

St Edmunds Church, Maids Moreton

EQUAL ACCESS REPORT

This access statement is written following 'Churchcare' guidelines and the Equality Act 2010.

Our aim is for all Church services and activities to be accessible for everyone. We need to consider mobility, hearing & visual difficulties, dementia and other disabilities and special needs.

Access to the premises

There are parking spaces near the church and a smooth path running from the car park to the church door.

To enter the church there are 2 external doors – one of which is left open, and then a large heavy internal door. Someone with mobility issues may need help to open these doors.

- During a church service or church event there will always be a warden or sidesperson to open the doors.
- A visitor coming to the church when there is no service or activity may need to bring someone with them to help with the doors or can let us know in advance they are planning to visit , so someone from the church can be there to assist.

Access within the church

The church (apart from the bell tower) is all on one level and there is a ramp to allow access to the chancel.

Anyone wanting to take Holy Communion who cannot manage the steps by the altar can receive the Sacrament where they sit; it will be brought to them.

The rear part of the church has moveable chairs, and so can easily accommodate wheelchairs, pushchairs & other mobility aids.

The toilet is large and accessible for a wheelchair. There is a red emergency chord easily accessible.

Church magazines are displayed on hanging shelving at the rear of the church – however some are also left on the back of the pews and accessible to everyone.

All church noticeboards are relatively low down and can be easily read. Chairs can be moved out the way to allow for access when needed.

Induction loop

There is an induction loop which can be accessed by hearing aid users.

Visual disabilities

The church has large print hymn books and large print service books.

It also has a Braille Mission Praise hymn book.

They are accessible in the centre of the church, at the back of the pews.

Dogs

Assistance dogs for the disabled are allowed inside the church and churchyard.

Churchyard Access

The churchyard can be accessed from gravel paths around the church building. There are then mown grass paths through the churchyard itself.

Although all on one level, the churchyard surface is grass and not uniformly smooth.

Dementia

Those affected by dementia and their carers are actively included in church services and activities, in particular we hold weekly community coffee mornings.

Sept 2018