



Rose Hill
arts centre 

Jonathan Francis

A **NORTHERN
REQUIEM**

for the miners

£3

Souvenir Programme

The Miner and the Horse II

The Battle of Orgreave 18th June 1984



Merchandise For Sale

Sue Prince's astonishing and powerful artwork, *The Miner and the Horse II - The Battle of Orgreave*, is available to purchase tonight as:

Greetings Cards £3

Postcards £1

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Jonathan Francis

A NORTHERN REQUIEM

for the miners

A Northern Requiem

by Jonathan Francis

By kind permission of The Cathedral of Durham

Rose Choir
Esfefeld Chorale
Northern Spirit Singers

Harlequin Brass

Mezzo Soprano
LOUISE COLLETT

Violin
MORVEN BRYCE

Organ
GEORGE PARSONS

Conductor
JONATHAN FRANCIS

Durham Cathedral
Saturday 20th September, 2025



Jonathan Francis
COMPOSER

INSPIRED BY THE STRUGGLE

In 2023, I wrote the first notes of what would become **A Northern Requiem**. The whole work hinges on the extraordinary song 'Here We Go for the Women of the Working Class,' written by Mal Finch. That song has resonated with me since I heard it as a child, and it is because of those beautiful, empowering words and that glorious melody that we all here tonight. I knew I wanted to write something that would pay tribute to the men and women of Britain's lost coal industry, and I knew I would like to perform it in the 40th anniversary year of the Miners' Strike, but at that time, I could not have begun to imagine the journey this piece would take, the inspirational people I would meet and the support and friendship the mining community would offer me and the production team as we brought this piece to life.

A Northern Requiem is very much from the heart. It reflects what I have seen around me through my life. As I was growing up, I would watch the nightly news and learn of colliery closures, of steelworks ceasing to trade - the end of heavy industry - the end of the Industrial North. This piece is for the miners, but it is also for everyone whose way of Northern Life has changed in a way that will never be returned. We must pay tribute to those communities from Wales and Kent who have also seen the decimation of industry and the suffering it has caused to thousands left without work.

The North has changed. This is a Requiem for that age when coal powered the nation. Every day, colliers risked their lives to keep the wheels turning and the lights blazing, and they have never been given the recognition they deserve for the sacrifices they made. We remember those who went to work, and never returned, those who still remain buried in mine-workings across the land. We remember those who have died, and those who years after leaving the pits, still suffer from, industrial disease. But we also remember the good times - the solidarity and brotherhood born out of a collective struggle together.

Tonight, I remember particularly one Derbyshire miner who, along with his lifelong friends, marched proudly through the Crooked Spire, Chesterfield for the première of **A Northern Requiem**. I know that in this performance, his brothers will carry their banner with pride and join with me in remembering their dear friend, Brian Hegarty who died earlier this year.

UNITED BY THE STRUGGLE

The North East has held a very special place in my heart since my first visit to Northumberland fifty years ago. Throughout the Miner's Strike this connection was well and truly cemented. The warmth, the passion and the resolve of the men and women involved in that strike are legendary. The women I met were my inspiration, the driving force that led me to write "Here We Go, ...". They took that song to their hearts because they recognised themselves in every line. So, whilst I wrote words and music, from the very first time they heard it and sang it, it became their song, their voice. It's a song that truly belongs in Jonathan's brilliant, almost unbearably moving 'Northern Requiem'. My most sincere thanks to him and to all those who take part in it.

MAL FINCH - SEPTEMBER 2025



Photo: Mal Finch with John Burrows at the premiere performance of *A Northern Requiem*, October 2024



More than a generation on from the closure of our collieries, the Durham Miners Gala remains as a celebration of community values, trade unionism and international solidarity.

For more than a century, the Gala was funded by the working miners of the Durham coalfield. It is their legacy and their gift to us all.

Today, the Gala is funded by our Marras. Keep the Gala marching. Scan the QR code and join our band of Marras today.





Chesterfield: built on coal

In the town, famous for its crooked spire, is a small, redundant church. Opened in 1823 and closed 200 years later in 2023, this building is about to become a new arts centre for the community of Chesterfield. This church, where Arthur Scargill once spoke in the adjoining hall is a stone's throw from the former North Derbyshire NUM Offices. In 1984, the late Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield and Dennis Skinner, MP for neighbouring Bolsover, led a march of striking miners past its front doors. Our new arts centre is part of a community built on coal.

It was in Chesterfield, that Mal Finch's song, 'Here We Go For the Women of the Working Class,' was first performed, and it was here, that one of the earliest 'Womens' Action Groups was established.

The pioneering railway engineer, George Stevenson, is buried in a churchyard a few streets away, while at the now long closed Markham Works, tunnelling equipment used to bore the Channel Tunnel was manufactured.

In creating 'A Northern Requiem,' we wanted to both celebrate and commemorate the impact our town and its people have had on the world.



