

A guide to

Disabled friendly CHURCH



Making it easier
to welcome and integrate
people with disabilities into the
life of your church



Diocese of
Liverpool

Disabled Friendly Church Award

20% of the United Kingdom's population admit to having some form of disability. Many of these are Christians seeking to live out their lives with the challenges presented by their disability. CofE

In the Diocese of Liverpool we take seriously the need to encourage and strengthen the participation of all people whatever their ability or disability. Anyone can have a call to serve and worship God and we want to make sure that our churches do not become a block to those Christians living with disability. As a diocese we seek to support and encourage the ministries of Deaf people, people with disabilities and the ministries of all those who work with them.

This involves:

- Encouraging and strengthening the participation and representation of Deaf people and people with disabilities at every level in the life and witness of the Church.
- Providing training, advice and support for those involved in ministry with Deaf people and people with disabilities
- Seeking to ensure that the gifts and ministries of all Deaf people and people with disabilities are fully used and valued in the Church.

The Disabled Friendly Church Award has been carefully designed to help your parish show what you do to enable those with a disability to become equal partners in the life of your church.

This is important because

Jesus valued everybody and wants us to reach out to all. We need to see and nurture the gifts and abilities in all people – in the way Jesus has seen and nurtured our gifts. Through being open and accessible to all we can have more disciples for Christ fully participating in the life of the church. By gaining this award you can show your community how open and welcoming you are.

How it works

The most important part of the award is attitude. It won't work unless your PCC gets wholeheartedly behind this and that inclusiveness is part of your church's vision.

You will need to:

- Measure access to PCC; fellowship; children's and other activities; as well as Sunday worship.
- Listen to the experiences of disabled people - giving opportunities for feedback and comments to be heard
- Make sure you give opportunities for disabled people to take part in and contribute to the life and leadership of the church
- Regularly review and implement access issues

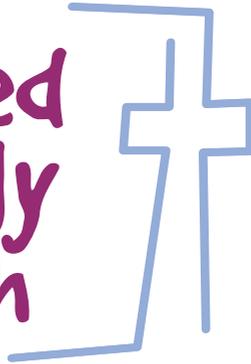
We have devised a simple process to help your church achieve a standard that shows you are worthy of receiving the Disabled Friendly Church Award.

1. We conduct an audit of your church and any ancillary buildings from a disabled perspective
2. Your PCC considers implications of audit and reports back to the diocese within 6 months of any changes that have taken place
3. Your church needs to have received disability awareness training
4. We carry out a Safeguarding audit in relation to vulnerable adults
5. Your PCC considers implications of audit and reports back to the diocese within 6 months of any changes that have taken place

When this has been completed to the desired standard you will be presented with the Award. Your PCC will then commit to reviewing this every year by reporting back to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

We follow this up every three years and renew the award to church's which still meet the standards of the Disabled Friendly Church Award.

Disabled
Friendly
CHURCH



What are the benefits of having an award

We want to celebrate your achievements and publicise that you have the Disabled Friendly Church Award. You will receive a dated certificate and a logo you can proudly display at your church.

For further help and advice contact:

Diocesan Vulnerable Adults Adviser & Disability Officer
Ruth Reed
St James' House, 20 St James Road, Liverpool, L1 7BY
Telephone 0151 705 2130 or
e-mail: ruth.reed@liverpool.anglican.org

Debbie Doran,
Admin Support Worker for Ruth Reed,
St James' House, 20 St James Road, Liverpool, L1 7BY
Telephone 0151 705 2124 or
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Hours of work: Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am-3.00pm



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