

Petersfield Methodist Church Access Audit

Introduction

The building consists of church, hall, upper room, kitchen and store rooms. It is situated on Station Road, Petersfield which has a slight incline to the west.

Level access is available to the door on Station Road with one permanent and marked disabled car parking space adjacent to door. A second disabled space is made available on Sundays. Church and Hall have hearing induction loops. Large print hymn books are available in the church. A disabled toilet is opposite the main entrance.

Pre-arrival

The main station is about 150 yards away with pavements but it is necessary to cross a road. The bus stop is also adjacent to the railway station. Taxis stand at the station.

Car park and Arrival

Car parking is both in front of and to the rear of the church on Sundays and evenings with tarmac surfaces. During the working day in the week, car parking is only on the Station Road side of the hall and church. Both car parking areas are lit. Local authority paid car parks are a few hundred yards away.

Entrance doors at the level access entrance are double, manually opened and opening outwards. The inner doors are often left open. A low level bell push can be used to summon help.

Coffee lounge reception area

Carpeted with flat pile tiles, seats and coffee tables immediately inside the entrance. Area is lit by compact fluorescent units. Two wheelchairs are available and are kept to the rear of the church.

Main church and hall

The accessible entrance into the Church is from the Station Road halls entrance and is by a single door which is wide enough for a wheelchair. Church has individual seats with or without arms. These can be moved to allow wheelchairs to be placed adjacent the other seating. Floor is wooden blocks.

A high quality hearing loop is always provided. Large print books are available for Singing the Faith and the Methodist Worship Book. The service and hymns are on a large screen which those with sight problems sometimes find more useful than large print books. Music is usually on organ, piano or from a Digital Music Player when no instrumentalists are present. Full public address is always used and the acoustics are good.

Main lighting is by three daylight CFL high efficiency lamps at roof level. Platform area is lit by both LED lamps.

Hall has level access to a non slip vinyl floor via wide door which can be extended by a further section. Chairs are plastic, stacking as needed. PA system and a hearing loop are provided. Lighting is by high level fluorescents.

Upper Room

Access is by stairs or a Stannah stair lift. Door to room is wide and a wheelchair can be made available if needed. Lighting is by fluorescent tubes. No hearing loop or PA is available at present.

Toilets

Three unisex toilets are provided off the coffee lounge/entrance area, one of which is a purpose built disabled toilet with wide door, low level toilet with drop hand rails and a low level wash basin with lever operated mixer tap. An alert system has a red cord which calls to the outside area. The disabled toilet also has a shower. All toilets have level access. Lighting is compact fluorescent in the disabled toilet with emergency battery mode, and LED in the other toilets. Flooring is bonded non slip vinyl. Paper towels are provided for hand drying. Extraction fans are in all toilets.

There is a toilet in the Tower Room at the rear of the church. This has an instant hot water boiler. Flooring is vinyl, fan heating is timed and thermostatically controlled.

Outside areas.

The Station Road entrance has car parking for about 7 cars, one place is permanently for disabled use and a second disabled space is available on Sundays and special events. Access is almost level with a slight ramp to the door (about 75mm rise).

There is a rear car park for about 20 places which is let out during the working day from Monday to Saturday. This is on a slight slope and level access is via the street pavement and into the Station Road halls entrance. Non disabled access into the church is by 5 steps.

Means of escape

Emergency exits routes are clearly marked by signs with emergency lighting. There are two exit routes from the church, the main door having an evacuation refuge area, two from the kitchen, two from the hall and the Upper Room has an emergency exit down a metal staircase with evacuation refuge.

The church has overhead LED emergency lights, hall two lights, kitchen, coffee lounge and Upper Room each have one light. There are external emergency lights on main church exit and coffee lounge exit. Emergency exit signs illuminate on power failure.

There is a fire alarm system installed with sensors in hall and church, break glass points and has sirens in hall, upper room and hall.