Tonight's performance is both a fundraising concert, and part of what will become our outreach project. We will work within our community to create unforgettable and moving performances, both now and in the future, which shine a light on the lives of everyday people living amongst us.

As Chair of the Trustees of Rose Hill Arts Centre, I am incredibly proud of this home-grown work, and the exceptional talents of the performers, but what makes it all so special is that it is based on events that happened on our doorstep. The impact of the closure, not just of the pits but the heavy industry and manufacturing, and other services that supported it, is still felt to this day.

Hilary Leam
Chair, Rose Hill Arts Centre





THE ROSE CHOIR

The Rose Choir, based at Chesterfield Studios, was established in 2014. We are a 65-strong, friendly, non-audition SATB choir of very mixed abilities. From Heads of School Music to first timers, the choir welcomes everyone and aims to fully support all of its members. We sing a very broad selection of music from Baroque through to modern pop.

In recent years, concerts have included Karl Jenkins: 'The Armed Man' and Patrick Hawes: 'Song of Songs,' along with a large scale Stage and Screen performance at Derby Cathedral. We have also produced smaller concerts of folk music and twice performed at Edensor on the Chatsworth Estate for Canine Partners' Charity Christmas Service, along with an appearance on ITV's Calendar News singing O Holy Night, and Channel 4 News.

Our ever-popular Christmas Concert at the Crooked Spire sees us join with Harlequin Brass and the young voices from Chesterfield Studios in a huge celebration of Christmas music that sells out annually, and last year did so in three hours!

The choir regularly engages professional musicians and soloists and often performs with orchestra and brass accompaniment. We have also been fortunate enough to perform with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. New members are always made very welcome and supported if needed. Please contact sarah.menzies@chesterfieldstudios.co.uk if you would like to find out more about joining.



ESCAFELD CHORALE

Escafeld Chorale is a mixed SATB non-auditioned choir of around 60 members and has been an established part of the Sheffield music scene since 1969. We sing a wide range of music from the choral repertoire, balanced by some more contemporary and informal works. Our current musical director, George Parsons, joined us in September 2022 and the choir has gone from strength to strength under his direction.

We usually perform three concerts a year, mainly in the western side of Sheffield, including a popular Christmas concert featuring seasonal music and readings and often rounded off with mulled wine and mince pies. Recent well attended concerts at Easter and in the summer have included 'Rejoice in the Lamb'; 'From Fauré to Finzi' and 'Sure on this Shining Night.'

We are keen to encourage young musicians in the Sheffield area. With this in mind we have set up a successful Associate Soloist scheme and we have occasionally engaged talented young instrumentalists to accompany our performances.

We welcome new members and further information about joining the choir is available on our website <https://www.escafeldchorale.org.uk>.

Members of Escafeld Chorale are delighted to have been invited to join the Rose Choir for the Durham performance of 'A Northern Requiem'.

HARLEQUIN BRASS

Harlequin Brass – an orchestral 10-piece, has gained respect throughout the country and further afield with its commitment to musical excellence as well as variety and entertainment. They have enjoyed regular broadcasts on BBC Radio 2, 3 and 4, Classic FM and on National Television, including an appearance on BBC 2 'Songs of Praise' and in the Morrison's Christmas advertising campaign for two years running.

The ensemble received the award of 'Record of the Year' from Classic FM magazine for their second CD 'Music for a Millennium.'

Harlequin Brass has the honour of being the first British Brass Ensemble to perform in the world famous Concertgebouw in Amsterdam - recordings of which are now available on Spotify, under Grootkoren in Concert.

The ensemble regularly performs with choirs, both local and further afield, including some of the biggest names in gospel – the London Community Gospel Choir and the Academy of Contemporary Music Gospel Choir.

Our Musical Director, Jack Capstaff has been working with us for a couple of years, and brings a new, youthful vigour to the group!

We are delighted to be performing again for Rose Hill Arts Centre.

Trumpets

Brian Winter
Steve Bennett
Lucy Heeley
Clare Daws

Horn

Rachel Wilkes

Trombones

Rupert Trippet
Richard Goodman
Sophie Anderson
Richard Dixon

Tuba

Colin Sidney

Timpani

Pete Matthews

Percussion

David Hartland
Dan Priest





NORTHERN SPIRIT SINGERS

Originally formed in 2000 with a core membership of former National Youth Choir singers, Northern Spirit Singers rapidly secured its reputation as one of the country's leading chamber choirs, with concert tours across Europe and competition success: in 2014, Northern Spirit Singers were named UK Adult Choir of the Year in the BBC Choir of the Year competition. In the last decade, the choir has focused their activities in the North East of England more. Based in Durham, they have been the choir of choice for visiting artists including Russell Watson, or for BBC events at the Glasshouse, Gateshead. As well as their own musical projects, such as last year's Brahms Requiem, they support regional music projects with local schools and institutions (like Beamish Open Air Museum), perform works of local composers (like Will Todd and Lucy Walker), and fund raise for the Durham Music Trust.

