



St. Peter's
F I L T O N

Accessibility Policy

Issue 2

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Signed, PCC Chairman	



St. Peter's F I L T O N

Accessibility Policy

St Peter's Church aims to provide a welcoming environment that enables everyone to participate in the life of the Church. Each person is respected and valued as a Child of God, regardless of their ability. This document gives you details of the facilities provided by the Church for your convenience.

Church buildings (including the Church Hall)

- St Peter's Church adheres to a strict Health and Safety Policy and seeks to meet standards which allow people with disabilities to participate as much as possible. Regular audits are undertaken to ensure the church can carry out its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and 2005.
- St Peter's has a small car park situated between the entrances of the Church and Church Hall.
- The entrance to the Church Hall is level. There is a ramp available for easy access to the Church. Please ask one of our welcomers to put the ramp in place if it is not already.
- There is a separate entrance to the Church via the door on the East Aisle if this is more convenient.
- Once inside, both the Church and Church Hall are on one level.
- There are many different people in the Church who can help you. Look out for anyone wearing a name badge. There's also a photo board at the back of the church identifying people who can help.
- Wheelchair users are welcome to sit in the right hand aisle or at the rear of the Church with their companion/carer. Shorter pews on the right hand side at the back enable you to sit next to your companion. Chairs are also available in this area. There is an exit on this aisle to enable you to get to and from your preferred seating area with ease.
- If you suddenly feel unwell and need the use of a wheelchair, there is one available in the East Porch. A sidesperson will gladly help you.
- All the pews in church are solid wood and very sturdy. The end of each pew has an arm to enable you to get up, if needed.
- There are two wheelchair accessible toilets: one is situated in the Choir Vestry to the left of the altar; the other is in the Church Hall.
- Both the Church and Church Hall have effective heating systems, which can be "boosted" if you require extra warmth. Please speak to a volunteer to facilitate this.
- Lights are kept on for most services and large print copies of the service leaflet are available. Certain services are conducted by candlelight. Please let us know if this is an issue.

The Coffee Shop

- The Coffee Shop is accessible via the side entrance of the Church. Please let one of the volunteers know if you would like us to move anything to make it more accessible for a wheelchair.
- The Church Coffee Shop offers a selection of different cakes to cater for special dietary needs.

Worship and Communication

- Service sheets and newssheets use a font which is clear and easy to read. The news sheet is also available on the Church website.
- Electronic copies of the orders of service are available on request should you prefer to access these on an iPad or similar device.
- Large print versions of the orders of service are available. If you cannot find what you need, our sidepersons would be delighted to help. Please ask anyone wearing a name badge.
- All speakers are encouraged to look up and enunciate their words to encourage lip-reading.
- The sound system and microphones are used for all large services within the main body of the Church. There are also speakers in the Coffee Shop should you wish to access the service from there.
- An audio loop is used in the Church.
- Gluten free wafers are available during Communion services.
- The Eucharist can be brought to your seat if you are unable to come to the Altar to receive it. You are also able to have a blessing at your seat if you prefer.
- You may sit, stand or kneel for any part of the service as you feel most comfortable.

General

- Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Coffee Shop, which provides a quieter environment for feeding.
- Baby changing facilities are available in the toilet in the Choir Vestry to the left of the altar.
- End of service refreshments are served both in the Coffee Shop and at the back of the Church, so that you are able to access the most convenient area.
- St Peters has the appropriate insurance for all church activities and includes cover for those with varying abilities.
- St Peters is open to exploring holding special services which have a focus on people with learning or other disabilities. Where such a service takes place, St Peters is committed to ensuring that the pace and location ensures the service is accessible to all, and that the liturgy is not demeaning or patronising but will have worshipping God at its centre.

- Where appropriate, disabled members of the congregation (or in the case of a child or young person, the parent/carer) will be consulted to ensure the church is meeting their individual needs.
- Where individuals are unable to come to church through illness or disability, St Peters is committed to sharing Home Communion on a regular basis at a time and venue suitable for their needs and requirements.
- In the event of someone collapsing in church, they will be assisted by a Church Warden and a trained First Aider. When possible they will be helped to the Lady Chapel and a Church Warden will phone for an ambulance.
- For further help or information pertaining to a particular accessibility issue, please speak to the Rector, church warden or disability advisor.