

# Tarleton & Rufford

Discipleship

## Parish Magazine

FEBRUARY /  
MARCH 2026 ISSUE

# DW

## DAVID WILKINSON

FAMILY RUN INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS



**Chat to us your  
LOCAL INDEPENDENT  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
about a new or existing  
funeral plan, we are here to  
advise and help**

24 hour service  
always on hand  
to look after your  
family

—○—○—  
Members of SAIF  
- adhering to strict  
codes of conduct



**291 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton PR4 6RJ**

**01772 811165**

**info@davewilkinsonifd.co.uk**



# CONTENTS

PARISHES OF TARLETON & RUFFORD ST MARY'S

## 4 CLERGY THOUGHTS

*As we welcome Calum Mullett as Assistant Curate into our parishes, he writes thoughts about Lent, and preparations for the period.*

## 8 NEWS IN BRIEF

*Information about the Lent arms giving, along with updates from around our communities.*

## 12 RENEWAL

*Helen Hindle invites you to creative, open sessions allowing a space to gather and be refreshed.*

## 26 HYMNOLOGY

**JOHN BUNYAN (1628 – 1688)**

*Who would true valour see,  
Let him come hither;  
One here will constant be,  
Come wind, come weather.*

## 14 DIARY DATES

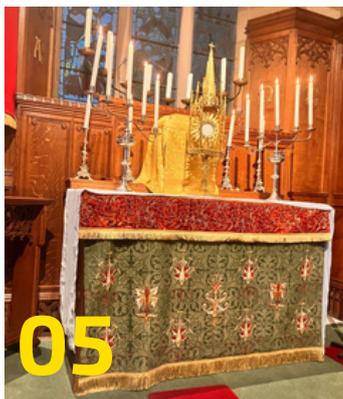
*Keep updated with all the services and events around our parishes during the next couple of months.*

## 19 SCHOOLS

*Explore what our local CofE primary schools have been up to lately, and plans for the weeks ahead.*



## 16 YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PROVISION



05

## HOLY HOUR CANDLES

Why the Altar becomes a meeting point between heaven and earth.



07

## ROSE QUEEN

Fundraising, events, and a rare glimpse inside Fr Mark's wallet.



WWW.RSMTHT.CHURCH



EDITOR@RSMTHT.CHURCH

Deadline for next magazine is:  
Thursday 12th March  
2026

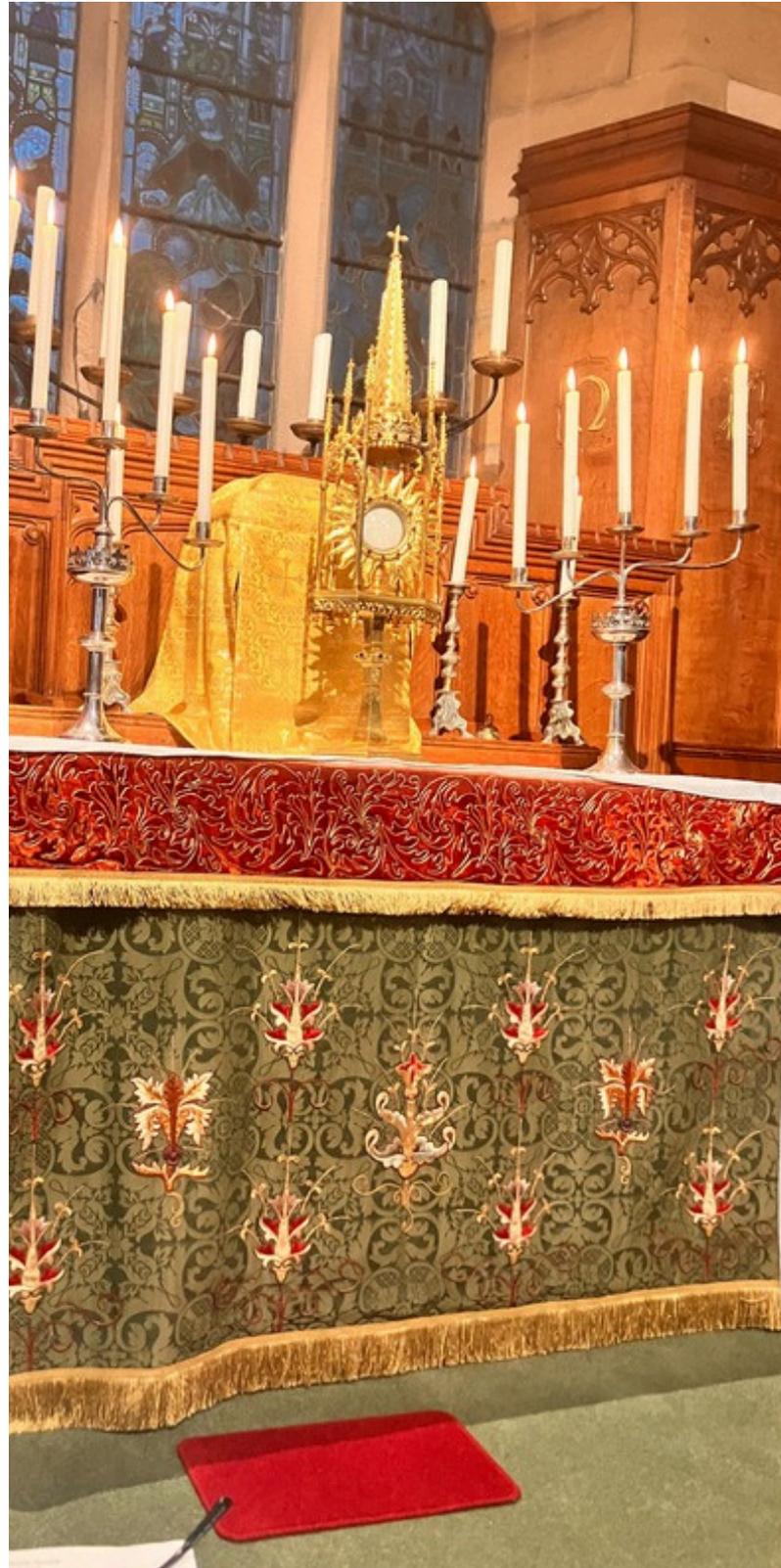
# Clergy Thoughts

The word Lent comes from the Old English word for spring, and in the Northern Hemisphere Spring and Lent always overlap. There is a simple reason for this; Jesus died at Passover, Passover is in Spring, and therefore the new Passover, Easter and Lent, are also in Spring. And as the church prepares to celebrate our Lord's rising from the ground, the earth pushes up new life too. Bulbs innumerable begin to spring up and surge towards the light. It is as if all of creation can't help but praise our God's victory over the grave. Just as we have left this annual earthly winter behind, so with the death of God on the cross for us the winter of our sin and death is left in the dust. In Christ's resurrection we have a sure hope of the springing of that eternal summer that shall never end.