A NORTHERN REQUIEM Durham Cathedral Marching Banner Groups

Bearpark · Bolsover · New Bracepeth · North Derbyshire

Barnsley Womens' Support Group · Eppleton Miners' Welfare Support Group ·
Sacriston Womens' Support Group · Vane Tempest Pit Camp ·
National Women Against Pit Closures

A huge welcome and thank you to all Miners, Marras and Supporters.

**We are very grateful to the North East Miners' Social Welfare Trust
Fund for giving us a grant towards tonight's performance.**

Rose Hill Arts Centre would like to thank you for your support in attending this performance of A Northern Requiem and would like to also extend our thanks to

The Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral

The Right Reverend Sarah Clark, Bishop of Jarrow

The Durham Cathedral Events Team, Staff and Volunteers

Alan Mardghum, General Secretary of the Durham Miners' Association

**Andy Dowson, Programme Director, Durham Miners Association & Friends
of Durham Miners Gala**

Heather Wood

We are indebted to the support given by the following individuals and organisations who have helped to create, shape and support

A Northern Requiem

Will Todd, Composer

Colin Hampton (Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre)

Shirebrook Miners Welfare

Chris Skidmore (Yorkshire Area NUM)

John Burrows

Rob and Mandy Vardy

Ian Pyatt

Betty Cook

Sue Prince (Artist - The Miner and the Horse II - The Battle of Orgreave)

Lynne Clark

Janet Wilson (Chesterfield Womens' Action Group)

Sound Recording **Andy Onion, Channel Zero Productions**

Lighting **Hi-Lights**

Video **Sam Johnston Productions**

Photography **Ian Boler**

Director

Andrea Brooks

Rose Hill Arts Centre

Chair: Hilary Leam · Treasurer: Liz Cramp · Secretary: Sarah Menzies
Trustees: Mark Johnson · Heath Parkin · John Robinson · Sally Ann Wilson



LOUISE COLLETT

Mezzo-soprano Louise Collett studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, gaining a First-Class Honours Degree, Post-Graduate Diploma in Concert Singing, Master of Music and Master of Opera at the Alexander Gibson Opera School (all with Distinction). During her studies she won numerous prizes including the Governors' Recital Prize and the Margaret Dick Competition.

She was a Scottish Opera Emerging artist, and went on to sing many roles for the company including Maddalena 'Rigoletto', Third Lady 'The Magic Flute,' Suzuki 'Madama Butterfly' and Lola 'Cavalleria Rusticana.' Louise has also worked as a soloist with Opera North (Annina 'La Traviata,' The Baker's Wife 'Into the Woods'), at Opera Bohemia (Suzuki 'Madama Butterfly,' Olga 'Eugene Onegin') and at English National Opera (Ensemble, 'Jakob Lenz') as well as singing at the prestigious Bayreuth Festspiele. She has performed recitals, concerts and oratorios throughout the UK.

Louise has built up a successful private and peripatetic teaching practice in Derbyshire. She directs the Hasland Community Choir and is the vocal coach for the 'Rose Choir'. She was also Co-director of Cantamus Girls Training Choir in Nottinghamshire for 12 years after being in Cantamus herself whilst at school and was fortunate enough to study with Pamela Cook MBE.

MORVEN BRYCE

Morven studied at The Royal Academy of Music with Professor Erich Gruenberg and the world renowned pedagogue Zakhar Bron.

Whilst there she won numerous awards and prizes, and was the founder and first violinist of The Tippett String Quartet, with whom she toured extensively and gave recitals on BBC Radio. As guest Concert Master of The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra and The London Soloists' Chamber Orchestra, she has toured internationally and performed regularly at the major concert venues such as Carnegie Hall with Joshua Bell; Royal Festival Hall with Vladimir Ashkenazi; Royal Albert Hall and Barbican Centre, with Lorin Mazel and Kurt Masur.



When her children were born, she began session work at Abbey Road studios London for the global Film Industry, working for composers such as Hans Zimmer, Max Richter, Danny Elfman, including film scores such as Shrek, Guardians of the Galaxy and Batman.

In 2020 Morven founded and delivers the ongoing project:

<https://www.humansomasounding.com> This is a project that offers anyone and everyone easeful opportunities to come together and co-create Living Sound Experiences through spontaneous vocal sounding sessions. These honour the birthright to claim and use one's own sacred human voice in these times of AI technological excesses, and growing global censorship. We support and nourish one another via the healing nature of vocal sound during these uncertain, but hopefully liberating times We live through, as Humanity.

Feel free to get in touch via the website. I would love to meet you and journey together through vocal sound dialogues of one's own Soul's natural and inimitable self-expression!



