

Disability Access Audit

Equalities Act 2010



Introduction

Louth Methodist Church is situated in the heart of the town of Louth: specifically it is on a busy, two-way street occupying a large corner plot.

Access/arrival

The main entrance to the church is situated on Nichol Hill. There is a slight incline to the pavement outside the church, sloping downwards from a southerly to northerly direction.

There is a wide set of steps to the main entrance which have handrails on both sides as well as paved ramp access.

The partially glazed doors are sufficiently wide to accommodate a large wheelchair or mobility scooter if both doors are opened. Assistance may be required to open the main door.

The foyer to the church is large enough to accommodate storage of wheelchairs or mobility scooters; alternatively the main worship area and other downstairs halls are also accessible although again, assistance may be required to open the fire doors.

Electric scooters and wheelchairs may only be charged in the building if Portable Appliance tested within the preceding 12 months and with the permission of the steward or other responsible person.

There is a lift access to the upper floor of the building.

Parking

There are no off-road parking facilities at the church and parking on the street opposite and nearby is restricted from 7am to 7 pm Monday-Saturday due to there being a 'loading bay' for trade vehicles.

Taxis and private cars do pull up outside the church to collect and drop passengers off, however this is at the discretion of other road users.

Public parking with designated 'disabled parking' is available a short distance away from the church; see:

<https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/12991/Louth-Car-Parking>

Arriving by public transport

The bus station is situated approx half a mile from the church. Details of bus services can be found at:

<https://bustimes.org/stops/2700LLBS2699>

information about the Call Connect service can be found at:

<https://lincsbus.info/callconnect/callconnect-area-guides/callconnect-louth/>

Pavements from the bus station to the church are narrow in places.

A number of taxi services operate within the town, some of which have ramp accessible vehicles: details can be found on the internet.

Worship area

This is carpeted and lit with a mixture of led tubes and spotlights (mix of led and non-led).

Blinds shield the east and south facing windows.

There is a designated space for a wheelchair within the seating rows and additional spaces can easily be made by moving chairs.

Most of the chairs at the ends of rows have arms.

Large print hymn books (Hymns and Psalms and Singing the Faith) are available.

A 'loop system'.

Toilet facilities

There is one accessible, unisex toilet which is located within the main foyer. It has a wide, outward opening door and is equipped with a low-level toilet (height from floor to top of seat 48cm), drop handrail, low level sink with push-lever taps, automatic hand dryer and mirror.

There is sufficient room within the toilet for a wheelchair.

Non-slip, vinyl flooring is in situ.

There are no hoist facilities and should a slide transfer be required onto the toilet this is only possible from the left side of the toilet (as if facing the back).

An emergency pull-cord is situated by the side of the toilet. In an emergency the steward on duty or other responsible person may respond, access being gained by inserting an object into the outer side of the lock and turning.

The 'cancel' button for the emergency alarm is within the toilet area.

Means of escape

The church has a fire alarm and emergency lighting is installed. In an emergency there is level access from the fire door within the main worship area and through the main entrance door.

A red light will flash within the accessible toilet if and when the alarm sounds.