



## 13. Sunflower Hidden Disabilities Scheme

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Inclusion and racial justice is one of the strands of TCT. As a result, we are looking at ways we can make our activities more accessible. As a part of this we are introducing the Sunflower Hidden Disabilities Scheme.

Some disabilities, conditions or chronic illnesses are not immediately obvious to others. For some people, this can make it hard to understand and believe that someone, with a “non-visible” condition genuinely needs support. Some people question whether you have a disability because you don’t look ‘like you have a disability’.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme aims to support people living with non-visible disabilities in their communities by raising awareness, training businesses and sharing stories to help create a more inclusive, understanding society.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme was launched in 2016 and since then businesses from every sector have joined - ranging from retail, travel and tourism, transport including over 200 airports - as well as railway networks, coach and bus services and ferries, education (universities, schools and colleges), healthcare, central and local government agencies to football teams, theme parks, theatres and financial institutions. You may have noticed people wearing sunflower lanyards in the supermarket or noticed the sunflower paths on the floor at Bristol Airport.

The DBF has recently joined the scheme. This means that all of our staff are being trained in awareness and understanding of hidden disabilities. We hope that this will help those who live with hidden disabilities to be able to access better support and feel more included. Sunflower lanyards are available for free in most large supermarkets and other large businesses that have joined the scheme. We are also making them available to staff and synod members for free. Please do not however take a lanyard if you do not have a hidden disability.

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Joining the scheme allows us to become part of an internationally recognised movement. If you would like to know more about the scheme, please visit their website: [A symbol for non-visible disabilities \(hiddendisabilitiesstore.com\)](http://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com)

Where there are lots of information films and articles about the scheme and hidden disabilities. The Hidden Disabilities Store is a community interest company.

We would really like to encourage our churches to join the scheme as well. If you would like more information, please contact me.

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