GEORGE PARSONS

Music Director, Escafeld Chorale
Organ

George Parsons began his musical life as a boy chorister at King's College, Cambridge, where he also began organ lessons. As a sixth-former he was Junior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral and, after further study with Jacques van Oortmerssen at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, George read music at The Queen's College, Oxford, where he was also an organ scholar. Since graduating in 2003, George has worked in music ministry for churches in London, Sheffield, and Wakefield, and in 2016 completed a PhD in Musicology. Currently, George works as the Music Minister at All Saints Ecclesall in Sheffield, and as a peripatetic singing, violin, and piano teacher around Nottinghamshire.

Based in Chesterfield, George also serves as the accompanist for both the local Rose Choir and Co-operative Choral Society and serves as the Music Director of the Sheffield-based Escafeld Chorale. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



JONATHAN FRANCIS

Conductor

Jonathan trained at Rose Bruford College. He is artistic director of Chesterfield Studios and musical director of the Rose Choir.

He began his professional career as an assistant director at Carlton Television, before training as a theatre director at Rose Bruford College, London. After graduating, he became director and later Principal Conductor of Chelmsford Opera, and musical director for the Brighton-based company, Zygo Arts, working alongside artistic director, Andrea Brooks. He also worked as associate musical director for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, and musically directed productions at Haymarket Theatre Basingstoke, Theatre Royal Brighton, The Young Vic, Oval House, Chelmsford Civic, Oxford Playhouse, Almeida and Cochrane Theatres.

Jonathan worked extensively in musical theatre before founding the Rose Choir in 2014. After conducting over one hundred separate productions, he now concentrates on choral repertoire. He is a member of the Association of British Choral Directors.

Jonathan is currently working with a dynamic group of volunteers to repurpose the former Rose Hill United Reformed Church in Chesterfield as a community arts centre. Tonight's performance offers a glimpse into the kind of collaborative performance he hopes to achieve in his role as Artistic Director of Rose Hill Arts Centre.

INTROIT

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

KYRIE

Kyrie, eleison
Christe, eleison
Kyrie, eleison

Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us

THE PLODDER SEAM Ewan MacColl (1915-1989)

The Plodder Seam is a wicked seam
It's worse than the Trencher Bone
It's hot and there's three foot of shale between

The coal and the rocky stone
You can smell the smoke from the fires of hell

Deep under Ashton town.
O, the Plodder Seam is a wicked seam
It's a mile and a quarter down.

Fifteen-hundred tons a day
Are taken from that mine
There's a ton of muck for a ton of coal
And a gallon of sweat and grime
You crawl behind the cutters
And you scrabble for the coal
I'd sooner sweep the streets
Than have to burrow like a mole.

Jonathan Francis

A NORTHERN REQUIEM

for the miners

Kindly supported by
The North East Miners'
Social Welfare Tust Fund

PART ONE

DIES IRAE & LAMENT

Dies irae, dies illa
Solvat saeculum in favilla,
Teste David cum Sibylla.
Quantus tremor est futurus,
Quando judex est venturus,
Cuncta stricte discussurus!

This day, this day of wrath
shall consume the world in ashes,
as foretold by David and the Sibyl.
What trembling there will be
When the judge shall come
To weigh everything strictly!

HONEST WORKING PEOPLE

A poem by Ian Pyatt, a Derbyshire Miner.
Read by Alan Mardghum, General Secretary of the Durham Miners'
Association

**Pits, jobs and communities would last two hundred years,
Both good times and disasters, both happiness and tears.
Honest working people in an ordinary life,
the backbone of the country,
through turmoil and through strife.**

**You had the gardeners, the fishermen,
an abundance of the sports,
you had the drunkenness and punch ups
and appearances in courts.**

**Men who worked and played hard,
an old colliery manager once told me,
honest working people for everyone to see.**

**Bacca, snuff and woodbines and an evil sense of fun,
raggin' one another, whilst their work was duly done.
Brass bands, gala's, picnics and the kiddies day trips out, beer
tents and kidology, to their wives,
'one more' they'd shout.**

**Honest working people, dubbed 'the enemy within',
were we traitors to our country, did we commit the sin?
They closed our pits, we lost our jobs, our communities, they
died.**

**Proud men now were broken, for that, we learned,
we cried.**

O, WHAT A LOVELY SUMMER

Author Unknown

O what a lovely summer,
O what a long, long strike
But if we had to go through it again
We'd still stand up and fight

Convoys of coke from Orgreave
Men standing side by side
Women serving the soup for them
Watching lorries of coke go by

Rows and rows of men in blue
Horses, dogs and truncheons too
Hitting miners they don't care who
Watching the coal go by.

How can we forget that sad, sad time
Dads, sons and brothers
Who were on that picket line

Memory will erase many things
As time goes by
But in our hearts what happened that day
Will never die

I'm proud I married a miner
I'm proud they're friends of mine
You see, I know a host of them
I was on that picket line

GRESFORD - THE MINERS' HYMN

by Robert Saint (1905 - 1950)

Written as a hymn tune without words to
commemorate the loss of 266 men who were killed
in the Gresford disaster on 22 September, 1934.

Only eleven bodies were
recovered, the rest remain
forever entombed in the depths
of the now long-closed mine.



