

## ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT FOR CHURCHES

For churches with larger congregations, visitors and tourists, use “Widening the Eye of the Needle” and its Appendix A.

For churches with smaller congregations, use checklist below but refer to “Widening the Eye of the Needle”.

For all churches, discuss audit with church architect who will make recommendations at the time of the QI.

### AUDIT FOR SMALLER CHURCHES

When considering the various aspects below remember those with problems of movement in general, not just those in wheelchairs; and those with hearing, seeing and understanding problems.

#### 1. **Entry**

- **Approach, car parking and external routes to building:**

General accessibility eg transport, parking, kerbs etc

Paths – marking, surface, width, obstacles, handrails

Information about services etc

Lighting

Steps, ramps, gradients, marking of step noses, landings

- **Entrance and reception:**

Door – width, visibility, handle and lock, closing mechanisms

Lobby – layout, signs, lighting, floor surface, obstacles, reception, telephone (if applicable)

#### 2. **Circulation**

- **Horizontal movement**

Corridors – width, hazards, floor surface, information, lighting

Seating arrangements – hearing, seeing

- **Vertical movement**

Steps, stairs, ramps – markings, handrails, lighting, landings

Full storey – lift, stairlift

- **Doors**

Function, distinguishable, glass, with space for manoeuvre, handles, closing mechanisms

#### 3. **Facilities**

- **Lavatories** – provision for all: Floor, fittings, switches, taps, manoeuvrability, signs, obstacles, width of doorway, emergency opening, washing, grab rails

- **Fixtures and Fittings**

Font, pews, choir, sacrament, bookstall, noticeboards

Church hall

Kitchen – floor, units and labels, taps

Information about church and services (audio and braille), signs, lighting, tactile plan, staff suited to disabled, magazines, hymn books, service sheets etc

4. **Escape**

- Alarms/detectors, exits, signs, obstacles, procedure

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