



# Asland Pilgrim Ways

## Mere Brow – Holmes – Holmeswood

**Start:** Mere Brow Methodist Chapel, Mere Brow Lane, Mere Brow, Tarleton, Preston PR5 6JP (Grid ref: 419 188)

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

**Parking:** Mere Brow Village Hall, 65 The Gravel, Mere Brow. Preston, PR4 6JX

**Public Transport:** The number 347 bus runs between Holmeswood and Mere Brow (about every 2 hours during the day, more limited at weekends, and no buses on Sundays). Buses may not run on bank holidays.

Check bus times prior to your journey.

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

**Toilets:** Mere Brow Village Hall (for patrons); Outside toilet at Holmes Methodist Church (accessed by a step).

**Refreshments:** Available at Mere Brow (Legh Arms, Mere Brow Deli, Mere Brow Village Hall).

**Length:** 4.6 miles (can be shortened to 1.8 miles)

This circular walk links three Methodist chapels. The route is along public footpaths and quiet lanes past fields, and sections on footpaths at the side of roads. Some road sections do not have a footpath. Sections of the walk can be muddy. There is one stile on the walk.

**Accessibility:** The route described is not accessible for those using mobility scooters or wheelchairs due to stiles and rough terrain.

**Holmes Methodist Church** is accessed via steps.

**Mere Brow Methodist** can be accessed by ramp. Accessible toilet in hall when open.

**Holmeswood Methodist** has a side entrance without steps.

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.

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

Leaflet date: October 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.

<https://lancashirewest.org.uk/aslandpilgrimways/>

Facebook Page: Asland Pilgrim Ways

Start the route at **Mere Brow Methodist Chapel**. Spend some time enjoying the Bible Garden at the side of the chapel. With your back to the chapel, turn right down Mere Brow Lane. At the T junction, turn left down The Marshes Lane (B5246). Proceed down The Marshes Lane for 650 yards.

Look out for a public footpath sign on your left-hand side. Turn left and follow the track. Eventually, you will come to a stile. Climb over the stile and continue on the track. You will see views of Winter Hill in the distance.

The track bends left and then right, before emerging at a lane.

Turn left along the lane. Follow the lane, as it eventually bends right and then left, as it becomes Park Lane. This lane takes you past farms, to **Holmes Methodist Church**. From here you have two options. You can take a shorter route, or a longer route.

For a shorter route, as you leave Holmes Methodist Church, turn left at the T junction onto Mere Brow Lane. This takes you back to Mere Brow. Please note that there is no footpath by the road for part of this route. Take care.

For the longer route, as you leave Holmes Methodist Church, turn right at the T junction, onto Blackgate Lane, then turn right down Green Lane. This lane is mainly used by farm vehicles, and takes you past fields. There is no footpath on this lane.

You will come across tracks on your right. Ignore the first track, it is private land. At the second track, turn right. Follow this track. It eventually bears left towards woodland (Hunter's Plantation).

As you approach the woodland, there is a track on your right-hand side. Take this track, so that you are walking with the wood on your left-hand side. This track gets very muddy in winter.

Follow this track, which ends at a farm. Walk through the farmyard and onto Smithy Lane. Continue along Smithy Lane. At the end of Smithy Lane, you will see **Holmeswood Methodist Church**.

Cross the road to explore Holmeswood Methodist Church.

With your back to Holmeswood Methodist Church, turn left down Holmeswood Road (B5246). Holmeswood Road becomes The Marshes Lane and takes you back to Mere Brow.

These churches have now merged together, and there are no regular Sunday services at Holmes or Holmeswood.

Mere Brow Methodist Chapel sometimes joins together for worship on a Sunday morning with Tarleton Methodist Church. Check the church noticeboards and websites for up to date information about services and events.

These church buildings are **not** open daily during the week.

Mere Brow has a Come4coffee (coffee morning and fun quiz): last Tuesday of each month (10.30am-12noon).

Mere Brow Chapel Garden – designed and created by the Sunday School is open daily to visitors “A little haven in a challenging world”.

You could take the 347 bus from Holmeswood Methodist Church (Smithy Lane stop) to the Legh Arms bus stop in Mere Brow. These buses run approximately every 2 hours during the day. The weekend service is more limited, and there are no buses on Sundays. Buses may not run on bank holidays.

This would shorten the route by 1.5 miles.