

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, THURMASTON

Statement of Access & Lettings

Introduction

We welcome everyone to our Church and include anyone who is disabled for whatever reason, their families and friends. This statement is intended to cover the whole church and it is written help you know what can be expected of our building and our practices.

Church Access

Church Services are held every Sunday at 11.00 am. Services are also held on special religious days and these are advertised in the weekly newsletter and on the church noticeboard. In addition, Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings take place, together with church social and community group activities.

Church events include Thursday morning coffee time, fairs, cream teas, open days and other special events, including Thurmaston Lights Up. Tea, coffee and refreshments are also served after the 11.00 am service on Sundays to which all are invited.

If any member of the public wishes to view the Church or use it for private prayer, outside the normal opening times, arrangements can be made with the Vicar whose Telephone contact number is displayed on the Noticeboard near the church gate.

There is no Church car park but there is free and unrestricted parking on the Old School car park opposite the church, or on-street. There is one entrance to the churchyard and this is from Melton Road. The path slopes upwards to the church but there are no steps. The main entrance to the church building is via the door on the south side.

The main access point into the church consists of an internal porch way with two sets of two doors which can all be opened. A Sides person will be in attendance during services and public events to accommodate wheelchair or pushchair access. The area inside the doors is clear and readily accessible.

The seating in the nave of the Church itself is of Victorian wooden pews. There is plenty of space at the rear of the nave for people who use wheelchairs. Plans

are being prepared for Disabled Toilet facilities to be installed as soon as finance is available.

The Church is fitted with an induction loop system for the benefit of hearing aid users. A public address system is used for all services.

At various times during services the presiding minister will invite the congregation to stand. You are most welcome to remain seated if this is more comfortable for you or is necessary in your circumstances.

Communion is frequently taken at the chancel step, but at other times it is taken at the main altar. There are two steps up to the main altar. There is no edge marking. Someone who may find this difficult to see may find an escort useful. A Sides person will be pleased to assist. It is our practice to bring Holy Communion to anyone who may prefer this because of difficulty in climbing the chancel steps or for other practical reasons. Please let a Sides person know if this would be useful to you

Church Letting

Any application to use the Church facility for Community Groups or private family events must be made in writing to the Vicar and is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the St Michael & All Angels, Thurmaston Letting Policy, a copy of which can be obtained from the Vicar. The Church retains the right to refuse such application, if for example, it is a political party with extremist views, or its use would not be appropriate in a place of worship.

Conclusion

we hope that you will have found this statement to be of help.

We would welcome practical solutions for improving access to and within the church.

Please contact either the Vicar or the Parochial Church Council for any further information.

**APPROVED BY THURMASTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
30 SEPTEMBER 2019**