

Access Statement for Salisbury Cathedral

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with disabilities, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all members of our congregation and guests/visitors.

Introduction

Salisbury is unique amongst medieval English cathedrals having been built in just 38 years (1220 - 1258) in a single architectural style, early English Gothic. The tower and spire (Britain's tallest) were added about 50 years later. The building itself is remarkable, a testimony to the faith and practical skills of those who erected it. But it is much more than a historical monument, it is a living church and a place of prayer. As the Cathedral Church of the Salisbury diocese it is Mother Church of several hundred parishes in Wiltshire and Dorset. It is also a centre of pilgrimage for hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

The Church is called to further the cause of justice for those who find themselves excluded in any way, and to do this it must examine its own attitudes and practices with honesty and openness. Those responsible for church buildings therefore have a responsibility for providing access for people with disabilities that should be seen in a wider context than that of the legal requirements.

Pre-Arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the "Getting Here" section of our website www.salisburycathedral.org.uk under "VISIT". A map showing blue-badge holders' parking spaces is also on the Accessibility Page, also in the VISIT section, and our Traffic Team can direct drivers on arrival.

Visitors are advised to park in nearby city centre car parks or to use the excellent Park & Ride facility.

Salisbury also offers a Shopmobility scheme with which visitors would need to be registered and details on that and more about the scheme are here:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/shopmobility.htm>

The whole of the Cathedral Close is level ground and has paved walkways leading around and through it, the only exception being our eastern garth burial ground, which is surrounded by grass. Once inside, the majority of the Cathedral floor, the Chapter House, Refectory and shop are wheelchair accessible and suitable toilets are available. The only areas of the Cathedral floor that are not possible to be made accessible to wheelchairs are those above ground level and include access to the High Altar, Upper Presbytery and the Audley Chapel.

All of our Front Desk staff have undertaken "Welcome All" training, our Traffic Team "Welcome All International".

Assistance dogs are welcome and there is water available for them.

Three wheelchairs are available for visitors' use.

During services a hearing loop system is available, as are large print hymn books, service sheets and self-guiding leaflets.

There is a "touch and feel" model of the Cathedral available.

Main Entrance and Donations Desk

Both the West Cloister entrance (the usual main entrance) and the North Porch are accessible by visitors using wheelchairs, the former having a slope down into the cloisters themselves, which are then flat and paved. The door into the Front Desk area is automatically operated as are the doors behind the desk into the Cathedral and those out of the south transept and those into the Chapter House. Currently there is not a hearing loop installed at the Front Desk.

Exhibitions

The Cathedral is sometimes used as a venue for artists to exhibit their work; this is usually in the main Cathedral and/or the churchyard, which are all fully accessible to visitors using wheelchairs.

Public Toilets

There are two toilets adapted for the sole use of people with disabilities which are located with all the toilets and accessed off the east cloister.

Shop

The Cathedral has a shop with a range of souvenirs and books etc., which can be accessed directly from the main entrance and from the Refectory.

The shop is level throughout.

There are tall display racks and low units accessible from a seated position.