Lent points us to this coming reality, but it also calls us to prepare ourselves for it. Just as the flowers are growing and the leaves budding so we are called to grow too. We are called to give up good things, like food, for something even better- growth in God. The ancient practice of the church was giving up certain types of food like meat or sweets on Mondays-Saturdays through Lent, and fasting from all food on most of the day on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent. This is a big challenge, and a very counter-cultural practice, but if the plants can grow so can we. Growth needs discipline and focus; bringing forth new life isn't easy. Just as the gymgoer or professional athlete needs to exercise and stretch themselves, so the Christian is called by God's grace to deny self and press on towards growing more into Christlikeness. For if we can deny ourselves that tasty biscuit or bacon barm in this season, we might be able to deny sin through the rest of the year.

This Lent, let's not allow the flowers to do all the growing; let's press in to Lenten disciplines, that at the end of Lent we might find ourselves more Christlike as we come to celebrate Jesus' glorious death and resurrection.

Calum Mullett  
Assistant Curate



## HOLY HOUR CANDLES

Again this year during Lent we will set aside an Hour for Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Holy Trinity, Tarleton, every Friday evening.

Fr Mark explains why the Altar has seven stick candlesticks on it for this hour.

The Candelabras are not there primarily to create an 'atmosphere', but to signify who is present ie God.

When God is present in His fullness, the Church responds in fullness. That is why the number candles on each candlestick is seven.

In Scripture, numbers speak very powerfully. The figure Seven is not just "many."

Seven means complete, perfect, lacking nothing. We see this throughout the Bible from the very first chapter. God creates the world in seven days. Not because He needed seven days, but because seven expresses a work brought to divine completion.

So whenever Scripture uses seven, it is telling you: 'This is God's work, done fully, without defect'.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the Messiah and says: "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him..." Then he lists the gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord. That is seven! Isaiah is not counting randomly rather he is saying: the Messiah will possess the Spirit of God completely.

So when the Church lights seven candles, she is silently proclaiming: 'The One before us possesses the fullness of the Spirit of God'.

In this Holy Hour liturgy we replicate what St John tells us in the Book of Revelation, he says he saw 7 Gold Lamp stands and in their midst stood Christ.

During this liturgy, the Altar becomes a meeting point between heaven and earth. Do come and be part of it this Lent.



## WHY PAY EXPENSIVE CARE HOME COSTS?

Keep your loved ones safe and secure in the comfort of their own home.



- ✓ Local family-run business for over 14 years
- ✓ 100% of our Team recommend us as a place to work
- ✓ 97% of our Clients would recommend us to others
- ✓ Rated 'Outstanding' by the CQC
- ✓ 2x winners of the Princess Royal Training Award

### EXEMPLARY CARE SERVICES:

Personal Care  
Peace of Mind  
Specialist Care  
Home Help  
Overnight Care  
Dignified End-of-Life Care  
Nail Care



Scan for more information about our services.

**FREE** Dementia Awareness Workshop Available

If you think our award-winning services can help you or a loved one, or you would like to become a Care Professional, then please get in touch.

**T: 01695 589071**

**home instead.**  
West Lancashire & Chorley

# † NEAL † BUCKLEY

*Funeral Director*

*Your trusted local  
funeral director with  
30 years experience*

**Private Chapels of Rest**



**Truly Independent**

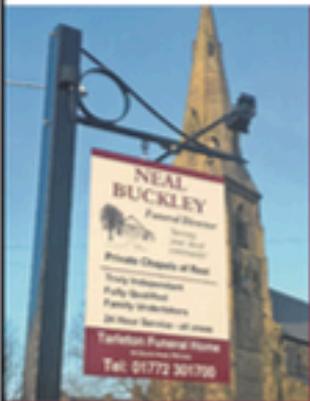
**Fully Qualified**

**Family Undertakers**

**Pre-payment Funeral Plans**

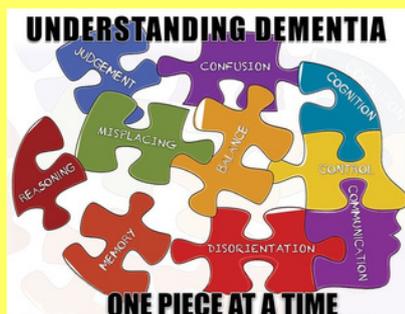
**Monumental - new stones & refurbished**

**24 Hour personal attention - all areas**



**Tarleton Funeral Home**  
49 Church Road PR4 6UQ  
**Tel: 01772 301700**

# Dementia Carers



We offer support in a safe environment to express your worries and concerns with like minded people no need to book everyone welcome

## Hesketh Bank Community Centre

Station road PR4 6SR  
Thursday 2pm till 4pm

If we can help you or you can help us by becoming a volunteer, please contact us on [Heskethbankandtarletonhelpers@gmail.com](mailto:Heskethbankandtarletonhelpers@gmail.com)

## Hesketh Bank & Tarleton Helpers



## Community café

Every Friday, volunteers from Hesketh bank and Tarleton helpers deliver a community café at Hesketh bank community centre. No need to book



We offer a three-course home-cooked lunch for a donation of what you can afford.

The event is open to everyone, and most visitors are happy to donate £5 for a very pleasant dining experience in a welcoming atmosphere.

