

# Statement of Access

## Introduction

We welcome everyone to our Church and include anyone who is disabled for whatever reason, their families and friends. This statement is intended to cover the whole Church and Church Centre and it is written help you know what can be expected of our building and our practices.

## Church Access *(other than during COVID-19 Lockdown)*

Regular Church Services are held every Sunday at 9.00am and 10:30am. Services are also held on special days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Day etc.) and these are advertised in the weekly Notice sheet, via our weekly mailings and on our website <https://www.stpaulscamberley.org.uk/>. If you do not receive the weekly news email please consider completing a Welcome card to indicate your agreement for us to send this out to you each week these can be found in pillars of the church or obtained from the Church Office.

There is a large car park with a number of disabled bays close to both front and back doors. The front entrance is slope and step free but there is a slope at the rear. The front entrance point to the church consists of two doors that open outwards and one door (wide enough for a wheelchair\*) is always open before services and until the service has started. A Sidesperson will be in attendance, to accommodate wheelchair\* or pushchair access and can open the second door should this be necessary. There is also a doorbell which can be used at such times that the door is closed. There is a coded lock which may not be in reach of someone with a wheelchair\* but, again, the doorbell can be used to summon assistance. The area inside the doors is clear and readily accessible. The rear access is a much larger/heavier door which opens inwards but nevertheless large enough for a wheelchair\*. On Sundays there will also be a Sidesperson inside the door for your assistance.

## Inside the buildings

The church Centre is on two floors and currently we do not have a lift or any means to provide access upstairs to anyone with mobility issues. We are not currently considering installing a lift as we have many rooms on the ground floor and it would be our aim not to exclude anyone from any activity by holding them on the ground floor whenever possible.

\* or Mobility Scooter(s)

The seating in the Church itself is flexible and chairs (some with arms some without) can easily be moved to make access for wheelchairs\*, aisles are kept free. The chairs with arms for those who may need support to get up and down can easily be moved if required to wherever you choose to sit.

### **Hearing Assistance**

The Church is fitted with an induction loop system for the benefit of hearing aid users. A large screen at the front is used for the 10:30 service and a PA system is used for most services. All words for the 10:30 service are on the screen. For the 9:00 service we provide printed Orders of Service and large print is available from the Sidespersons should they be required.

### **Church Services**

At various times during services the presiding minister will invite the congregation to stand. You are most welcome to remain seated if this is more comfortable for you or is necessary due to your personal circumstances. There are two steps up to the Chancel and there are handrails for anyone unsteady on their feet and a mobile slope available for wheelchair\* users should access to the altar be necessary.

It is our practice to bring Holy Communion to anyone who may prefer this because of difficulty in reaching the chancel steps or for other practical reasons. Gluten free bread is available for those that require it. Please let a Sidesperson know if this would be useful to you. The non-alcoholic wine is available at 9am communion service but at the 10.30am service only non-alcoholic wine is used.

### **Comfort facilities**

We have a large disabled toilet on the ground floor of the church centre that will easily accommodate a wheelchair\* and a further toilet at the back of the church with a handrail, both have baby changing facilities. There is currently no alarm system fitted.

### **Church Letting**

Any application to use the Church Centre for Community Groups or private family events can be made through the Church Office and are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Letting Policy, a copy of which can be obtained from the Office. The Church retains the right to refuse such applications, if for example, it is a political party with extremist views, or its use would not be appropriate in a place of Christian worship.

\* or Mobility Scooter(s)

## **Conclusion**

We hope that you will have found this statement to be of help.

We would welcome practical solutions for improving access to and within the church.

Please contact the Church Office for any further information.

Or

Mrs Gillian Fernandes – Church Warden  
(contact details available through the church Office)

The Parochial Church Council

December 2020

Further details can be found at: <https://www.stpaulscamberley.org.uk/>