Photo: Janet Wilson stands beside the banner of the Womens Action Group she formed in Chesterfield during the 84-85 Strike. Credit: Matthew Taylor.

HERE WE GO, FOR THE WOMEN OF THE WORKING CLASS

Words and Music by Mal Finch

We are women, we are strong,
We are fighting for our lives
Side by side with our men
Who work the nation's mines,
United by the struggle,
United by the past,
And it's - Here we go! Here we go!
For the women of the working class."

We don't need Government approval for anything we do
We don't need their permission to have a point of view
We don't need anyone to tell us
What to think or say
We've strength enough and wisdom of our own
To go our own way

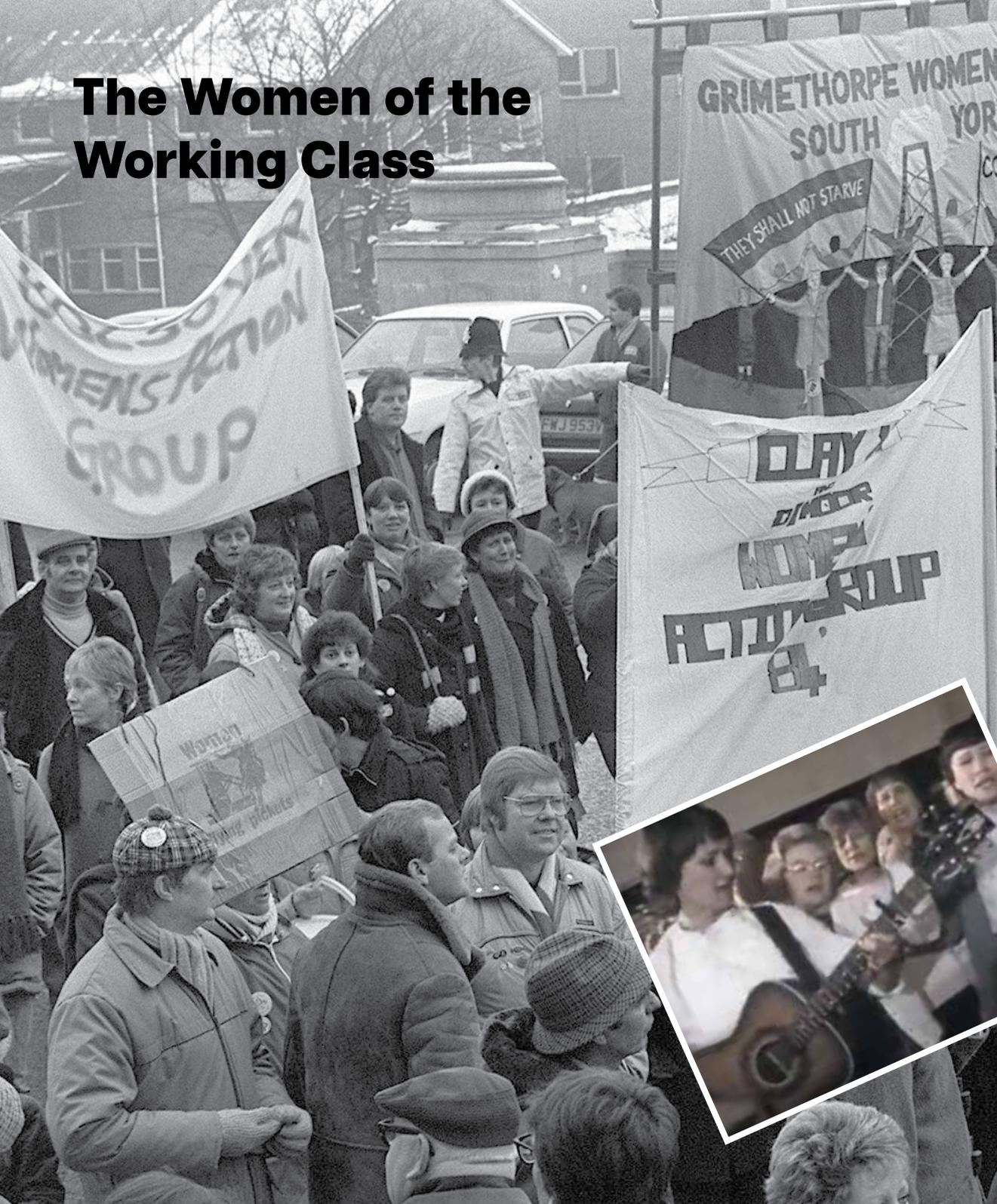
They talk about statistics, about the price of coal
The cost is our communities dying on the dole
In fighting for our future
We've found ways to organise
Where women's liberation failed to move,
This strike has mobilised

Ours is our unity that threats can never breach
Ours an education books or schools could never teach
We've faced the taunts and the violence
Of Thatcher's Thugs in Blue
When you're fighting for survival
You've got nothing, nothing left to loose.