**Memories R Made Choir for people living with memory loss & those who support them. No need to book**



Sutton Grange Care Home, Banks

🕒 Wednesdays, 11:00–12:00pm

📍 Alsley Lodge Care Home, Rufford

🕒 Wednesdays, 2:30–3:30pm



## Calling for volunteer befrienders

A free service that aims to help older people who live locally and feel lonely or socially isolated. Our friendly befriender volunteers visit befriended clients regularly in their own homes or, if preferred, out in the community for a minimum of one hour a week.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## LENT ARMS GIVING

This Lent we are encouraging to take a Mission Direct Box and give money to the worthwhile Charity, that supports Mission in our Incumbency.

Our Preacher on the Sunday Before Lent, The Reverend Canon Philip O'Reilly, ssc, will explain to us the work of SSC Mission Direct.



---

## Re: Majorie Riley

Angela, Miriam and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, messages of condolence and shared their reminiscences following Marjorie Riley's death on 20th October 2025. Many thanks also for the donations to Holy Trinity Church and St Catherine's Hospice in memory of Marjorie. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

---

Many thanks to all who came along to the Switch on of the Rufford Christmas lights last night and especially to the children from Rufford Primary School who sang the first hymn. The annual event which also features the Hesketh Bank Silver Band was and always will be a real community event that is hosted by the Rufford Village Society and could only take place with the help and generosity of local people and businesses .

Funds raised on the night will go towards local village projects

The raffle raised £173 and donations £86.30

## Flowers For Church

An important part of our worship at St. Mary's Church is how the building looks and feels as we sit for our worship on a Sunday and at other quieter times of the week. Many of you will have admired the various displays, many produced by our children at school and Sunday school, that highlight the religious themes that shape our church year Christmas, Easter etc..

These displays are purposeful and significant in that they are a visible reminder of why we come to church and they help us reflect on what is important to us. On a weekly basis flowers adorn the altar at the front of church and are often given by a family in remembrance of a loved one's anniversary.

With this in mind we would like to offer you the opportunity to join the church flower rota to provide flowers in memory of a loved one or for any significant anniversary. There is also opportunity for anyone who would like to contribute to the arrangement of the flowers.

If you would like to be included in the church flower rota in any way please contact Brenda Caslake on -:07821107341

# Welcoming All New Patients!



Choosing a new optician can be overwhelming, which is why we strive to make your experience as comfortable and stress-free as possible.

Our friendly team are here to answer any questions you might have. Our optometrists will find the best treatment plan for your vision and eye health, and our dispensing team are dedicated to helping you find a perfect pair for any occasion.

**So what are you waiting for?**

**Call us today or pop in and book an appointment.**

**Remember to bring your prescription if you don't need an eye test.**

**We look forward to seeing you soon!**



54 Church Road, Tarleton, PR4 6UQ.

T: 01772 476198 E: [info@tarletonopticians.co.uk](mailto:info@tarletonopticians.co.uk)

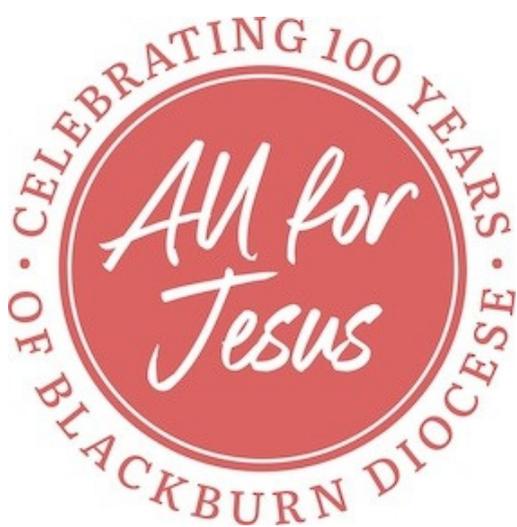
[tarletonopticians.co.uk](http://tarletonopticians.co.uk)

# CENTENARY YEAR OF MISSION

As part of the Centenary Year of Mission RISE Theatre will spend the day on February 6th at Tarleton Holy Trinity CE School, with Mere Brow CE School joining in as well. In addition to plays, to start and end the day, the group will join in with class activities throughout the day.

During the day they look at:

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community, and participation
- Care for God's creation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Option for the poor and vulnerable
- The dignity of work and rights of workers
- Solidarity



On the first Sunday in January at all our services, we marked the Diocesan Year of Centenary & Mission, by making the following declaration:

"In this year of centenary and through the Spirit's power, will you give your all for Jesus, seeking to know him and love him ever more deeply through worship, study and prayer?

**With the help of God I will**

Will you love your neighbour and serve all people with devotion and generosity?

**With the help of God I will**

Will you share your faith with others, rejoicing to give reason for the hope that is within you?

**With the help of God I will"**

Also during this week our Church Schools joined other schools and Bishop Phillip on Zoom to mark the start of this great and exciting year.

# ROSE QUEEN FUNDRAISING

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that supported Isabelle during December with her fundraising for St. Catherine's Hospice, it wouldn't be possible without the continued support of the congregation, family and friends.

Isabelle's handmade gifts and treats stall at the Sip & Shop Christmas Fair was a success and raised £60.

£165 was raised through entries and donations to the Christmas Lights Competition. Thank you to Arden Lea Nurseries for sponsoring this year's event. Isabelle and Hannah had a lovely evening judging the competition, our villages looked beautiful and very Christmassy.

And finally, a huge thank you to everyone that supported the Hot Chocolate and Mince Pie event. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone and raised a phenomenal amount - £216.

Please save the date for our Easter Bingo, Friday 27th March. Further details will be displayed in Church nearer the time.



# Renewal



**6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**Tarleton Holy Trinity Church**  
**7.30pm to 8.30pm**

## Books and poems

For this session please bring along any books or poems that you like, to talk about with the group. There will be mindful book themed colouring available. You would also be most welcome to just come along and simply be with the group.



The session will conclude with music and a short Christian reflection.

## Future sessions

Thursday 5th March 2026 -bring your own craft or project

Friday 10th April 2026

Friday 1st May 2026

*He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength.*

*Isaiah 40: 21-31a*

For further information, contact

Helen Hindle (Anna Chaplain)

[hmhindle@googlemail.com](mailto:hmhindle@googlemail.com)

01772 815738



Come along to Tarleton Holy Trinity Church once a month on a Friday evening for 'renewal' – a space to gather and be refreshed. We will start at 7.30pm and finish promptly at 8.30pm. Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Each session will conclude with a short Christian meditation.

