

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH WATH-UPON-DEARNE

Policy for Inclusion

DIVERSE NEEDS

All Saints wants to be inclusive as a parish for people of all skills and abilities.

PHYSICAL ACCESS

All Saints does not exclude or discriminate against anyone, but is a liberating place where all can enter, and leave, freely, safely and with thanksgiving.

Access to All Saints from the Montgomery Hall car park, is along a stone slabbed path to the porch. Stone steps with a single, fixed handrail on the right provide access the main door into church. Alternative access is via a slabbed path to the North door. Whilst this is a level access route it is further to walk. This alternative flat access route is clearly signposted at the porch.

A wheelchair is available on request.

The path is kept clear of debris by the church maintenance group.

There are two designated car parking spaces near to the church in the car park. The church does not have its own car park but allows discretionary parking by the porch.

WITHIN THE CHURCH

Wheelchairs – space is allocated in the main body of the church.

Loop System – for those with loop system access hearing aids.

Microphones - are used throughout the service and users are encouraged to speak up and speak clearly.

Projector/screen – this is used for some services. Words and images projected onto the screen are clearly displayed, and there are also printed copies available for those who prefer them or who cannot see the screen clearly.

Lighting – Is used during activities in the church and is regularly checked. Outside the paths are lit.

Toilet – there is an accessible toilet in the St James Rooms annex. This is only accessible from the Saint James entrance due to several changes in the floor height from the church to the toilets.

Large print – service sheets, magazines and pew notices are all available.

There is a step between the main body of the church and the chancel. At the main Sunday communion service, two stewards stand by the step to assist anyone in need. Alternatively, the celebrant will take the bread and wine to anyone who is unable to access the alter.

Options are given to stand, sit or kneel during the service as able.

Assistance dogs are welcome

For the housebound: pastoral visits including communion are available.

Prayers and readings are normally given from the lectern, which is accessed by several, offset small steps. We adapt this to a floor standing lectern and microphone, or simply a handheld microphone is provided for anyone who cannot safely manage these steps.

Wath All Saints aims to be inclusive by providing prayer groups online and well as in person.

Wath All Saints also provides a wide range of activities and committees for people to be involved with in addition to worship and prayer. These include the heritage group, maintenance, social, Mother's union, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Messy Church, PCC, choir, music group and Sunday school. Our website has been designed to promote access to these activities.

The gardening group was specifically set up with improving mental health in mind, through working together, talking, sharing ideas and enjoying the fruits of our labour.

We will positively approach and seek to listen to people with disabilities that attend our church to identify how we can improve access to worship and other services offered.

This policy has been reviewed by Rachel Lewis Church Warden February 2022.

Signed Vicar of All Saints