

St Andrew's Church Centre

ACCESSABILITY



August 2017

It is our policy to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that easy use and access by all is maintained at all times to St Andrew's Church Centre. This document summarises these arrangements.

St Andrew's Church Centre is designed to be widely accessible by all. The Centre and all rooms (including the church and hall) are on a level access and there are modern disabled toilet facilities and baby changing facilities. During the day, the main Centre concourse is kept open, with an adjacent quiet room for reflection and prayers. The Centre foyer offers great views of the Malvern Hills and Malvern Common, which can be further enjoyed in good weather from the seats outside the front of church.

Limitations: The only areas of the Church Centre that are not easily accessed on the level are parts of the 135 year old original building. These are:

- a. The chancel in the church with two sets of steps.
- b. The counting house (store room) off the chancel.
- c. The vestry off the counting house.

We have looked into the feasibility of improving access to these areas, but the limitations of the original building provide no ready solution. Access to these areas should not be needed except in rare occasions and for these we offer:

- Communion can be taken in the nave as well as well the chancel.
- During services, if individuals cannot be seen, we have the inbuilt ability to instantly project their image onto the main screen to provide visibility.
- If anything is required from the above areas, they can readily be brought to the nave or other level areas of the Church Centre.

Summary: St Andrew's Church Centre is easily accessed from Churchdown Road and has its own car park (see link our website www.standrewsandallsaints.org for further details). Due to the nature of the car park and its size, there are no permanent disabled car parking spaces; rather these are arranged on an on-demand basis and anyone requiring such a space should let make sure that their event organiser know the requirements in advance. There is level, tarmacadamed access from Churchdown Road and the church car park to the Church Centre entrance (which has wide access doors).

For regular church events, the welcome team look out for anyone with particular requirements and make sure that they are appropriately catered for; including door opening and closing. Large font service & song books are available at the rear of church and the church has two systems for those with hearing difficulties. The regular 10:30 church service is relayed (video and sound) into the crèche for those not wishing to remain in church and can be relayed to other rooms.

The large Church Centre front doors are in a very windy position. The current force exerted by the oversized main door is the minimum to close it in normal conditions at this location. Unfortunately elderly, very young and weak people can still find this force too much for them. We therefore recommend that care is exercised when opening and closing the main door and that groups using the Church Centre appoint able bodied people to help others open and close the main door at the start and end of their sessions.

Inside the Church Centre all rooms (including the church and hall) are accessible from a wide central corridor, with a couple of gentle slopes. There are handrails throughout. For those with difficulty walking, the Church Centre maintains a couple of folding wheelchairs for easy use. All rooms and facilities are clearly labelled and different sizes of chairs are available to cater for all.

Event organisers receive a comprehensive run through of the Centre, its facilities and arrangements before events take place.