On **Friday 6th February 2026** we have a theme of books and poems. Bring your favourite books or poems to talk about with the people on your table.

Feel free to bring along any craft activity you are doing at the moment, to craft while you chat. Don't worry if you don't have any craft to bring; some 'mindful' book inspired colouring pages will be available. You would also be most welcome to just come along and simply be with the group.

On Thursday **3rd March 2026** simply bring along whatever craft activity you are doing at the moment, or join in with jigsaws, puzzles or 'mindful' colouring. You would also be most welcome to just come along and simply be with the group.

*He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength.  
Isaiah 40: 21-31a*

For further information, contact Helen Hindle (Anna Chaplain)  
hmhindle@googlemail.com 01772 815738

## MOTHERS' UNION



In November, Ian Ferguson shared insights on his charity work abroad. December was full of festive cheer:

We enjoyed a Mothers Union carol service and joined in singing at HM Prison in Preston. Just before Christmas, we gathered to make Christingles for the Christmas Eve service.

In January, our AGM was held with delightful afternoon tea prepared by the committee.

Looking ahead, on February 11th, Philip Walsh will speak about the "Boundary Walk around Lancashire."

Finally, we will meet for the Lady Day Mass at 10am on March 25th

Pam Dutton

# SERVICES & DIARY DATES

## **HEALING & WHOLENESS**

**2.30pm on Thursday**

**February 19th**

**March 19th**

## **SUNDAYS**

**9.15am weekly at Rufford**

**10.45am weekly at Tarleton**

## **8AM Services**

**Tarleton: February 1&15 March 1&15**

**Rufford: February 8 & 22nd March 8 & 22nd**

**March 29th no 8am service**

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

**Sunday, February 1st Eve of Candlemas**

**Ash Wednesday, February 18th**

**10am Ashing & Holy Eucharist, Tarleton**

**7pm Ashing and Sung Eucharist, Rufford**

## **Fridays in Lent**

**7.30pm Holy Hour at Tarleton**

**Wednesday March 25th Lady Day, Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**10am Holy Eucharist**

**7pm Holy Eucharist and Meeting of the Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham**

**March 29th Palm Sunday - normal Sunday services with Processions**

# SERVICES & DIARY DATES

## EASTER TRIDUUM

We are so pleased that in this Centenary Year of the Diocese of Blackburn, that the Bishop of Blackburn will spend the Easter Triduum with us in Rufford and Tarleton.

Bishop Philip will Preside and preach on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and at the Paschal Vigil on Easter Eve.

### Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

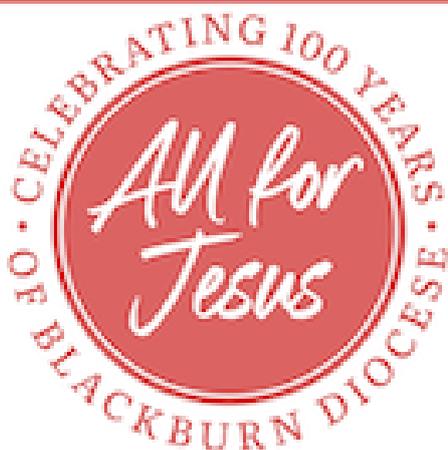
7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper, Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altars, followed by the Watch of the Passion (Tarleton)

### Good Friday, April 3rd

10.15 Stations of the Cross (Rufford)  
2pm Liturgy of the Day (Tarleton)

### Easter Eve (April 4th)

7.30pm Paschal Vigil (Tarleton)



Heavenly Father,  
in our Centenary year  
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.  
Send the Holy Spirit to give us  
confidence in our witness,  
generosity in our service,  
and love for our neighbours,  
that your Church may be renewed  
and many come home to you,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## Fr Mark read a Christmas story around the Fire during during Forest Church at Mere Brow CE School



### Celebrating Our Three Primary Schools

Over the past two months, it has been a privilege to spend time working with the children across our parish primary schools. As Youth Coordinator, I have supported pupils through classroom visits, collective worship and opportunities to explore faith in engaging and meaningful ways. These visits have helped strengthen the links between our schools and parish while encouraging children to reflect and grow in confidence in their faith.

### Rufford C of E Primary School

In December, pupils took part in an Advent retreat, stepping away from the busyness of school life to reflect on themes of love, peace, hope, joy, preparation and kindness through creative and prayerful activities. In January, Rowan Class explored the Christian value of courage during a Faith in the Forest session, playing outdoor games that built trust, teamwork, and helped them think

about Bible stories of courageous figures. The season was further enriched by an Epiphany Prayer Spaces morning, where children journeyed through six interactive stations, from the East to Herod's castle, through the three gifts and finally to the stable, complete with two real donkeys, Edwina and Dominic. These experiences have been a joy to share and highlight the strong partnership between church and school in nurturing the children's faith.



# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PROVISION

## Tarleton Mere Brow CE Primary School

In December the children at Tarleton Mere Brow CE Primary School took part in a special Forest Church session in the school grounds, focusing on the Christian value of joy. Gathered around a crackling fire, pupils listened to stories, made Christingles, created stick stars and took part in a light hunt, reflecting on the light of Christ in the world around them. In January, the school launched a new lunchtime Lego Bible Club, giving children a creative and hands on way to explore Bible stories. Each week, pupils come together to build, play and reflect on Scripture, developing teamwork, imagination and faith in a fun and engaging way.



## Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

In December the children at Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School have celebrated the joy of Christmas with a special service held in church, where scripture, storytelling, music and reflection guided them through the Christmas story. The children explored Mary's connection, Joseph's trusting, the shepherds' sharing and the Wise Men's following, discovering true joy through connecting with God, trusting His plans, sharing the Good News and following Jesus. Alongside this, the school's Faith Advocates continue to play an important role in school life, planning, writing and leading class worships each Thursday morning, offering pastoral support to their peers, promoting courageous advocacy and helping the school community live out its Christian values and vision.



## Working Together as a Parish Family

It has been a joy to work alongside the children, staff and volunteers in our parish schools during this time. These experiences highlight the strength of our shared faith and the importance of working together as a parish family. I am very grateful for the continued support of school staff, volunteers and clergy and I look forward to continuing this work with our young people.

