

## Accessibility PCC Sub Committee

### APCM Report

16th May 2026

#### Committee Members

**Chair:** Rachel Hutchin (to Oct 2025)  
Colin Moulds (from Oct 2025)

**Members:** Chris Franklin  
Ellie Donegan  
Michael Wenham  
Jemma Thompson (moved away July 2025)

#### Purpose of the group:

- Everyone who comes to church to feel welcome
- Remove any barriers to people coming
- Everybody has what they need to give equality of experience

#### Activities during the year:

The group met three times over the last 12 months and worked on:

- Draft welcome leaflet for everyone coming into church to help them know what they need to know about where to find things and what help might be available for them based on their specific needs
- Progressing the need for an automatic door opener for the Hall accessibility toilet
- Discussing options for quiet space within church for those who need it during a service.

#### Achievements:

- Signed up to Roofbreakers and completed their Audit to identify areas of focus for the group
- Introduced the reading of notices at the start of a service so people going out with children can hear them
- Invited the 'Chaplain for the Deaf' to church to speak about the work she is involved in
- Appropriate signage introduced
- Doorbell moved for St John's rooms
- Automatic door opener agreed for the Hall Accessibility Toilet, to be fitted in the summer break

Huge thanks for SMT for all the work they have done acting on the recommendations of the group and findings from the audit to make St John's more accessible.

Things on the list to be addressed:

- We have highlighted those with dementia as a key group engage with to make sure they felt welcomed and had everything they needed.
- Revisit church midweek opening times
- Transport - lifts to/from church
- The back up team! People who can step in last minute but struggle to commit to a rota.
- Survey to ascertain whether needs are currently being met (both physically and fellowship-wise) e.g. can you get into the body of the church? Do you have somewhere you are comfortable to sit? etc. But also, do you feel included? Do you feel you are able to volunteer for things if you'd like to?
- Quiet space - for adults or children. Somewhere you can go if things are a bit much. Ideally with the option of having some music, with some sensory things to fiddle with, comfortable seating options... We were wondering about maybe using the little room on the right as you go into the St Johns rooms? It would need to be cleared away at the end of a Sunday service.
- Identifying 'dead' spots in church where hearing aids don't work so well - I wonder if this is something we should add to our list.