work in a call centre you are covered by the same health and safety laws that cover most other workers.

Workers in call centres face particular hazards, which include:

- Muscular-skeletal disorders, and can be caused by poor posture, repetitive movements, poor workstation layout and poor job design
- Eye strain, caused by screen glare, long spells on VDU, poor image control
- Voice loss and can be caused by excessive use of prepared scripts, competing with the noise from other operators and lack of breaks and fluid intake
- Noise damage caused by poorly designed headsets, 'spiking' of intermittent high levels of volume and feedback
- Stress caused by boredom, monotonous work, lack of control, long periods at the workstation, high workload fluctuations, shift work, unsociable hours, abuse from customers, excessive monitoring

Research has shown that where there are Trade Union health and safety representatives, there are less health and safety incidents. So, if you are not already a member then join a trade union today! [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)

**Remember the dead, fight for the living!**

**ConDem Cuts will kill, injure and  
make more workers sick!**

*The coalition government's ideological assault on working people from cradle to grave uses 'deficit reduction' as the excuse to make massive cuts in jobs, public services and welfare benefits. The poorest and most vulnerable are being made to pay the price for the banking crisis.*



*Government cuts of 35% in the budget of the Health and Safety Executive budget and 28% to Local Authorities, will reduce the already ineffective state of policing the workplace which allows workers to be killed, injured and made ill at a rate never reported in the tabloid press.*

*No-one voted for the slashing of the most basic right to go to work safely and without risk to your short or long term health, and to come home alive and undamaged to your family at the end of the day.*

**We Didn't Vote to Die At Work!**

[www.gm hazards.org.uk](http://www.gm hazards.org.uk)



**Remember the dead, fight for the living!**



## **Chorley Commemoration** **Ceremony**

**Workers Memorial Day**  
**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm.**

Speakers include: Steve Turner (Unite the union, Chorley), Pat Coyne (Unite, Nation Executive Council), Lindsay Hoyle (MP), Matthew Tollitt (Thompson's Solicitors), Martin McMulkin (Health & Safety Rep, Edbro), Families Against Corporate Killers

**Held at the Unite Workers Memorial  
Tree, Astley Park, Chorley**

For more information contact Steve Turner (Unite Chorley Branch Sec) on 07838402614

# Remember the dead, fight for the living!



## **Welcome our Workers Memorial Day Service, 2011.**

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who have helped me to organise our event, without this support our memorial service could not happen.

I feel it is important that there is a focal point for those who have tragically lost loved ones though the world of work. Our memorial tree is a place where we can reflect on the sadness that we I feel when we lose a colleague, family member or friend, but it is also a symbol of hope, a sign of our growing determination to continue to campaign to strengthen health and safety laws.

We must ensure that enforcement of health and safety laws at work are not seen as red tape, or a burden for industry, but seen as laws that protect us from harm.

Good Health and Safety management is good business sense, and many companies know this, they see the positive side of health and safety, they work with our union Unite, and our health and safety representative to promote a culture of safe working.

But there are others that neglect their legal and moral responsibilities, they see health and safety as a hindrance, we must continue to bring about change to stop this mind-set. Unite, Health and Safety representatives will challenge this evasion of responsibility on a daily basis to protect working people.

Finally, I is very disappointing to hear that the present government plan to cut funding to the HSE by 35%, this will reduce health and safety inspections by the HSE and to cut health and safety enforcement.

Many health and safety campaigners can see workplace deaths and occupational illnesses increasing in the coming years, that is why it is so important that this event in our town is well supported, we shared in the success of pressing for an official recognition of a nationwide, "Workers Memorial Day", and we must be at the forefront to stop these backward steps in the name of RED TAPE.

Steve Turner (Unite, Chorley Branch)

## Remember the dead, fight for the living!

### The Revd Timothy Wilby says .....

The service held in Astley Park, Chorley, for Workers' Memorial Day is an important part of our local, civic and church calendar.

As a clergy member of the Faith Workers' Section I am conscious of the responsibility to present an act of remembrance that is appropriate for members of other faiths and of no faith, as well as including those who share my faith.

I believe that music can contribute to the solemnity of such an occasion and this year, at the Chorley service, we will add a suitable musical offering to the customary silence which is held to remember those who have died at work.

