

## **Accessibility**

We are delighted to welcome you to our church. Our church is a beautiful, historic building, Parts of which it is thought date from the 13th Century, with significant later additions in the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. While we are incredibly grateful for its rich heritage, we have to acknowledge that it may not be as accessible as we would like. We are blessed to have a dedicated team working on improving accessibility, and wholeheartedly welcome any suggestions you may have to help us serve you better. Whilst we are very happy to help in any way we can, we do not like to make assumptions about your needs. The following may help your assessments.

### **General Access**

The church is accessed by a double door at the South Porch, at the far end of which is another double door and step down. The width of both doors is 120cms. The step down inside to the main church floor level is 11cms. There is a ramp available on request which is frequently used and put in place at normal services by sidespersons. This facility is not available outside normal service times.

Inside the main Nave area wooden pews are fixed on raised wooden floor with a 7cm step up from the aisle floor. The width of the aisles vary but the main cross aisle from the south porch door across to the far north door is 134cms while the main aisle running west to east at the centre is only 95cms. It is recommended that users of mobility aids or wheelchairs make use of the south aisle. This is accessed by turning right immediately inside the south main door. This area has no pews and is furnished with easily movable upholstered wooden chairs and by removing some of these, there is room for four wheelchairs with one seat at least for each of the wheelchair users to sit by a carer / friend / relative. For those who prefer to get out of wheelchairs and sit in a pew, we suggest using the North / South cross aisle to the far north side where it is possible to transfer into a pew. Sidepeople will then be pleased to place the wheelchair nearby, out of the way of the fire exit.

Holy Communion will be brought to people who are unable to walk to the front at the chancel step. To ensure the elements are taken to people who are not in the south aisle, we request that sidespeople are advised, if possible before the service starts. A limited number of cushions and blankets can be made available upon request.

### **Dietary**

Gluten free wafers are available, please advise the sidespeople who will ensure your request is made known.

### **Sound**

A Hearing loop is available.

### **Visual**

Large print copies of any newsletters are available if you request these in advance, but at present we are unable to provide large print copies of the orders of service. We are trying to rectify this as soon as possible.

### **Toilet Facilities**

There is a single toilet in the church which is accessed via the Vestry and kitchen area. Getting there involves two ramps and a tight 90 degree turn in an area which provides a turning circle of only 108cms cms. It is not considered accessible to larger wheelchairs and the ramps exceed the recommended slopes (see below). Sadly we are constrained by the building, but our re-ordering programme will seek to address these and other accessibility issues for the future.

Some of our visitors find they are able to access the facilities by using walking sticks or frames. In the toilet there are fixed grab rails on either side of the WC with an additional raiseable rail on one side. The floor space of the toilet area measures 120 x 100cms and is therefore inaccessible to users of wheelchairs or rollators.

The slopes you may encounter are as follows (all approximate)

Down into the Nave from the South door 1:4 25%

Up into the Vestry from the Nave 1:5 20%

Dow from the Vestry into the kitchen for WC access 1:6 16.7%

The nearest Accessible toilet is in Tesco Extra, provided for their customers and about 3 minutes walk away. (Postcode GL2 4PF).

The nearest changing places toilets are: GL1 Leisure centre. (Postcode GL1 1DT) Open 6am - 9pm Weekdays, 7am-5pm Saturdays and 6am-9pm Sundays, or at Kings Walk. Shopping centre. (Postcode GL1 1EA), which is open from 9am-5pm. Monday to Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sundays. (Please do check the changing places website for any updates before travel).

### **Our commitment to an accessible, inclusive church**

If there's anything we can do to make your visit more accessible, please don't hesitate to reach out, by emailing [stjamesquedgeleyandkingsway@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesquedgeleyandkingsway@gmail.com). We are committed to enhancing accessibility in our beautiful, historic building, and our prayer is that our re-ordering plans will enable us to serve you better in the future.