

Diocese of Bradford
Parish Disability Reps Training 27th June 2009 - Feedback

Comments about the Access Guidelines

- Who takes the responsibility for acting on the guidelines?
- We need to look at what we can change; small steps, as money may be lacking for large adaptations
- Each church could provide access guidelines to suit their own needs and circumstances
- Need basics before refinements...it's not an ideal world, so a microphone, loop system, large print hymn books
- Most difficulties are dealt with on an individual basis
- Provide alternative formats eg if using a screen, may need large print sheets as well, and/or magnifying sheets; coloured folders (to change background paper colour); clear, easy to read fonts, plain English.....shorter sentences
- Part 7; learning disabilities not always obvious; difficult to deal with nosy people; limit of concentration hard to assess

What Helps

- **Clergy** using microphones
 - printing sermon notes
 - being supportive and interested
 - giving advice as to what needs to be looked at
- **Wheelchair users** doing things to show it is possible for disabled people to do things
- **Everyone** in church taking responsibility for inclusion
- being willing to help...lifts to church
- help at the altar rail
- People being friendly, open and sensitive
- A general willingness to help and be involved
- Willing to share problems
- A committed **PCC**; well organised and supportive; giving advice re what needs to be looked at with a willingness to involve the disability rep
- **Disability rep**
 - Knowing what needs doing and how to do it
 - Awareness...disability isn't always visible

- Co-ordination with all parties; advice, consultation
- Common sense
- Network with relevant agencies and specialist groups
- Guidelines alerted rep to things not previously thought about
- Backdoor method to achieve a loop (use of advocacy)...this then opened other possibilities

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- Doing something for one reason and finding it appreciated for many other reasons

What Hinders

- Finance++++++
- Not knowing how many people would come if facilities known....how big is the demand
- Resistance to accepting help
- Not knowing who requires help
- Low demands of disabled people
- Wary of intruding
- Church events organisers assume disabled people are only campaigning for themselves
- How to approach people...especially proud, elderly people
- The need to reject the same thing time after time
- Ancient building
- Faculty difficulties
- Not knowing whether grants are available
- No need so no incentive
- Entrenched attitudes of 'we don't need to do that' because we haven't got a disabled person
- Resistance to change
- Adapting to just one disabled person
- Only so much energy available amongst a few people
- Lack of encouragement
- Lack of time

Additional comments

- Two people had difficulty finding Kadugli House; we need to put the address on the flyer next time
- Dyslexia; use salmon pink paper point 14
- Should we offer first aid training about epilepsy?
- Suggest requesting a specific question in the quinquennial survey about what facilities has the church building for disabled people
- List of who to approach in the diocese for help
- Every parish should have a 'loop monitor' to check and maintain it works
- Welcomer OUTSIDE church to help disabled people get in
- Guidelines are 'light years away' from reality...whose is the responsibility?