

Our Lady Help of Christians Church History

A Chapel of Ease from St Oswald, Longton was established in a loft above a garage at Tanfield, Hesketh Bank in 1925. When St Patrick's, Southport became a parish in 1934 it took over responsibility for supplying a priest, and the chapel moved to the ground floor. For a couple of years after 1942 Tarleton was a pro-parish with successive resident priests Rev. William Murphy (to 1943) and Rev. Patrick Murphy, before becoming a parish in 1944 (though its canonical erection seems to have waited until 1962). The foundation stone for a new church designed by A. G. Bullen of the Liverpool firm Weightman and Bullen was laid on 8 July 1951 and it was opened by Archbishop Downey on 14 September 1952. The tower was completed later, and officially blessed by Archbishop Godfrey in September 1954. A couple of years later the church hall was built, opening around the late 1950s or 1960s.

From **Our Lady Help of Christians Church**, go south east along Hesketh Lane, passing Spencers Drive and Sutton Avenue. On your right there is a passageway between house numbers 95 and 97. Go down the passageway, which takes you onto Howard Drive.

When you reach Howard Drive, bear right, then follow the road as it curves left. At the end of the road, turn left onto Carr Lane. On your right-hand side is Tarleton playing fields. There is a picnic area and children's play area adjacent to the sports pavilion.

Continue along Carr Lane (south east) towards Tarleton. When you reach the crossroads, turn left onto Gorse Lane. Just before the mini roundabout, turn right onto Church Road. Walk along Church Road until you reach **Holy Trinity Church**.

Holy Trinity Church was built in 1886 to replace St Mary's, Windgate as the congregation had outgrown the building. Holy Trinity was consecrated in 1888 and the steeple and bells added later. The ring of eight bells were installed by J. Taylor & Co of Loughborough and were dedicated and first rung on 22 July 1914. The first peal was rung on 10 April 1915. The War Memorial in the church grounds commemorates the lives of the men of Tarleton who fell in the Great Wars and is a listed monument.

As you leave **Holy Trinity Church**, turn left and go along Church Road.

On the corner of Blackgate Lane you will see a white building. This was once the village school, then a bank and is now an undertakers.

Continue along Church Road. **Tarleton Methodist Church** is on your left, just past Trinity Walks.

According to tradition, organised **Methodism** in Tarleton began in the late 18th or early 19th century when a small group began to meet for worship and fellowship in the barn of a farm at Sollom as well as in house groups. The first chapel built of brick was erected on the south-side of the present premises. This land later formed the front gardens of the row of cottages known as 'Wesleyan Cottages' (now Chapel Meadows). These cottages were built out of the brick of the old chapel when it was demolished; hence the plaque bearing the words "Wesleyan Cottages" on the front wall of the end pair. The "Old Chapel", according to some of the oldest Tarleton Methodists had box type pews with doors, and a balcony at the back, and was heated by a large stove in the centre of the floor, not unlike the inside of the old Parish Church of St. Mary. In 1886, the present schoolroom was added to the north side of this "Old Chapel". Ten years later in 1896 the "New Chapel" was built. In 1933 some major extension work was carried out when several new classrooms and meeting rooms on two floors were added.

To return to **Our Lady Help of Christians Church** you can retrace your path, catch a bus, or return via the Tarleton Prayer Pilgrimage route.

Our Lady Help of Christians Church is open for private prayer on Thursday mornings between 11.00am and 1.00pm. See the website for Mass times.

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

Tarleton Methodist Church often joins for worship with other local Methodist churches on a Sunday morning. Check the church noticeboards and websites for up to date information. The church building is not routinely open during the week but check the noticeboards and website for details of events.

See church websites for up to date information about service times and events.