INTERVAL



The Women of the Working Class



Flamin' Nerve, the group I sang with, was formed when we were asked to fill in between acts at the folk club in Winster, the village where we all lived. Over time, we were asked to sing at events, mostly political, and in 1984, we were asked by Women Against Pit Closures to sing at their inaugural conference in Chesterfield. I knew I wanted to write a song paying tribute to the women in their support for the strike. The first attempt, along the lines 'there's no going back to the kitchen sink' was not going well. A subsequent chance conversation with Betty Heathfield, one of the founders of WAPC, at her home, was hugely significant in that I knew then I was off the mark by a mighty mile. I began again.

'Here We Go, for the Women of the Working Class' wrote itself in half an hour, a song that came through me not from me. This is not false modesty - I'm so proud of that song and am grateful that it managed to capture the essence of the women's feeling and experience at that time. The women took it to their hearts from the very first time Flamin' Nerve sang that evening in Chesterfield. For me, it was an honour and a privilege. It was my music and words, but it was their voice and their song. Throughout 1984/5, we sang all over the country at concerts and rallies in support of the miners' campaign, meeting many extraordinary men and women. I have heard recordings of 'Here We Go for the Women of the Working Class' being sung in South Africa, Northern Spain and the coalfields in the USA.

It never ceases to amaze me how the strength and voice of those women in Women Against Pit Closures, epitomised in the song, still resonate and give support to communities far and wide.

MAL FINCH SEPTEMBER 2024



Photo: A Northern Requiem in Sheffield
Credit: Ian Boler

A Miner's Perspective

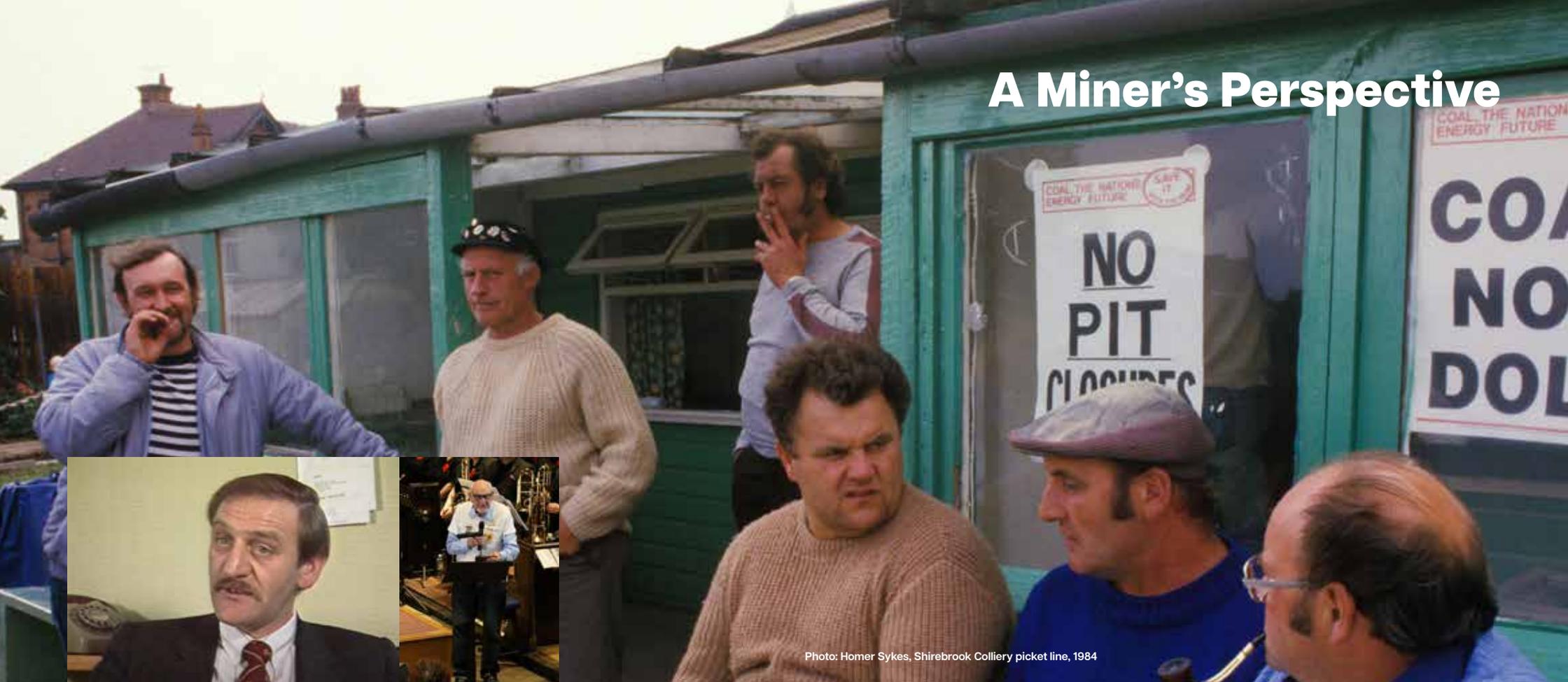


Photo: Homer Sykes, Shirebrook Colliery picket line, 1984

Twelve months of strike in the mining industry of 1984/85 was an unprecedented event in Trade Union history. It was a very difficult battle to face. A miner and his family faced poverty, hunger, and a constant attack from banks and mortgage companies insistent on being paid. The opposite side was the camaraderie between fellow strikers. Just as important was the politicisation of our women. Strong, fearless but also fulfilling the traditional role of support. My saying to my wife was always “Your support is my strength.”

