



# Disability Sunday Resource Pack

## Disability Sunday - Accessibility Checklist

*Note: This is a very basic checklist to alert you to possible difficulties in the accessibility of your church building. It should be noted that a positive answer to all the points does not mean that your church complies with a generally accepted accessibility standard. For more information, see [Further Specialist Resources](#) later in this pack, or seek advice from [Churches for All](#).*

<b>Basic Accessibility</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1.	Is it possible to get from a parked car to the area used for worship without going up or down a step or stairs?		
2.	Is the slope of paths not greater than 5% (roughly 1:20)		
<b>Ramps</b>			
3	Do ramps have a slope no greater than 1:12 and a width of no less than 1.2m?		
4.	Do ramps have handrails on both sides?		
<b>Entrances and Exits</b>			
5	Is at least one major entrance to the building usable by wheelchair users?		
<b>Doors and Doorways</b>			
6.	Do doors have a clear opening of 800mm or more?		
7.	Can doors be opened easily by a wheelchair user or other disabled person?		
<b>Floors</b>			
8	Is the floor level each side of doors?		
9.	Are the door thresholds a maximum 13mm high?		
<b>Worship Space</b>			
10.	Can the service be heard clearly throughout?		
11.	Is there an induction loop for hearing aid users?		
12.	Is there good lighting, avoiding shadows on those speaking or interpreting?		
13.	If an overhead or Powerpoint projector is used, are there large print paper copies available for people who cannot see the screen?		
14.	Is there space for wheelchair users where they can sit with a friend?		
15.	Are there seats with arms and seats with extra legroom for people with mobility impairment?		
16.	Can people take communion without climbing steps?		
<b>Toilets</b>			
17.	Is there an accessible toilet for use by wheelchair users?		
<b>Other areas</b>			
18.	Can disabled people access refreshments?		



## Guidelines for stewards and welcomers

DO	DON'T
<p><b><u>General</u></b>            Treat disabled people as you would anyone else.            Always speak directly to the person who has a disability.            Always ask the person who has a disability if you can help him or her in any way.            Whenever possible, seat disabled people with their friends or family.            Try to be aware of people's hidden disabilities such as epilepsy or Alzheimer's disease, which may require assistance.            Assume nothing - always ask!</p>	<p>Don't use negative terms such as "crippled" or "victim".            Do not consider a companion or carer to be a conversational go-between.</p>
<p><b><u>Visual Impairment</u></b>            Identify yourself by name and as a steward.            Show a blind person to his or her seat.            Ensure they know Braille or large print song sheets are available.            Explain to a visually impaired person where things are located.            Provide space for a guide-dog to lie down by removing a chair.</p>	<p>Don't push a visually impaired person - always allow them to take your arm.</p>
<p><b><u>Deafness and hearing loss</u></b>            Ensure your face and mouth can be seen clearly.            Look directly at the person and speak at normal speed with clear (not exaggerated) lip patterns.</p>	<p>Don't exaggerate or shout.            Don't speak directly into the person's ear.            Don't obscure your face</p>
<p><b><u>Speech Impairment</u></b>            Give your whole, unhurried attention with good eye contact.            Remember the person with a speech impairment may use another method of communication, such as writing.</p>	<p>Don't finish a sentence or word for the person.            Don't get agitated or impatient            Don't be afraid to ask them to repeat a sentence if you don't understand; or feed back what you think they said, and ask them to confirm.</p>
<p><b><u>Mobility Impairment</u></b>            Always ask a wheelchair user if she or he would like assistance before you help.            Try to sit or crouch down to talk to wheelchair users so that eye contact is easier.            Provide seats near the entrance for people with mobility difficulties to minimise walking.</p>	<p>Don't push a wheelchair user unless they ask you to.            Don't hold on to or lean on a person's wheelchair.</p>
<p><b><u>Learning Disabilities</u></b>            Be patient, give someone with learning disabilities plenty of time.</p>	<p>Don't assume the person cannot understand you.</p>



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## Suitable Language

Many people are reluctant to approach disabled people because they are afraid of saying the “wrong thing”. The following table shows some of the current acceptable and unacceptable expressions. But remember, disabled people would like you to speak to them (even if you get things “wrong”), rather than hold back out of fear.

[Quote from disabled churchgoer....]

DO SAY	DON'T SAY
<p><b><u>General</u></b>            Disability             Disabled             Person who has/experiences...             Non-disabled</p>	<p>Handicapped            Crippled            Invalid             Victim of...            Suffers from...             Able-bodied, normal</p>
<p><b><u>Visual Impairment</u></b>            Blind and partially sighted/Visually impaired people</p>	<p>The Blind</p>
<p><b><u>Deafness and hearing loss</u></b>            Deaf people            Hard of hearing people            Deaf sign language user</p>	<p>The Deaf            Deaf and dumb            Deaf mute</p>
<p><b><u>Speech Impairment</u></b>            Deaf sign language user</p>	<p>Dumb</p>
<p><b><u>Mobility Impairment</u></b>            Wheelchair user</p>	<p>Wheel-chair bound            Confined to a wheelchair            (the wheelchair is not the source of the disability)</p>
<p><b><u>Learning Disabilities</u></b>            Has learning difficulties            Learning disabled            Has mental health problems</p>	<p>Mentally handicapped,            Retarded            Mentally ill, insane,            mad, crazy, nutter,            psycho, psychopathic,            schizo, split personality</p>



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Follow-up survey

Feedback Questionnaire

We value your feedback to help us to better meet your needs. Please complete the following questions and return to one of the stewards/welcomers.

How did you find your overall experience of today?	
What did you find particularly helpful?	
What aspects could be improved?	
What overall message will you take from today?	
Are there any other comments you would like to make?	

**Please leave your name and contact details if you would like to receive further invitations to our activities.**

**Thank you. We look forward to welcoming you again.**