**Hattie Boak**  
**Youth Coordinator – Rufford St Mary & Tarleton Holy Trinity**



# Tarleton Tyre Services

We are a local family business located in the heart of Tarleton Village.

We cater for all of your vehicle needs including:

- Tyre Fitting, Balancing & Puncture Repairs
  - TPMS Valve Replacement
  - Vehicle Recovery
    - MOT
  - Vehicle Servicing
  - Diagnostics and Repairs
- Supply & Fit Exhausts, Batteries, Roof & Tow Bars and much more.....

We have extended our services to now include all aspects of bicycle servicing and repairs.

We also supply all your car care and bicycle accessories in our shop located next to the garage.

We pride ourselves in helping customers with all of their vehicle requirements and we have a policy of honesty, trust and value for money.

Facebook: @tarletontyres (Tarleton Tyre Services) Instagram: @tarletontyres  
Telephone: 01772 813770 Email: enquiries@tarletontyres.co.uk 85 Church Road, Tarleton, PR4 6UQ



New start.  
New future.

Are you having problems  
with your relationship?

We can help.

Willets & Co Solicitors is a well established local practice with offices in Southport, Formby and our new office in Tarleton.

We specialise in family law including all matters arising from divorce, civil partnership, children, financial matters, cohabitation and inheritance.

**NEW TARLETON OFFICE**  
34 Church Road,  
Tarleton, PR4 6UR  
Tel: 01772 813900

**FREE Initial Consultation**

If there are any family issues you wish to discuss, contact us today to book an appointment

Willets & Co  
SOLICITORS

Specialists in all areas  
of Family Law

**SOUTHPORT OFFICE**  
28 Houghton Street  
Southport, PR9 0PA

**FORMBY OFFICE**  
23-25 Elbow Lane,  
Formby, L37 4AB

t: 01704 536800  
e: advice@willetsandco.com  
www.willetsandco.com



Advanced Member of the Family Law  
Panel Rated Top of the Good Lawyer  
Guide for Family and Relationships

Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority Registration No. 250705

# SCHOOLS

## **Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

I feel as though we've only just recovered after a very busy end to the Autumn Term 2025.

We held a lovely end of Autumn Term service in church before we broke up for Christmas, we served 316 parents, carers, family members and children a Christmas Lunch and our infants performed their Christmas Production of 'The Inn - Specters' to the rest of the school and to packed audiences!! The School Choir sang beautifully for a gathered audience at Tarleton Library and at the Cock and Bottle's Christmas Fair and we had an amazing Disco on the last Wednesday of the term.

I don't know how we managed to fit it all in!!

But Christmas and 2025 seems so long ago now and I am actually writing this entry as Tarleton Holy Trinity Primary School begins 2026.

2026 started brilliantly!! Our Swimming Team did amazingly well at the local schools' Swimming Gala, with the children winning lots of individual medals and the team walking away with the overall win!! And the Cock and Bottle gave THT a cheque for over £1,000 for the monies raised at their Christmas Fair. It is so generous that the Pub wants to 'partner' with the school - something we are hoping to do on an annual basis.

We have already planned our School Diary for the term and, as in 2024, Ash Wednesday, this year, falls within our Half Term Break. Church will be holding a traditional Ash Wednesday service on the 18th February - but THT School will be holding a special Ash Wednesday service in Church the week after. (Please join us in church if you can - 25th February at 9.05am). After that, every Wednesday during Lent, we celebrate our morning worship in church rather than in school, led by Father Mark, and/or Fr Joe and/or Hattie.

Parents / Grandparents / Family Members are more than welcome to join us for these services. Each service starts at 9.05 (ish) and should be finished by approximately 9.30am. We hope to see you there!!

It is usually in this edition of the Parish Magazine where I tell you about my plans for Lent.

If you remember, during Lent, my Dad used to give up drinking tea. Dad would skip a cuppa and instead put a penny in a Smartie tube - with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

I pretty much do the same each year but donate the money I raise to the British Heart Foundation (after my heart attack in September 2020). To be honest - I was thinking of following in my Daughter's footsteps and giving up fizzy drinks this year...as I do miss a cup of tea in the mornings!!

Whether I give up tea again this year or Pepsi or something else, I'll let you know how it goes!! Good luck with whatever you chose to take on during Lent.

There are other things to look forward to at THT in early 2026 - Year 4's Class Worship, Easter Lunch with the children and, by the time we have finished March, we will have broken up for the Easter Break and will have delivered another fantastic End of Service for our families and friends.

Enjoy your pancakes on the 17th February!! My favourite topping is the traditional lemon and sugar...what's yours??

Thanks for reading!!  
Stephen B Smith (Headteacher)



# Rufford C. of E. Primary School

Together in Faith and Learning

Happy New Year!

2026



A very Happy New Year from all of us here at Rufford. We hope 2026 is filled with good health and happiness for you all. We finished 2025 in style with a fantastic month in December, preparing for Christmas through Advent and with the usual fun and festivities of the season.

## *Advent Retreat Day 1 December:*

We started our preparations for Christmas by stepping off the world for a day with our Advent retreat. We transformed the hall into a peaceful haven and each child and staff member travelled around 6 themed stations. We considered the themes of peace, love, joy, hope in the face of challenge, preparation and kindness. At each station we did a short activity to help us consider the key themes of Advent. Thank you to all from church and the community who came to help.



## *Tree Lighting Ceremony:*

This year, we held our very first tree lighting ceremony! Everyone in our school family joined together to place a bauble on our tree as we sang our favourite carols. The big switch on came, as our youngest child and oldest child in school hit the button and the tree lit up! PCSOs Roy and Ellie even joined us too!



## *Christmas Lights:*

Our choir have been out and about in our community this festive season, joining the light switch-ons at Tarleton and Rufford. We have also sung for the lovely customers at Rosebuds Farm Bakery one sunny but cold lunch time.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you help at Southport or Tarleton Food Pantry as a volunteer? Get in touch!

