

**ACCESS
to
CHRIST CHURCH**

**CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD
a joint foundation of
College and Cathedral**

This information is provided for anyone wishing to contact or visit Christ Church and has been compiled with particular reference to persons with disabilities

Disability Equality Scheme

In 2006 Christ Church announced its intention to publish a Disability Equality Scheme in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. This took account of views expressed by members, staff, worshippers, visitors and others. A copy is available from the Steward of Christ Church [steward@chch.ox.ac.uk; tel 01865 286580]. The Steward will be glad to receive further comments on the accessibility of Christ Church and the services that the institution provides.

This booklet is available in large print format. All information contained on our website is available in downloadable form with large text. The college's website has been upgraded to W3C accessible standards.

Welcome to Christ Church

Christ Church is a unique institution with two functions. It is one of the largest Colleges in the University and it is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Oxford.

Whatever the reason for your visit, we hope you will find this booklet useful. If you have any queries or need specific assistance please do contact us, we will be happy to help.

During the past twenty years, Christ Church has introduced a number of accessibility measures, physical and operational, several of them ahead of disability legislation.

Christ Church's buildings date from the sixteenth century and some parts of the college are not presently accessible. But we shall take as much trouble as we reasonably can to provide managed or physical solutions to access challenges. The extent to which we are presently able to meet these challenges in individual cases depends upon individual requirements. Please do contact us for more information.

Please note that Christ Church is a working foundation, parts of which may close without notice.

Getting to Christ Church

By Taxi, Dial-a Ride or car

Road access to Christ Church from the east (along the High Street) by private car is restricted between 7.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. every day, during which time the High Street is closed to private cars. The restriction point is just to the west of University College. Public service vehicles are not subject to these restrictions.

At all times of the day and night Christ Church can be reached by road (including private car) from the south via the Abingdon Road and from the west via the Botley Road. Set down and pick up is outside Tom Gate in St Aldate's, or at Canterbury Gate in Oriel Square.

Park and Ride

The recommended means of accessing the city centre is to use public transport and the Park and Ride bus service (see page 7).

There are parking spaces available for persons with disabilities immediately adjacent to the bus stop at all five of the Park and Ride car parks. The buses are equipped with low level access and have allocated seats for those with disabilities and designated space for wheelchair users.

Parking

Parking is not usually available at Christ Church, except with special permission and by prior arrangement. Please contact the Treasurer's Administrator on 01865 276178 for details.

Badge holder designated parking is available outside Christ Church. On St Aldate's there are four spaces, (30 metres level going to Tom Gate and 100 metres level going to the War Memorial Garden visitors' entrance).

There are three designated spaces in Oriel Square (20 metres level going to the Canterbury Gate entrance) but cobbles thereafter.

There are also parking spaces available for persons with disabilities at the shopping level 4 of the Westgate public car park. A Shopmobility scheme operates in the city. Contact 01865 248737.

Public Car Parks

The nearest public car park is the Westgate, which is within five minutes walking distance from Christ Church. Parking for high vehicles (e.g. camper vans) is available at the Westgate (surface) car park and at Redbridge Park and Ride (to the south of Oxford, reached from the city ring road), close to the exit. The City Council's Car Parks Management Team will be pleased to give more details and can be contacted on 01865 794307.

Public Transport

Rail: Oxford Station

(15 minutes' walking distance).
Accessible buses and taxis available.

Taxi: Always available by telephone or at ranks at the railway station, in St Giles or the Gloucester Green Coach Station in the city centre. Among the principal taxi firms are: 001 Taxis (tel 01865 240000) and Radio Taxis (tel 01865 242424).

Bus: There are frequent services from the Park and Ride car parks to the city centre.
From the north: service no 300 from Pear Tree Car Park to city centre

From northeast: service no 500 from Water Eaton Car Park to city centre

From the south: service no 300 from Redbridge Car Park to city centre

From the east: service no 400 from Thornhill Car Park to city centre

From the west: service no 400 from Seacourt Car Park to city centre

Further information about the Park & Ride service can be found at
http://www.parkandride.net/oxford/html/oxford_frameset.html

Coach: London, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and national coach network services operate from Gloucester Green Coach Station (10 minutes walk). Coach information is available from Oxford Bus Company (tel 01865 785400 www.oxfordbus.co.uk) and Oxford Tube (tel 01865 772250 www.stagecoachbus.com/oxfordshire).

Cars may access the coach station only by prior arrangement. Contact 01865 794307 or 790303.

Access to Information

General

For all general enquiries please contact the Porters' Lodge. Our staff will be pleased to assist. They can advise you on contacting all college departments and can be contacted on:

telephone / textphone: 01865 276150 or 276151

email: enquiries@chch.ox.ac.uk

webpage: www.chch.ox.ac.uk

Tourism and Day Visitors

Christ Church is open daily (except Christmas Day).

For enquiries about tourism and day visits to Christ Church, please contact the Head Custodian on:

telephone: 01865 276492

email: custodians@chch.ox.ac.uk

webpage: www.chch.ox.ac.uk

An illustrated guide to College and cathedral is available from the Head Custodian.

Access to Parts of Christ Church

Entrances

Meadow Gate: the tourist visitor entrance is through the War Memorial Garden entrance from St Aldate's. The gates are 1m wide, giving satisfactory wheelchair access to the Garden. This entry point can be reached from the disabled parking spaces in St Aldate's, south of Tom Gate.

