

Extract from Westhoughton Local History Group

PRETORIA PIT DISASTER ANNIVERSARY

2025

IMPORTANT NOTE:

As the anniversary falls on a Sunday this year, there is a variation to the traditional '*dual commemoration services*' in Westhoughton, with the details being as follows:

SUNDAY, 21st DECEMBER:

A short remembrance service at the ***Centenary Memorial*** (the statue of '*The Kneeling Miner*') in Ditchfield Gardens at 7:40am, preceding the most poignant perennial symbolism—the firing of 'maroons' at 7:50am, as a graphic reminder of the precise time of the explosion.

MONDAY, 22nd DECEMBER:

1. The traditional memorial service in St. Bartholomew's Parish Church, commencing at 10am, followed by the wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial in Westhoughton Cemetery.

2. Complementing the two Westhoughton services, there will be the usual service at the Memorial site in Broadway, Atherton (off New Brook Road, M46 9HW), which is located very close to the site of the Pretoria pithead. This commences at 2pm.

Wreaths will be laid on behalf of *WLHG* at all three services