As the weeks of strike lengthened, the day-to-day existence got increasingly difficult. Reliance on food parcels and soup kitchens intensified. Support from local trade unions, from international organisation and bucket collections, organised at a pit branch level gathered as much money as possible to sustain us. The longer the strike lasted the more men capitulated and returned to work. Proud, solid, and still fighting, we proudly paraded back to the pit as the strike ended. I was one of them.

JOHN BURROWS
EX MINER & FORMER NUM OFFICIAL

PART TWO

REX TREMENDAE

Rex tremendae Majestatis
qui salvandos salvas gratis
Salva me, fons pietatis

King of awful majesty
You freely save those worthy of salvation
Save me, fount of pity.

COAL NOT DOLE

From a poem by Kay Sutcliffe
set to the hymn tune 'Humility' by Sir John Goss (1800 - 1880)

It stands so proud, the wheel so still,
A ghostlike figure on the hill.
It seems so strange, there is no sound,
Now there are no men underground.

What will become of this pit yard
Where men once trampled, faces hard?
Tired and weary, their shift done,
Never having seen the sun.

Will it become a sacred ground?
Foreign tourists gazing round
Asking if men once worked here,
Way beneath this pithead gear.

Empty trucks once filled with coal,
Lined up like men on the dole.
Will they e'er be used again
Or left for scrap just like the men?

**There'll always be a happy hour
For those with money, jobs and power;
They'll never realise the hurt
They do to men they treat like dirt.**



REMEMBER THE MINER

From a poem by Spider

If only those miners came back for a day,
No more would they see the Rhondda so grey.
No slag-heaps, no scars, no rivers so black,
What beauty they'd see, if they could come back.

They worked in the dark, so we could have light
Some died in the morning, some died in the night.
They worked in the cold, so we could be warm,
Some died in the evening, while some died at dawn.

The ducks on the river, the trout swimming free,
Red and grey squirrels is what they would see.
The colours of the Rhondda, so beautiful, so green,
The pitheads are gone now, no more to be seen.

But the legacy you left us, your values, your pride,
These are the things that nature can't hide.
And in years to come, the Rhondda will say,
For your grand-kids lives, you gave your today.

And sometimes at night, out in the street,
You'd still hear the sound of hob-nailed feet,
Reminding us how hard it was then,
And telling our children, 'No, never again.'

THE MARCH BACK TO WORK

The Miners united will never be defeated
We stand up together, we stand up as one
Stand shoulder to shoulder, and march back together
We'll fight to the last, 'til the battle is done.
Fight for what's right and bring justice to light
One for all, united we will be.
Stand shoulder to shoulder, and march back together
We stood to the last, this is our victory.
We are the Kings of the Earth that you can't control
'Till we dig once again for coal.



CWM RHONDDA

A Rhondda Rebels' Song

Words: A. Geddes

Music: John Hughes (1873-1932)

See the mighty hosts of Labour,
Toiling slaves who dare be free
Crimson Flag and shining sabre,
Strike a blow for Liberty.

Arthur Scargill, Arthur Scargill,
We'll support you evermore
We'll support you evermore.

Pressing onward into battle,
See our Red battalions go,
Steadfast 'neath guns deadly rattle,
Pledged to fight an age-long foe.

Workers of all Lands united,
Marching onwards, steadfast, true.
Hopes of Kings and Tyrants blighted,
We shall build this world anew.

In 1927, 270 men left the Rhondda Valley in Wales and marched to London in protest against the Ministry of Health who were refusing or limiting relief notes to unemployed miners and their families. It was a demonstration against the Government's new Unemployment Bill.

Each carrying a safety lamp, they marched, singing into Trafalgar Square on 8th November, 1927.

The hymn tune Cwm Rhondda was written by John Hughes who worked at Glynn Colliery and the Great Western Colliery Pontypridd for over 40 years. The chorus is the popular picket line chant from the 1984-5 Miners' Strike.

Photo: Jeff Morgan, Miners with families and supporters march back to work at Tower Colliery

IN MEMORIAM

For Rob Vardy, in recognition of his unwavering support of A Northern Requiem and in memory of his mining friends lost at Arkwright Colliery.