There is then a paved level path through the War Memorial Garden, leading to two sets of steps, one with a stone ramp adjacent, approaching the Broad Walk. A marked route for wheelchair users avoids the second steps and gives level going access to Christ Church Meadow.

The entrance to the college is through Meadow Gate, up a flight of seven steps, not ramped.

Please note that the wheelchair user route to Christ Church Meadow crosses a vehicular route where a 5 m.p.h. speed limit applies.

Tom Gate: wheelchair access to the College, and for visitors to the Cathedral, is through Tom Gate. Wheelchair users will find this an easier entrance as there is a ramp leading to the level paved paths around Tom Quad.

Cathedral

Worshippers and visitors to the Cathedral are advised to use Tom Gate for entry (see above). Wheelchair users can enter the Cathedral through the door from Tom Quad, where there is a ramp to provide access. For more information, please contact the Cathedral Office on 01865 276155 or look at the webpage www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral

Hall

The introduction of lift access to this first floor amenity is planned for 2008. As an interim measure for wheelchair users a stairclimber is available. This is suitable for most types of unmotorized wheelchairs. Advance notice of access need is very helpful and the Head Custodian (contacts above) can advise.

Picture Gallery

It is regretted that, at present, the Picture Gallery is not accessible to a wheelchair user as it is reached by a narrow flight of stone steps. There are further level changes within the Gallery. Descriptions of exhibits are available in large print for those with visual impairments. For further information or to book a guided tour please contact the Curator of the Picture Gallery on 01865 276172.

Library

The College Library is open to external readers by appointment only. Wheelchair user access can be arranged. Contact the Assistant Librarian on 01865 276169 or e-mail library@chch.ox.ac.uk

Toilets

These are located close to the cathedral cloisters. A wheelchair user unisex accessible w.c. is located in Tom Quad (beneath the Hall). Please ask a Custodian for directions and/or assistance.

Also, there are public toilets with facilities for people with disabilities (with National Key Scheme entry) at several points in the city. The nearest is in Speedwell Street (open March-October). Key scheme keys are available from Oxford railway Station, the Tourist Information Centre at Gloucester Green Coach Station and from St Aldate's Chambers opposite the Town Hall adjacent to Christ Church. Telephone 01865 726871 and 252067.

Liddell Building

The Liddell Building is a student residence situated at 60 Iffley Road. The three-room ground floor accessible apartment on Liddell Building staircase 7 is the college's most suitable accessible residential accommodation. During most of the year this residence is allocated to student member(s) of the college. Its allocation is the responsibility of the college's academic authorities. Please contact the Censors' Administrator on 01865 276157. It is available subject to (i) transport from Liddell to the main site and elsewhere and (ii) the disability profile of a possible resident. For occasional availability to visitors during July and August please contact the Resident Manager on 01865 725364.

Boathouse and River

For emergency, not routine use, there is vehicular access over tarmacked and gravelled ground onto the Broad Walk and down the gravelled Long Walk. These roadways are usable by regular roadworthy saloon cars and vans (subject always to advance arrangements being made with the Treasurer's Administrator), and by motorised or assisted wheelchairs. The path narrows once it reaches the riverbank but is still one vehicle width.

The Boathouse can only be accessed via the Cherwell hump bridge. It is regretted that this is unsuitable for wheelchair users who are not presently permitted access to the Boathouse island for overriding health and safety reasons.

There are no accessible toilets at the Boathouse or elsewhere in Christ Church Meadow.

Sportsground and Pavilion

The college's Sportsground with Pavilion and tennis courts can be accessed by car, on foot and by wheelchair via a tarmacked roadway with speed humps, from Iffley Road. Some parking is available near to the pavilion. There are some steps to the pavilion and the changing rooms are not accessible. There is a partly accessible toilet at the pavilion, the approach to which involves shallow steps. There is level going access to spectator areas. Further information is available from the Sportsground Manager on 01865 243992.

University Ceremonial

Ceremonies such as Matriculation and Degree Days, take place in the Sheldonian Theatre.

Sheldonian Theatre staff are able to find space on the ground floor for guests who will be seated in their wheelchairs during ceremonies, and if space permits will always seat other guests in the same party nearby. There is usually also a small number of seats available on that floor for guests who have difficulty with the stairs. They are however unable to allow advance reservations for any of these seats. Varying demands on the space available on the ground floor on any particular day make this an unworkable option.

Guests in wheelchairs will be directed by the Security staff on the gate to the **South doors** facing the Divinity School, where there is a ramp. Such guests will find access to the Theatre precincts most convenient by the ramped gate next to the Museum of the History of Science.

Parties where one or more of the guests have difficulties with stairs should join the queue at either **Door B or D** and explain to the steward on the door that they would like ground floor seating if available.

Seating can be reserved on the ground floor of the Theatre for ambulant disabled people. It is accessible for a wheelchair user, and there are convenient places for wheelchairs, but prior notice is essential. Please contact the Custodian at the Sheldonian Theatre (01865 277299) who will be pleased to discuss the details with you, and make any necessary arrangements.

This information will be regularly updated as further access measures are introduced by the College and Cathedral.

Enquiries about the information provided in this leaflet, together with suggestions for inclusion, may be directed to the Steward's Office, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP. Tel 01865 286580.

Access to Christ Church leaflet
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