

# Asland Pilgrim Ways

## Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church to Tarleton

**Start:** Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Rd, Rufford, Ormskirk L40 1TA (Grid ref: 464 156)

**Finish:** Tarleton Methodist Church, Church Road, Tarleton PR4 6UP

**Map:** OS Explorer 285 (Southport and Chorley)

**Parking:** On road parking by Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church. Public car park in Tarleton opposite Holy Trinity Church.

**Public Transport:** The number 2a bus runs between Trinity Walks, Tarleton and the Hesketh Arms, Rufford (approximately one bus per hour during the day). Buses may not always run on bank holidays.

**Check bus times prior to your journey.**

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables> 0345 241 8000 (charges apply)

**Toilets:** At places of refreshment (for patrons); public toilets at the car park opposite Tarleton Holy Trinity Church.

**Refreshments available at Rufford** at Tastebuds Café, Boathouse Brasserie, Hesketh Arms, Rufford Arms, Rufford Old Hall.

**Tarleton** has several places for refreshment in the village.

**Length:** 4.2 miles or 4.5 miles (one way). This linear walk incorporates Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church, Tarleton St Mary's (old church), Tarleton Holy Trinity Church and Tarleton Methodist Church. Sections of the walk can be muddy. There is one stile if you choose option 2 of the walk.

Either return the same way, or catch the number 2a bus to Rufford.

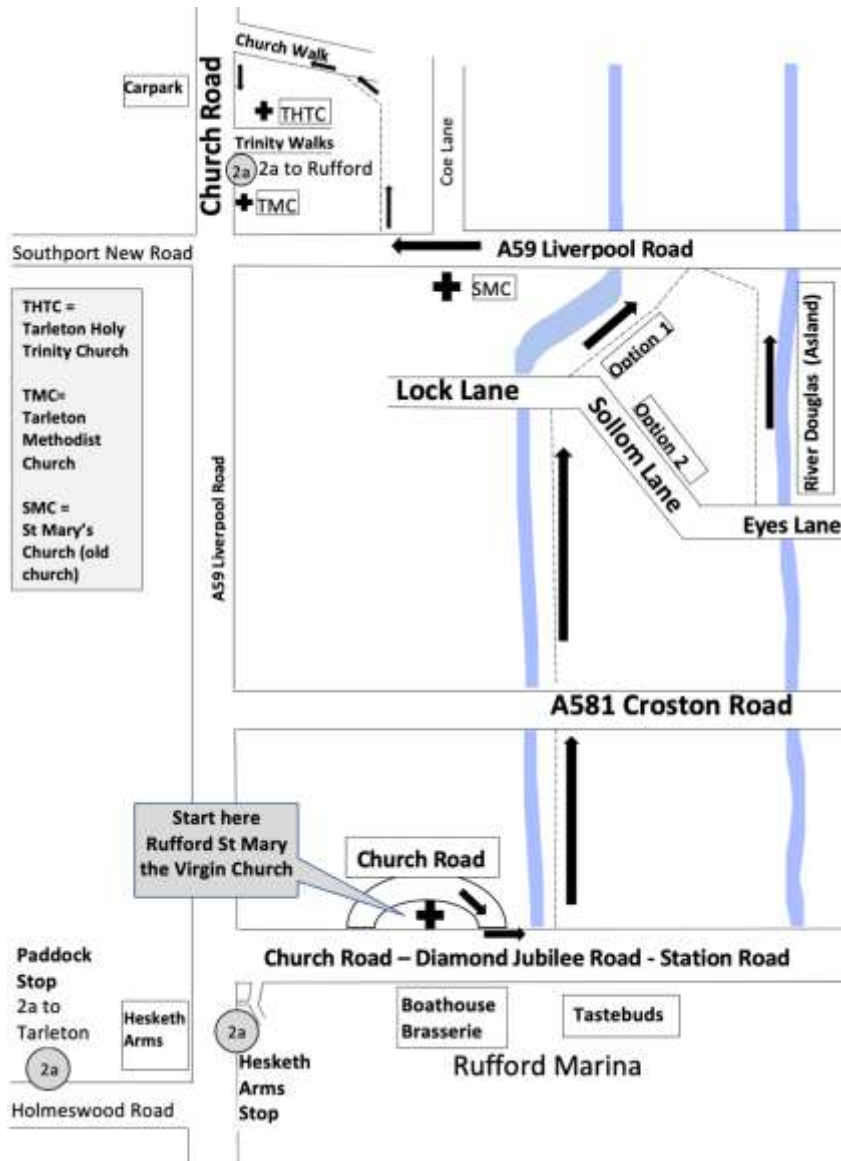
**Accessibility:** The route described is not accessible for wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Buses run between Tarleton and Rufford.

**Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church:** Accessed by a ramp.

**St Mary's Church:** Uneven stone floor. Step up into boxed pews. Stairs to gallery.

**Holy Trinity Church:** No steps to enter the church, accessible toilet.

**Tarleton Methodist Church:** Can be accessed by a ramp at the side.



Map not to scale and all the twists, turns, and roads are not shown.

Leaflet date: February 2023.

Check venues for opening times.

Take care near waterways and roads. Follow the Countryside Code.

Routes are followed at your own risk. Information changes over time. You are advised to check information in advance and complete your own risk assessment.

This is one of a series of routes connecting churches as well as circular routes incorporating churches. We hope that you find refreshment as you travel along these ways, finding wholeness and peace with creation, with God and with each other.

**For both routes**, start the route at **Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church**, on Church Road.

Walk along Church Road to Diamond Jubilee Road/Station Road (B5246).  
Turn left.

Walk a short distance until you reach the canal.  
This is the Rufford Branch of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

Turn left and walk northwards along the canal towpath.  
This footpath can become overgrown in summer.

**After about 2 miles, the towpath will emerge at Lock Lane/Sollom Lane. Here you have 2 options.**

**Option 1:** When you get to Lock Lane/Sollom Lane, cross the road and continue north on a footpath along the waterway. The waterway is on your left. This waterway is the old course of the River Asland/ River Douglas.  
This route can be muddy. For a less muddy walk, option 2 is recommended.  
**This route is 4.2 miles**

**Option 2:** When you get to Lock Lane/ Sollom Lane, turn right and walk along the lane until you come to a bridge which crosses the River Douglas (Asland).  
Do not cross the bridge.  
Look out for a stile on your left.  
Climb over the stile and walk on the path by the side of the river. As you walk, the river is on your right.  
**This route is 4.5 miles**

**For both routes**, as you approach the A59 you will see a stone bridge called Tarleton Bridge (known locally as Bank Bridge). Don't go under the bridge. On the left side of the bridge, there is a gate. Go through the gate towards the A59.

At the A59, turn left and walk along the footpath to **St Mary's Church**.  
St Mary's Church is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.  
<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-mary-tarleton.html>

As you leave **St Mary's Church**, bear left and use the pedestrian crossing to cross the A59 (take care as you cross this busy road) and turn left along the footpath.

Walk along the footpath until you reach a public footpath sign on your right hand side (easily missed). Follow the sign and walk along the tarmac footpath.

You will reach a road (Janes Meadow).  
Cross over the road and continue along the footpath.  
Ignore the first footpath on your left.  
At the next footpath junction, keep straight on.  
Ignore an overgrown muddy footpath on your left.  
Ignore the next tarmac footpath on your left.

Look out for a small footbridge on your left and cross over.

Walk along the path by the side of the school playing field. The path emerges at a road with some houses (Church Walk). Turn left.

Continue along Church Walk until it emerges at Church Road. Turn left.

Continue along Church Road until you arrive at **Holy Trinity Church**.  
As you leave Holy Trinity Church turn left.  
Continue along Church Road until you reach **Tarleton Methodist Church**.

**You can catch the 2a bus from the Trinity Walks bus stop to return to Rufford. Buses run about once an hour during the day. Buses may not always run on bank holidays. Check times with Stagecoach.**

**Rufford St Mary the Virgin Church** is usually open daily.

**Tarleton Holy Trinity Church** is usually open daily. There is free coffee and chat on Friday mornings between 10.00am and 12 noon.

**Tarleton Methodist Church** often joins with other Methodist churches on Sunday mornings. Check the church noticeboard and website for up to date information.

**Tarleton St Mary's (Old Church)** is open for specific events.

Check church noticeboards, websites and Facebook pages for details of church opening times, events and services.