## DESCRIPTION

- Welcoming and chatting to members
- Serving hot drinks
- Assisting with Pantry shop
- Signposting to other local services
- At least fortnightly

Monday mornings: Tarleton Pantry  
(Tarleton Methodist Church) or  
Tuesday mornings: Southport Pantry  
(Grace Centre)



To apply please contact:  
[hello@compassionacts.uk](mailto:hello@compassionacts.uk)

[www.compassionacts.uk](http://www.compassionacts.uk) 01704 264505

COMPASSIONACTS

Welcome to our weekly food club!



Every Monday 9:30am - 11:30am at Tarleton  
Methodist Church, 1 Chapel Meadows, PR4 6WA

Pay £5 and choose up to £20 worth of food  
and other essentials. Chat to our team of  
volunteers over a hot drink and get access  
to specialist support and signposting.

Memberships are by referral only - to find out more you can call our  
team or visit our website [www.compassionacts.uk/food-pantry](http://www.compassionacts.uk/food-pantry)

Compassion Acts, Victoria Centre  
197a Sussex Road, Southport PR8 6DG  
Registered charity number 1172948

01704 264505  
[hello@compassionacts.uk](mailto:hello@compassionacts.uk)  
[www.compassionacts.uk](http://www.compassionacts.uk)



BARRONS  
FARM SHOP

154 SOUTHPORT  
NEW ROAD,  
TARLETON

TELEPHONE: 01772  
812262

Two Christingles conducted in our Churches on Christmas Eve 100s of Christingles handed out and joy exclaimed!!

Archangel Gabriel (aka Fr Mark) trained up the congregation as the choir of heavenly angels.... and at the start of the Year of Mission sent them out to tell the Good News in the World.



Thanks to the Christingle team consisting of Laura, Rebecca, Abi, Lorna and Nate for making over 100 Christingles for our Christingle service on Christmas Eve at Rufford St Mary's church.

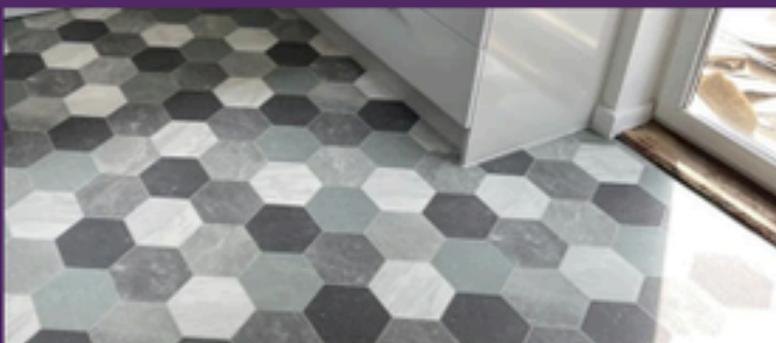


# Tarleton Flooring Studio

Mark Square, Tarleton.

We supply and fit all types of flooring. Commercial and domestic jobs. We offer a free no obligation measure and quote service. Also a shop at home service.

We have an extensive range of rugs on show in our flooring studio.



 **TarletonFlooringStudio**

6 Mark Square, Tarleton, PR4 6TU

Telephone: 01772 812 155

Email: [tarletonflooringstudio@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tarletonflooringstudio@hotmail.co.uk)

# SAINTS

## 23rd February St Ffinian

Saint Ffinian was an Irish 5th century saint who worked in Wales. At the age of thirty, Finian crossed over to Wales where he met three Welsh saints - David, Gildas, and Cathmael, the first two of whom were then contending for the primacy of Britain. Finian settled the dispute in favour of St David. He remained with the British elders for thirty years, and during this period establishing three churches and performed many miracles and helped to repel a Saxon invasion. He is said to have met Saint David in 530CE. His feast day is 23 February.

## 27th February George Herbert

George Herbert (3 April 1593CE-1 March 1633CE) was an English poet, orator, and priest. His poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets, and he is recognised as “one of the foremost British devotional lyricists.” He was born in Wales into an artistic and wealthy family. He was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He enrolled intending to become a priest, but became the University’s Public Orator and attracted the attention of King James I. He sat in the Parliament of England in 1624CE and briefly in 1625CE.

After the death of King James, George gave up his secular ambitions in his mid-thirties and took holy orders, spending the rest of his life as the rector of the rural parish of Fugglestone St Peter, just outside Salisbury. His ‘Outlandish Proverbs’ was published in 1640CE, listing over 1000 aphorisms in English (in Herbert’s day, ‘outlandish’ meant foreign). The collection included sayings such as “His bark is worse than his bite” and “Who is so deaf, as he that will not hear?” He also wrote a guide to rural ministry, entitled ‘A Priest to the Temple’ and the ‘Rule of Holy Life’.

George played the lute and viol, and more than ninety of his poems have been set for singing. Some

forty were adapted for the Methodist hymnal by the Wesley brothers, among them “Teach me my God and King”, which found in some 223 hymnals. Another poem, “Let all the world in every corner sing”, was published in 103 hymnals. He was never a healthy man and died of consumption at age 39.

## 2nd March St Gwrthwl (pronounced Gurth-ul)

He was said to have been a hermit and to have founded a church in the village of Llanwrthwl which lies north by road from Builth Wells and Newbridge-on-Wye and south of Rhayader. The site of his church has been a focus of worship in one form or another for over 4,000 years and has yielded artefacts from the Bronze Age and Roman Empire, including a four-flanged bar torc, a circular sectioned bar torc, a square sectioned bar torc and a twisted ring. He is remembered as ‘The Confessor’, and his Feast Day is commemorated on 2 March.

## 19th March St Joseph of Nazareth

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. Matthew and Luke, differ in their genealogies of Jesus showing ancestry from King David, but through different sons; Matthew follows the major royal line from Solomon (legal route through Joseph), while Luke traces another line back to Nathan (physical descent through Mary). Also, in Matthew, Joseph obeys the direction of an angel to marry Mary and to take the family to Egypt to escape the massacre of the children of Bethlehem planned by Herod. On their return to Galilee, they settle in Nazareth. Thus, in Matthew, the infant Jesus, like Moses, is in peril from a cruel king, has a (fore)father named Joseph who has a father named Jacob, and both Josephs receive important dreams foretelling their future. However, in the Gospel of Luke, Joseph already lives in Nazareth, and Jesus is born in Bethlehem because Joseph and Mary have to travel there to be counted in a census. Other things we know are: he was a carpenter from “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” (Matt 13:55); and he

# SAINTS

wasn't rich from his offering of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons instead of a lamb at the Temple when Jesus was to be circumcised (Lk 2:24). The last time Joseph appears in person in any of the canonical Gospels is in the narrative of the Passover visit to the Temple in Jerusalem when Jesus is 12 years old, which is found only in Luke. In the USA people bury a statuette of St Joseph in the garden to sell a house. Patron: of the Universal Church, unborn children, fathers, workers, travellers, immigrants, and a happy death.