A trumpeter will play the melody of the hymn tune 'Gresford' (named after a pit village near Wrexham), which was written by Robert Saint to commemorate the pit disaster of 1934 in which 266 miners lost their lives.

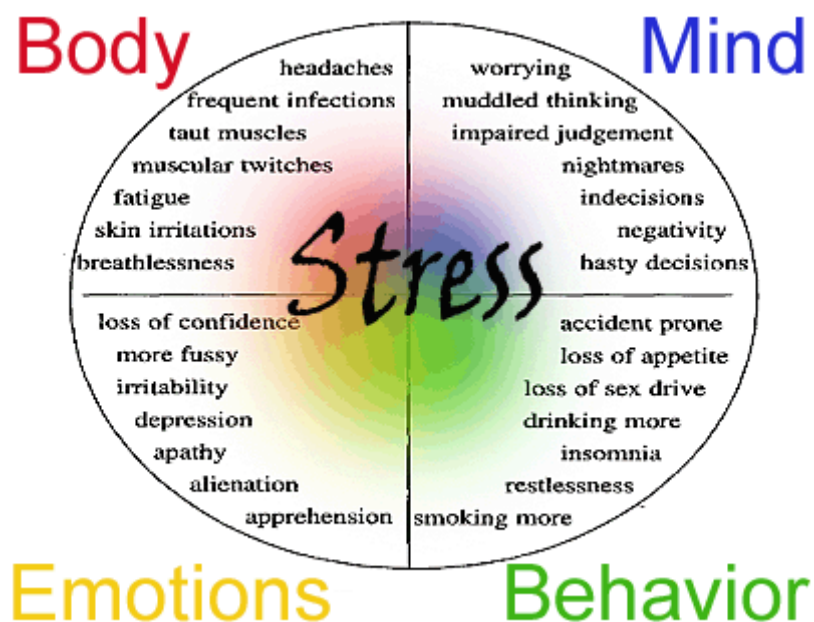
This links us with tragedies of the past, and reminds us that we must be united in our remembrance of those who still lose their lives today.

I hope that many will join us as we say the words, 'Remember the dead; fight for the living.'

Revd Timothy Wilby, St George's Church Chorley.

Remember the dead, fight for the living!

## *Stress at Work*



Stress is one of the principle by-products of the modern workplace and has blighted the lives of millions. The HSE has estimated that 13.5 million lost working days were due to work related stress in 2007-2008.

According to the HSE stress is 'an adverse reaction a person has to excessive pressures or other types of demands placed upon them.'

Employers have a general duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees and the HSE has produced Management Standards on stress.

Employers have a responsibility to help reduce any stress which may arise in their employees as a result of stress

**Remember the dead, fight for the living!**



*This year, firefighters and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) have special reasons to observe Workers' Memorial Day, as they commemorate the highest number of deaths in a single year since at least 1985.*

*Firefighters remember the dead with the dignity such sacrifice deserves. They will fight doubly hard so that deaths of firefighters have not been in vain.*

*Firefighters have an unwritten covenant with society, an unspoken agreement that their daily courage will be recognised by those who are thereby protected.*

*Firefighters agree to put themselves at risk to rescue others. But in return they expect that their employers and the general public will acknowledge and value their unique contribution to society.*

**Any funding cuts to this important service will cost lives!**

## Remember the dead, fight for the living!

**THANKS!** We would like to record our thanks to all those organisations and individuals who have supported this year's events, in particular:

Unite Branch at Springfield's  
Unite Chorley 0237  
Unite North West Region  
NUT Lancashire Division  
CWU North Lancs and Cumbria Branch  
USDAW K13  
RMT Blackpool and Fylde Coast  
LATUC  
CWU Central and West Lancs Branch  
**MWR Solicitors**  
PCS Preston Central Office Branch  
PCS HMRC  
Unite 9602 Branch  
Unite Blackpool and Fylde  
Unite Preston and South Ribble  
Unite Manchester 18/B  
RMT Lancaster and District  
FBU Region 5  
UCU Preston College

### ***Greetings from the RMT in the North West.***

*We have marched, rallied and protested in our millions against the criminal cuts in public spending initiated by New Labour and then ConDems. These cuts, aimed against the people who are entirely innocent of causing the crisis of capitalism we now face, also threaten those at work in terms of health, safety and welfare. The HSE has had its funds cut by 35%. We must and can stop and reverse this insidious process!*