

How to ...

Create a church accessibility information page for your website

Disabled people can often find that visiting a new place presents many challenges. The information they need to know will vary depending on their disability and so the information you provide needs to be comprehensive. As the parent of two wheelchair users I will often check the website of a venue before visiting to find out where to park, if I can physically get into the building, what toilet facilities there are etc.

Suggested content

The following list is not exhaustive and you may think of other things to add. This information is helpful to able-bodied people as well and could be listed under 'visitor information' on your church website.

Access and travel

- Address and map of the church's location
- Parking information – even if this is that parking is difficult
- Public transport information if appropriate
- Entry to the building, including if a temporary ramp is used how to access this

Inside the building

- The type of seating and options available for wheelchair users
- If special diets catered for – e.g. gluten free wafers and how to receive them
- How people can receive communion if they are unable to access the distribution points
- If a hearing loop available and used
- What toilet facilities there are and their location
- If larger print material available
- If hard print copies of projected materials are available
- Who to contact if they need to get alternative formats of worship materials such as braille

Other information

- The types of services held
- What facilities there are for children
- What other events the church provides e.g. coffee mornings
- Who to contact should someone need any additional help with their visit

There are several different ways of presenting the information. For example, it could be a straightforward list, or it could be as a set of questions with answers. An excellent example can be found on the Christ Church Clifton website under 'Get Connected – New to Church?' (<http://ccweb.org.uk>).

Should you require any additional help with access issues, please contact the Diocesan Disability Advisor Alice Kemp on alice.kemp@bristoldiocese.org.

Written by: Alice Kemp, Disability Advisor