Provided by Fr Philip Green

## HYMNOLOGY

### JOHN BUNYAN (1628 – 1688)

*Who would true valour see,  
Let him come hither;  
One here will constant be,  
Come wind, come weather.*

John Bunyan was born at Elstow, Bedfordshire, in 1628. People of his name can be traced in that county back to the 12th century, but it is quite possible he belonged to a caste of itinerant gipsies.

His education was of the most meagre, little more than reading and writing being taught to the children of his class in those days.

According to his own account, Bunyan was an idle boy, and notoriously ungodly particularly addicted to swearing, lying and blasphemy. During his early years he was terrified of evil agencies, and constantly fearful of malevolent spirits; but these apprehensions quite disappeared as he approached manhood and came under the influence of the Holy Spirit, when courage and confidence became characteristic of the rest of his life.

For a while, after leaving school, he followed his father's occupation of a tinker, except for a short period during the Civil War, when he became a soldier. He was present at the siege of Leicester, and it may have been that this experience, with its close proximity to death, awakened in him considerations of his personal state; for, returning to Elstow, his thoughts were much occupied by his spiritual condition.

Shortly afterwards, when he was nineteen, he married a girl, a thoughtful wench, whose sole contribution to the home consisted of two religious books, given her by her father: 'The Plain Man's Pathway to Heaven', written by Arthur Dent, a minister in Essex, and 'The Practice of Piety', by Lewis Bayly, Bishop of Bangor. These books she read to her husband, and although he was not yet convinced of sin, they aroused in him a longing for a better life. Later, a sermon on Sabbath breaking and a talk with a poor, but Christian man, still further affected him, and he commenced to read the Bible.

One day, as he worked at his trade, he overheard a conversation about the blessings of religion between some pious women sitting at cottage doors close by. This gave him still more food for thought, with the result that he determined to leave his evil companions and associate only with those of good reputation.

After many trials and errors, and much mental conflict, Bunyan was finally led to accept Christ as his Saviour; and from that time made it the purpose of his life to convey to others the glad tidings of salvation.

He came under the influence of John Gifford – known as 'holy John Gifford' – pastor of the Congregational community at Bedford, and joined his Church in 1653. although, as Dr. John Brown says in his biography of Bunyan, '

# HYMNOLOGY

In his work entitled "Differences in Judgment about Water Baptism no bar to Communion", he rather implies that plainly states that he is a Baptist'. In a further work called 'The Heavenly Footman', published posthumously, Bunyan warns his readers, inter alia, not to have too much company with some Anabaptists, 'though I go under that name myself'.

He became a regular preacher at Bedford and in the neighbouring villages, his graphic discourses having a powerful effect upon his hearers.

In the same year his wife died, leaving him with four little children, one blind. He, however, married a second time, with results as happy as those of his first marriage.

For five years he preached unmolested, but soon after the Restoration the ecclesiastical authorities began to worry him, and in 1660 he was convicted as 'a common upholder of several unlawful meetings and conventicles,' and was committed to Bedford Goal. There for twelve years he remained a prisoner, with but a brief interval of a few weeks. But not even this confinement could not prevent him from preaching, for he regularly ministered to the prisoners in the gaol.

John Bunyan wrote a number of books, the first when he was only twenty-two, called 'Sighs from Hell', a record of spiritual struggle. During his imprisonment he continued his writing and produced four books: 'The Holy City, or the New Jerusalem' (1665); 'Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners', an autobiographical and devotional narrative (1666); 'Justification of Jesus Christ' (1671); and 'Defence of the Doctrines of Justification' (1672).

While in prison Bunyan was able partially to support his family by making long-tagged thread laces, the art of which he was taught during his incarceration.

His devoted wife was persistent in her strenuous efforts to secure his release, but without success; and she and the blind child had to wait a long while

before they were all once again united.

In 1671, the year before his release, Bunyan was appointed pastor of the Church at Bedford. Here he became extremely popular and ministered for over sixteen years - except for a break in 1675, when he spent another six months in prison under the Conventicle Act.

It was during this second imprisonment that the first part of 'Pilgrim's Progress' was written. This part was published in 1678, the second part not appearing until 1685. The work immediately achieved popularity; and has become famous the world over, having been translated into no less than one hundred and twenty languages and dialects.

Dr. Arnold of Rugby, writing to Mr. Justice Coleridge in 1836, said 'I have left off reading our divines, but if I could find a great man among them I would read him thankfully and earnestly. As it is, I hold John Bunyan to have been a man of incomparably greater genius than any of them, and to have given a far truer and more edifying picture of Christianity. His "Pilgrim's Progress" seems to be a complete reflection of Scripture'.

Bunyan wrote no hymns as such, although many odd verses are scattered throughout some of his works. But the three stanzas comprising 'Who would true valour see have been used in public worship, and, this quaint hymn has become exceedingly popular. It appears in the second part of 'Pilgrim's Progress' as the song of Valiant after his talk with Greatheart.

Bunyan died in 1688 at the house of Mr. Strudwick, a grocer, at the sign of the 'star' on Snow Hill, London, and was buried in Bunhill Fields.

The popularity of Bunyan's hymn has been enhanced by the tune Monks Gate. The tune was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1904 from the tunes of old English folk songs compiled by Mrs. Harriet Coverall of Monks Gate, near Horsham, Sussex, hence the name of the tune.

# HYMNOLOGY

The folk tune he chose for Bunyan's hymn was Valiant /or Welcone Sailor. Although Monks Gate is a tiny settlement, its name is well known around the world as the popular hymn tune to the hymn Who would true valour see.