Photo: Rob Vardy carrying the Derbyshire Area NUM Banner at the unveiling of the Arkwright Colliery Memorial on 28th June, 2025.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have to weight and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold thou Thy cross before my closing eye
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heavn's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee,
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793 - 1847)
Music: William Henry Monk (1823 - 1889)



"Remember the good times...and the dark times."

John Burrows, Welcome speech at A Northern Requiem, Chesterfield

Photo: Unveiling of the Arkwright Colliery Memorial, June 2025

BRITISH COLLIERIES CLOSED SINCE 1984

Abercynon · Abernant · Aberpergwm · Ackton Hall · Agecroft · Allerton Bywater · Annesley · Arkwright · Armthorpe · Asfordby · Ashington · Askern · Babbington · Baddesley · Bagworth · Barnburgh · Barnsley Main · Barony · Bates · Bearpark · Bedwas · Bentinck · Bentley · Bersham · Betteshanger · Betws · Bevercotes · Bickershaw · Bilsthorpe · Bilston Glen · Birch Coppice · Blaenant · Blaenserchan · Blidworth · Bogside · Bold · Bolsover · Brenkley · Brodsworth · Brookhouse · Bullcliffe Wood · Cadeby · Cadley Hill · Calverton · Caphouse · Cardowan · Castlebridge · Castlehill · Celyn North · Celyn South · Clipstone · Coedely · Comrie · Cortonwood · Cotgrave · Coventry · Creswell · Cronton · Cwm · Cynheidre · Darfield Main · Daw Mill · Dawdon · Dearne Valley · Deep Navigation · Denby Grange · Dinnington · Dodworth · Donnithorpe · Easington · Edlington · Ellington · Ellistown · Emley Moor · Eppleton · Ferrymoor Riddings · Florence · Frances · Frickley · Fryston · Garw Valley · Gascoigne Wood · Gedling · Glasshoughton · Golborne · Goldthorpe · Grimethorpe · Haig · Harworth · Hatfield Main · Hawthorn · Hem Heath · Hickleton · Highgate · Highmoor · Holditch · Horden · Houghton Main · Hucknall · Ireland · Kellingley · Killoch · Kilnhurst · Kinsley Drift · Kiverton Park · Lady Windsor · Lea Hall · Ledston Luck · Linby · Littleton · Longannet · Maerdy · Maltby · Mansfield · Manton · Manvers · Marine · Markham · Markham Main · Measham · Merthyr Vale · Monktonhall · Moorgreen · Murton · Natgarw · New Herrington · Newmarket · Newstead · North Gawber · North Selby · Nostell · Oakdale · Ollerton · Park Mill · Parkside · Parsonage · Penallta · Penrhiwceiber · Point of Ayr · Polkemmet · Polmaise · Prince of Wales · Pye Hill · Rawdon · Rennishaw Park · Riccall · Roseheyworth · Rossington · Rothwell · Royston Drift · Rufford · Sacriston · Saville · Seafield · Seaham · Shafton · Charlston · Sherwood · Shirebrook · Shireoaks · Silverdale · Silverhill · Silverwood · Six Bells · Snowdown · Solsgirth · South Kirkby · South Leicester · St John's · Stillingfleet · Sutton · Sutton Manor · Taff Merthyr · Thorne · Thurcroft · Tilmanstone · Thoresby · Tower · Treeton · Treforgan · Trelewis Drift · TurSDale · Unity · Vane Tempest · Warsop Main · Wath · Wearmouth · Welbeck · West Thorpe · Westoe · Wheldale · Whitemoor · Whittle · Whitwell · Whitwick · Wistow · Wolstanton · Woolley · Wyndham · Western ·

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine
(Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord)

Proficisarae anima carbonis, de hoc mundo
(The soul of coal has departed from this world)

The soul of coal is gone

Two hundred and many more, collieries closed since 1984
Two hundred and twenty one thousand jobs lost since 1984

The list of collieries is taken from 'Closed by the Tories 2,' a poster produced by The Savage Pen Littleton Power Group. Every effort has been made to ensure all collieries listed are included here. In total, 223 collieries and workshops were closed from 1984 onwards.



PIE JESU

**Pie Jesu Domine:
Dona eis requiem**

Merciful Lord Jesus:
Give them rest.

LIBERA ME

**Libera me, Domine,
de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum
veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.
Tremens factus sum ego et timeo,
dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira:
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.**

Deliver me, O Lord,
from eternal death on that awful day
when the heavens and earth shall be shaken
and you shall come to judge the world by fire.
I am seized with fear and trembling until the
trial is at hand and the wrath to come:
when the heavens and earth shall be shaken.

I SPENT MY LIFE IN DARKNESS

Poem by Jillchristy Dee

**Lay my body in the cold, dark cave I spent
my life in darkness
I've got not fear of the grave.
My spirit will soar in Godly flight
I spent my life in darkness
So that others would have light.**

Amen.



Photo: Nigel Roddis, Miners come off the last shift at Kellingley Colliery



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Jonathan Francis
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REQUIEM**
for the miners

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