It has been suggested that Monks Gate is the tune to which Bunyan's verses were intended to be sung. This is wholly erroneous. Hymn were unknown at Elstow Church (Bunyan's original place of worship) and only metrical psalms were used. According to the records of the meeting-house he attended in Bedford, there was no singing of any kind till two years after Bunyan's death.

Provided by Michael Gray



## Libra

98 Church Road, Tarleton  
**Tel: 01772 816100**

Health & Alternatives

*FOR ALL YOUR VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS NEEDS,  
All well known brands in stock  
OILS, HERBAL TEAS, FOODS AND MUCH MORE...  
We also stock greetings cards for all occasions,  
and watch batteries and straps*

**ALLERGY TESTING AVAILABLE**

*by Qualified Complementary Practitioner  
Telephone for appointment 01772 816100  
(other practitioners available ring for details)*

**JOHNSONS**

*HIGH CLASS BUTCHERS*

**273 HESKETH LANE, TARLETON,  
PR4 6RH**

**PURVEYORS OF BEST QUALITY BEEF,  
LAMB, AND PORK**

**HOME COOKED MEATS A SPECIALITY  
SUPPLIERS TO THE CATERING TRADE  
WITH DAILY DELIVERY SERVICE**

**TEL: 01772 812227  
MOBILE 07785 315653**

## Crème de la Crème

**Delicatessen**

**Fresh Local Food and Delicatessen**

**18-20 Mark Square,  
Tarleton, PR4 6TU.**

**Telephone:  
01772 816 052**



RIBBLE COURT  
CARE HOME

## Considering care for a loved one?



The Ribble Court offers nursing and residential care



"The home gives a great level of care and all the staff are very caring, right down to the cook, carers, nurses, cleaners and the housekeepers."

- RELATIVE REVIEW



RIBBLE COURT  
CARE HOME

Call us for advice or a viewing

01772 954897

[sandstonecare.co.uk](http://sandstonecare.co.uk)

150 Liverpool Old Road,  
Much Hoole,  
Preston, PR4 4QB



Part of the  
SANDSTONE  
CARE GROUP



[carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk)



SCAN ME

# PARISH REGISTERS

*Baptisms* **William Pickervance, Willow MacGregor.**

*Funerals* **Ruth Farrell, Trevor Bates, Gwladys Joan Roberts, Dorothy Huartson, Margaret Janet Moody, Edna Bolton.**

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow us on **Facebook** - Search for **Rufford St Mary's & Tarleton Holy Trinity Church**

View our website: **www.rsmtht.church** or simply type in **tarleton.church** or **rufford.church** into your browser

We're also on **X @smrhttt** and Bluesky **rsmtht.bsky.social**

Deadline for the next magazine is **THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

Please e-mail to: **editor@rsmtht.church**

Sign up for parish updates, direct from the rectory - Subscribe at **rsmtht.church/newsletter/**

Both our PCCs are now registered charities and they have been entered onto the Register of Charities with the following names and numbers:

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Rufford in the Diocese of Blackburn  
(Rufford PCC) : 1215289.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarleton in the Diocese of Blackburn  
(Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton) : 1214834.



**Marcus Memorials**  
EST 1966

New Memorials • Cremation Tablets • Inscriptions • Cleaning & Renovations

We also offer a wide range of memorial ornaments for memorable occasions  
Ainsdale branch now open (opposite Toby Carvery on Liverpool Road)

24a St Lukes Road, Southport PR9 0SH  
Tel 01704 534497 Email. [marcusmemorials@outlook.com](mailto:marcusmemorials@outlook.com)  
[www.marcusmemorials.co.uk](http://www.marcusmemorials.co.uk)

# WHO'S WHO

Role	Name	Contact
<b>Rector</b>	<b>Fr Mark Soady</b>	<b>(01772) 814 431</b>
Curate	Fr Joe Kochanski (5 Fairclough Drive, Tarleton, PR4 6EX)	07975 686 552
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	<b>Hattie Boak</b>	<b>07496 425 953</b>
ANNA Chaplain	Dr Helen Hindle	(01772) 815 738
<b>Rufford Churchwardens</b>	<b>Mr Graham Langley</b>	<b>(01772) 224 036</b>
Tarleton Churchwardens	Mrs Victoria Rimmer Mrs Shirley Gornall	(01772) 812960 or 07876 593 815
<b>Organist</b>	<b>Mr Christopher Hartnett</b>	<b>07896 107 684</b>
Secretary - Rufford	Mrs Alex Garden	(01704) 821 303
<b>Secretary - Tarleton</b>	<b>Mr Andrew Mills</b>	<b>(01772) 811 893</b>
Treasurer - Rufford	Fr Joe Kochanski	07975 686 552
<b>Treasurer - Tarleton</b>	<b>Mrs Debbie Williams</b>	<b>07729 550 815</b>
Rufford Sunday School	Mrs Chris Whittingham	(01704) 822 878

Role	Name	Contact
Rufford Safeguarding	Mrs Rosemary Lyon	(01257) 464 541
<b>Tarleton Safeguarding</b>	<b>Mrs Shirley Gornall</b>	<b>(01772) 811 114</b>
Rufford Verger	Mrs Pam Hall	(01704) 821 885
<b>Tarleton Verger</b>	<b>Mr Michael Gray</b>	<b>(01772) 814 024</b>
Tarleton Tower / Bells	Mrs Debbie Williams	07729 550 815
<b>Rufford Church Hall</b>	<b>Mrs Alex Garden</b>	<b>(01704) 821 303</b>
Holy Trinity CE School	Mr Stephen Smith	(01772) 812 662
<b>Rufford CE School</b>	<b>Mrs Sarah Cookson</b>	<b>(01704) 821 300</b>
Mere Brow CE School	Miss Jess Rowe	(01772) 812 689
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	<b>Mr Colin Hill</b>	<b>07791 870 740</b>
Magazine Advertising	Fr Mark Soady	(01772) 814 431

Est.  
*The Rufford Arms*  
1991

*Fixed Price Menu*

Two Courses - £25

Mon-Thurs 12-8.30pm / Fri 12-7pm

*Coming up this year...*



*Don't forget to book...*  
Bookings now open for Valentine's Day  
& Mother's Day!

[www.RuffordArms.com](http://www.RuffordArms.com)

  @theruffordarms

 01704 822 040